

Bicycle Parking



A Guide for Business Owners & Cyclists in the City of Brockville



Riding A Bicycle Makes Health Sense

Reduce Smog and Combat Climate Change

- Cycling for everyday transportation improves air quality.
- Motor vehicles are the biggest contributors to air pollution in Ontario.
- A Toronto Public Health study has shown that each year in Toronto, air pollution contributes to about 1000 early deaths and 5500 hospital admissions.
- In Toronto, motor vehicles account for 90% of the emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.
- Cycling also helps to slow climate change by reducing fossil fuel consumption.

Physical Fitness

- A moderate amount of physical activity, like a short cycle-commute, can protect against health problems like obesity, cardiovascular disease, cancer, mature-onset diabetes, and osteoporosis.

Financial Savings

- Commuting by bicycle instead of by car can represent annual savings of up to \$8,700.

Build For Cyclists and They Will Come

- Increasing numbers of people use bicycles as their primary means of transportation. Providing ample and secure bicycle parking makes your destination more attractive to potential customers, visitors and tenants.
- Secure bicycle parking has become a competitive amenity for many property owners and managers. Many cyclists will patronize a business that offers bicycle parking over one that does not.
- Consider that since many cyclists do not own cars, they may have more discretionary money to spend.
- Advertise your bicycle parking. Post notices inside and outside with the bicycle parking location.





Consider Your Market

- Clients, patrons and visitors require **short-term parking (less than two hours)**. Conveniently located, easy-to-use outside bicycle racks are the most common way to accommodate short-term parking.
- Employees and building tenants—including apartment or condo dwellers—require **long-term parking (more than two hours)**. Ideally, long-term parking provides high security for bicycles, components such as seats, and accessories such as panniers. It also offers protection from weather.
- Consider providing long and short-term parking options if you are providing for employees and tenants as well as patrons.

Key items to consider when planning for bicycle parking

- 1) close proximity to an entrance
- 2) protecting bicycles from rain and snow
- 3) reducing chance of theft
- 4) buildings erected need to comply with all specific bicycle parking requirements outlined in City of Brockville Zoning Bylaw 050-2014.





Short-term Parking—key points to consider

Short-term parking is usually provided at outside racks.

- **LOCATION**—Parking should be as close to a major entrance as possible. If it's too far away, cyclists will start locking their bikes to trees, posts, and street furniture. Where possible use overhangs and awnings to provide shelter from weather. Be sure to choose a flat surface so that bicycles do not fall over, and avoid areas that will collect puddles.
- **VISIBILITY**—Parking should be easy to spot from the road. Cyclists will avoid parking in isolated areas—choose a visible, high-use area to deter thieves. Consider adding signage.



Use overhangs and awnings to provide shelter from weather.



Windows allow visibility from inside the store.

- **SPACE**—Make sure to leave enough room to lock bicycles side by side, even with panniers and wide handle bars. Rack manufacturers often overstate capacity. Plan for each bicycle to use up to .6 X 1.8 metres (2 feet by 6 feet). Allow at least .6m (2 foot) clearance between the rack and walls, poles, street furniture, motorists and pedestrians.
- **SECURITY**—Thieves have been known to carry off entire racks full of bikes. Racks should be embedded in cement or affixed with tamper-proof bolts or screws. Make sure the area is well-lit at night. Consider adding a security camera and signage to advertise it. Make sure building security patrol the racks throughout the day.



This rack is not being used because it is up against the wall and is partially obstructed by a concrete barricade.



Choosing a Rack



X • Rings are missing—poor quality
• They broke with wear, or a thief cut through the metal



X • Only one point of contact
• Unable to lock both the wheel and the frame—target for theft



X • Too close to the wall
• Cannot lock wheel and frame (wheelbender)—target for theft

- Brockville's Cycling Advisory Committee can provide a list of Canadian bicycle parking suppliers. Contact cycling@brockville.com for more information.
- When given the choice, cyclists will lock bikes to sign posts rather than to a poorly designed, poor quality rack. Good design is one that deters theft, by allowing the bicycle frame and one wheel (preferably two) to be locked to the rack.
- Make sure that cyclists can use both a cable and/or U Lock.
- Consider carefully before investing in vertical wall racks. They are a great way to manage in a tight space. Allow a horizontal dimension of at least .6 metres x 1.2 metres (2 feet x 4 feet) and a vertical dimension of 1.9 metres (6 foot, 4 inches). Many cyclists are discouraged, however, by having to lift their bicycles onto the wall so mount the rack as low as possible. If you are short on space, try to provide both horizontal and vertical racks.

- Avoid racks that only hold the wheel. These racks can bend a bicycle's wheel. Also, only the wheel can be locked, making the bicycle an easy target for theft.
- Avoid racks that do not support the frame at two points — bicycles can fall over and the racks are often misused, resulting in reduced capacity.
- These are examples of recommended horizontal racks that allow at least one wheel and the frame to be locked to the racks, and offer two points of contact:

1. Post and Ring
2. Inverted U
3. Triangle





Long-term Parking – key points to consider

- **CONVENIENCE**—parking a bicycle should be easy. If possible, avoid having to take bicycles through heavy doors, on stairs, and elevators. Steep and narrow ramps can be dangerous, particularly in the winter.
- **WEATHER PROTECTION**—bicycles, panniers and baskets should be kept dry.

