

Why Navigate Offline

We certainly want our cyclists to have a great experience finding there way around the 4 Bloomin' Metric courses. Our prime method of achieving this goal is the use of electronic navigation: **Ride With GPS**.

Electronic navigation gives every rider from beginner to experience cyclist the ability to navigate the routes accurately, while those with smart phones can have the directions dictated to them in advance of a turn and right at the turn. They get custom information in the form of upcoming food stops, areas of caution, and other useful information. We strongly encourage ALL participants to use RWGPS navigation - and doing it **Offline**. This will be explained in this tutorial.

A Bit of Our Past Navigation History:

We started with **painted arrows**, which was a monumental task for our volunteers and we had a hard time dealing with certain neighborhoods where arrows were painted over confusing the riders. Then volunteers were required to remove the arrows from all the routes after the Bloomin' ended.

When towns prohibited us from painting arrows we turned to **signs**. This has made it increasingly difficult to find volunteers to set them out and pick them up. We still have to deal with people maliciously tampering with the signs, turning them in different directions or removing them altogether, thus confusing our riders.

What's Offline Navigating

This is very easy to answer. When you select a route(s) we will eventually be sending you, it's best to download it into your RWGPS app's OFFLINE area. When it's time to ride, you select it from your Offline Library (not from the original link). You will be getting all the cues directly from your phone and not over the Internet. This means you are not using any data from your service and you do not require any Internet Service.

The following tutorial will help you get your ride from the Invite Link to your Offline area. We will be sending you the link 2-3 weeks before the event.

If you are a person who has fallen in love with cue sheets or are only planning to only follow signs (**see the important caveat to this**), we encourage you to at lease give RWGPS a try. **It's all free**.

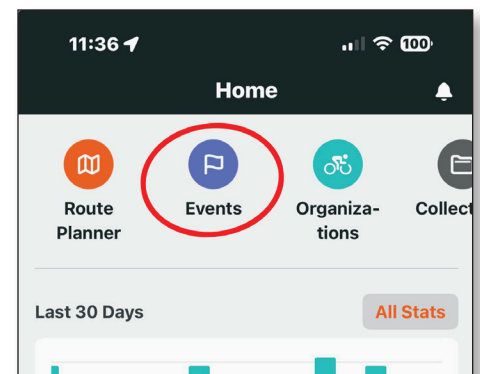
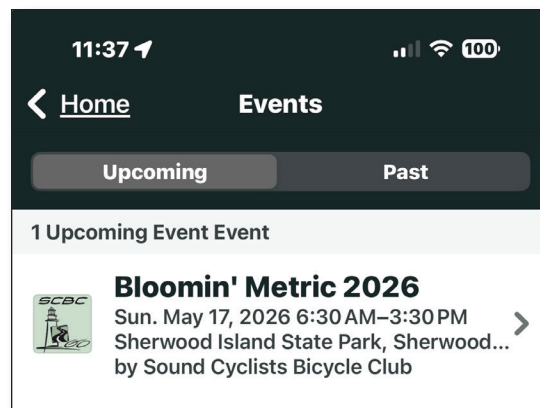
Offline Tutorial

Note: The screen captures here to illustrate the steps were made from an iPhone 17. Your phones might display them slightly different but they should be very similar.

Step 1: Once you receive the **Event Link** and click on it, all 4 routes will download into your **RWGPS account**. If you haven't already done so, go to where you download apps to your phone and get the RWGPS app. It's free, so don't purchase a service. Skip over any offers.

