

LOCAL BICYCLE RESOURCES

Take care of your bike!

Bike Pumps are available in many residence house basement bike rooms or there is a Bike Repair station out side of Main Building (Retreat Entrance).

Visit the Vassar College Bike Shop to learn about and get help fixing and maintaining your bike - find them in the basement of Strong or on Instagram @vc_bikes!



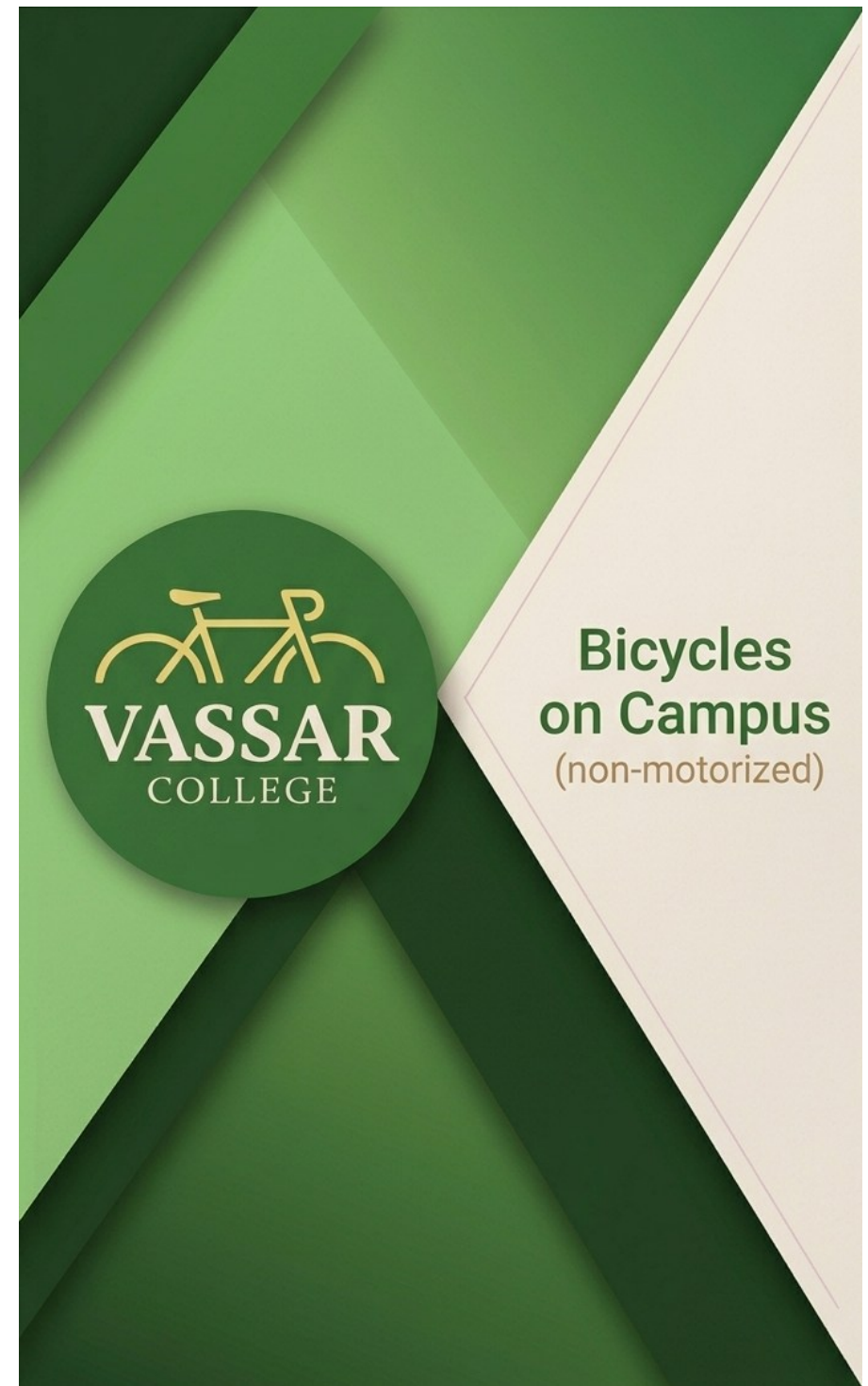
Or take your bike to a commercial bike shop:

- Bikeway - Vassar Rd., Wappingers - past the airport
- Pleasant Valley Bicycle Shop - Rte. 44, Pleasant Valley
- GPA's Bike Shop - Village of Highland - accessible by rail trail
- Hudson Bike Co. - 3565 US-9W, Highland - near the rail trail

HAVE FUN & RIDE SAFE

These pamphlets are provided by the Vassar Bicycle Advocacy Group, a group of Vassar employees and students working along with the Vassar Sustainability Office to build a bike friendly community on our campus.

