

DCTC Bicycle Parking Recommendations

Bicycle parking is an important but often overlooked element of bike-friendly communities. People are much more likely to bicycle to a destination if there is a convenient, secure place to lock their bike. There are two main types of bike parking: short-term and long-term. Both are described below.

For sample bicycle parking codes (how much bike parking to provide for various land uses), see **Walk Bike Dutchess, Appendix C**.

1. Short-term bicycle parking:

- Short-term parking is for people visiting businesses, institutions, and other destinations—typically for visits up to two hours.
- Provide at public facilities, shops, restaurants, parks, and other destinations where bikes will be parked for short periods.
- Short-term users may be infrequent visitors to a location, so the parking needs to be visible and easy to use.
- “Inverted U” or “post and ring” racks are typically best. Artistic racks are also possible as long as they meet the design criteria.
- Effective short-term bike parking depends on 1) proximity to the destination and 2) ease of use.

Location:

- In a visible location
- As close to the building entrance as practical (within 50 feet of entrance)
- In a well-lit area
- Weather protected if possible (e.g. under a roof or overhang)

Design Criteria:

Features of a good bicycle rack include:

- Stable structure and permanent foundation that is securely anchored in the ground.
- Supports the bicycle at two points (at least 6 inches apart) above its center of gravity. The rack’s high point should be at least 32 inches.
- Design that prevents the bicycle from tipping over.
- Usable for a variety of bicycle sizes and frame shapes.
- Accommodates high-security U-shaped bike locks. Rack tubes should be no more than 2 inches thick.
- Space to secure the frame and one or both wheels to the rack.
- Keeps bicycle wheels on the ground.
- Contains no sharp edges or protruding elements.

Bicycle racks must NOT:

- Only support the bicycle at one point
- Allow the bicycle to fall, which can damage the bicycle and block walking paths
- Have sharp edges that can be hazardous
- Support the bicycle by one wheel
- Connect to each other with a bar across the top (this blocks certain handlebars and baskets)
- Suspend any part of the bicycle in the air

Clearance/Spacing (see also diagram on page 10 of APBP's [Essentials of Bike Parking](#)):

- Racks placed perpendicular to a building wall should be at least 4 feet from the wall to allow the frame and at least one wheel to be locked securely to the rack.
- Racks placed parallel to a building wall should be at least 3 feet from the wall.
- Racks aligned side by side should be at least 3 feet from each other.
- Racks aligned end-to-end should be at least 6 feet apart.
- Racks parallel to a curb should be at least 2 feet from the back of the curb.
- Racks perpendicular to a curb should be at least 3 feet from the back of the curb.
- Ensure that bicycle parking does not restrict pedestrian access on sidewalks or near building entrances.

2. Long-term bicycle parking:

- Serves employees and others who want to park their bicycle all day.
- Provide long-term parking at offices, housing complexes, transit stations, schools, and other destinations where the bike will be parked for more than two hours.
- Long-term parking should be provided by a secure, sheltered facility. At a minimum, this could be a covered bike rack area.
- Where possible, provide an enclosed, locked or monitored facility, such as a bicycle cage, bicycle lockers, or a bicycle room (such as in a parking garage).
- Access can be limited through the use of a key or key card.
- Maximize security: parking areas should be well-lit and easy to find.

For both short and long-term parking: Provide signage to direct bicyclists to parking.

3. Recommended Bike Parking

See page 8 of APBP's [Essentials of Bike Parking](#) for racks to avoid.

Short-term bike parking

A. Inverted U Style

This type of rack meets all the design criteria and is appropriate for many uses. It has two points of contact with the ground and can be installed in series with (or without) rails. However, it is sometimes used incorrectly: bikes can be parked perpendicular to the rack, rather than parallel to it, as intended.

I. Kennedy Rack, Jamestown Advanced Products

- Galvanized steel (most durable); other finishes are available.
- Surface mount (simplest installation)
- Each U holds two bikes
- Up to five U's can be attached on rails (holding up to 10 bikes).
- Bikes are parked parallel to the U, so that each bike is supported in two places.
- A decorative symbol can be added under the 'U'.
- Website: <https://www.jamestownadvanced.com/t/category/cityscapes/bike-racks/kennedy>.



II. Alternate: Mayville Rack, Jamestown Advanced Products

- Similar to the Kennedy rack
- Galvanized steel (most durable)
- Surface mount (simplest installation)
- Two (2) to four (4) U's are attached on rails, to hold between 4 and 8 bikes.
- Bikes are parked parallel to the U, so that each bike is supported in two places.
- Website: <https://www.jamestownadvanced.com/t/category/cityscapes/bike-racks/mayville>



III. Hoop Rack; or Hook Rack Heavy Duty (thicker steel), Dero

- Dero's racks tend to be more expensive than Jamestown's, but are used by many agencies.
- Galvanized steel
- Surface mount
- For multiple racks, 3-6 hoops can be attached on rails (to hold 6-12 bikes).
- Website: <http://www.dero.com/product/hoop-rack/>;
<http://www.dero.com/product/hoop-rack-heavy-duty/>



B. Post & Ring Style

This type of rack meets all the design criteria and is appropriate for many uses. It has one point of contact with the ground. It is less likely than the Inverted U to be used incorrectly – users rarely park their bike perpendicular to the ring.

I. Lakewood Bollard, Jamestown Advanced Products

- Galvanized steel (most durable)
- Surface mount (simplest installation)
- Each post holds two bikes.
- Bikes are parked parallel to the ring, so that each bike is supported in two places.
- Website: <https://www.jamestownadvanced.com/t/category/cityscapes/bike-racks/lakewood-bollard>



II. Bike Hitch, Dero

- Galvanized steel
- Surface mount
- Website: <http://www.dero.com/product/bike-hitch/>



C. Artistic Racks

Artistic racks are fine as long as they meet the design criteria. The 'bike' style rack is commonly used.

I. Bike Bike Rack, Dero

- Galvanized steel, or if color is desired: powder coat or thermoplastic (wears better than powder coat, but more expensive)
- Surface mount
- Each 'bike' holds 2-4 bikes
- Website: <http://www.dero.com/product/bike-bike-rack/>



Long-term bike parking

A. Parking Shelter or Enclosure

The Inverted U racks listed above can be placed in an enclosed, locked or monitored facility, such as a fenced and covered area outdoors or an enclosed space in a garage. Dero has a line of bike shelters that can be used for an outdoor bike parking area. Website: <http://www.dero.com/product-category/bike-shelters/>

B. Lockers

Dero makes several bike lockers. Locking options include padlock-compatible handles or keyed locks. Each locker holds 1-2 bikes. Website: <http://www.dero.com/product-category/bike-lockers/>



4. Additional Resources:

- APBP's [Essentials of Bike Parking](#) (see diagram on p.12 for bike parking placement guidelines)
- [Contact DCTC staff](#) for additional guidance.

5. Bicycle Parking Manufacturers:

- [Bicycle Lid](#) (long-term enclosed parking)
- [Creative Pipe](#) (racks and lockers)
- [Cycle Safe](#) (racks and lockers)
- [DERO Bicycle Racks](#) (racks and lockers)
- [Function First Bicycle Security](#) (racks)
- [Huntco Supply Inc.](#) (racks and lockers)
- [Jamestown Advanced Products](#) (racks)
- [Madrax](#) (racks and lockers)
- [Ground Control Systems](#) (racks and lockers)
- [Pilot Rock/RJ Thomas](#) (racks)

