

Bicycle Parking in Petaluma



Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee
Sub-Committee, April 2023

Map Collected in Late 2022 and Early 2023

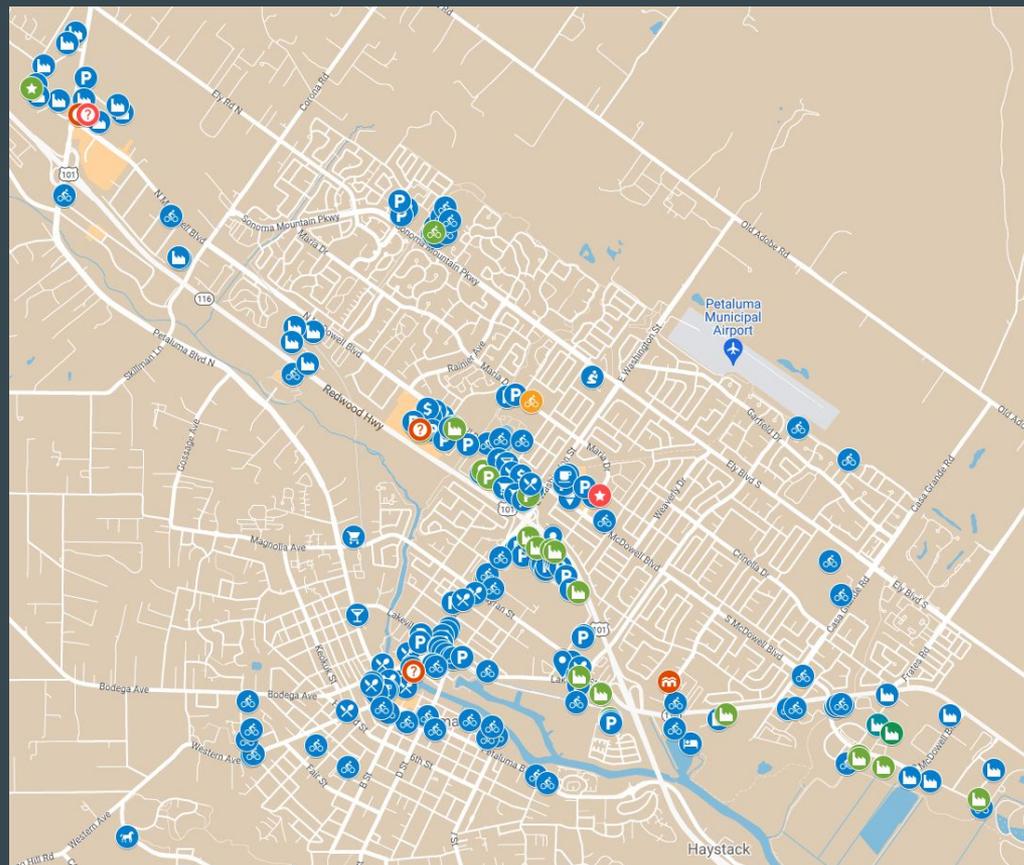
This map shows a summary of bike racks, loops, waves, and other parking spotted in recent months.

In general, the existence of a parking installation doesn't mean cyclists are using it (at the time).

Some *ad hoc* “racks” (fence posts, etc) were also spotted in use.

Map Link:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1abS-sUfL-r5mOOkFBbd1z6xGiCj-R94&ll=38.239702646787364%2C-122.63616522119116&z=15>



