Houston Bike Racks Map

Documentation

View the site <u>here</u> View the map <u>here</u>

Introduction

This is a passion project born out of my own frustrations, curiosity, and desire to help the biking community in Houston. In a city, state, and country that often neglect or downright vilify alternative transportation, even small barriers can be frustrating or discouraging.

There are other maps of bike parking in Houston, but many are incomplete, outdated, or inaccurate—and you usually have to go digging to find them. I wanted to bring everything together in one place, so that anyone can quickly see what's available.

I hope this map serves as a useful resource for anyone who already bikes—or anyone curious about trying biking as a way to get around. Please share it with any bike friends you know in the Houston area!

About Me

Hi, my name is Rumi, and I'm a super busy dad. I love being outdoors, playing GeoGuessr, and eating good food. This project brings together my values (activism), passion (biking), and hobby (maps) into one place. I'm proud to share it with you: the Houston Bike Racks map!

About this map

Data

All pins have been verified via a combination of Google satellite imagery, Google Street View, and user-submitted photos. I've placed them as accurately as possible. Sources are listed below.

How to use this map

The map helps you check for bike parking near your destination, along with other useful amenities such as water fountains and repair stations along your route. For more serious repairs, bike repair shops are also mapped. Amenities have been categorized into the following layers, and you can toggle the layers to view or hide what you need:

- Bike Racks inside the Loop
- Bike Racks outside the Loop
- Bike Repair Stations
- Water Fountains
- Bike Repair Shops
- Public Restrooms
- Restricted Access Parking (hidden by default)
- Other useful things to lock up to, like fences, rails, and sign posts (hidden by default)
- Amenities that have since been removed (hidden by default)
- Work in Progress amenities that are still in the verification process (hidden by default)

FAQ

Why did I do this?

As a GeoGuessr player and mapmaker, I've already spent a great deal of time staring at Google Maps and Street View. And as a bike commuter, I've sunk countless hours looking for bike parking. Now I'm channeling that energy into a project that combines both worlds-helping me, and hopefully others too.

Why did I use Google My Maps? Why not just add to OSM or BikeParking?

For ease of use and familiarity. Most people already know Google Maps, and Google My Maps offers a cleaner, more user-friendly interface compared to OpenStreetMap or the Bike Parking App.

What's next?

We've come a long way already but we have so much more work to do!

- Features I'd love to add: private or restricted-access parking; some way to request bike parking.
- Features I'm unsure about: covered parking layer; labels for rack types.

- Limitations of Google My Maps: 10,000 pins. If we somehow manage to hit that limit, I'll consider this project a resounding success. Until then, I won't worry about it.
- You can check for periodic updates on the project here (no subscription needed to view): ko-fi.com/rumilb

Support

- **Share:** Spread the word with friends—whether they're seasoned bike commuters or still considering cycling as an option.
- **Submit:** Suggest pins for missing racks, add photos to help identify them, and keep the list up to date with new installations or removals.
- **Donate:** Contributions help keep the site running by covering site hosting and domain costs. They're always appreciated, but never expected.

Sources

Bikes of TMC map by u/pneumophila
Houston, TX Area Bike Amenities map by u/cuzihave22
Bike Parking app by the Bicycle Parking Project
TMC Bike Rack Locations by the Texas Medical Center
METRO Access by Bike by METRO Houston
Bike Parking In Rice Village by Rice Bikes
Biking Services by Rice University
Open Street Map and Overpass Turbo

Acknowledgements

Thanks to:

- Popemothballs for showing me how to use Overpass Turbo
- My family and friends for their support and encouragement
- My Twitter bike pals whose initial push helped get this thing realized
- Everyone who has submitted to the Bike Racks map
- The Houston Bike Guide for being the biggest inspiration
- And the Houston biking community as a whole

You are making Houston an easier, safer, and better place to live.