



# Pittsburgh Department of City Planning

## BICYCLE PARKING OVERVIEW

### WHY IS BICYCLE PARKING REQUIRED?

The Pittsburgh Zoning Code requires larger-scale new construction or change-of-use applications to provide bicycle parking based on use, building size, or staff size. The intent of the requirement is to allow for increased flexibility and equity in addressing parking needs.

### WHEN IS BICYCLE PARKING REQUIRED?

Bicycle parking is required for all Non-Residential uses, Commerical Parking and Parking Structures, Hotels or Motels, and Multi-Unit Residential uses.

For most Non-Residential uses, bicycle parking is determined by gross floor area. For Commerical Parking and Parking Structures, bicycle parking spaces are determined by the number of automobile parking spaces. For low-occupancy facilities and Hotels or Motels, bicycle parking spaces are determined by the number of employees. For Multi-Unit Residential uses, bicycle parking is determined by the number of dwelling units and must include at least 60 percent of bicycle parking in protected parking spaces.

### WHAT IS THE PARKING REDUCTION FOR BICYCLE PARKING?

A reduction in the number of automobile off-street parking spaces required by the Zoning Code (excluding parking spaces for persons with disabilities) is permitted where bicycle parking is provided free of charge.

The number of car parking spaces may be reduced by 1 space for each bicycle parking space, up to 30 percent of the total required spaces when rounded to the next highest integer.

This provision cannot be applied to Single-Unit Residential, Two-Unit Residential, Three-Unit Residential, Animal Care, Car Wash, Salvage Yard, Service Station, and Vehicle/Equipment Repair uses.

### WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROTECTED AND UNPROTECTED BICYCLE PARKING SPACES?

Protected bicycle parking spaces are secure facilities that protect the entire bicycle against theft and inclement weather. These facilities include, but are not limited to: bicycle lockers, check-in facilities, monitored bicycle parking, restricted access parking, and personal storage.

Unprotected bicycle parking spaces are bike racks which permit locking the bicycle frame and one wheel to the rack, and provide a stable position without damaging the bicycles. These facilities can be outdoors.

### IN AN APARTMENT BUILDING, CAN TENANTS STORE THEIR BICYCLES IN THEIR UNITS OR THE BASEMENT?

City policy encourages apartment owners to create a separate storage location for bicycles, such as individual tenant storage or a shared storage room where the bicycles can be secured from theft. Storage within an apartment may be allowed if the following conditions are met. First, bicycles must be allowed in the building and elevators. Second, a usable bicycle parking space must be in direct proximity to a main entrance.

### WHAT ARE THE ZONING REQUIREMENTS?

The Zoning Code requires bicycle parking to be:

- Provided in a well-lighted and highly visible area to minimize theft and vandalism;
- Conveniently located with a 4 foot wide access aisle to ensure safe access;
- Out of accessible paths of travel or accessible parking as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Located so as to protect bicycles from damage and from vehicle traffic;
- Visible from the primary street, or identified by signage that direct bicyclists to parking spaces; and
- Securely anchored to the ground or building structure.

### CAN A BICYCLE RACK IN THE PUBLIC SIDEWALK COUNT TOWARD REQUIRED BICYCLE PARKING?

Bicycle racks located in the public right-of-way immediately adjacent to the subject property may be counted toward the required bicycle parking for a development. Any bicycle rack located in the public right-of-way must have the appropriate approvals from the Department of Public Works (DPW).

To learn more about installing a bicycle rack in the public sidewalk, contact Ben Carlise, DPW Operations Manager, at [ben.carlise@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:ben.carlise@pittsburghpa.gov).

### WHAT NEEDS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR THE BICYCLE PARKING REQUIREMENTS?

The following information needs to be provided in the development plan submitted to City Planning:

- **Site plan/ building plan** indicating all on-site indoor and outdoor bicycle parking locations;
- **Enlarged bicycle parking detail plan** that contains parking area dimensions, and distance from

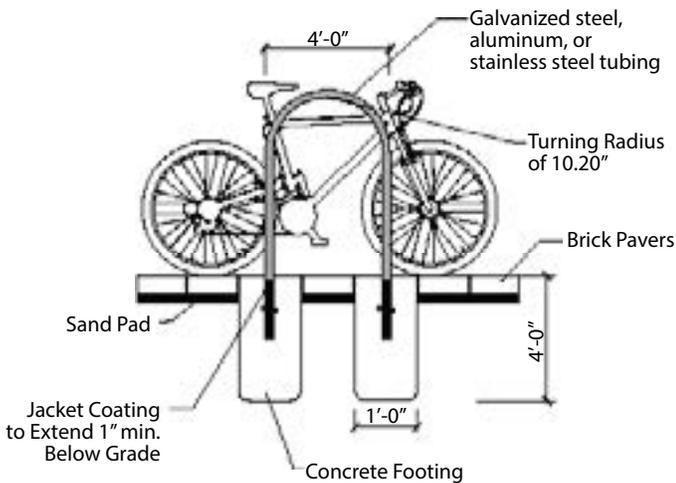


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surrounding objects; and

- **Bicycle rack detail plan** that contains rack specifications (manufacturer's spec sheet) including rack type, dimensions, materials, and connection to the ground.



U-Shaped Bike Rack



Three-Rivers Bike Rack

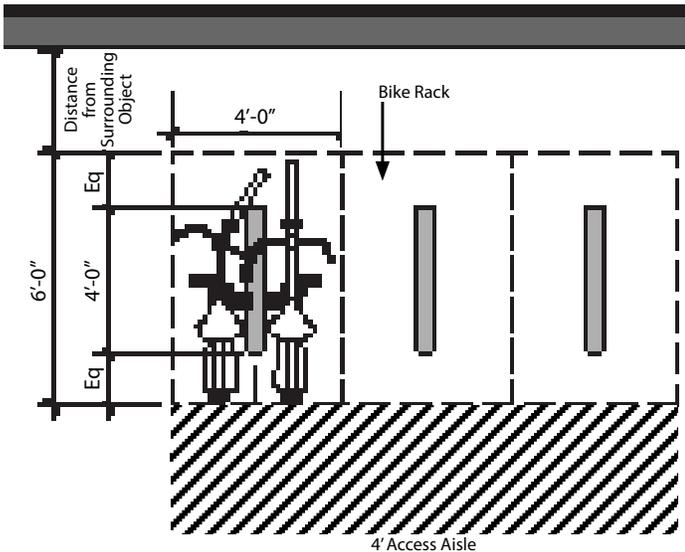


Bike Locker



Vertical Hanging Rack

The wave, comb, and toast bike racks are not permitted as they do not allow both the frame and wheels of the bike to be locked.



Comb Bike Rack



Toast Bike Rack

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For the complete City of Pittsburgh Bicycle Parking requirements, refer to the Zoning Code, Section 914.05. For questions concerning zoning, contact the Division of Zoning and Development Review at 412-255-2241 or [zoning@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:zoning@pittsburghpa.gov).

### WHAT TYPE OF BICYCLE RACK IS RECOMMENDED FOR EITHER INDOOR OR OUTDOOR USE?

"A" shape and inverted "U" shape frames; post and loop, (such as the Three-Rivers Bike Rack); and wall-mounted hanging racks are all acceptable. These racks allow the user to lock a bike frame and one of the wheels with a standard U-Lock. A bike locker is another secure alternative.