Same Map w/Only Public Spaces

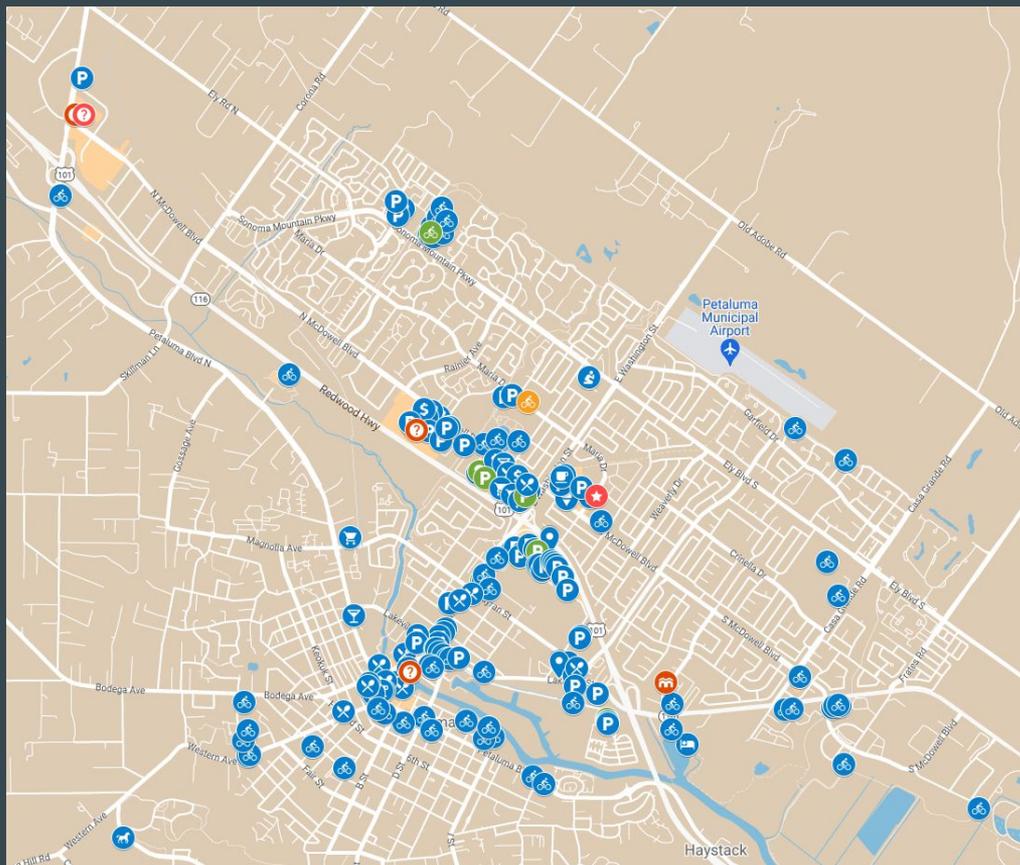
Employee parking spaces dominate along the McDowell axis and its end zones.

Very few bikes were spotted, but some – employer anecdotes indicated few employees live close enough to casually bicycle.

Some great parking locations (e.g., Target) seem to be locked and no one knows how to access them.

Most parks with sports fields have parking - Prince Park near the gold course is a notable exception.

Very little parking available along Petaluma Blvd south of E or north of Payran.



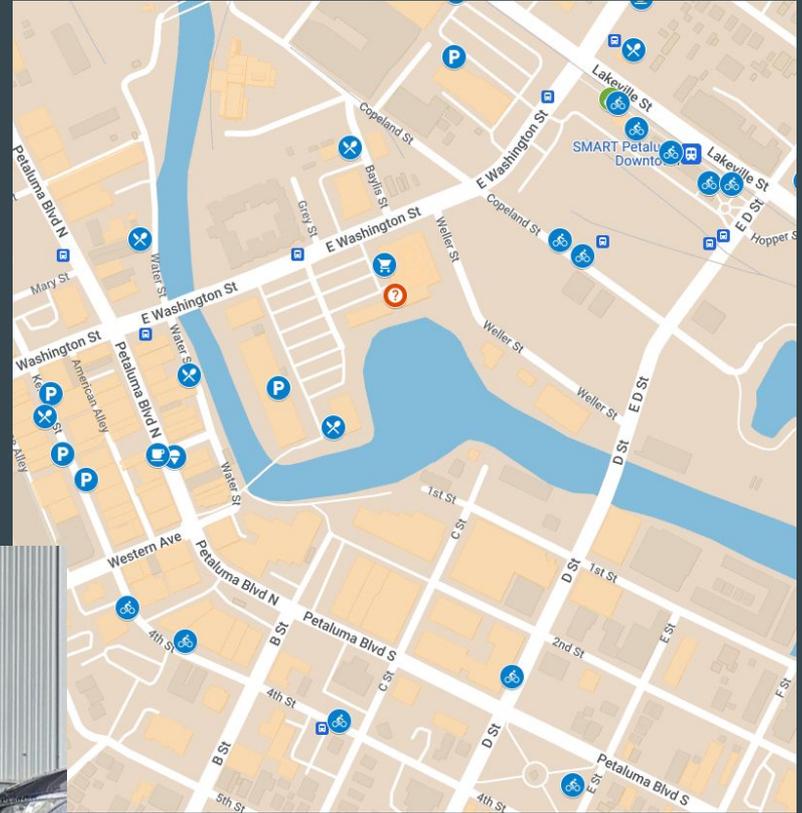
More Photos of Bike Parking Around Petaluma:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1c2uolHFtOywJ4D8E52R-7hoFw_XXepIwEDlaHKreakA/edit?usp=sharing