Contact us at bikes@vassar.edu to learn more or get involved!



INDOOR BICYCLE PARKING AND STORAGE ON CAMPUS

To ensure the safety of all building occupants and the preservation of College property, the following rules apply to all indoor bicycle storage. At no time may a bicycle be stored in a manner that impedes hallways, stairwells, exits, or ADA-accessible pathways (ramps, elevators, push buttons).

Residence Halls

Registration Required: All bicycles stored indoors must be registered with Campus Safety and must clearly display a registration decal.

Designated Areas: Most residential houses provide designated indoor storage areas on a first-come, first-served basis. (Note: Main Building does not have a designated indoor storage area.) Bicycles must be kept within these specific zones; improperly stored bicycles are subject to immediate removal.

Room Storage: Students may store their bicycles in their dorm rooms during the academic year and during fall, winter, and spring breaks, provided the bicycle does not block the door or impede emergency egress.

Summer Storage

- **Eligibility:** Students living or working on campus during the summer may store their registered bicycles in designated residential storage areas.
- **Notification:** When applying for summer housing, students must notify the Office of Residential Life of their intent to store a bicycle and provide the registration number and a description.
- **Removal of Unregistered Bicycles:** Any bicycle left in a residence hall over the summer that is unregistered or does not belong to a student with summer housing authorization will be considered abandoned and removed.
- **Liability:** The College assumes no responsibility for the theft or damage of bicycles left in common storage areas during the summer months.

UNREGISTERED AND ABANDONED BICYCLES

- **Removal Cycle:** Two or three times a year, the College will remove unregistered bicycles, bicycles not properly displaying a registration sticker, and bicycles that appear abandoned, as evidenced by their condition or location.
- **Summer Clearing:** Each summer, Campus Safety, the Office of Sustainability, Facilities Operations, and Residential Life collaborate to remove unregistered and abandoned bicycles from indoor and outdoor bicycle racks and storage rooms. Bicycles will be flagged for removal after Reunion and removed between July 1 and August 10.
- **Documentation:** A record will be made of all bicycles that are removed, including by location, make, color, type, and model, along with a photograph of the bicycle.
- **Holding:** Campus Safety will retain bicycles removed for 4 months.
- **Claims:** During the holding period, the owner may claim the bicycle by contacting Campus Safety and providing information about their missing bicycle. The College is not responsible for the condition of a bicycle upon its return or for the cost of locks removed during the process.

BICYCLE REHOMING

At the end of the 4-month holding period, unclaimed bicycles will be disposed of in one of the following ways:

- Provided to the Vassar Bike Shop for repair and donation to an FLI or an international student.
- Donated directly to someone in need of a bicycle or to a non-profit organization that provides bicycles to people in need.
- Scrapped (recycled or otherwise disposed of).

Contact bikes@vassar.edu to find out when our next Bicycle Exchange Event will be held!

REGISTRATION

All bicycles owned by students and employees that are used or parked on campus must be registered and display a valid Campus Safety registration decal. Registration is free and remains valid indefinitely as long as the bicycle's owner remains the same. Registration forms and instructions are available at <https://offices.vassar.edu/campus-safety/>

Bicycle registration enables the College to identify abandoned property, rehome unclaimed bicycles, and contact owners in the event of an emergency, a required bicycle rack relocation, or a bicycle parked in an unauthorized location.

- *On-Site Tagging: Periodically, bicycles without a registration decal will be tagged with a notice stating the registration requirement and the consequences of failing to register. The notice will also include instructions on how to register the bicycle and a QR code linking to the registration form.*

IMPROPERLY PARKED BICYCLES

Bicycles may not be parked near an exit, across a walk, or chained to railings/entrances or trees. If a bicycle is parked and locked in any such location, or otherwise impedes access to a building, entrance, or walkway, obstructs a handrail, or obstructs an accessibility corridor:

- Campus Safety will issue a ticket and attempt to contact the owner by email and phone to request that the bicycle be moved. If the owner does not remove the bicycle within 24 hours, the lock will be cut and the bicycle removed and brought to Campus Safety.
- The bicycle owner will be responsible for paying the service charges assessed by Campus Safety and Facilities Operations. The owner will not be reimbursed for the cut lock.