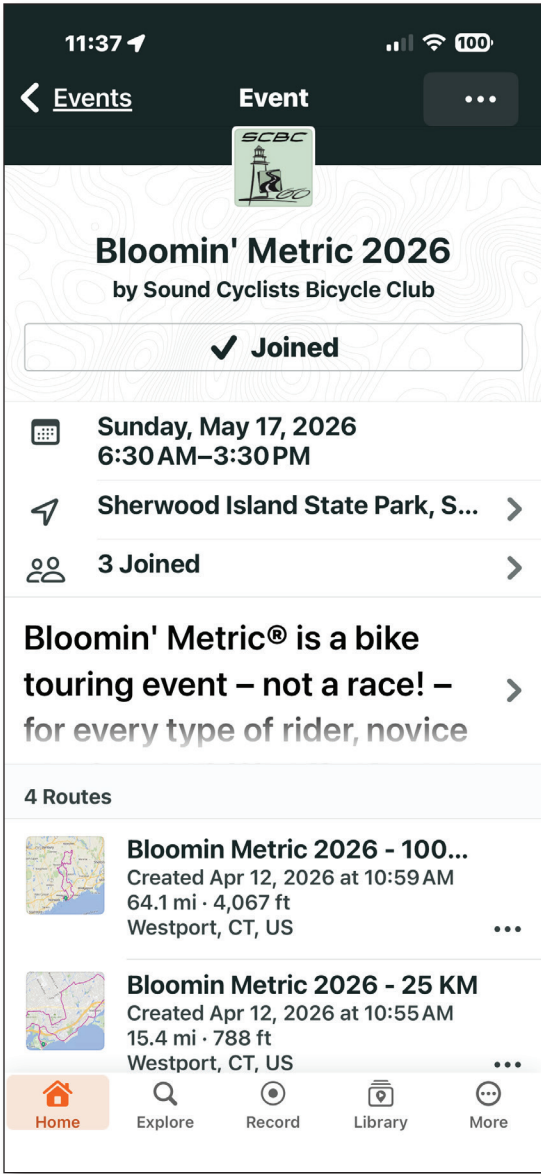


Step 2: On your RWGPS app's Home screen (right), click on the Events icon and you will see on the next screen (below) the Bloomin' Metric 2026 link that you downloaded when you clicked on the Invite Link.

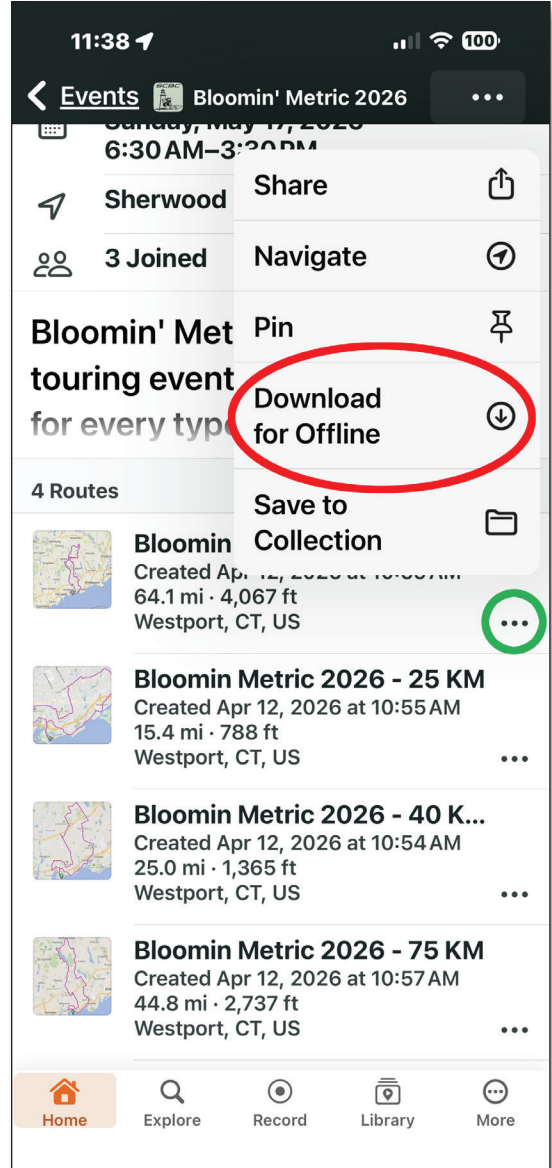


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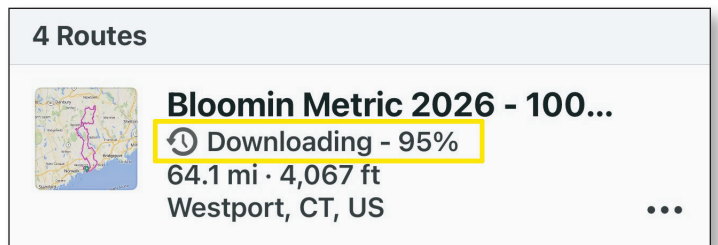
Step 3: After clicking on the Bloomin' Metric 2026 event, you will see the 4 routes (below).



