



The Woodlands Township, TX



2024 BFC Award: Silver
Award History: Previously Bronze since 2011.

The Woodlands Township's BFA Program Stats

of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **1**
 # of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **0**
 # of Local League Cycling Instructors: **1**
 Texas's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#30**

The 5 Es Category Scores	The Woodlands Township	Max Score this round
Engineering	41.13%	79.26%
Education	51.55%	83.25%
Encouragement	47.33%	90.86%
Evaluation & Planning	43.12%	75.73%
Equity & Accessibility	23.51%	75.47%

Scores are determined by points earned in each 'E' Category, weighted against comparable communities in the 2024 BFC round. See pages 2-3 for your full subcategory points in each Category.

Community Profile

Population: 119,000
 (Size classification for weighted scoring: Medium)
 Area: 44 square miles
 Population Density: 2,704.50 people/square mile
 Land Classification: Mostly Suburban
 Poverty Rate: 10.7%*
 Median Household Income: \$137,335*
 Percent of the Population that Speaks a Language Other Than English at Home: 28.3%*
 Percent with Disability: 7.6%*
 Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 4.1%*

*Source: https://data.census.gov/profile/The_Woodlands_CDP_Texas?g=160XX00US4872656

The Woodlands Township's Bike Links

Bike Network Map, if available:
<https://thewoodlands-tx.gov.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=4370c62313a44f-578c678396a4be41d2>

Bike Plan, if available:
<https://www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/1212/PedestrianBicycle-Master-Plan>

Key Outcomes

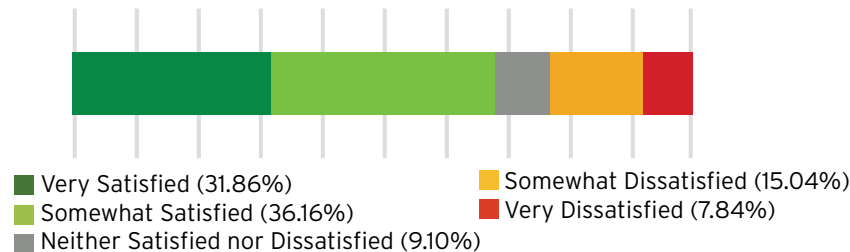
Overall Commuter Ridership: 0.1%
 Male Commuter Ridership: 0.2%
 Female Commuter Ridership: 0%
(Bicycle Mode Share among commuters, according to the Census Bureau's 2022 or 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate.)

Bicycle Mode Share: Unknown
(Reported by applicant)

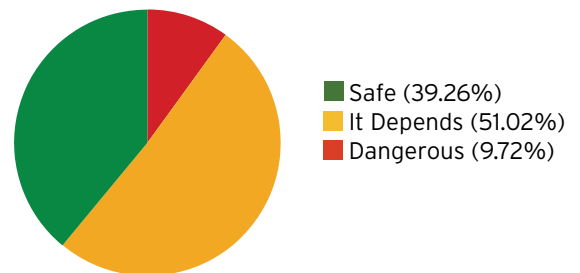
Annual Average Bicyclist Crashes in last 5 years: 12
Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 0.4
(Crashes and Fatalities both reported by applicant)

2024 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for The Woodlands Township, TX

How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 791)



Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 782)



What are the top 1-3 changes you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 796)

1. More bike lanes (50.13%)
2. Improve existing bike lanes to protected bike lanes (24.75%)
3. Improve markings and signage that direct people to safe bike routes (24.75%)

About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by The Woodlands Township in the 2024 Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) submission round. These scores reflect a combination of automatically-generated points earned through the online application, as well as judge-assigned points and bonus points given by BFC reviewers.

The League updated its Bicycle Friendly Community application and awards criteria in 2022, after nearly a year of research, focus groups, interviews, listening sessions, and other outreach. The updated application includes a new section on Equity and Accessibility, and other changes throughout. As such, **this Bicycle Friendly Community Report card is a beta version** as we refine our new scoring system and develop a greater understanding of how to convey new information.

All 2024 BFC Report Cards (including this one) will be republished with updated scores if there are significant changes to the points system after the next round of BFC applications. To learn more about the BFC application and awards criteria, please visit <https://bikeleague.org/community>.

