



Bicycle Parking on the Sunshine Coast

May 2024

Introduction

In February 2024, we sent an online survey to our newsletter subscriber list and received 142 responses (10%). Respondents were asked to indicate on a map where they believed **new** or **additional** bike racks were required in our communities.¹ The majority of respondents were from the District of Sechelt or the Town of Gibsons. Thirty-five percent rode an electric bike when they required bike parking.

Why are bike racks important?

The Province of British Columbia has legislated a target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030. The *Clean BC Roadmap to 2030* has a specific target to increase walking, bicycling and public transit use to 30% by 2030. Every municipality also requires GHG emission reduction targets in their local Official Community Plans, Regional Growth Strategies, and supporting policies and actions. Active transportation is an effective method of meeting these targets. Safe and secure bicycle parking is often a factor in whether or not someone chooses to take their bike and leave their car at home.

The following report summarizes locations by municipality and regional district area where cyclists indicated that new or additional bike parking was required. TraC looks forward to working with local government and businesses to enhance this important infrastructure and encourage more Sunshine Coast residents to leave their car at home and choose active transportation.



Image credit: Minck, Mercedes. (2021). Bike Sense: Bike Parking and Security, 7th Ed. BC Cycling Coalition. <https://bccycling.ca/bikesense-index/bike-parking-and-security>

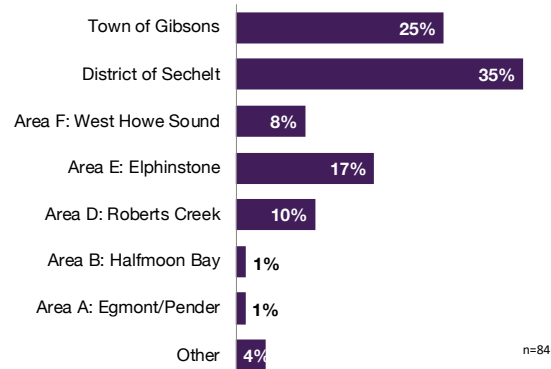
1. Note that some respondents may have indicated a need for new bike parking where racks already exist.

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The majority of respondents were from Gibsons or Sechelt.



Conclusions

1. Key locations identified for more bike parking were local businesses, community services, parks, and beach access points.
2. Ideal bike parking is **secure**, **convenient** to use, in a **high-traffic area** to prevent theft, and in a **visible** location. (See page 11.)
3. The increased popularity of electric bikes on the Sunshine Coast requires bike racks that are more secure, can accommodate their larger size, and are as visible as possible.
4. Covered bike parking is useful for locations where bikes are parked for a longer period of time, e.g., at the Langdale ferry terminal, or staff workplaces.



TraC is a member-based organization that works to support healthy communities and reduce the Sunshine Coast's carbon footprint by promoting more active and sustainable transportation alternatives to private vehicles, including cycling, walking, and transit.

Area F - West Howe Sound

The following locations were identified as requiring new or additional bicycle parking.

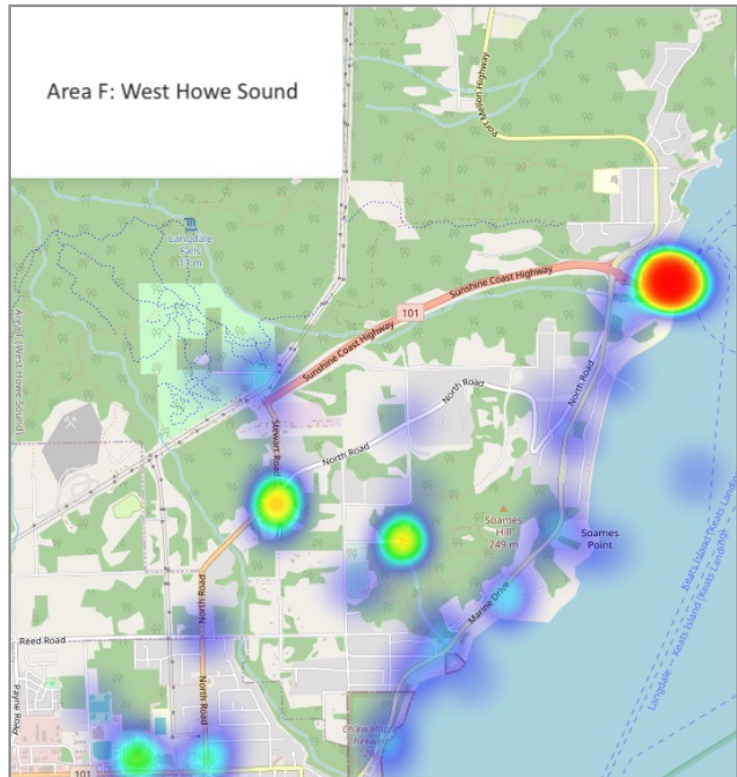
- Langdale ferry terminal
- Soames Hill trailhead parking lot
- Persephone Brewing Company
- Soames Beach
- Hopkins Landing wharf
- Grantham's Landing Wharf
- Mt. Elphinstone/Langdale trailhead