Step 4: On the following screen that appears below, first click on the 3 horizontal dots (green) and then select the Download for Offline from the menu (red).



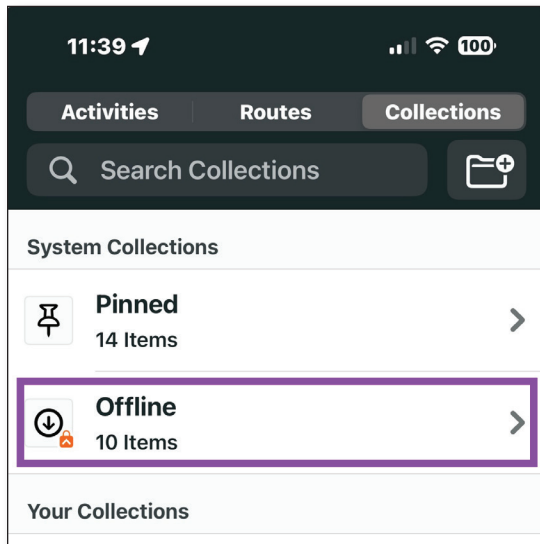
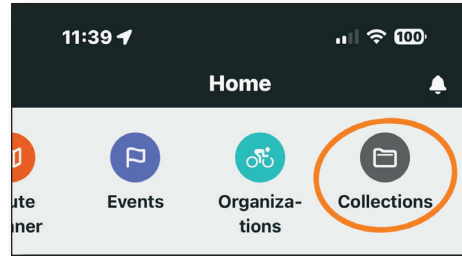
Your route will begin to download (yellow) to your Offline library.



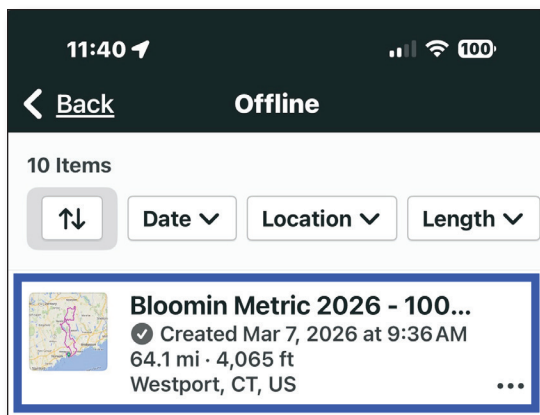
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Step 5: Go back to your Home page and click on the Collections icon (orange).

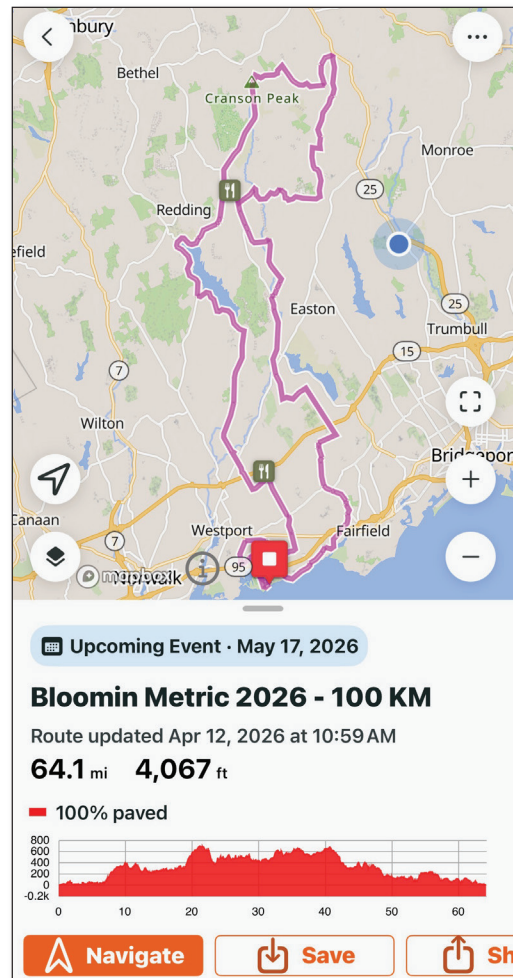
Step 6: On the following screen that appears (below), click on Offline (purple).



