

Chelmsford Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Short Term Bicycle Parking

Space and Site Guidelines

If you are making the investment to install a bike rack you want to ensure that it will get used. There are many aspects that need to be considered when installing a bike rack, such as the style of rack, number of racks and nearby obstructions. Adequate spacing between racks and other objects is needed if you expect the rack to be utilized. If your rack is not accessible, the cyclists will find something else to secure their bikes to.

Here are some considerations and guidelines: (reference figure 1)

- The average adult bicycle is 6 feet long and 2 feet wide.
- Dimensional requirements for each bicycle parking space should be 7 feet length and 2 feet in width.
- Most single racks accommodate a bike on each side.
- When perpendicular to a wall, allow for 30 inches [2'6"].
 - 38 inches [3'2"] if the rack is a single vertical post style.
- Racks placed parallel to each other should be at least 36 inches [3'] apart.
 - This distance can be decreased if the racks are staggered. (Fig. 2)
- Racks placed in line with each other should be 96 inches [8'] apart from centers.
- If racks are to be grouped in columns and rows (as depicted in Figure 1), a 48 inch [4'] pedestrian aisle may be needed.
- When placed parallel to a wall or curb, it should be at least 24 inches [2'] away.
 - 36 inches [3'] if the curb has car parking. (Fig. 3)

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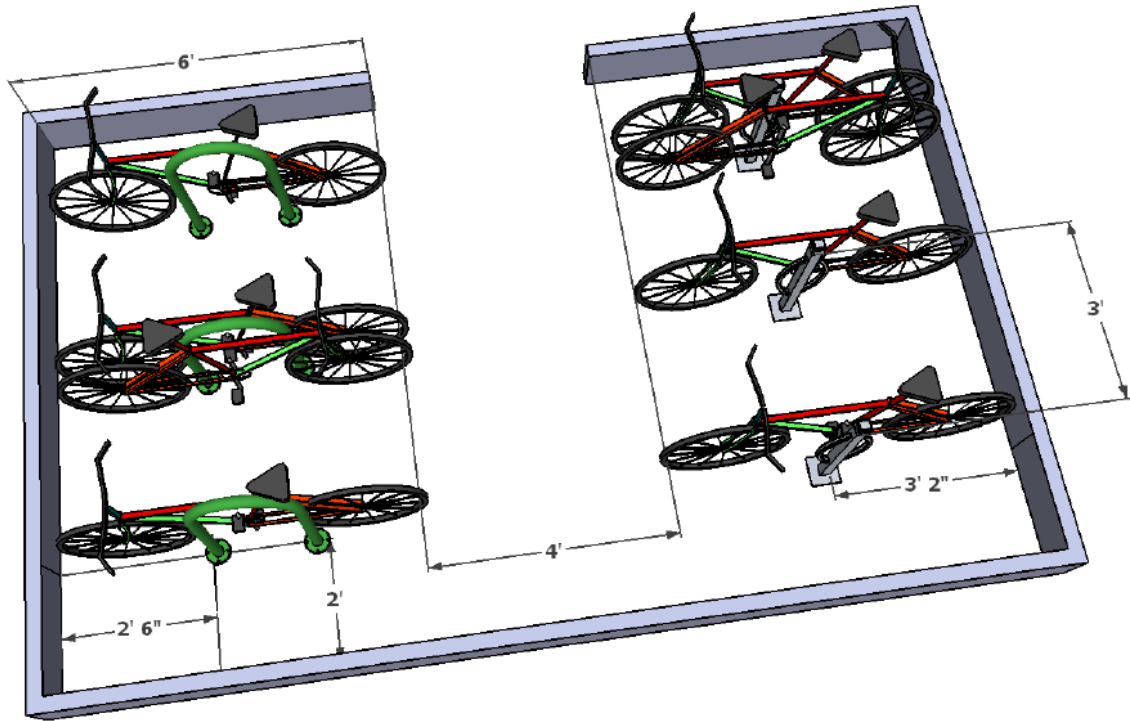


