



Bicycle and Scooter Rack Design Considerations for Schools

Why Walk and Wheel to School?

Almost half of our region's annual GHG emissions result from on-road transportation. Encouraging families to walk and wheel to school supports regional climate action and student independence and well-being -- providing a safe place to lock up makes it possible!

Preferred Bicycle Racks for Elementary School Use



Coat Hanger



Inverted U



Post and Ring

- Coat Hanger Bike Racks offer a high capacity parking solution for school sites and fits most school-aged children's bikes.
- Post and Ring and/or inverted U racks fit up to two bikes but have more installation versatility due to their smaller size.

Scooter Rack Considerations



- Scooter racks keep clutter from the classroom and give students a space to park.
- Though scooters are typically less valuable than bikes, proper siting can discourage scooter disassembly, tampering and theft.

Bicycle Racks to **Avoid** for Elementary School Use



Spiral



Wave



Schoolyard



Wheelwell



Bollard



Swing Arm Secured

- Many racks do not allow for users to lock the frame to the bike rack and require lifting of the bike/wheel to park
- Wheelwell racks pose tripping hazards when not in use
- Racks with moving parts create maintenance complications
- Often fail to provide advertised capacity



Bicycle, Scooter and Skateboard Rack Location Guidelines for Schools

Short Term (Class B) Location and Installation Design Guidelines (In descending order of importance)

Adapted from *Bicycle at Rest: A Bicycle Parking Best Practices Guide* by John Luton © Copyright 2005 Capital Bike and Walk Society

The presence of attractive, convenient and effective storage racks can be the difference between a child being allowed to ride versus being driven. The following guidelines will help ensure that bicycle, scooter and skateboard parking facilities at schools best support and encourage families, students and staff to ride.

1. Convenient access to destination

- a. Racks should be no more than 10m from a primary entrance to the school. **Racks that are located further away will often be ignored** in favour of better-located fixed objects.

2. Visible from destination

- a. Steady flows of foot traffic and/or a spot visible through windows minimizes opportunities for theft or tampering beyond the security provided by a lock.

3. Separated access from vehicle traffic

- a. Racks that are conveniently accessible from safe routes that don't require students to negotiate vehicle congestion, will improve traffic safety in the school zone.

4. Racks positioned to provide two-sided access

- a. Racks installed parallel to paths or streets, with sufficient clearance from curb edges and building walls, will allow for parking conveniently and on either side of the rack.

5. Weather protection, if possible

- a. Weather protection adds appeal to any facility, but is **secondary to the need for accessibility and security**.



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The photo-montage below illustrates bicycle parking facilities and activities around a BC school built in 2012-13.

All photographs were taken on the same day, and illustrate the five principles of the Location and Installation Design Guidelines:

1. Racks located far from access points to school are generally unpopular.
2. Racks that are less visible/separated from their destinations by walls, fences, etc. are unpopular and vulnerable to theft or tampering.
3. Locating racks near walls or curbs limits the number of bicycles they can store.
4. Visible racks and fixed objects located near entrances to schools are generally the most popular option for parking.