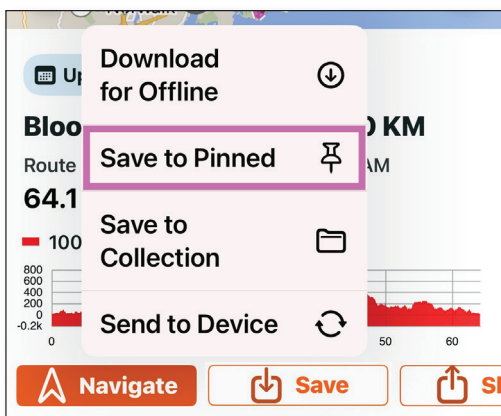
Step 7: Click on the route you plan to ride from here to navigate offline (blue). You can download one or all of the rides to your Offline area.



Final Step: When you're ready to ride, just click on the orange **Navigate** button. Don't forget to turn up the volume on your phone to hear audio cues.



Garmin, Wahoo, Karoo, etc Users: Make sure you **Pin** your route. You can click on the **Save** button at the bottom of a route you've opened and select **Saved to Pinned** (pink).

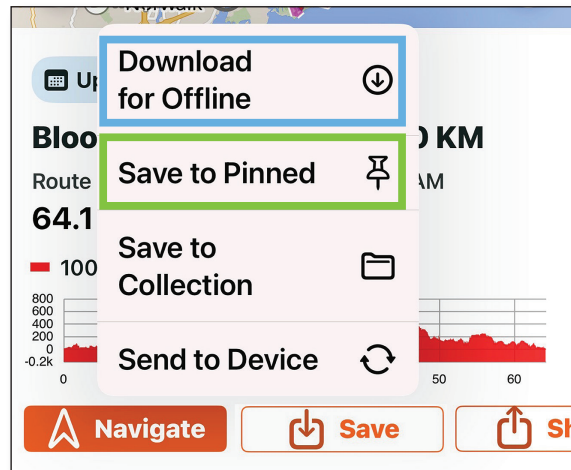


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Alternative Methods

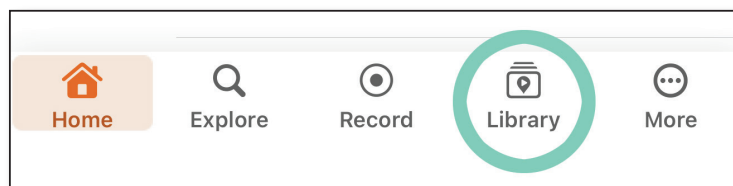
Alternative 1: If you open one of the routes directly from the Event Link we send, you can click on the orange **Save** button at the very bottom and then from the pop-up menu, click on either **Download for Offline** (blue) or **Save to Pinned** (green). **Pinning** your ride allows you to transfer/download the route via Bluetooth to your navigation head unit (Garmin, Wahoo, Karoo, etc) by holding it next to your phone.

Downloading for Offline let's you use your phone to see the cues on your screen and hear the cues dictated to you.



Alternative 2: Those who use navigational devices can also log into their RWGPS account and access the Bloomin' Metric routes if they clicked on the Invite Link on their computer. Then they can pin and download their ride by connecting their head unit and computer.

Alternative 3: From the Home page, go down to the bottom of the screen and click on the **Library** icon (teal). On the next screen click on Collections tab at the top and you will see the **Offline** tab to access all your downloaded routes. It's from here where you should navigate all your rides.



IMPORTANT: If there is an unexpected last minute change in the routes due to a road closure, cue sheets and signage will no longer be accurate. Also, we **cannot guarantee** that signs will not be tampered with, either by changing their direction or theft. We suggest you take a cue sheet if you only follow signs. You'll need it should you get lost. Otherwise, consider using RWGPS as the better backup.

UPDATING: If there is an unexpected last minute change, we will make every effort to update the routes. Those who navigate with RWGPS and their phone, and are following along from your Offline library, your route(s) will automatically update. If you're using a navigation unit, you will have to unpin and repin the ride to update it.