



Cycling in Chicago
By Chris McAuliffe

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Explore Chicago's Cycling History in New Book

Cycling in Chicago is the newest addition to Arcadia Publishing's popular *Images of America* series. The new book is written by local author Chris McAuliffe, and is set to release on October 30, 2017.

In the late 19th and early 20th century, Chicago was the center of bicycle manufacturing in the United States. As an early industrial and transportation center, two-thirds of all bicycles manufactured in the United States were from Chicago—it was the Detroit of bike manufacturing.

For decades, Chicago was also a center for cycling track and road racing. Six-day races drew capacity crowds at the Chicago Stadium, Chicago Coliseum, and International Amphitheatre. Road and track competitions were also held at Sherman Park, the Humboldt Park Velodrome, and on Chicago's famed Magnificent Mile.

Today, Chicago is a hub for recreational cyclists. Hundreds of miles of bike lanes, rail to trails, and bike paths, such as the Illinois Prairie Path, the Bloomingdale Trail, Lakefront Path, and the Big Marsh, provide cyclists with numerous recreational and commuting options in a crowded urban environment. Chicago was awarded *Bicycling Magazine's* Best Bike City of 2016.

Highlights from the book

- The majority of images in the book are from the archives of the Wastyn family, which has run a family-owned bicycle business for four generations.
- The annual Bike the Drive, which closes down Lake Shore Drive's eight lanes to auto traffic, attracts more than 20,000 riders each Memorial Day weekend.
- The Divvy bicycle sharing system was launched in June 2013 with 750 bikes at 75 stations. It has since expanded to 580 stations, making it the largest bike share system in North America.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author, **Chris McAuliffe**, is a 25-year resident of Chicago and a long-time cyclist who competes in road and cyclocross racing. Chris holds a USA Cycling racing license and races for the XXX Racing-Athletico cycling team. He also enjoys recreational cycling and exploring the many bike trails and forest preserves around Chicagoland.

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