

Bike parking should be secure and conveniently located

Many people choose to ride their bikes to work or to shop. A sturdy bike rack conveniently located near a primary entrance and in plain sight encourages its use.

Plan for bicycle parking spaces

In new development, bicycle parking is required for:

- multi-family residential developments of four or more units,
- retail, office, and institutional developments,
- transit stations and park and ride lots.

The Beaverton Development Code specifies the required number of short and long term bike parking spaces by use.

Existing businesses and offices are encouraged to provide bicycle parking at about the same level. The Development Code can serve as a guide.

Two types of bicycle parking

Short-term bicycle parking is for those who are expected to depart within two hours. Short-term parking is best located in the closest available area to the primary entrance. If the short-term parking is being installed to respond to City requirements, it is encouraged to be within 50 feet, and cannot be more than 100 feet, from the primary entrance to the building

Long-term bicycle parking is for persons who are expected to leave their bicycles parked longer than two hours. Required

long-term parking must be covered or within a shelter, building, or bike locker.



Covered long-term parking keeps bicycles and riders protected from the weather. (Ribbon rack design is not recommended.)

This type of bike parking is generally used by employees. However, there may be some businesses such as libraries, theatres, and shopping centers that can expect customers or other visitors to stay for longer than two hours.

Rack design

A bicycle rack might support only one bicycle or it might support many. Rack design must accommodate common bike frame sizes and styles and must support the frame at two points so the bike does not tip over.

Ideal designs allow the cyclist to lock the frame and both wheels with a cable or the frame and one wheel with a U-lock. The staple or inverted U rack is recommended because it meets the standards and is easy to install.

Racks that support bicycles by only a single wheel do not meet city requirements. Experienced cyclists sometimes refer to these racks as “wheel benders.”

The ribbon or wave rack is a very commonly used rack, but it is not recommended because it usually does not meet the standards and improper use limits capacity. The only way this type of rack supports the frame at two points is if the cyclist parks parallel to the rack.



Inverted U-type rack meets the standards and holds two bicycles per rack.

Rack placement

Adequate space around the rack is essential. Cyclists need to be able to park and retrieve their bicycles without moving other bikes. Remember that in locating a rack in relation to the building, you are designating where and how you want bicycles to be parked. First decide how and where the bikes should be parked, then install the rack(s) accordingly.

Each bike parking space should be at least 18 inches wide by six feet in length, and a width of 24 inches is encouraged.

Creativity can market your business

Be creative. A bike rack design can highlight a business or service. A spectacle-shaped rack at an optometrist's office or a tooth-shaped rack at a dentist's office is more than just a bike rack.

Other considerations include accommodating a variety of bicycle shapes and sizes. Handlebars are usually 18 to 27 inches wide. Panniers can make a bicycle 24 inches wide at the rear. So even two feet between bicycles may be too little to allow easy access without bumping neighboring bicycles. To really please your cycling customers, space inverted U racks 30" to 36" apart. Some cyclists pull child or cargo trailers. Allow room for them in one or two of the spaces.

Room to maneuver is important. Be sure bike parking spaces stay clear of walls, fixed objects, and walkways.

A note about long-term bicycle parking

Just as for parked cars, security for bicycles is important for long-term parking. Cycling employees are more likely to pedal to work if they feel that their bike is safe from the elements and from theft during the work day.

Cycling business customers are more likely to spend more time and money at a business if they know secure bike parking is available. Bicycle lockers can work especially well for these uses.



Bike lockers for long-term parking.

Beaverton Bicycle Advisory Committee

If you have any questions about the suitability of a bicycle rack or about rack placement, the City of Beaverton's Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) is happy to help. The BAC meets every month except July. Visitors are welcome. You can view agendas on line at:

www.beavertonoregon.gov/mayor/boards/

For City of Beaverton bike parking requirements in new development, contact Don Gustafson at (503) 350-4057.

For City of Beaverton bike parking standards, see Chapter 7 of the Engineering Design Manual at:

www.beavertonoregon.gov/departments/publicworks/TechServices/engedm.aspx.

For other City of Beaverton bike-related questions, contact BAC staff liaison Margaret Middleton at (503) 526-2424.



BICYCLE PARKING GUIDELINES

A guide for new and existing businesses.

Prepared by the
City of Beaverton

Bicycle Advisory Committee

The City of Beaverton is a designated



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