“I would really like a bike box for e-bikes at ferry.”

“A bike lock-up at the ferry terminal would be AWESOME, so I can ride to the terminal, take transit in the city, then bike back.”

“At the bottom of the trail entrance to Soames Hill. I have to lock up to the Stop sign there.”



Town of Gibsons

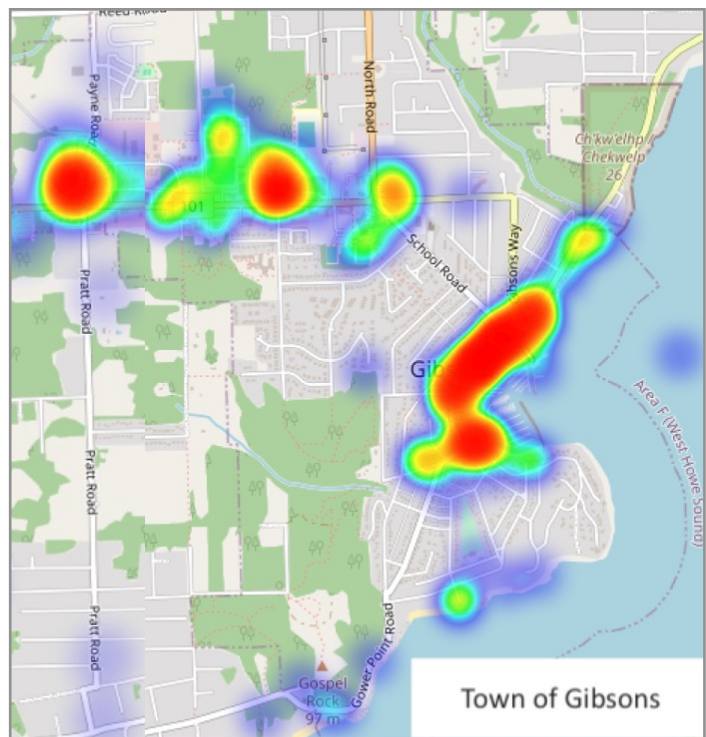
The following locations were identified as requiring new or additional bicycle parking.

- SuperValu and Sunnycrest Mall (front, back, and side entrances)
- London Drugs
- IGA at Park Plaza
- Dollar Tree at Park Plaza
- Lower Gibsons retail area
- Mike's Place
- Armours Beach
- Heritage Playhouse
- Wendy's/Tim Horton's
- Gibsons and District Public Library
- Gibsons Pool
- Gibsons Public Market
- Gibsons and Area Community Centre
- Dougall Park tennis courts
- Pebbles Beach
- Franklin Beach
- Marine Drive near GPAG/Fong's
- Winegarden Park
- Gibsons Building Supplies
- Tapworks
- Gibsons Fire Hall
- Lower Gibsons pier
- Gibsons Marina
- Home Hardware
- Heron Place
- Transit stop near Sunnycrest Mall
- Salvation Army Thrift Store
- Gospel Rock
- Gibsons Post Office
- Blackfish Pub
- Wheatberries Bakery
- Gibsons Curling Club
- Black Bean Coffee Shop
- The Kube

"Sunnycrest Mall, where the bike parking is used by smokers, is gross."