- **SECURITY**—consider personal safety and security from theft. Choose a well-lit area and avoid tucking parking away in a dark or recessed corner, especially in a parking garage. Cyclists appreciate not having to detach wheels, panniers and other gear or components.
- **AVAILABILITY**—cyclists need a consistent place to lock-up. Plan enough parking for the busiest days, and be prepared to add more parking as more people choose to cycle!





1

Types of Long-term Parking

Indoor

Cyclists usually prefer indoor parking. It offers weather protection and a high level of security against walk-by theft.



2

Types of Indoor Parking

1. A bicycle lock-up room with cyclist-only access is a popular arrangement. Keys or access cards can be controlled by building security or a designated volunteer.
2. Parking in a supervised or access controlled parking garage is also a good option.
3. Indoor racks can also be placed in highly visible areas, such as beside a reception or security desk.



3



Types of Long-term Parking cont'd

Outdoor

All the points to consider for short-term parking also apply to outdoor long-term parking.

Types of Outdoor Parking

1. Covered racks. Try to provide a cover for at least half—but preferably all—of the outdoor parking. Look for existing overhangs and awnings to provide shelter, or build your own.

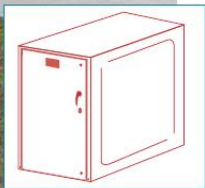


2. Bike cage. Build the cage out of solid materials to reduce theft. Thin wire fencing or wood can be cut. Only cyclists should be given the key/card to the cage. Provide racks inside the cage for extra security.
3. High security racks. These racks secure both wheels and the frame. Choose a rack where a U Lock or chain lock can be used. Consider that they have movable parts that may wear. Cyclists may need instructions on how to operate them. These require maintenance and can be expensive.



Types of Outdoor Long-term Parking–cont'd

4. Bicycle Lockers can be expensive. The advantage, however, is that panniers and other gear can be left in the locker, and bicycles are completely protected from the weather. The locker door requires a high quality lock, usually provided by the cyclist, although some lockers come with locks. Consider the possibility of graffiti. Be sure to delegate lockers to individuals to ensure that a lock remains on at all times. Otherwise you may find people and/or animals will move in.



- 5. Valet parking requires an attendant to check bicycles in and out and to keep watch over them. This is a particularly good option for large events where cyclists will be spending the day.
- 6. Be imaginative and creative. Aesthetically pleasing yet functional bicycle parking can be an asset to your company or building. You can custom-build your bicycle parking to meet your needs.



TIPS FOR CYCLISTS



Photo courtesy of
Brockville Recorder and Times

The Bicycle

- Always keep your bicycle locked, even in a garage or on a porch.
- Lock at least one wheel (preferably two) and the frame to the rack or object. This also prevents your bicycle from falling over. If you only lock the wheel, your bicycle can be detached quickly and carried away.
- If you don't need a quick release seat and wheels, replace them with standard bolts.
- If you do want quick release items, take them with you or lock them to your frame.
- Take lights, mirrors, bags and panniers with you, along with anything else that is not securely fastened.
- Consider riding an inexpensive (beater) bicycle for everyday use and short trips.



TIPS FOR CYCLISTS



The Lock

- Invest in the best quality lock (or two) that you can afford—usually a hardened steel U lock or hardened steel chain and padlock.
- Use two different locks—one for each wheel—so that a thief would need two different types of tools.
- Make sure chains cannot be smashed against the ground.
- Position a U lock so that the keyhole faces down towards the ground. A keyhole that is located in the middle of the straight bar (instead of at the end) offers greater security.



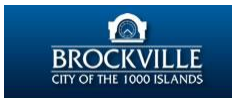
The Location

- Look for a busy, well-lit place to lock up.
- Lock to sturdy, immovable objects that are securely bolted down.
- Make sure your bicycle cannot be lifted over the object.
- Avoid locking to materials that can be cut, like wire fencing, trees, and wooden railings.
- Avoid “sucker poles” by checking to make sure that sign poles are securely fastened to the ground.
- Out of courtesy, never lock to wheelchair ramps.

Register Your Bicycle

- Register your bicycle with the Brockville Police. You will need to know the serial number (it will be somewhere on the frame) and the make/model. More information is available at www.brockvillepolice.com/community/bike_registration.htm
- Always report a stolen bicycle or part—even if your bicycle was not registered. If there are numerous thefts in an area, the police should be informed about them.
- Do not support the market for stolen bicycles. Only buy a second-hand bicycle from someone you trust. If you are not sure whether a bicycle has been stolen, ask questions or call the police.

Looking for some cycling routes in and around Brockville? For a variety of scenic rides, skill levels and distances, visit:
www.frontenacarchbiosphere.ca/explore/fab-trails/cycle



Adapted by the City of Brockville's Cycling Advisory Committee, with permission, from a City of Toronto Bicycle User Group Network publication.

Contact us for more information:
613-342-8772 or cycling@brockville.com