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Arizona State University:
cfo.asu.edu/bike-theft and
walk.asu.edu.

University of Arizona:
parking.arizona.edu/alternative/bi
ke_parking.php.

Northern Arizona University:
nau.edu/Parking-Shuttle-
Services/Biking-on-Campus.

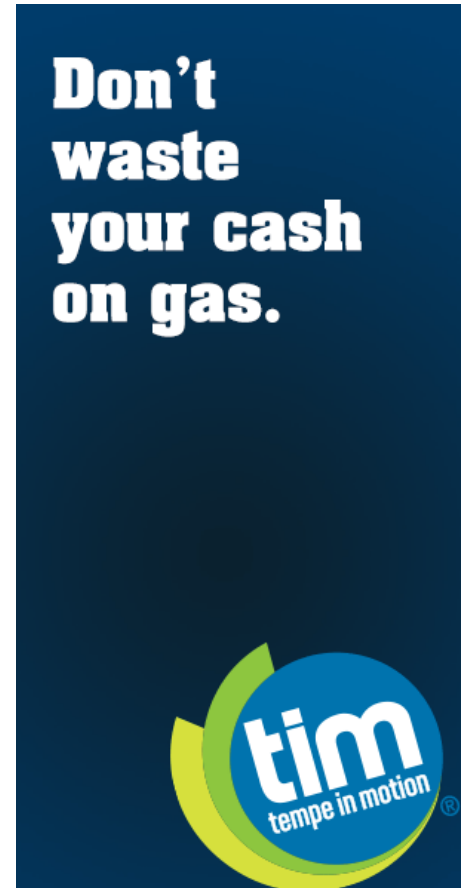
“You know how they say at ASU you should buy a crappy bike and a nice lock? I had a nice bike and a crappy lock,” Sparer said.

That was not the end of her bad luck. Less than a year later, her \$350 replacement bike was stolen while she was living at Vista Del Sol, just off campus in Tempe.

Sparer’s experiences are examples of why the three state universities are trying out new methods — innovative approaches that depart from traditional enforcement — to keep bikes out of the hands of thieves.

ASU is installing several locked bike cages, vertical bike racks and

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city two years ago.



even a bike-valet station as part of its "walk-only zones" initiative.

"The biggest deterrent to bike theft is not enforcement. It's secure bike parking," ASU Assistant Police Chief Jim Hardina said.

ASU also uses a free registration program, in which 4,007 bikes are on file with the campus Police Department. Hardina said use of the bike cage and valet service will be tied to registration as part of the battle against theft.

"There's not going to be mandatory bike registration, but if you want to use these facilities, you're going to have to have your bike registered because that's the only way we can identify ownership," Hardina said.

Hardina said bike theft is down 26 percent from a year ago, with 155 thefts reported this past spring compared with 210 in spring 2012.

Programs to deter theft

Northern Arizona University police Sgt. Paul Sorenson said the Flagstaff school plans to make bike registration mandatory by fall 2014, charging students \$1 to \$5 to register with parking services.

Currently, NAU's bike-registration program is voluntary and 4,300 have been registered since September 2010. The university has added 20 bike lockers this summer, bringing the total to 52, and it has three bike enclosures in parking garages on campus, said Darby Parker, parking and shuttle services senior program coordinator at NAU.

Bike lockers and enclosures also are helpful in reducing theft of parts, including wheels and seats, that are easier to grab than an entire bike, Sorenson said.

NAU students can rent a bike locker for \$75 annually or \$30 per semester. Bike-enclosure parking costs \$40 per year or \$15 a semester.

Bike thefts have dropped at NAU, to 88 in 2012 from 117 in 2011. So far in 2013, 42 bike thefts have been reported, Sorenson said.

Sorenson said the lockers and cages are an effective addition to regular patrols, bait bikes and informational-outreach efforts from NAU police to outsmart thieves lurking in plain sight.

"The hard part (in identifying thieves) is it's really easy to blend in on a university campus. You can look just like a student," Sorenson said.

Bill Davidson, marketing manager for University of Arizona Parking and Transportation Services, said the Tucson campus has had a bike-valet station since 2010 and plans to add another.

Davidson said the valet is just a part of the university's effort to prevent bike theft, along with 181 bike lockers and bike enclosures in six parking garages around campus.

"Our mission is to provide a safe environment and we always want to make sure we provide safe, secure parking for everybody," Davidson said.

The university also has a station in the middle of campus where bicyclists can stop for quick repairs, which, along with the bike valet, has ramped up bike registration on campus to 2,500 registrants on average per year, from 1,600.

Davidson said the university has about 26,000 bikes registered but only 13,000 bike-parking spots.

Access to the bike valet, lockers and enclosures requires registration with UA.

The bike valet is free, while renting a locker or enclosure space costs \$100 and \$35 a year, respectively.

Bike thefts at UA increased to 334 in 2012 from 225 in 2011, UA police Sgt. Filbert Barrera said.

Other options

Community colleges and smaller universities around the state are using less-extensive measures, but still are making bike-theft prevention a priority.

Mesa Community College, Glendale Community College and Gateway Community College use video surveillance as a bike-theft deterrent, according to officials at each campus.

Bill Jenkins, vice president of communications and public affairs at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, said the school does not make bike-theft prevention a priority because so few students ride bikes, instead opting for skateboards or walking around the smaller campus.

"If we have a dozen bikes on this campus, I'd be pretty surprised," Jenkins said.

Sparer, who is returning to ASU for her senior year after a year studying abroad, said she's not sure if she'll be riding a bike to campus any longer, and if she does, it will be "a cheap Craigslist one."

She said from now on, she's avoiding U-locks, and that it may be time to consider alternative means of transportation.

"I'm going to try longboarding or something," Sparer said.



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