"Lower Gibsons has very little bike parking."

"There is no existing bike rack at the south end of the IGA. The closest bike rack is at the north end but it is not easy to see and currently installed too close to the wall so it is difficult to lock a bike to it."

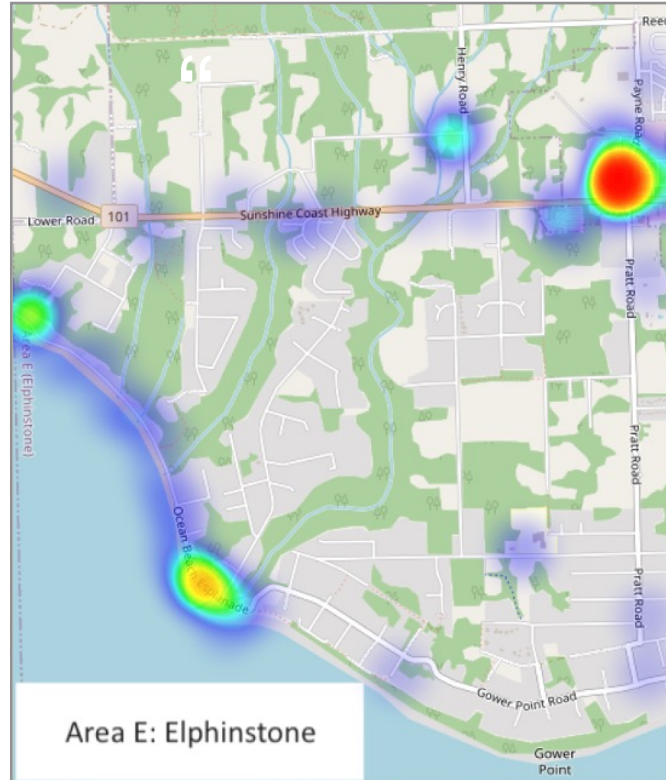


Area E - Elphinstone

The following locations were identified as requiring new or additional bicycle parking.

- Ocean Beach Esplanade/Bonniebrook (west end, east end, and in the middle by the outhouse)
- Frank West Hall
- Secret Beach
- The Shortcut food truck
- Sunday Cider
- Banditry Cider
- Whispering Firs Park

“It would sure be nice at places like Bonniebrook. I don’t feel comfortable leaving my bike there at all, so I have to drive when I meet friends there.”



Area D - Roberts Creek

The following locations were identified as requiring new or additional bicycle parking.

- Roberts Creek pier
- Roberts Creek village centre
- The Gumboot Cafe
- Sharkey's
- Up the Creek Backpacker Lodge
- Royal Canadian Legion
- All beach access points
- Cliff Gilker Park
- Roberts Creek Hall

"We could use one on the path that goes out to the water near the mandala."

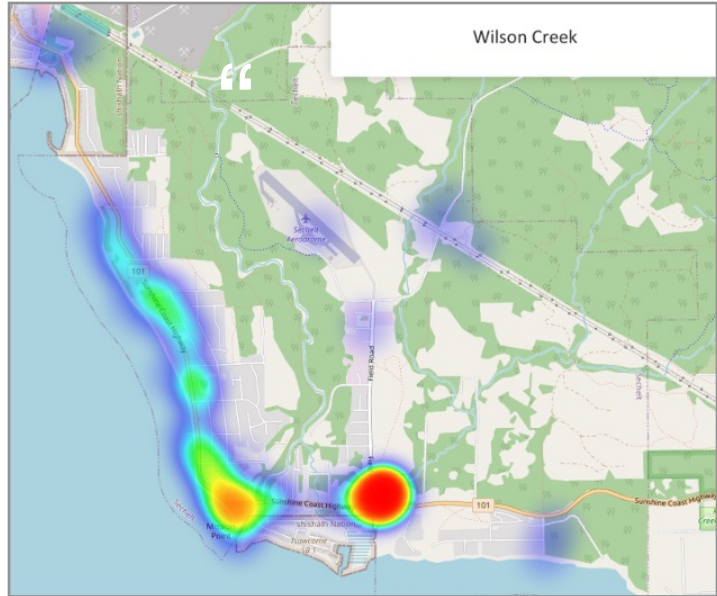


Wilson Creek/Davis Bay

The following locations were identified as requiring new or additional bicycle parking.