Downtown & Transit Access

Most downtown parking is very old, and not near congregation areas like plazas or parklets.

Small ring-posts are not particularly secure (some are broken). Some areas marked here have *one* post.



Customer Parking

Sometimes sketchy, sometimes great,
even if not always used



Ten bike rings locked away at Smart & Final

Notably Absent:
All shopping areas in
Petaluma have *some* bike
parking, except the plaza
containing Wilco, Angela's
Ice Cream North, etc

Connections to Transit are... Unclear

At a few bus shelters, mini-wave racks are present - their expected usage is unclear (leave your bike all day?).



Sometimes Hard to Find

This is the *one* parking spot anywhere near Petaluma N & Stony Point?

Racks are often placed in the back (e.g. The outlet mall) or even behind the dumpsters, effectively invisible.



Ad Hoc Alternatives & The “Discoverability Problem”

Old “ring posts” may not even be recognized as “bike parking”

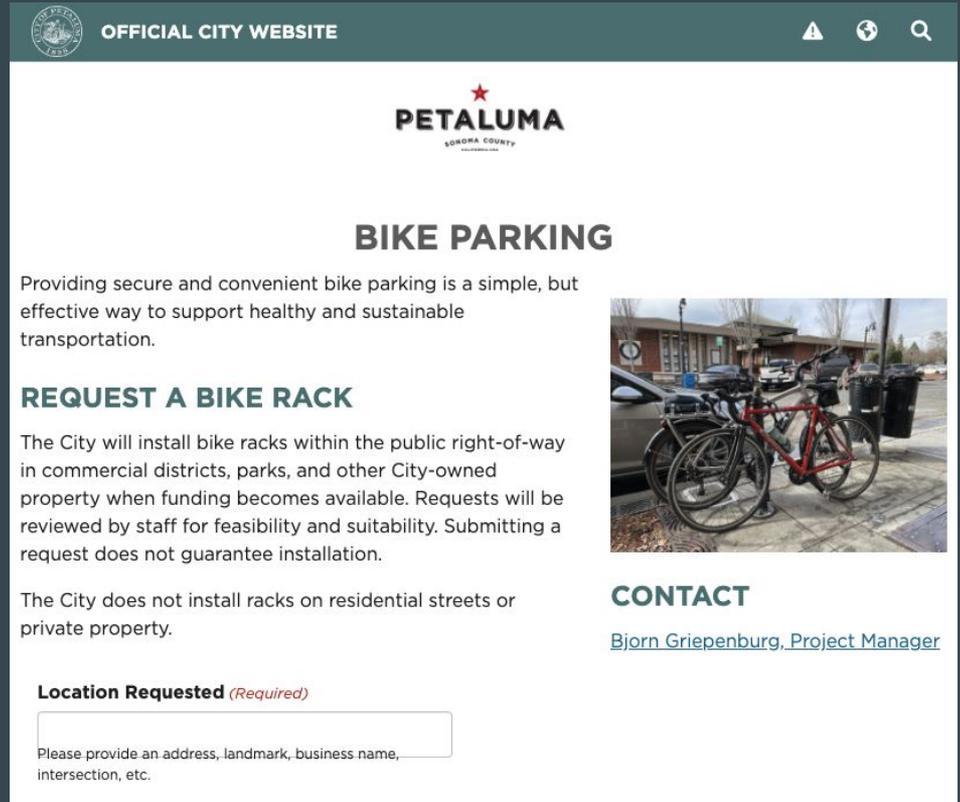


Public Outreach

Kudos to Bjorn Gripenburg & City Staff!

<https://cityofpetaluma.org/bike-parking/>

lets the public recommend and request parking facilities, and provides guidance on rack types, placement, and use.