Figure 1 - All Dimensions Considered as Minimums

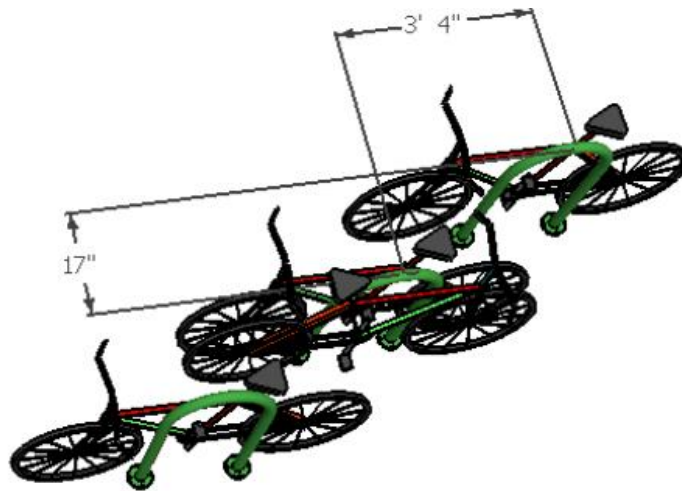


Figure 2 - Staggered Rack Placement

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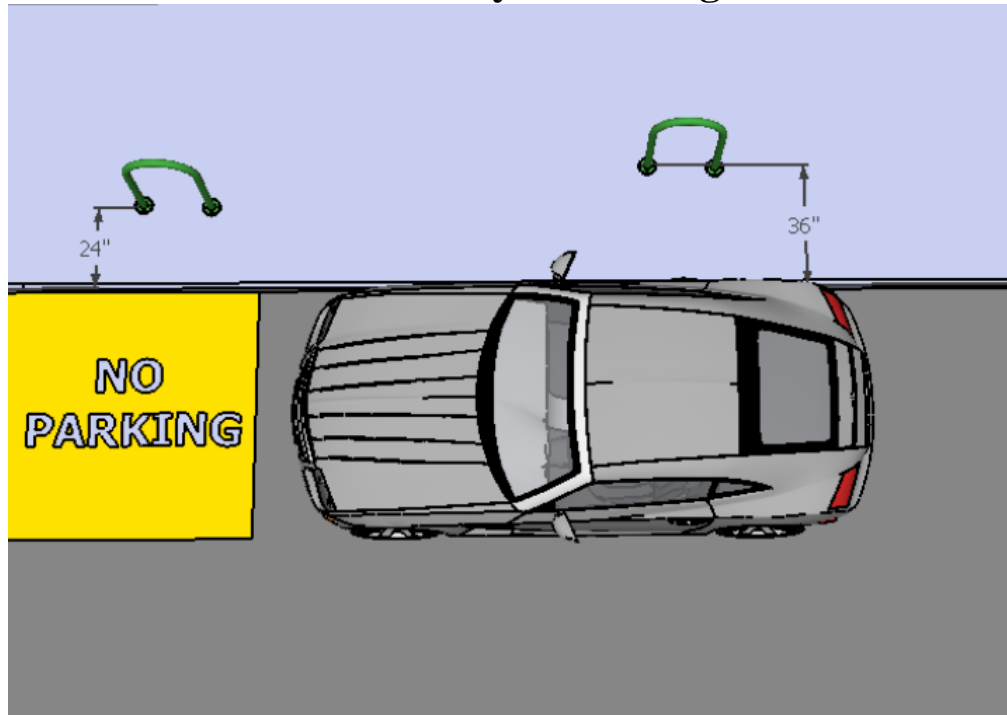


Figure 3 - 24" from curb, 36" inches if parallel to car parking

Additional considerations:

- Consider a single rack as needing an 80 inch by 30 inch outline.
- Take caution not to place them too close to fire hydrants or other hazards.
- Snow Plowing
 - Will racks prohibit?
 - Will racks be damaged?
- Best practice is to take 2 adult size bikes with you for any site walks.