- IGA at Wilson Creek Plaza
- Canadian Tire
- Strait Coffee
- Davis Bay pier
- Davis Bay seawall by washroom
- Mission Point Park
- Brookman Park
- Jack Road beach access
- Pier 17
- Davis Bay Community Hall

“There are no bike racks in Davis Bay. Not at the community centre, the park, the beach, the mall, The Wobbly Canoe. Nowhere, not one.”



Downtown Sechelt

The following locations were identified as requiring new or additional bicycle parking.

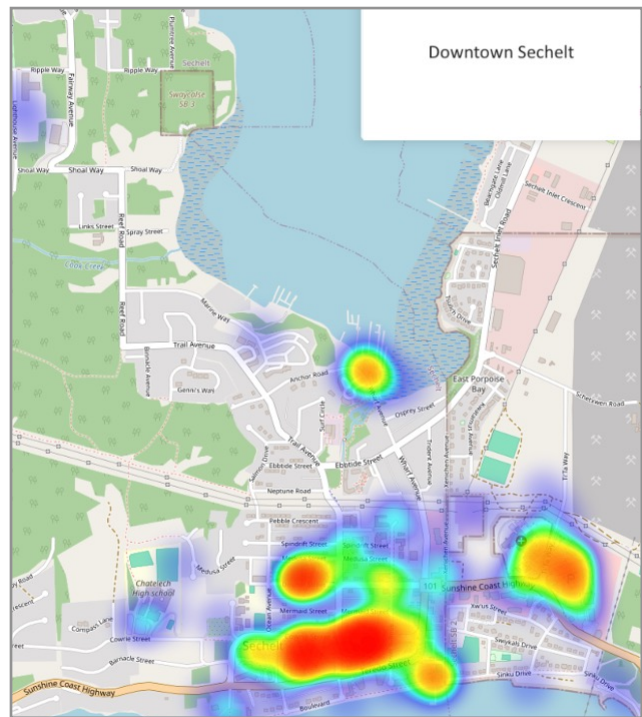
- Tsain-Ko Centre
- Sechelt Hospital
- Trail Bay Sports
- Trail Bay Mall
- Hackett Park/tennis courts
- Friendship Park/Sechelt pier/seawall
- The Lighthouse Pub/Harbour Air
- Sechelt Medical Clinic
- Sechelt Hospital Thrift Store
- Talewind Books
- Kinnickinnick Park
- Community Learning Centre/SPIDER program
- Sechelt Seniors Centre
- Sunshine Coast Arts Centre
- Daily Roast Coffee
- Sechelt Visitor Information Centre
- Sechelt Coin Laundry
- Strait Up/Waldorf Dance Studio/Sunshine Coast Martial Arts parking lot
- Sechelt Post Office
- SCCSS Food Bank
- Rockwood Lodge

"Perhaps on the other side of the [Trail Bay] Mall? There is a rack on one side but not the other."

"Bike racks at [Trail Bay Mall] are not even secured to the ground! I have asked multiple times."

"It would be great to have secure bike parking at the Farmers Market every Saturday in the summer."

"All significant businesses should have one."