ENGINEERING	<i>The Woodlands Township earned a weighted score of 41.13% in the Engineering Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that The Woodlands Township earned in each subcategory within the Engineering section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Engineering Subcategories	Your Subcategory Points in Engineering
	Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	1.1 / 41 pts
	End-of-Trip Facilities	8.5 / 44 pts
	Bicycle Network	35.9 / 128 pts
	Network Maintenance	17.8 / 32 pts
	Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	9.2 / 23 pts
	Bike Sharing	0.0 / 24 pts
	Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	2.5 / 6 pts
	Regional Coordination	17.5 / 23 pts
Engineering Bonus Points	3.3 / 10 pts	

EDUCATION	<i>The Woodlands Township earned a weighted score of 51.55% in the Education Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that The Woodlands Township earned in each subcategory of the Education section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Education Subcategories	Your Subcategory Points in Education
	Youth Bicycle Education	20.6 / 68 pts
	Adult Bicycle Education	30.2 / 47 pts
	Motorist Education	10.3 / 28 pts
	Bicycle Safety Education Resources	6.6 / 16 pts
	Inclusive Education	4.7 / 26 pts
	Education Bonus Points	1.8 / 7 pts

ENCOURAGEMENT	<i>The Woodlands Township earned a weighted score of 47.33% in the Encouragement Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that The Woodlands Township earned in each subcategory of the Encouragement section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Encouragement Subcategories	Your Subcategory Points in Encouragement
	Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	3.9 / 17 pts
	Route-Finding Support	5.7 / 10 pts
	Bicycle Culture and Promotion	45.1 / 91 pts
	Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	5.5 / 35 pts
	Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	3.0 / 11 pts
	Encouragement Bonus Points	5.2 / 7 pts

EVALUATION & PLANNING	<i>The Woodlands Township earned a weighted score of 43.12% in the Evaluation & Planning Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that The Woodlands Township earned in each subcategory of the Evaluation & Planning section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Evaluation & Planning Subcategories	Your Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning
	Staffing And Committees	10.0 / 35 pts
	Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	14.8 / 35 pts
	Planning, Funding, And Implementation	13.3 / 46 pts
	Evaluating The Bicycle Network	0.0 / 25 pts
	Evaluating Ridership	5.8 / 20 pts
	Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes	16.2 / 42 pts
Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	3.4 / 15 pts	

EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY	<i>The Woodlands Township earned a weighted score of 23.51% in the Equity & Accessibility Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that The Woodlands Township earned in each subcategory of the Equity & Accessibility section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Equity & Accessibility Subcategories	Your Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility
	Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	6.1 / 24 pts
	Equity Data Collection & Goals	0.0 / 27 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	0.7 / 21 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Engineering	4.4 / 44 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Education	9.5 / 52 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement	9.3 / 42 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning	10.4 / 51 pts
Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	1.8 / 9 pts	



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

To maintain and improve on The Woodlands Township's Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community award, BFC Reviewers recommend...

- » Continue working with Howard Hughes Corporation (The Woodlands Land Development Company) and Montgomery and Harris Counties to improve and expand the low-stress bike network for all ages and abilities, and to follow a bicycle facility selection criteria that increases separation and protection of bicyclists based on levels of motor vehicle speed and volume. Focus on connecting existing off-street trails and pathways with daily destinations by building low-stress on-street connections for bicyclists.
- » Encourage both Montgomery and Harris Counties to adopt a Complete Streets policy and create implementation guidance. By adopting a Complete Streets policy, communities direct their transportation planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right-of-way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation.
- » Work with both Counties and the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) to develop and adopt a region-wide design manual that meets current FHWA, AASHTO, and/or NACTO standards, or to each formally adopt one of these organizations' newly updated guidebooks as official guidance for your community's transportation planners and engineers. This will make it easier for transportation staff at all levels to propose and implement bicycle facility designs that have been shown to improve conditions for people who bike in other cities throughout the United States.
- » Continue to work with the Counties and HGAC to lower speed limits -- and designed speeds -- on residential streets to 20 mph or less. Introduce road diets and traffic calming measures to ensure compliance. Develop a system of bicycle boulevards, utilizing these quiet neighborhood streets, that creates an attractive, convenient, and comfortable cycling environment welcoming to cyclists of all ages and skill levels. Use the Bicycle Boulevards section of the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide for design guidelines.
- » Install a bicycle wayfinding system with distance and destination information at strategic locations around the community, integrating preferred on-street and off-street facilities. Wayfinding may be particularly useful at intersections and along routes that may be likely to attract new and non-regular bicycle riders.
- » Work with local employers and developers to continue to increase the amount of high quality bicycle parking throughout the community, and to upgrade the quality of existing bike parking to meet APBP standards. Develop community-wide Bicycle Parking Standards that adhere to current APBP guidelines. (See www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions)
- » Consider launching a bike share system or bicycle lending library that is open to the public. Bike sharing is a convenient, cost effective, and healthy way of encouraging locals and visitors to make short trips by bike, make bicycling more accessible to all, and to bridge the 'last mile' between destinations.



