

Bike Policy for Washington University in St. Louis

The University encourages the use of bikes due to their many benefits and prioritizes the safety of our campus community. With this in mind, our Bike Policy was created to reduce hazards and create a safe, enjoyable environment for all individuals on Campus. We encourage all community members to adhere to and help enforce this policy.

Definitions:

- **University:** Washington University in St. Louis
- **Campus:** Danforth Campus, North Campus, West Campus, South Campus, and all satellite buildings (e.g., Academy Building, 560 Music Center, etc.)
- **Bike:** A wheeled pedal cycle propelled solely by human power as well as an electric-assisted pedal cycle/electric bike with a small motor that can be used to help propel the rider, which excludes scooters and similar devices
- **Pedestrian:** A person who is walking on foot
- **Right-of-way:** The right of one individual to proceed ahead of another individual approaching the same area. Bikes must yield to let the pedestrian go first.
- **Impoundment:** The confiscation of a device that was in violation of University policy. Unclaimed impounded devices will be held for 60 days and then disposed of at the University's discretion.
- **WUPD:** Washington University Police Department

I. BIKE REGULATIONS

When operating a bike on Campus, you must obey all of the following University regulations:

- (a) Any activity on a bike that presents a risk of injury to persons or damage to property is strictly prohibited.
- (b) Bikes must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and give an audible signal before passing a pedestrian.
- (c) Dismount your bike when paths are crowded and when you cannot safely maintain a three (3) feet distance from other individuals.
- (d) Bikes cannot ride at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the existing conditions.
- (e) Bikes must follow all the rules applicable to a driver of a motor vehicle while riding on a road or alley, including traffic lights, signs, and riding with the direction of traffic.
- (f) Riders cannot use earbuds or headphones on/in both ears.
- (g) When riding on a street from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, a bike must have a functioning front-facing white light, rear-facing red reflector or red light, and visible reflective material and/or lights on each side of the bike or bicyclist.

Please review all laws and regulations applicable to your device that must be followed when operating on public streets, sidewalks and property (e.g., Forsyth Blvd, Big Bend Blvd, Skinker Blvd, Forest Park Pkwy, Wydown Blvd, and anywhere else outside of Campus). For example, Missouri law considers all electric bikes "motorized bicycles" and mandates users cannot ride the device on sidewalks and must have a valid driver's license. An overview of these laws can be found on the Parking & Transportation website.

II. POLICY ENFORCEMENT

Disciplinary actions for violations will be tailored to each constituency within the university and be based on the severity of the violation. Non-compliant University-affiliated individuals will be referred to the appropriate office for follow-up:

- (a) Employees who refuse to comply with the policy will have their managers notified.

- (b) Students will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. Please refer to section III of the [Student Conduct Code](#) for potential offenses and section VI for potential disciplinary actions.
- (c) Contractors will be referred to their manager.
- (d) Visitors who refuse to cooperate will be asked to leave Campus.

III. REPORTING AN ACCIDENT

In the case of a collision involving pedestrian[s], other bikes, or vehicles on Campus, all involved individuals should remain at the area of the collision until authorized to leave by WUPD.

- For Danforth, North, South and West campus incidents, individuals involved should call WUPD at 314-935-5555 for assistance.
- If on the Medical School campus, individuals should call the Medical School Protective Services Office at 314-362-4357.
- For incidents that occur off campus, individuals should contact 911 emergency services.

IV. MANDATORY BIKE REGISTRATION

Bike registration serves as a theft deterrent and allows the University and police to assist in the recovery of lost or stolen bikes, better manage bike facilities, and contact the owners of impounded bikes.

- (a) All bikes are required to be registered with the University by visiting project529.com/washu.
- (b) For registration to be valid, you must show proof of registration by permanently attaching the provided registration sticker to the bike in a visible manner according to the registration policy listed online. If the sticker is not clearly visible, the bike is not considered officially registered with the University.
- (c) If ownership of a registered bike changes, the information must be updated in the Project 529 registration system to reflect the proper owner.
- (d) If you own and operate multiple bikes on campus, all must be independently registered with the University.
- (e) Contact Parking & Transportation Services if your department has a shared bike.