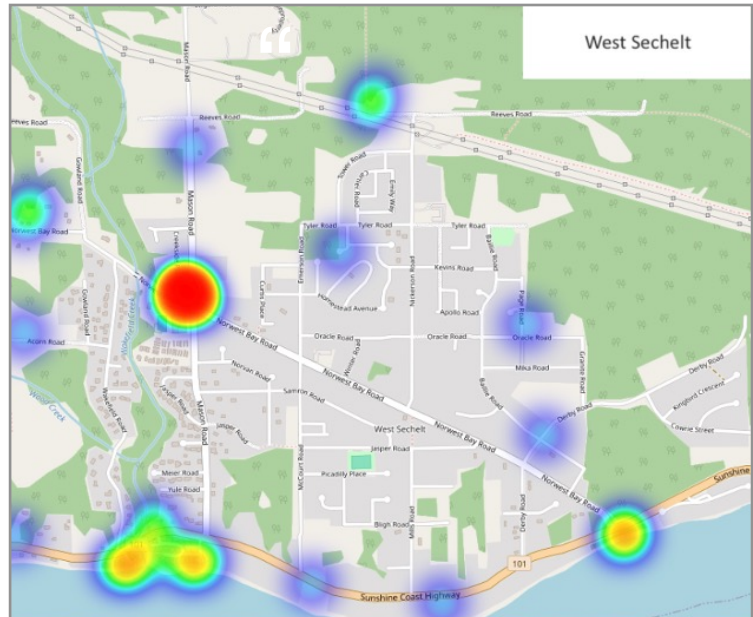


West Sechelt

The following locations were identified as requiring new or additional bicycle parking.

- Mason Place Market
- Beach access at bottom of Norwest Bay Road
- Wakefield Beach
- Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden
- The Bricker Cider Company
- Crowston Connector (both ends)

“Road trip cyclists like to stop and swim at Wakefield Beach.”



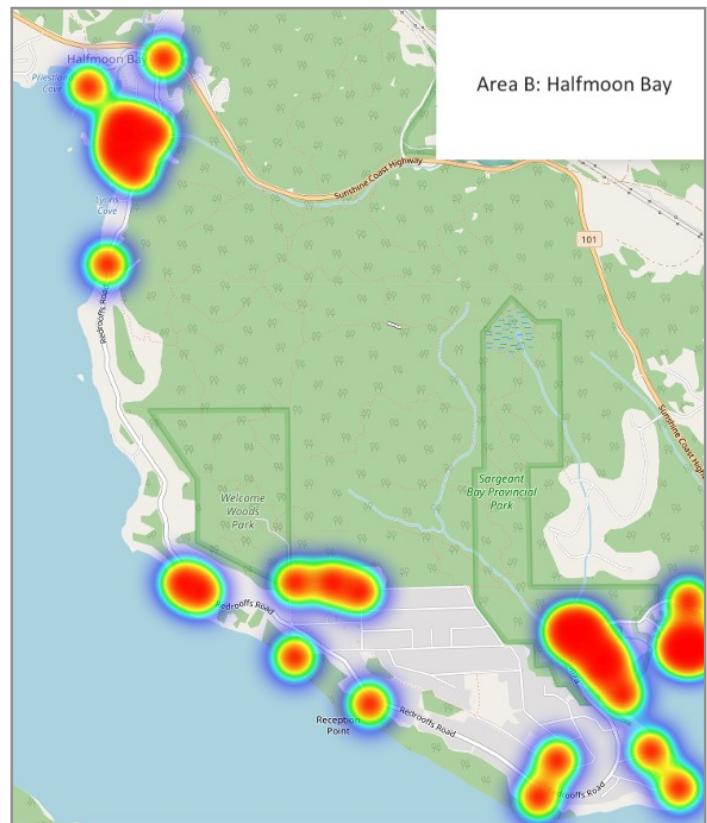
Area B - Halfmoon Bay

The following locations were identified as requiring new or additional bicycle parking.

- Coopers Green Park
- All beach access locations
- Halfmoon Bay General Store
- Sargeant Bay Provincial Park
- Connor Park
- Welcome Woods Market



“Beach access points and recreational sites would be great to further promote cycling to these locations.”

