

PERIMETER BICYCLING *Journal* 2010

Sahuarita and Green Valley

The towns of Sahuarita and Green Valley, situated just south of Tucson, have grown into formidable communities, and offer as many benefits to cyclists as some of the state's largest cities.

Within Sahuarita alone there are 75 miles of roads with bike lanes, and 20 miles of shared-use paths. Nearby West Desert Preserve features 14 miles of mountain bike trails, and just across the valley the Elephant Head Mountain Bike Trail offers 24 rocky, challenging miles of terrain. Road cyclists can sometimes be seen climbing the steep road up Mt. Hopkins toward the Whipple Observatory. It is over 5,500 feet of climbing in less than 20 miles, making it a climber's dream ride.

Sahuarita is home to the Santa Cruz Valley Bicycle Advocate (SCVBAC), a leading force for bicyclists' rights on public roadways, publishes maps and information, and develops and implements educational programs for youth and adults alike. The SCVBAC is committed to continuous promotion of bicycling as healthy recreation and transportation. The group works with the communities in the Santa Cruz River Valley, including Sahuarita, Green Valley, Tubac, and Nogales.

It's because of groups like the SCVBAC that Tucson and the East Pima Region have been awarded the league's gold medal. As with all roads within Pima County, all future road expansions in Sahuarita and Green Valley will include bike lanes and pedestrian amenities. "One of the features I am most proud of is our growing network of bike lanes," explains Mayor Lynne Skelton.

Each March, Sahuarita and Green Valley host a stage of the Tucson Bicycle Classic. This event includes races for men and women in all categories, and 500 cyclists of all ages compete. That same month the Green Valley Senior Games includes two bike races.



The Santa Cruz River Valley south of Green Valley is a popular destination for road riders in Southern Arizona

Arizona's Top Ten *Bicycle Friendly Communities*

BY RICK SHAW