



NC RECREATION AND PARK WELLNESS INITIATIVE

Promoting a Healthy Lifestyle through North Carolina's Recreation and Park Agencies

Updated As of: 1/3/17

Bike Racks:

Bike racks are a cheap way to promote physical activity. Having a place for your visitors to safely lock up their bikes provides a way for them to get additional exercise going to and from your park. You could also consider adding longer-term storage racks or lockers for your employees.



Bike rack placement:

Bike racks are easy to install, but building them does not guarantee that they will be used. Choosing the best location for bike racks is critical to their success. Think about your parks. Do users have to ride on or cross major roads to get to the park? Does the park already receive high bicycle traffic? Does the park have an adequate site to build/install bicycle racks? How much money does your agency have to spend? Answering these questions can help guide you in selecting the right number and placement of your bike racks.

Generally, bike racks should be placed in a prominent location very close to the facility. They should allow room for the cyclist to maneuver their bike in and out of the rack, and if possible, should provide some protection from rain and sun.

Your largest park might not be the best place to put bike racks if there is not a bicycle-friendly way to get there. Starting with a busy neighborhood park, or a park adjacent to a school, might be a better choice. Additional parks might need safer bike access before bike racks will see any use.

Promoting your bike racks:

People will not use your bike racks if they do not know about them! Post the location of your bike racks on your agency's website and social media. Email your employees about the change. Create a press release to go in your local paper. Post a sign about it at your park. As the number of bike racks in your municipality or county grows, publish a map on your website. As people in your community start to see there are safe places to

store their bicycles, they will begin to consider using their bikes for short trips. Here are some other ideas that you can use to promote cycling in your community:

- Bike rodeo- an event that teaches safe bicycling skills to kids and adults
- Community bike rides
- Safety improvements
- Bike light/gear giveaways
- Close down the street! One day a year (or more), close down a street in your community for bicycle and pedestrians
- Create maps showing safe bike routes
- Share at local bike shops and with bike clubs

Resources:

[City of Portland guide to siting and buying bike racks](#)

[Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals bike parking guidelines](#)

[NYC's webpage promoting bike parking in the city](#)

[Guide to putting on your own bike rodeos](#)