

Preventing Bicycle Theft

Each year thousands of bicycles are stolen or recovered in Minneapolis. Only a small percentage of recovered bicycles are returned to their owners due to lack of reporting or proper identification of the bicycle.

Tips to prevent bicycle theft:

- **Always lock unattended bicycles!** Avoid locks, chains or cables that can easily be cut, broken or picked.
- **Make sure both wheels are locked,** either by removing one and U-locking it with the other and the frame or by using an auxiliary lock on one. You can also purchase devices that replace the cam and the lever on quick release wheels and seats with a keyed system.
- Lock the bicycle to something stationary, preferably where you and others can see it. Note that it is illegal in Minneapolis to lock bikes in a manner that will impede normal pedestrian or traffic movement. (Minneapolis Ordinance 490.150)
- Properly secure garages or storage units where bicycles are kept. Lock your bike inside the garage by the same techniques as listed above.
- Remove any bicycle components and accessories that are easily taken.
- Be observant of persons loitering near parked bicycles, even if they are locked. **Call 911 on suspicious activity.**



How to report stolen or lost bicycles:



- Call 911 to report a theft in progress, from a dwelling or storage unit, or when evidence is left behind (e.g., fingerprints, tools, video surveillance).
- Call 311 or 612.673.3000 to make a police report after your bicycle has been stolen if you do not witness it in progress.
- To request a database search of recovered bicycles, contact Property and Evidence Monday through Saturday 8am to 9pm at 612.673.2932.

Tips to improve the opportunity of a stolen bike being returned:

- **Record the make, model, and especially serial number on your bicycle** and keep in a safe place. This information is essential in recovery of bicycles. Photographs may also be of assistance.
- **Use Operation Identification** to mark your valuables and make it easier for the police to trace stolen merchandise. You can obtain an OPID number free from the OPID Hotline at (612) 673-2749. Put the number on the frame and on accessories with an engraving device. The number will help officers connect the bike back to you.

For information on bicycle safety tips, please visit:

- Share The Road, a combined effort of the MN Dept of Transportation and State Bicycle Advisory Committee, at www.sharetheroadmn.org.
- MN Dept of Public Safety at <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/patrol/safety/bikesafety/>.

Contact your Crime Prevention Specialist for additional prevention information. See <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/docs/safe-staff-map.pdf> to locate which Precinct and Sector you reside in.

For further crime prevention resources, please visit:
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/.

