
Guidelines for Bicycle Parking at Schools

Providing good quality bicycle parking for students and staff can encourage biking by decreasing the risk of conflict, theft, and damage.

Bicycle parking must be:

- visible
- accessible
- secure
- easy to use
- convenient
- plentiful

Bicycle parking should be: covered, well lit, and in plain view without being in the way of pedestrians.

Theft is a serious concern for bicyclists. Nearly 1.5 million bikes are stolen in the U.S. each year. Safe and convenient parking is as critical to bicyclists as it is for motorists. Racks should:

- Be placed in areas with high pedestrian activity and “eyes-on-the-street”
- Be more visible to staff and students than passersby
- Allow the frame and one wheel to be locked to the rack when both wheels are left on the bike
- Allow the frame and both wheels to be locked to the rack if the front wheel is removed
- Allow the use of either a cable or U-shaped lock
- Be securely anchored.



In areas with high crime concerns, schools should consider placing racks in rooms or cages that can be locked during the school day.

Location: Racks need to be sited and installed appropriately for them to be well used:

- Racks that are placed less than 2'-3' from a wall or less than 30" from another rack will end up sitting empty.
- Racks need to be clearly visible and accessible, within 50' of the building's main entrance or at several commonly used entrances.

Design Standards: Racks should:

- Support the bicycle frame, not just one wheel
- Resist cutting, rusting, bending and deformation
- Be usable by bikes with no kickstand and bikes with water bottle cages

- Be usable by a wide variety of sizes and types of bicycle
- Be promoted with bike parking directional signs
- Have roofs or be located under awnings - to provide riders with rain protection while locking their bikes *and* to prolong the life of the bikes' metal and rubber components- an important issue for low-income riders.

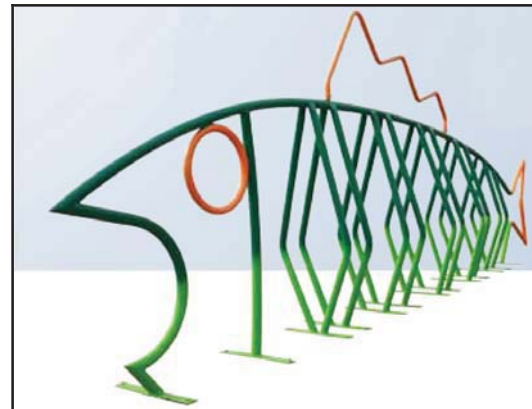


“Wheel-bender” racks (above) can damage wheels and don’t allow frames to be locked to the rack.

Costs: The cost to purchase and install bike rack varies, but is almost always cheaper and more efficient than providing car parking:

- A bike rack that parks two bikes costs \$150 to \$300.
- A locker that holds two bikes costs between \$1,000 and \$4,000 to purchase and install.
- The cost to provide two car parking spaces is \$4,400 on a surface lot and \$25,000 in a garage.
- Parking for 10-12 bikes can fit in the same space required for a single car.

Customized Designs: As long as they meet the guidelines discussed above, bicycle racks can serve a dual purpose by promoting a school’s name, mascot, or values (see below).



More Information: To learn more about how to choose a rack that is good for your school, please consult these resources:

- The Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) <http://www.apbp.org/?page=Publications>.
- The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center: <http://www.bicyclinginfo.org/engineering/parking.cfm>.
- Madison, WI bike parking guidelines: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/trafficEngineering/documents/MadisonBikeParking20100715.pdf>
- John Vander Sluis, The Bicycle Alliance of Washington, JohnV@bicyclealliance.org