

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910798505403321
Autore	Guroff Margaret <1962->
Titolo	The mechanical horse : how the bicycle reshaped American life // Margaret Guroff
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Austin, Texas : , : University of Texas Press, , 2016 ©2016
ISBN	1-4773-0814-8
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (296 pages) : illustrations
Collana	Discovering America
Disciplina	303.48/320973
Soggetti	Bicycles - United States - History Cycling - Social aspects - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	The birth of the bike -- The need for speed -- The wheel, the woman, and the human body -- Paving the way for cars -- From producers to consumers -- The infinite highway of the air -- The cycles of war -- The king of the neighborhood -- The great American bicycle boom -- Bike messengers, tourists, and mountain bikers -- Are we there yet?
Sommario/riassunto	With cities across the country adding miles of bike lanes and building bike-share stations, bicycling is enjoying a new surge of popularity in America. It seems that every generation or two, Americans rediscover the freedom of movement, convenience, and relative affordability of the bicycle. The earliest two-wheeler, the draisine, arrived in Philadelphia in 1819 and astonished onlookers with the possibility of propelling themselves "like lightning." Two centuries later, the bicycle is still the fastest way to cover ground on gridlocked city streets. Filled with lively stories, The Mechanical Horse reveals how the bicycle transformed American life. As bicycling caught on in the nineteenth century, many of the country's rough, rutted roads were paved for the first time, laying a foundation for the interstate highway system. Cyclists were among the first to see the possibilities of self-directed, long-distance travel, and some of them (including a fellow named Henry Ford) went on to develop the automobile. Women shed their cumbersome Victorian dresses—as well as their restricted gender roles—so they could ride. And doctors recognized that aerobic exercise actually benefits the

body, which helped to modernize medicine. Margaret Guroff demonstrates that the bicycle's story is really the story of a more mobile America—one in which physical mobility has opened wider horizons of thought and new opportunities for people in all avenues of life.