Study Abroad or Leave of Absence

Students departing campus for a semester or longer (including Study Abroad) must take their bicycles with them at move-out. Bicycles left behind will be considered abandoned and removed periodically.

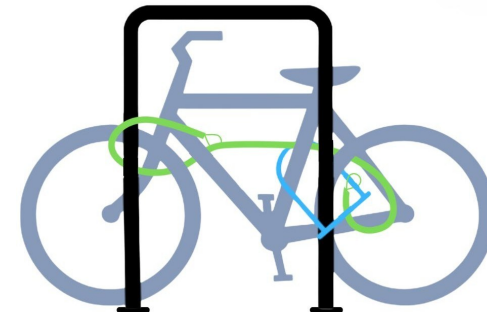
Apartments/Senior housing

Residents of apartments in the Town House, Terrace Apartments, and South Commons areas are permitted to park and store their bicycles on the hitch posts provided, on the porches or patios, in the mud rooms, or in single occupancy rooms. Bicycles must not block shared walkways or entry/exit points for others.

BICYCLE SECURITY AND REPORTING

Theft Prevention: Owners are urged to use a high-quality lock (such as a U-bolt). Bicycles must only be secured to designated bicycle racks. Attaching bicycles to railings, trees, or light posts, or blocking ADA-accessible points, is prohibited.

Owners are urged to lock both the bike frame and the front bike wheel to the bicycle rack to prevent theft of only part of your bike.



Missing or Stolen Bicycles: Report a missing bicycle immediately to the Campus Response Center at 845-437-5221.

RIDING ON CAMPUS

Bicycles are permitted on all campus roads and pathways. Pedestrians always have the right of way on pathways. On campus roads, bicycles have the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicles (cars and trucks). According to New York State law, cyclists must obey stop signs and all other road signs, following the same “rules of the road” that apply to motor vehicles.

Campus Roads

On campus roads, bicycle riders are expected to:

- Stay as far right as is safe and practicable.
- Ride single file when a vehicle is approaching from behind.
- Use hand signals to indicate turns or movements from the right to the center of a road.
- Yield to pedestrians at all times.

Campus Walkways

On campus walkways, pedestrians always have the right of way. Bicycle riders are expected to be considerate of pedestrians and avoid endangering others. This includes:

- Announcing oneself to pedestrians when passing.
- Slowing down when passing pedestrians.
- Passing on the left when possible.
- Exercising caution when crossing another path or a road.
- Bicycle riders should match the speed of pedestrians when pedestrians are present.

Safety and Equipment

The College prioritizes the safety of its community. Riders are expected to adhere to the following:

- **Helmets:** Riders are strongly encouraged to wear a helmet. Per NYS law, helmets are mandatory for all operators and passengers under age 14.
- **Cargo & Handling:** Bicycles must be operated at safe speeds. Riders must not carry large packages or items that interfere with their vision, balance, or ability to keep both hands on the handlebars.

Safety and Equipment, cont.

- **Auditory Awareness:** To ensure riders can hear emergency sirens and pedestrian warnings, the use of dual earbuds or headphones is prohibited. Per NYS law, cyclists may use only one earbud.
- **Equipment:** Per NYS law, bicycles must be equipped with a bell or audible signal, functional brakes, and a front light/rear reflector for nighttime riding.
- **Rider Proficiency:** Individuals should possess a working knowledge of bicycle safety and be proficient in operating their specific bicycle before riding on campus.

NIGHTTIME RIDING

According to New York State law, bicycles ridden at night must have a white front light and a red rear reflector. For added safety, it is recommended to stay on well-lit campus paths and wear reflective clothing.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

The College campus features a natural landscape and historic infrastructure that create inherent conditions for cyclists.

- **Terrain Awareness:** Riders should be aware that the campus features varied terrain, including steep grades, natural areas, and sections of uneven pavement. The College makes no representations or warranties that it has provided level, safe, or dedicated bicycle paths.
- **Vigilance:** Cyclists must remain vigilant for hazards, including potholes, debris, and pavement irregularities. By choosing to ride on campus, the rider acknowledges these conditions and assumes all risks associated with riding on varied surfaces.
- **Winter Conditions:** During the winter months, riders should expect slippery surfaces and narrowed pathways due to ice and snow. Biking is strongly discouraged during active winter storms or periods of low visibility.