

START A BIKE SHARE OR BIKE HUB



Bike repair and storage stations, St. Louis

DESCRIPTION

A bike hub is a customizable station, building, pavilion, or place in a community where residents and visitors can access a variety of bike services, including any combination of a repair station, air, bike rentals or sharing, educational and encouragement programs, short and long term storage, repair training programs, and small retail products. A bike hub will be different in every community and should be customized and operated to meet the needs of that community.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

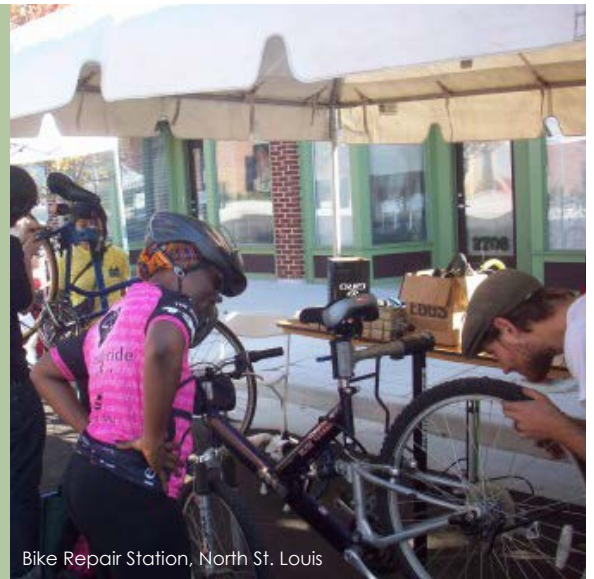
- Reduced greenhouse gases and air pollution because of increased bike trips and reduced car trips
- Recycled, re-purposed, or donated materials used in construction and management

Social

- Increased bikeability with better bike services and amenities, which encourage more people to cycle instead of drive
- Community participation in healthy and beneficial activities
- Equitable forms of transportation, especially for youth and seniors

Economic

- Spurred neighborhood investment in bike infrastructure
- More money at local shops and businesses because cyclists tend to spend more than drivers



Bike Repair Station, North St. Louis



Youth Education Class at St. Louis B Works earn a bike class

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, a bike hub can make an even greater and more holistic move toward sustainability in your neighborhood. Think about parks and public spaces, transportation and access, youth education, greening your neighborhood, using vacant lots, and neighborhood safety. Try combining a bike hub with:

- **Organize a Walking Group or Community Fitness Program**
- **Develop Creative New Uses for Vacant Land**
- **Foster Activity with Public Seating, Programs, and Furniture**
- **Hold a Neighborhood Energy Challenge**

EXAMPLES

Downtown Bicycle Station, St. Louis, MO

The region's first full service commuter bike facility.

Community Cycle Center, Portland, OR

Designed and built by the community in 2 weeks. Offers training, low cost repairs, repair stations, and tune-ups.

West End Bikers Club, St. Louis, MO

Educational programming, job-training, & entrepreneurship with partners



St. Louis Downtown Bicycle Station

GET STARTED

- 1. Gather** Organize a group of residents committed to creating a bike hub. Contact your local neighborhood association, **Great Rivers Greenway District (GRG)**, or **Trailnet** to see if there are any existing plans for bike amenities in your neighborhood. They may be able to put you in touch with local experts and other interested neighbors and give you guidance about working with the community.
- 2. Organize** Create a clear plan for your bike hub. Identify elements to include in your bike hub. Some major things to consider are:
 - Will it be a building, a pavilion, or a series of smaller **repair stations** around the neighborhood?
 - Can you partner with a local institution, school, business, church, park, or other organization to create a bike hub in or at an existing building?
 - How will it be publicly accessible? Will it be on privately owned land or **in an existing building**? Will it be in a park, on a sidewalk, or on a vacant lot?
 - How will it be managed? Who is in charge of maintenance, stocking, scheduling, etc?
 - Will it be staffed? Will volunteers donate time like a **bike co-op**? Or is it stand-alone and just available for public use anytime like a **bike repair stand**?
 - Will there be educational programming, bike sharing, training, or organized events/rides? Think about working with a local bike shop or organization to create programming.Download and/or print a copy of the **Regional Gateway Bike Plan** to see how your neighborhood connects to current or planned bike routes. Also contact the **Board of Public Service** about bike plans and amenities. Draw maps, write a concise bike hub plan, and clearly show what you plan on creating.
- 3. Design** If you are creating a building, structure, or pavilion, you need a site and will have to work with an architect or designer. Try to get services donated from a neighbor, a local design firm, design school students/classes, **GRG**, or **Trailnet**. For permitting, work with the **Building Division**. If you need a site or locations for the bike hub, secure the land (lease or rent) from **St. Louis LRA** or arrange it with the land owner. If in a park, contact the **Parks Department**.
- 4. Coordinate** If you are installing in a private location - whether a private building lobby or private sidewalk - ensure you have written permission from the owner and clear understanding about the project and who is responsible for long term maintenance/stocking, etc.
- 5. Coordinate** If you're installing on a sidewalk, median, plaza, or other public location, work with the **City of St. Louis Board of Public Service** and the **Street Department** to get permission and regulations about locations, public safety, and installation requirements.
- 6. Market** Create an information/marketing strategy. Consider partnering with an organization like **GRG**, **Trailnet**, or a local marketing business to create a name/brand for your bike hub, so you can clearly tell your story, distribute information, and communicate with users. Consider how people will learn about the project, location(s), hours, or programs/events. You can create a website or use other local resources such as the **Trailnet** or **GRG** website to advertise events or locations of the bike hub.
- 7. Build Support** Get feedback and support. Hold community meeting(s) to build support and address concerns. Include youth, seniors, local bike organizations, your neighborhood association, and nearby businesses.
- 8. Prepare** Create a time line for construction/installation. Will construction/installation be done by community volunteers? What tools, equipment, and safety gear are needed? Advertise workdays and gather a list of volunteers and their various contributions or responsibilities.
- 9. Order** Order your supplies in time for your workdays.
- 10. Work** Host your workday(s). Plan so volunteers know their roles, all tools are available, and everyone can work efficiently and safely. Ensure that volunteers are wearing proper safety attire.
- 11. Follow Up** Document before and after conditions, celebrate your success, and then evaluate, monitor, and maintain the bike hub and its activeness in your community.



RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies: H3-Provide special lot-purchasing programs and encourage creative temporary or permanent land uses.

Empowerment, Diversity & Equity

Strategies: C9-Improve the availability of transportation for youth; F2-Ensure residents have access to public transit and alternate modes of transportation

Health, Well-Being & Safety

Strategies: D3-Encourage physical activity and physical modes of commuting

Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation

Strategies: A4-Promote cycling amenities and infrastructure; A6-Conduct outreach and advocacy program which advance multi-modal commuting options.