



Arcata, CA



Award: Silver | Fall 2022

Award History:

Silver since 2012, Previously Bronze since 2008.

Arcata's BFA Program Stats

of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **2**
 # of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **0**
 # of Local League Cycling Instructors: **4**
 California's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#4**

The 5 Es Category Scores	Arcata	Max Score this round
Engineering	53%	62%
Education	35%	60%
Encouragement	54%	61%
Evaluation & Planning	44%	64%
Equity & Accessibility	29%	57%

Percentages shown above are the points received out of points available in that category. See pages 2-3 for Arcata's subcategory points earned within each Category.

Key Outcomes

Commuter Ridership: 3.7%

(Bicycle Mode Share among commuters, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate)

Overall Bicycle Mode Share: ~1200 riders per year.

(Reported by applicant)

Annual Average Bicyclist Crashes in last 5 years: 6.8

(Reported by applicant)

Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 0.2

(Reported by applicant)

Community Profile

Population: 18,800

Area: 11.42 square miles

Population Density: 1646 people/square mile

Land Classification:

Mixed Suburban/Urban/Rural

Poverty Rate: 34.5%*

Median Household Income: \$38,603*

Percent of the Population that Speaks a

Language Other Than English at Home: 15.7%*

Percent with Disability: 9.8%*

Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 5.9%*

*Source: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/arcatacitycalifornia>

Arcata's Bike Links

Bike Network Map, if available:

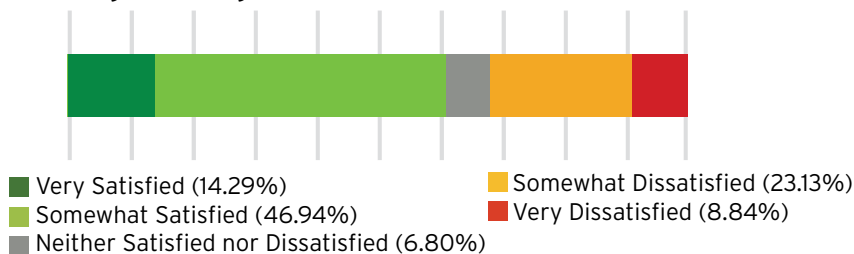
https://gis01.cityofarcata.org/web/COA_Parcel_finder/

Bike Plan, if available:

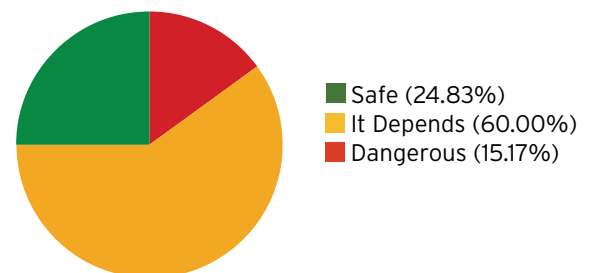
http://hcaog.net/sites/default/files/final_bike_plan_update_2018_incl_maps_0.pdf

Fall 2022 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for Arcata, CA

How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 147)



Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 145)



What is the number one change you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 147)

1. More bike paths (37.41%)
2. Improve existing bike lanes to protected bike lanes (19.05%)
3. Increase education for drivers (6.12%)
4. More bike lanes (6.12%)
5. Reduce speeds through traffic calming and/or road diets (6.12%)

About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by Arcata in the Fall 2022 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 the Summer of 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 Fall 2022 BFC Report Cards (including this one) will be republished with updated scores if there are changes to the points system after the next round of Bicycle Friendly Community applications. To learn more about the BFC application and awards criteria, please visit <https://bikeleague.org/community>.

ENGINEERING	<i>Arcata earned 53% of the points available in the Engineering Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Arcata earned in each subcategory of the Engineering section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i>	
	Engineering Subcategories	Arcata's Subcategory Points in Engineering
	Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	20 / 38 pts
	End-of-Trip Facilities	28 / 41 pts
	Bicycle Network	64 / 126 pts
	Network Maintenance	16 / 32 pts
	Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	12 / 22 pts
	Bike Sharing	4 / 25 pts
	Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	3 / 6 pts
	Regional Coordination	13 / 16 pts
Engineering Bonus Points	5 / 9 pts	

EDUCATION	<i>Arcata earned 35% of the points available in the Education Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Arcata earned in each subcategory of the Education section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i>	
	Education Subcategories	Arcata's Subcategory Points in Education
	Youth Bicycle Education	8 / 71 pts
	Adult Bicycle Education	24 / 47 pts
	Motorist Education	14 / 28 pts
	Bicycle Safety Education Resources	7 / 22 pts
	Inclusive Education	12 / 22 pts
Education Bonus Points	3 / 8 pts	

ENCOURAGEMENT	<i>Arcata earned 54% of the points available in the Encouragement Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Arcata earned in each subcategory of the Encouragement section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i>	
	Encouragement Subcategories	Arcata's Subcategory Points in Encouragement
	Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	8 / 22 pts
	Route-Finding Support	7 / 10 pts
	Bicycle Culture and Promotion	49 / 99 pts
	Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	35 / 49 pts
	Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	5 / 10 pts
	Encouragement Bonus Points	4 / 8 pts

