



City of Providence Guide to Bike Parking

for Businesses

PROVIDENCE THE CREATIVE CAPITAL

Jorge Elorza, Mayor

So you want to provide an attractive place for your customers to park their bikes? Great! This guide gives you an overview of the design and process.

Bikes are good business.

Ten of your customers can park their bikes in the same amount of space that one customer could park their car. Potential customers are more likely to stop in on their way by your storefront if they're on a bike than if they're in a car.*

Basic bike racks can cost as little as \$150 each, and multi-bike corral units can cost around \$1500. Sometimes that's all it takes to become more bike-friendly!

*<http://bicyclecoalition.org/facts-biking-improves-business/>

Design

There are many different styles of bike racks available, ranging from simple standard designs to more artistic designs. The main things to consider when choosing a bike rack include:

1. Can bikes lean their frame against it with two points of contact (not just the wheel)?



2. Can a U-lock fit through & around it easily?



3. How many bikes can fit on it?



Good

Just make sure they're spaced to fit two bikes per rack (1 ft from walls and 10 ft from each other)



Good

The Steel Yard makes great custom bike racks.



BAD

Users must be able to lean the bike's frame on the rack, not just the wheel.



BAD

Poor spacing, doesn't provide enough support to the bikes.



Good

Bike corrals hold many bikes and are a good choice to hold 10-20 bikes. May need additional approvals.

1. Where will they go?

The first question is whether you want the bike parking on your property or on the sidewalk. If **on your property**, Providence's new zoning ordinance permits the use of up to two parking spaces in a parking lot for bicycle parking without negatively impacting your parking requirement. Property owners are free to install bike parking on their property without the requirements of steps 2 and 3 at right.

If you want bike parking **on the sidewalk**, DPW needs to approve it. Draw up a map showing where the racks would go. The ideal location is 18 inches from the curb, parallel to the curb, and always leaving at least 4 feet (the more the better) between bike rack and the other side of the sidewalk.

2. Fill out application

Fill out an "Application for Encroachment" (see reverse). Return the form to DPW: 700 Allens Ave. Providence, RI 02905. DPW will then schedule a time to come walk around with you to ensure that everything looks good.

3. Installation

Hire a City of Providence Licensed Sidewalk Contractor, or a contractor with the ability to obtain a sidewalk contractor's license. A licensed sidewalk contractor is one that's submitted proof of bond and insurance to DPW. The licensed sidewalk contractor would pull a permit with DPW, authorizing the installation in the agreed upon locations while indicating the methods of installation.



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

Application for Encroachment
Over, Onto, Across or Under Public Right-of-Way

Date

Applicant

Address

City State ZIP

Phone Fax E-mail

Location AP Lot
(Attach plan or sketch showing the encroachment)

Purpose of Encroachment

.....

.....

Permanent

Temporary

Reserved for Official Use

Field Inspection By Date

Problems Noted (None)

.....

.....

Will the encroachment impair the public health, safety or welfare? Yes No

Will the encroachment have an adverse impact on pedestrians or wheelchair access? Yes No

Approval Recommended Yes No

By Date

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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