V. BIKE PARKING

- (a) Bikes can only be parked in areas specifically designated for bikes, which will be signaled by the presence of bike racks or signs designating it a bike parking area.
 - If a bike is found in violation of policy V(a), an impoundment warning tag will be attached to the bike to notify the owner of the infraction and possible action by the University, including impoundment, if the infraction is not addressed within the timeframe provided on the tag.
- (b) Bikes must be locked and parked upright at a bike rack.
 - Unlocked bikes that are left unattended (at a rack or not) will be locked in place by WUPD. To unlock the bike, the owner must follow the instructions left on the bike.
- (c) Bikes can never be parked on a sidewalk, path, against or locked to a railing, or anywhere that could impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic or access for those with a disability (ADA violation), or University maintenance or construction.
 - If a bike is found in violation of policy V(c), it will be immediately impounded without notice.
- (d) Bikes cannot be parked inside University buildings and residence halls unless there is an area with signs designating it a bike parking area or if the individual receives written approval from the building manager.

V.1. Bike Parking Duration in ALL Areas EXCEPT the South 40, Village, and Greek Housing

Bike racks are for daily bike commuters, and it is prohibited to park a bike for longer than two weeks [14 days]. If a bike is suspected to have been parked for more than 14 days, an impoundment warning tag

will be attached to the bike to notify the owner of the infraction and possible action by the University, including impoundment, if the infraction is not addressed within the timeframe provided on the tag.

V.2. Bike Parking Duration on the South 40, Village, and Greek Housing

- (a) During the time of their residential lease, University students and employees living on campus are allowed to park their bikes at racks in their residential area without being subject to the 14-day bike parking rule.
- (b) All bikes located in these residential areas after Commencement must, in addition to the standard bike registration, obtain a summer bike tag from Residential Life and clearly display the tag according to the instructions. This applies to students enrolled in summer programs and employees working in these residential areas.
 - All bikes located in these areas 7 days after Commencement that aren't properly displaying the appropriate summer bike tag will be impounded without further notice.
 - Residential Life will display temporary signs on the bike racks notifying individuals of the summer bike tag policy, associated timeframe, and process to acquire summer bike tags.

VI. IMPOUNDED BIKES

VI.1. Reclaiming an Impounded Bike

- (a) If an impounded bike has a University bike registration sticker attached to the frame, the University will make a good faith effort to contact the registered owner with instructions for how to reclaim their impounded bike.
- (b) Students who suspect their bike was impounded should contact Parking & Transportation Services.
 - If the bike is registered to the individual, they can use their photo ID to show proof of ownership and reclaim their bike.
 - If the bike is not registered, the owner must provide proof of ownership and properly register the bike with the University before the bike is released.
 - The University has sole authority to determine the sufficiency of such evidence, and the determination is not subject to protest, appeal, or review.

VI.2. Designated Authority to Impound Bikes:

- (a) The University designates WUPD, Office of Facilities Planning and Management, Residential Life, Environmental Health & Safety, and Parking & Transportation Services as responsible parties authorized to impound bikes found in violation with this policy.
- (b) The University is not responsible for any damage to the bike, bike attachments and accessories, security devices or any other item that can be damaged or destroyed as a result of impounding a bike. The University has no responsibility or liability to replace or make compensation for such items.

VI.3. Disposal of Impounded Bikes

- (a) Impounded bikes are held for a minimum of 60 days from the day of their removal. If the bike has not been claimed within 60 days, the University has the authority to dispose of the bike.
- (b) The University has the authority to sell, recycle, surplus, destroy, or otherwise dispose of any impounded bike. The University can partner with local non-profits to donate unclaimed and unwanted bikes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For contacts and detailed information, including safety tips and resources, please visit the Parking & Transportation Services website at parking.wustl.edu/bike.