



Date: August 21, 2003

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Bicycle Racks in Parks

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board support the installation of additional bicycle racks in parks as a means of encouraging more park users to cycle to parks.**
- B. THAT the Board approve the following bicycle rack implementation strategy:**
- S ensure that bike racks are available at all community centres, swimming pools and Park Board work sites;**
 - S increase the number of bike racks at beaches, waterfront parks, and neighbourhood parks that have fieldhouses, sport fields, sport courts and/or children's playgrounds;**
 - S encourage Park Board partners and tenants to install bike racks at their facilities.**
- C. THAT staff report back with a list of specific sites for bike rack replacement, relocation and installation.**

POLICY

There is no applicable policy.

BACKGROUND

There are about 80 locations with bike racks in Vancouver's 217 parks, noting that one park may have more than one location, and one location may have several bike racks. Appendix A includes a map of the existing bike rack locations.

The cost of purchasing and installing a bike rack is between \$700 and \$1,100. The price varies depending on whether there is an existing surface upon which the bike rack can be affixed.

DISCUSSION

Park Board staff estimate that there are more than 30 million visits to Vancouver's 217 parks every year. It is likely that less than 10% of these trips are made by bicycle, and in a significant number of these trips, cycling is the desired recreational activity. It is obvious that there is room to increase the number of trips made by bicycle. Providing more bicycle racks in parks is an action fully within the purview of the Park Board that can increase the number of trips to parks made by bicycle.

Below is a list of facilities in parks and their current status with regards to the presence of a bike rack.

Community Centres

All 23 community centres have bike racks. Some satellite facilities do not have bike racks (e.g. Barclay Manor, Moberly Arts Centre).

Indoor Swimming Pools

All 9 indoor pools have bike racks.

Outdoor Swimming Pools

All 7 outdoor pools have bike racks.

Ice Rinks

6 out of 8 ice rinks have bike racks.

Other Park Board Facilities

Stanley Park information booth, Stanley Park Totem Poles, Stanley Park Pavilion, Stanley Park Farmyard and Burrard Civic Marina have bike racks. Bloedel Conservatory and Heather Marina do not have bike racks.

Beaches and Waterfront Parks

All 9 beaches have bike racks, usually located adjacent to the concession. Many other waterfront parks also have bike racks: Portside Park, Harbour Green Park, David Lam Park, Coopers' Park, Creekside Park, Vanier Park, the park at Trafalgar St. & Pt. Grey Rd., and Riverfront Park.

Neighbourhood Parks

Only a small number of neighbourhood parks have bike racks: Andy Livingstone Park, Arbutus Greenway, Granville Bridge Loop Park and Tatlow Park.

Golf Courses

2 out of 6 golf courses have bike racks.

Park Board work sites

The Administration Building and Evans Yard have bike racks. The Stanley Park Service Yard, Sunset Nursery, Jericho Works Yard do not have bike racks.

Other facilities operated by non-profit partners

Stanley Park Aquarium, Jericho Sailing Centre, VanDusen Garden, Vancouver Racquets Club and the Meraloma Club have bike racks. The seven lawn bowling clubs, the four community halls, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, Brock House, Mount Pleasant Family Place, the Fraserview Boys & Girls Club, Vancouver Curling Club, the Cricket Club and the Rowing Club do not have bike racks.

Other facilities

Nat Bailey Stadium and Jericho Youth Hostel have bike racks. The Hastings Mills Museum, Cottage Hospice, Weeks House and the Pooh Daycare in Stanley Park do not have bike racks.

Restaurants

Shaughnessy Restaurant in VanDusen Garden, the Stanley Park Pavilion restaurant, the Fish House in Stanley Park, and the restaurant in Harbour Green Park have bike racks nearby. The Teahouse, the Prospect Point Café and Seasons in Queen Elizabeth Park do not have bike racks.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Park Board staff recommend the following priority locations as the basis of an implementation strategy. Staff believe these locations are the ones most likely to get good usage.

1. Ensure that all community centres, swimming pools and Park Board work sites are equipped with an adequate number of bike racks. Replace bike racks that are broken or no longer meet current bike standards. Relocate bike racks that are never used or poorly utilized. Ensure that bike racks are in as visible locations as possible.
2. Provide additional bike racks at high use beaches, in waterfront parks, and in neighbourhood parks that have fieldhouses, sport fields, sport courts and/or children's playgrounds.
3. Encourage Park Board partners and tenants to provide bike racks at locations that currently do not have them.

Staff will review these priority locations over the next couple of months and report back with a list of specific sites for bike rack replacement, relocation and installation. The number of bike racks would likely double if all identified locations are equipped with new bike racks. Staff will also recommend a timeline and methodology for reviewing the bike rack installation program, in order to assess the effectiveness of the program.

BIKE RACK DESIGN

The Park Board purchases bike racks from a number of manufacturers. The type chosen varies based on the amount of space available for bicycle parking and the expected amount of usage. Although it is most common to find green coloured bike racks in our parks, there is no policy state stipulates this colour. There is also no policy with regards to advertizing or artwork on the bike racks.

Staff will take this opportunity to review the design of bike racks, including the idea of placing artwork on the bike rack in order to create a distinctive design. Cyclists will be involved in order to ensure that newly designed bike racks are functional and secure. Maintenance staff will also be involved to ascertain that newly designed bike racks are long lasting and do not cause significant increase in maintenance costs. The findings from this review will be reported to the Board.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY WITH SCHOOL BOARD

Park Board and School Board are the two main civic agencies involved in the provision of bicycle racks on public land. (The majority of bike racks installed on public streets are paid for by shop owners, not by Engineering Services.) It is conceivable to develop a joint policy for bike rack purchase and installation for the two agencies. At this time, School Board does not have a regular bike rack purchase program (purchases are made on an as-need basis), nor does it have specific bike rack design selected.