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » Improve bicycle safety education for students of all ages by incorporating more on-bicycle education opportunities and by expanding the program to all K-12 schools. Providing bicycles in schools for on-bike education ensures that all students can learn to safely ride a bicycle regardless of the availability of a bicycle in their household. Work with the school district, local bicycle groups, and interested parents to expand and improve the Safe Routes to School program.
- » Increase the number of local League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) in your community, either by hosting an LCI seminar or sponsoring a Township staffer or local bike advocate to attend an existing seminar elsewhere. Having several active instructors in the area will enable you to expand cycling education for youth and adults, recruit more knowledgeable cycling ambassadors, deliver Bicycle Friendly Driver education to motorists, and have experts available to assist in encouragement programs. Visit bikeleague.org/ridesmart for more information.
- » Encourage more local businesses, agencies, and organizations to promote cycling to their employees and customers and to seek recognition through the Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB) program. Continue to partner with The Woodlands Area Chamber of Commerce to promote Bike to Work Day annually and to encourage restaurants, merchants and retailers to participate in the League's BFB program.
- » Begin the process of updating your 2016 Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. Regularly updating your bicycle plan is key to improving conditions for bicycling, adhering to evolving best practices and national standards, and institutionalizing processes for continual evaluation and improvement. Ensure the new plan includes specific and measurable goals and performance measures to track progress, and is supported by a dedicated budget for implementation.
- » As part of the plan update, work with Harris and Montgomery Counties as well as The Woodlands Land Development Company to conduct a connectivity analysis and network quality evaluation of The Woodlands Township's existing bicycle network, and work to identify and fill any gaps. Establish a performance measurement program for bicycling and/or active transportation infrastructure. See FHWA's resources on these topics: https://bit.ly/FHWA_connectivity and https://bit.ly/FHWA_bikepedPMs.
- » Adopt a goal for a target level of bicycle use (percent of trips made by bike) to be achieved within a specific timeframe, and ensure data collection necessary to monitor progress toward your adopted goal.
- » Adopt a goal to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries and support this goal with a comprehensive road safety plan and/or a Vision Zero policy to identify specific strategies to reduce traffic crashes and deaths for all road users, including bicyclists and pedestrians. Introducing low stress bikeway facilities and lowering vehicle speeds through traffic calming treatments are important engineering components for addressing roadway safety.
- » Because The Woodlands Township is a Special Purpose District with no ordinance making or policy development functions related to the roads and right-of-ways, it may be beneficial for the



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

Township to encourage Montgomery and Harris Counties to both apply to the Bicycle Friendly Community program directly so that they can each receive County-level feedback from the BFC team. Many other counties across the country have participated in the BFC program, either independently or in partnership with local jurisdictions and municipalities within. Additionally, the Howard Hughes Corporation (The Woodlands Land Development Company) could apply to the BFB program as an employer to gain insights on internal bicycle-friendly improvements to be made, and to lead by example among other local employers.

- » Continue to build on your existing partnerships with local and statewide public health agencies and organizations to create more opportunities for bicycling and physical activity through community design. To further show your community's commitment to health and wellness through active transportation, work with local elected officials to pass an Active People, Healthy NationSM Proclamation this year. Active People, Healthy NationSM is a national initiative led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help 27 million Americans become more physically active by 2027. Learn more about about Active People, Healthy NationSM Proclamations at: <https://www.cdc.gov/active-people-healthy-nation/php/data-research/proclamations.html>.

MORE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNITY:

- » **Guide to this BFC Report Card:** <https://bit.ly/BFC-Report-Card-Guide-2024>
- » **League of American Bicyclists:** <https://www.bikeleague.org>
- » **Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/community>
- » **Resources for Building a Bicycle Friendly Community:** https://bikeleague.org/BFC_Resources
- » **About the BFC Application Process:** <https://bikeleague.org/content/about-bfc-application-process>
- » **The Five E's:** <https://bikeleague.org/5-es>
- » **The BFC Ideabook and Map:** <https://bikeleague.org/BFCIdeaBook>
- » **The League's Benchmarking Project on Biking & Walking Data and Reports:** <https://data.bikeleague.org>
- » **Bicycle Friendly State (BFS) Rankings and Report Cards:** <https://bikeleague.org/state>
- » **Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB) Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/business>
- » **Bicycle Friendly University (BFU) Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/university>
- » **Smart Cycling Education Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/ridesmart>
- » **National Bike Month Resources:** <https://bikeleague.org/bikemonth>
- » **More Reports and Resources from the League:** <http://bikeleague.org/reports>
- » **Federal Funding Resources from the League:** <https://bikeleague.org/federal-funding-resources/>
- » **Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities from U.S. DOT Transit, Safety, and Highway Funds:** https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.pdf
- » **U.S. DOT Navigator:** <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>