The screenshot shows the official city website for Petaluma, Sonoma County. The page is titled "BIKE PARKING" and includes a "REQUEST A BIKE RACK" section. The "REQUEST A BIKE RACK" section contains a form for providing a location requested, with a note that the location is required. Below the form, there is a "CONTACT" section with the name "Bjorn Gripenburg, Project Manager" and a link to his contact information. A photograph of bicycles parked on a sidewalk is also visible on the right side of the page.

OFFICIAL CITY WEBSITE

PETALUMA
SONOMA COUNTY

BIKE PARKING

Providing secure and convenient bike parking is a simple, but effective way to support healthy and sustainable transportation.

REQUEST A BIKE RACK

The City will install bike racks within the public right-of-way in commercial districts, parks, and other City-owned property when funding becomes available. Requests will be reviewed by staff for feasibility and suitability. Submitting a request does not guarantee installation.

The City does not install racks on residential streets or private property.

Location Requested *(Required)*

Please provide an address, landmark, business name, intersection, etc.

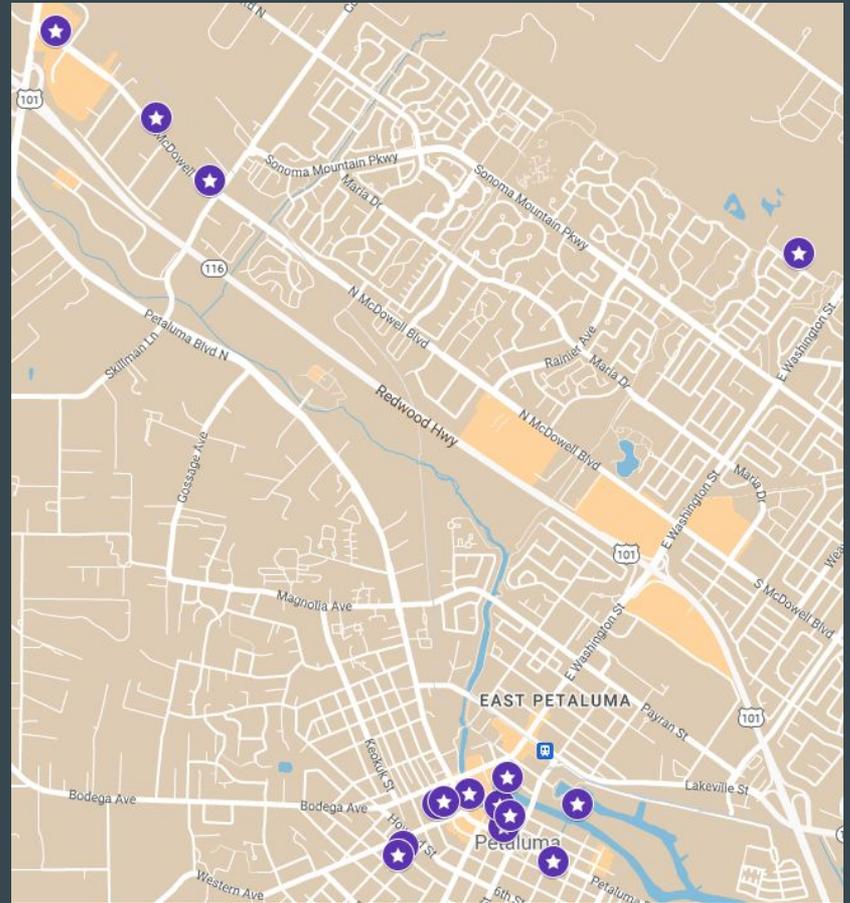
CONTACT

[Bjorn Gripenburg, Project Manager](#)



Recommended: Fill the Deserts

- City Hall & Klaas Theatre
- Prince Park
- Kentucky Retailers
- City Parking Structures
- McNear Peninsula
- Water St & Riverfront Areas
- Theatre District/Farmers Mkt
- S Petaluma Restaurants
- N McDowell Restaurants & Post Office
- Riverfront “dead end” microparks e.g. H St



Some Recommendations

Put racks where local people will travel - normalize their use (*ad hoc* parking provides hints).

Make them obvious and obviously for bikes, or with local character/art.

Add a visible bike rack to City Hall & designate reliable *temporary* parking areas for City Events like Butter & Eggs, River Fest, etc

