

April 2008
City of Durham

Guidelines for the Placement of Bicycle Racks in Public Right-of-Way -- DRAFT

- Inverted U racks are designed to accommodate bikes parked parallel to the rack, resting against both upright members.
- Generally, racks should be installed parallel to the curb so as to minimize needlessly taking up sidewalk space.
- Where there is sufficient sidewalk space or racks are placed in an alternative location, racks can be placed perpendicular to the curb.
- Multiple individual racks installed parallel to the curb, end to end, must be separated by a minimum of 48 inches. 60 inches is preferred.
- Multiple individual racks installed perpendicular to the curb, side by side, must be separated by a minimum of 30 inches. 36 inches is preferred.
- Racks must be oriented such that they do not interfere with pedestrian path of travel on the sidewalk, yet are not so close to the curb that the rack can be inadvertently hit by the overhang of a car as it parks.
- Racks should be located where they will not interfere with sidewalk utility boxes (such as water and sewer) that need to be accessed.
- Racks should be located to minimize interference with loading zones and retail delivery paths as much as possible.
- Rack posts should not conflict with rain water leaders or drain lines under the sidewalk.
- Racks should be located to minimize interference with the opening of car doors and placed between on-street parking spaces to the extent that is feasible.
- Racks should not be placed in the “blind spot” behind a parallel parking space where a car might back into the rack. This is particularly important when there is a sidewalk “bulb out” behind a parallel parking space.
- Racks should be located a minimum of :
 - ✓ 2½ feet minimum from face of curb; 3 feet or more is preferred, especially if adjacent to on-street parking
 - ✓ 3 feet from: newspaper rack, US mailbox, light pole, sign pole, bus shelter, driveway, surface hardware (electric, cable, etc.), street furniture, standpipe, bus bench, trash can, other sidewalk obstructions.
 - ✓ 4 feet from loading zone, handicapped parking, curb ramp, crosswalk
 - ✓ 8 feet from fire hydrant

Note: In developing these guidelines, City of Durham staff reviewed guidelines in other communities, including the cities of Berkeley, CA, and Chicago.