

Chelmsford Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Short Term Bicycle Parking

Guidelines for Bike Rack Locations

Just as the old saying in real estate goes “location is everything”, the same can be said for bike racks. No matter how nice or how many bike racks there are, if it is not located properly it will not get used. In order to encourage customers, employees, visitors and friends to pedal to their destination, they need a place to park their bikes. Bicyclists want to park as close to their destinations as possible with safety and convenience. So before making the investment in purchasing and installing a bike rack, consider where it is to be located.

Best Practice is to locate bike racks so that they are:

- Safe from automobile traffic.
- If located in a parking lot, physically obstructed from cars.
- Highly visible.
- Easily noticed from the approach.
- Convenient to building entrance(s).
 - No more than 50 feet from entrance.
 - Or no more than a 30 second walk.
 - If a building has multiple entrances, smaller racks conveniently located are better than 1 large rack.
 - If building has showers for their employees or customers, locate a rack at the entrance nearest those facilities.
- Well lit.
- In view of passerby, traffic, office windows etc. to deter theft and vandalism.
- On hard surfaces.
- Securely mounted to ground or structure.

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Best Practice (cont.)

- Near handicap ramps.
- Covered from the weather, if possible. (At least 6 feet of overhead clearance.)
- Closer than or as close as the nearest auto parking space.
- Easy to find. Publicize it with signage or with logos on it or the ground.

Avoid Locating Bike Racks So That They Are:

- On the dirt or grass.
- Out of sight.
- Inconveniently located.
- Further than most auto parking spaces.
- In dark locations.
- Blocking pedestrian traffic flow.
- Too close to automobile traffic.
- Only accessible by traveling over stairs.
- Too close to obstructions so as to prevent maneuverability.
- A tripping hazard.
- Under trees. (Bird droppings, tree sap etc.)

A note to remember is that the closer bike racks are located to auto parking, alleys, roads etc. the better opportunity for theft.