Park Board staff will review opportunities with School Board for joint purchasing and bike rack design. It is possible that such opportunities are limited because of the differing needs of users. Cyclists in parks are likely to use a bike rack for a relatively short period of time (perhaps several hours), whereas students at schools need all-day bicycle parking. Those who park their bicycles for longer periods of time are more likely to search for bicycle racks in specially-gated rooms and for covered racks to shield the bicycles from rain. Staff will report back on the discussions with the School Board.

FUNDING

Staff estimate that as many as 100 locations may be identified for bike rack installation. Assuming a cost of \$1,000 per bike rack, it is possible that the bike rack program may total about \$100,000. Given that there is no specific allocation in the 2003-05 Capital Plan for bike rack installation, it is likely that this program may take longer than the current Capital Plan to complete.

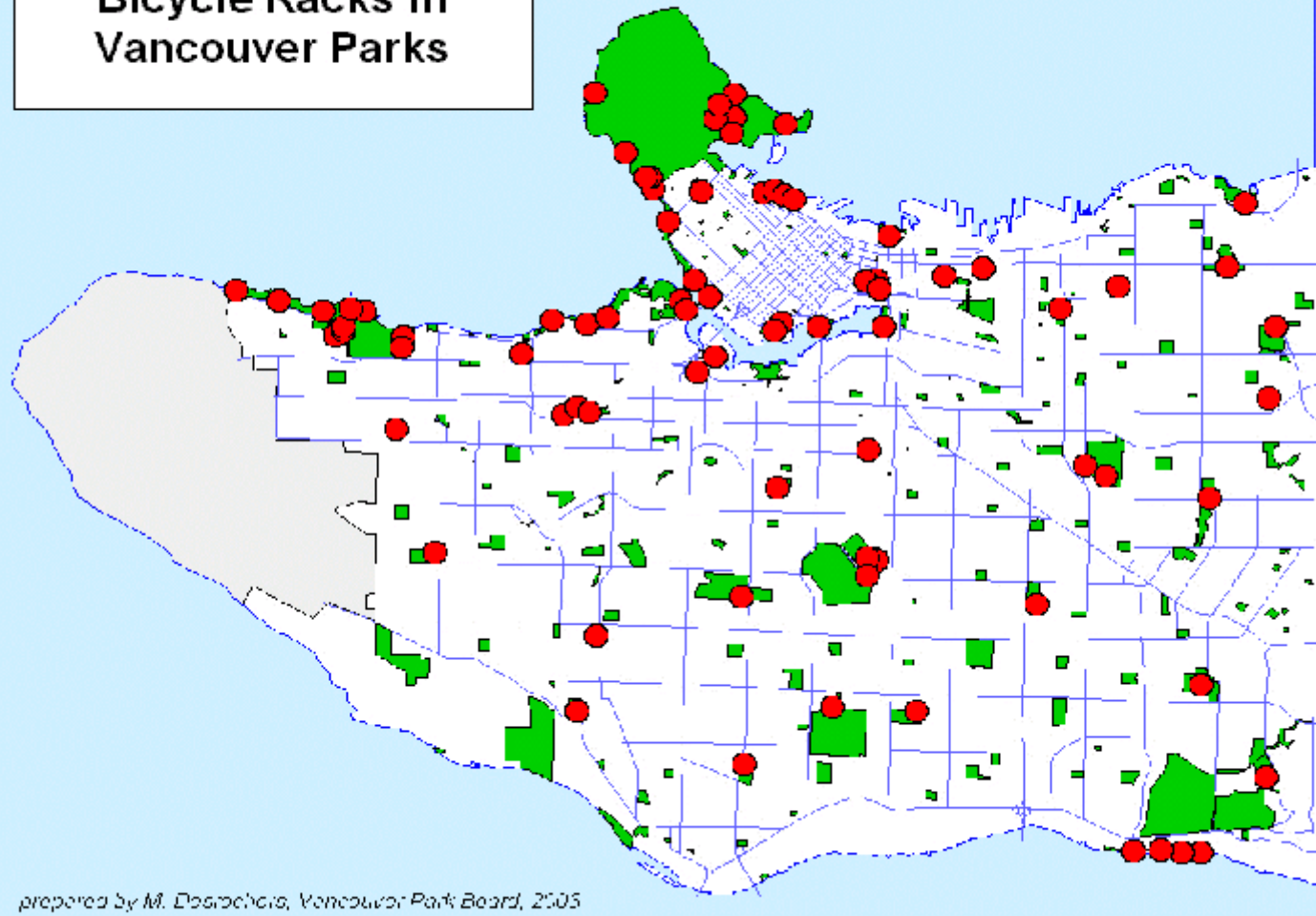
Staff will review funding opportunities and report back with options, such as funding bike rack installation as part of planned park and facility redevelopment projects or reallocating funds within the Capital Plan to bike rack installation.

CONCLUSION

The installation of additional bike racks is a step towards encouraging more park users to arrive at our parks by bicycle. Staff have identified a list of priority locations and will report back with a list of specific sites for bike rack replacement, relocation and installation, and a funding strategy.

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Bicycle Racks in Vancouver Parks



prepared by M. Desrochers, Vancouver Park Board, 2005