



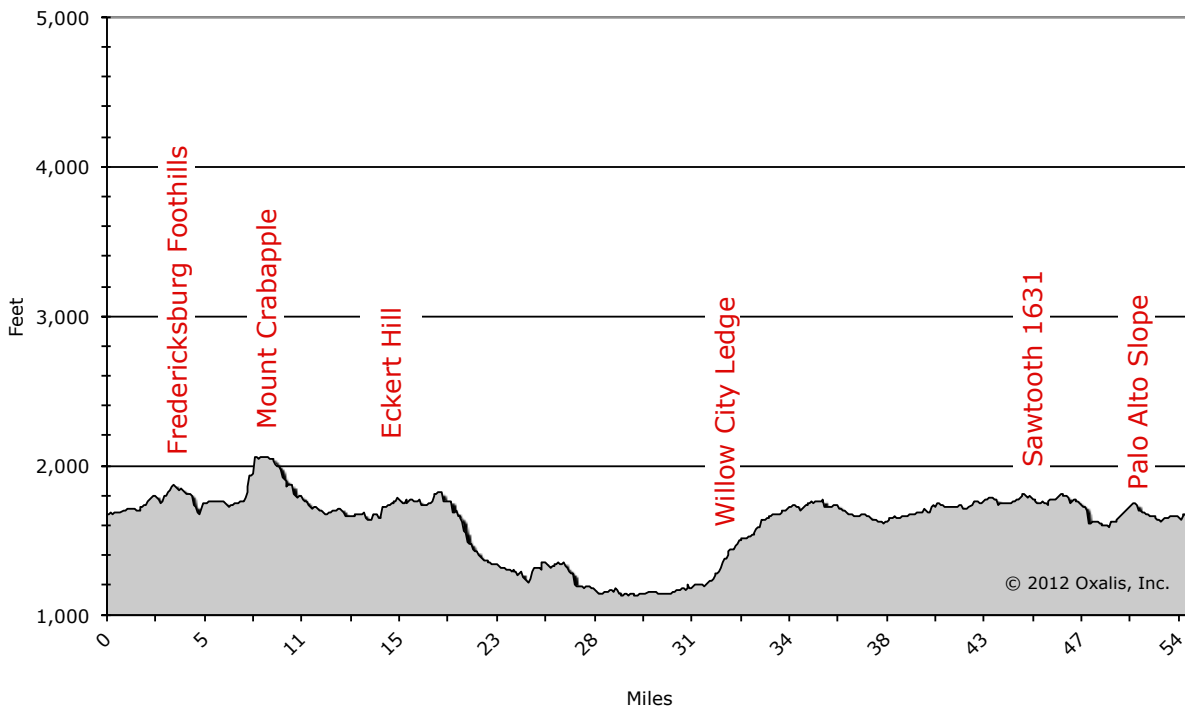
Cycling Route

Willow City Loop

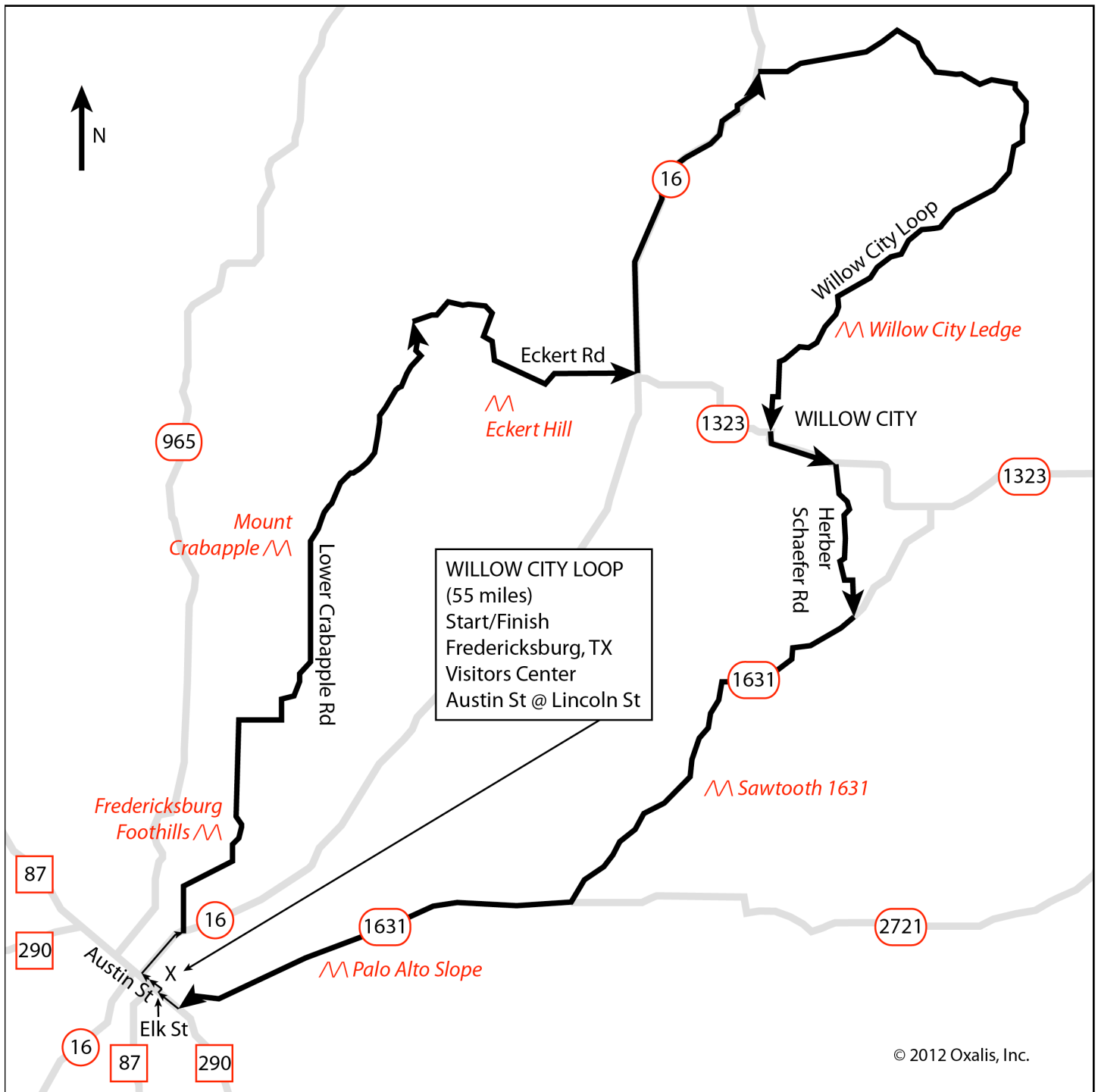
55 miles

Region: Fredericksburg, Texas
Author: Gregory L. Kagay
Catalog: 1014.2

Willow City Loop
Route Elevation Profile



Route Map: Willow City Loop



Emergency Numbers

Police/EMS: 830-997-7585	Fire: 830-997-8080
FBG Hospital: 830-997-4353	FBG Taxi: 830-997-8044

Route Instructions: Willow City Loop

#	Miles	Turn	Location	to Next
1	0.0 mi	Start	FBG Visitors Center	0.0 mi
2	0.0 mi	Go Straight (NW)	E Austin St	0.1 mi
3	0.1 mi	Turn Right (NE)	TX 16	1.0 mi
4	1.1 mi	Turn Left (N)	Lower Crabapple Rd	11.9 mi
5	13.0 mi	Turn Right (E)	Eckert Rd	4.8 mi
6	17.9 mi	Turn Left (N)	TX 16	5.6 mi
7	23.5 mi	Turn Right (E)	Willow City Loop	12.8 mi
8	36.3 mi	Go Straight (S)	RR 1323	1.3 mi
9	37.6 mi	Turn Right (S)	Herber-Schaefer Rd	2.8 mi
10	40.4 mi	Turn Right (SW)	RR 1631	7.0 mi
11	47.4 mi	Turn Right (W)	RR 1631	6.7 mi
12	54.1 mi	Turn Right (NW)	US 290 / Main St	0.4 mi
13	54.5 mi	Turn Right (NE)	N Elk St	0.1 mi
14	54.6 mi	Turn Left (NW)	E Austin St	0.3 mi
15	54.8 mi	Finish	FBG Visitors Center	0.0 mi

Safety

TexasVelo.com, its sponsors, the author, and Oxalis, Inc. assume no responsibilities to users of the routes described and make no warranties regarding the condition of these roads.

Routes presented utilize public roads open to traffic; ride at your own risk and obey all traffic laws.

Always wear a helmet and utilize properly maintained equipment. Carry ample food and water. Carry tools. Carry a mobile phone in case of emergency.

Climactic conditions may change rapidly. Use common sense. Carefully walk bikes when crossing wet water crossings.

Ride Summary

The queen cycling attraction in Gillespie County, *Willow City Loop* peaks during wildflower season in mid/late spring when it glows in a blaze of natural glory.

The route's beauty, however, breeds popularity. During wildflower season weekends especially, tourists litter "The Loop" with cars, trucks and motorcycles. Meanwhile, landowners along the route appear less than thrilled that their land doubles as a tourist attraction. Most do not appreciate trespassing of any kind, and they will let you know it. Stick to the roads, be mindful of motorists, and you should have a great visit. Meanwhile, do not wait for spring to ride it. This beautiful terrain provides great cycling in all seasons.