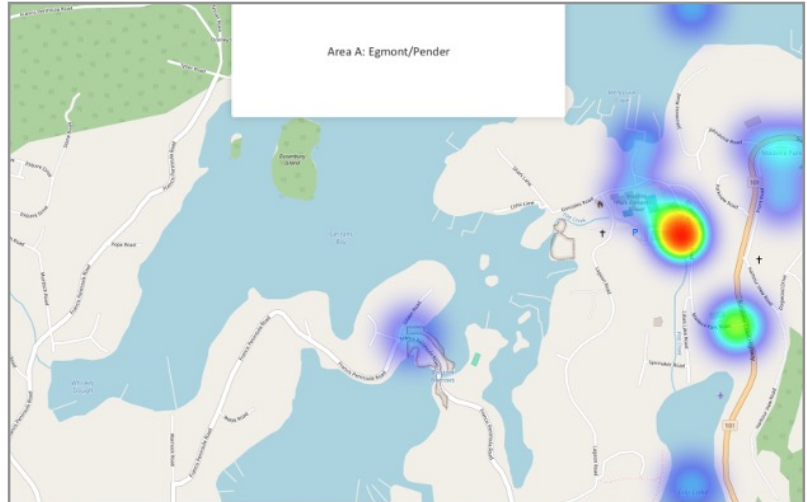


Area A - Egmont/Pender

The following locations were identified as requiring new or additional bicycle parking.

- All beach access points
- Madeira Park Legion
- IGA Mall
- Francis Point Provincial Park
- Earls Cove Ferry Terminal
- The Backeddy Pub

“E-bikes need better security, and many of them are relatively large, requiring more space.”



Which bike rack is best?

Not all bike racks are equal. Bicycle styles have changed over the years (think e-bikes with fat tires, bike trailers for children and groceries, and the longer tag-along and cargo bicycles). Certain bike racks work better than others for accommodating all types of cyclists in a community.¹ The two examples below are good choices because they provide two points of contact between the bicycle and the rack and permit the bicycle to be supported in an upright position.² The cost of a single U-shape bike rack starts around \$190 before installation.

Good Choices



“It would be great if there was a mechanism to encourage private enterprises, e.g., shops, cideries, breweries, to install them.”

Poor Choices



1. Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals. (2015). Essentials of bike parking: Selecting and installing bicycle parking that works. Retrieved from: https://www.apbp.org/assets/docs/EssentialsofBikeParking_FINAL.pdf
2. City of Coquitlam. (n.d.). Bicycle parking design guidelines. Retrieved from: <https://www.coquitlam.ca/DocumentCenter/View/5280/Bicycle-Parking-Design-Guidelines-PDF?bidId=>

What about covered bike parking?

Forty percent of respondents felt it was “*Not very important*” to have covered bike parking. Another 48% said it was only “*Somewhat important*”. Covered bicycle parking was considered more important for locations where bikes are parked for a longer period of time or overnight, e.g. the Langdale ferry terminal or staff workplaces.

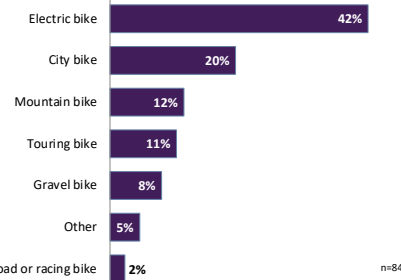
“It’s nice to have when it rains, but not super essential.”

“I may opt to use the bike as a mode of transportation if I know my bike will be protected from the elements.”

“Loading groceries in the rain is a pain.”



Almost half of respondents rode an electric bike when they required bike parking.



What can TraC do?

To enhance bicycle parking on the coast, TraC is committed to:

- Sharing these results with the local government and businesses identified.
- Researching and applying for grants to buy U-shaped racks in bulk to assist with the cost for local government and businesses.

What can you do?

1. As a customer/service user, consider sharing a copy of this report with some of the services and businesses identified.
2. Kindly alert other services and business when you see a need for a bike rack. Chances are you’re not the only one wishing a rack was available.
3. Speak to your local government representative about the need for more secure bike parking locations on the coast.
4. Become a member of TraC to support active transportation initiatives in your community.
5. Keep using your bike! Together we’re getting the message across that cycling is good for our planet and our health!