EVALUATION & PLANNING	<i>Arcata earned 44% of the points available in the Evaluation & Planning Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Arcata earned in each subcategory of the Evaluation & Planning section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i>	
	Evaluation & Planning Subcategories	Arcata's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning
	Staffing And Committees	22 / 42 pts
	Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	17 / 33 pts
	Planning, Funding, And Implementation	22 / 46 pts
	Evaluating The Bicycle Network	0 / 21 pts
	Evaluating Ridership	8 / 21 pts
	Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes	20 / 38 pts
Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	2 / 8 pts	

EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY	<i>Arcata earned 29% of the points available in the Equity & Accessibility Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Arcata earned in each subcategory of the Equity & Accessibility section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i>	
	Equity & Accessibility Subcategories	Arcata's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility
	Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	19 / 38 pts
	Equity Data Collection & Goals	0 / 20 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	6 / 38 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Engineering	14 / 35 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Education	8 / 35 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement	16 / 35 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning	10 / 35 pts
Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	0 / 15 pts	



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

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

- » Congratulations on adopting a Complete Streets policy in 2022, directing transportation planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right-of-way to enable safe access for all users. It is important to ensure that there is a strong implementation and compliance process for this new policy going forward.
- » Continue to expand and improve Arcata's low-stress on-road bike network and ensure that your community follows a bicycle facility selection criteria that increases separation and protection of bicyclists based on levels of motor vehicle speed and volume. Introduce lower speed limits and additional traffic calming to ensure slower driving speeds, and work to upgrade existing bicycle facilities, such as by converting bike lanes or wide paved shoulders into dedicated protected bike lanes, and converting roads with sharrows into dedicated bicycle boulevards.
- » Conduct a connectivity analysis and network quality evaluation of your 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.
- » It is great that Humboldt County has recently adopted a regional bicycle plan that includes Arcata, but Arcata should still update its own bicycle master plan, which has not been updated since 2005. A community-specific plan is needed to ensure that Arcata is expanding its bicycle network and policies, regardless of what the greater region is providing for. Regularly updating your bicycle plan is also key to 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.
- » Continue to increase the amount of high quality bicycle parking available throughout the community. Develop or adopt community-wide Bicycle Parking Standards to ensure that bike parking always meets or exceeds APBP standards and also accommodates cargo bikes, recumbents, adaptive cycles, and other non-standard bicycles. (See www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions)
- » Improve bicycle safety education for students of all ages by incorporating on-bicycle education. Providing bicycles in schools ensures that all students can learn to safely ride a bicycle regardless of the availability of a bicycle in their household. Work with local bicycle groups and interested parents to expand and improve the Safe Routes to School program.
- » According to Arcata's 2022 BFC Application: "Arcata's education has faltered during the pandemic. After going through this application process, we feel well prepared to reinvigorate our education with the public and youth." – work with community partners to bring back education programs that had to be put on pause during the pandemic and to proactively reinvigorate your bicycle education for youth and adults, including cyclists and drivers. Consider beginning by hosting a League Cycling Instructor (LCI) seminar in the coming year, or inviting one of your existing LCIs to host bike rides and/or Smart Cycling classes for city staff and elected officials.



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » Repeal the mandatory bike registration law or ordinance in your community, as well as the all-ages helmet requirement, both of which may be prohibitive or discouraging for new bicyclists. Ensure that these and any other ordinances or laws which place restrictions on bicyclists do not have punitive repercussions -- focus on engineering, education, and encouragement solutions to improve safety instead.
- » Collect more socioeconomic and demographic data as it relates to current transportation habits and patterns, and establish equity-related indicators to inform future plans, policies, prioritization and budgeting processes for your community.
- » Continue working to integrate bicycling and transit usage in your community. Encourage multi-modal biking by adding bike racks to every bus, allowing adaptive cycles inside buses at all times, and providing residents the opportunity to practice putting their bike on the bus during community events.
- » Encourage Humboldt State University to apply to the Bicycle Friendly University program (in addition to their existing BFB status!) to help identify more ways the campus and administrators can support bicycling safety and promotion to students, staff, faculty, neighboring residents, and visitors.

MORE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNITY:

- » **League of American Bicyclists:** <https://www.bikeleague.org>
- » **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 League's Benchmarking Project on Biking and Walking Data and Reports:** <https://data.bikeleague.org>
- » **Bicycle Friendly State Rankings and Report Cards:** <https://bikeleague.org/state>
- » **Bicycle Friendly Business Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/business>
- » **Bicycle Friendly University Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/university>
- » **Smart Cycling Education Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/ridesmart>
- » **Advocacy Reports and Resources from the League:** <http://bikeleague.org/reports>
- » **Federal Funding Resources from the League:** <https://bikeleague.org/content/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