One more thing: Be aware of one certain glitch on your ride: *The Willow City Ledge*. This climb at the end of the loop starts out steeply at first, then stretches out longer than most ascents in the area. Although cyclists presumably travel to the

Hill Country to ride up and down hills, those lacking sharpened climbing capabilities should bring liberal gearing for this ascent.

Points of Interest

Crabapple Road and Eckert Road

Excellent cycling roads on their own, these two byways offer both visual and physical warmups to the Willow City Loop.

Willow City Loop

"The Loop" offers great winding roads, superior scenery, and, in the spring, an abundance of wildflowers. Just as you fall into a smooth rhythm while absorbing the beauty, however, a vicious climb obscures the horizon.

Willow City

Gateway to the Willow City Loop, this small hamlet features an interesting old rural school (now closed). The post office may allow cyclists to top off water bottles. Sometimes, find Harry's on the Loop open for barbecue.

Hills of Interest

Fredericksburg Foothills

(Cat. 3)—Early in this route find a noticeable but surmountable climb at the outskirts of town; a great warm up.

Mt. Crabapple

(Cat. 1)—An abrupt climb, but the prevailing southeast wind in spring and summer may be an aid. At the top, be sure to look back at the picturesque view of Gillespie County and the Pedernales River valley.

Eckert Hill

(Cat. 3)—Not terribly difficult but an uphill slog nonetheless. Pleasant visuals here as you ascend.

Willow City Ledge

(Cat. HC)—A monster of a climb, it starts out hard, then mellows, and finally rocks and rolls for several miles into Willow City. Oxygen deprivation

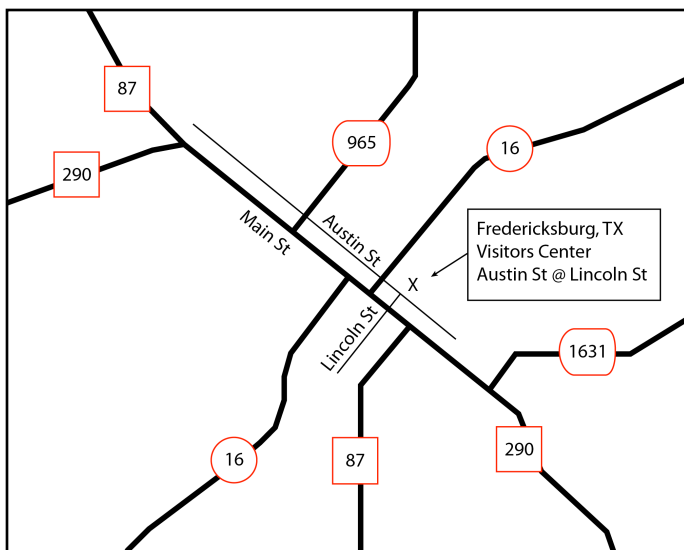
tends to diminish the otherwise enjoyable views offered by this climb

Sawtooth 1631

(Cat. 4)—RR 1631 includes a series of rolling hills that may challenge at this stage of the ride

Start/Finish

This route begins and ends at the Fredericksburg, Texas Visitor Center. Find it at the corner of Austin Street and Lincoln Street, one block north of Main Street.



Fredericksburg Visitors Center location map

This departure location favors groups of gathering cyclists because it features off-street parking. When forming a group ride here, we recommend cyclists gather in the large parking lot located behind (north of) the Visitor Center (and Chamber of Commerce) office buildings. To minimize exposure to traffic, we discourage gathering in front of the facility on busy Austin Street.

The restrooms here usually open at 8 A.M. For more information visit the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce website at <http://www.fredericksburg-texas.com/>.

Road Maps

Print road maps corresponding to this route here:

<http://www.dot.state.tx.us/travel/countymapbook2006/Pages/371.pdf>

<http://www.dot.state.tx.us/travel/countymapbook2006/Pages/370.pdf>

Eat & Drink

Fuel up before departing and carry ample hydration and energy resources. Distances between commercial establishments offering such may be vast. When cycling on hot days we recommend hydration packs for longer routes.

Before negotiating the loop itself, find the ***Knot in the Loop Saloon*** very close to the intersection of Eckert Road and TX 16. It lies on RR 1323 just east of TX 16.

Cyclists may find resources in Willow City, Texas, although hours and days of operation have been volatile over the years. ***Harry's on the Loop*** lies just south of town on RR 1323. The post office may provide water.

Ride Friendly

We are all cycling ambassadors. Cyclists and motorists utilize our roads rightfully. Courtesy mitigates anger. Ride single file when vehicles approach from behind. Large groups should be extra vigilant to accommodate passing vehicles. Please educate inconsiderate cyclists—share the road.

Obstacles

Many obstacles—familiar and otherwise—dot Texas roads. Potential dangers include cars, cattle, cattle guards, deer, trucks, water crossings, and more. Stay vigilant and slow down.



Find more great cycling routes at
www.TexasVelo.com
