

cycleWR

Combating Bike Theft: 529 Garage

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The problem

Bike theft is one of the major deterrents against people to choose to bike in a city.

The cost of theft is not just the value of the bike. It's also the cost of reporting and managing stolen bikes and people giving up on biking.

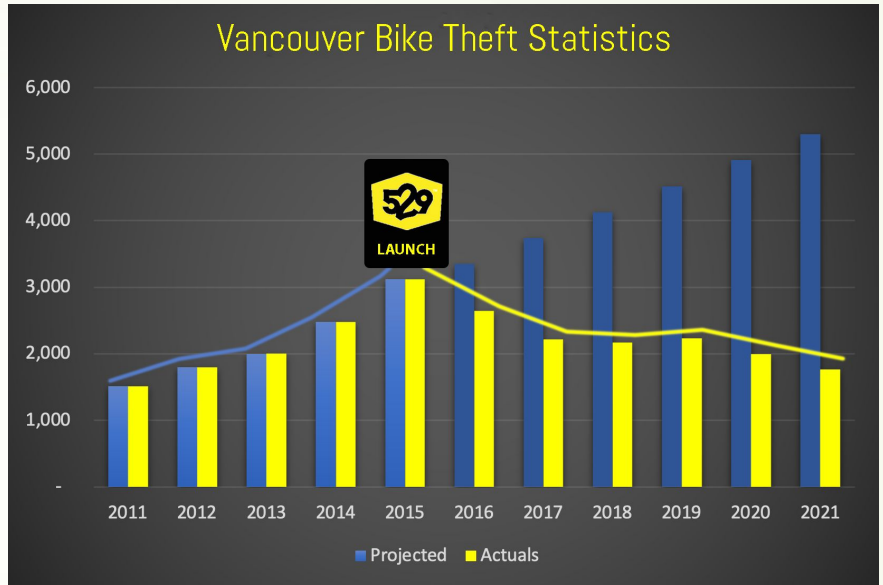


Bike registration that works

Launched in Vancouver in 2015, 529 Garage allows Police Services and the community to identify the rightful owners of stolen bikes.

Today, nearby partners include the Police Services of Guelph, Halton Region, Kingston, London, Niagara, Ottawa, Stratford.

Communities that actively use 529 Garage have seen up to a 40% reduction in reported bike thefts.



How does it work?

Owner registers bike for free in the database. Optionally, they purchase a sticker for their frame.

If stolen, owner reports the theft. Nearby community members receive an alert in the app.

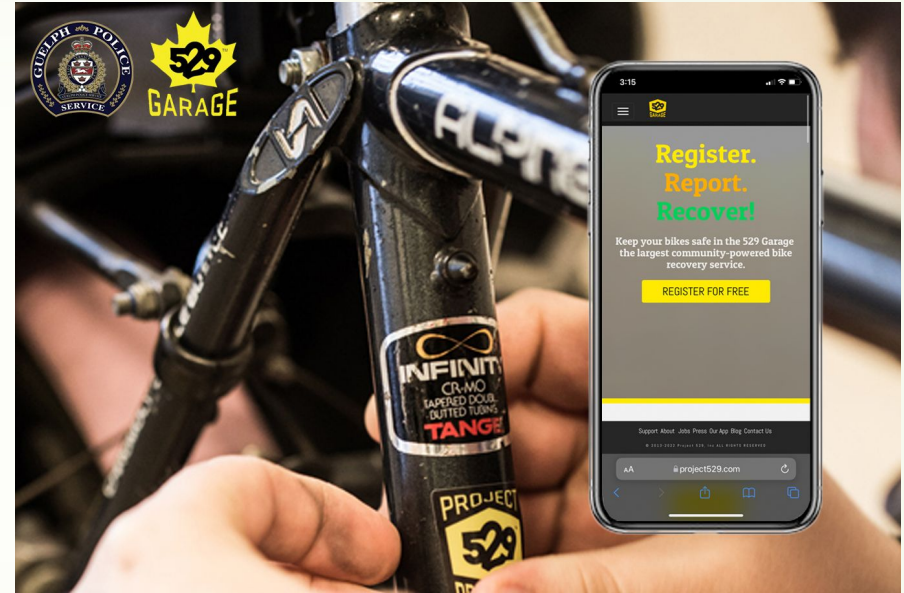
If seized, Police Services use the database to find the owner of the bike.



The shield

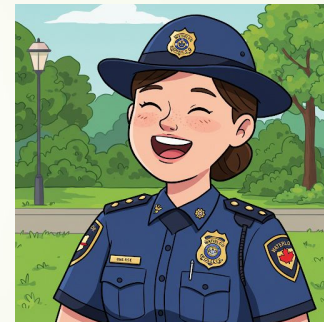
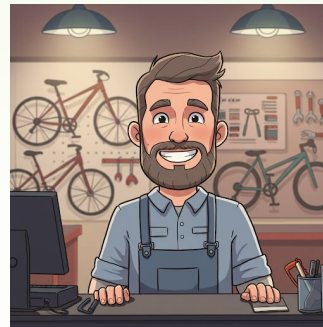
A shield is an optional, tamper and weather resistant decal with a unique code. The shield sends a warning to bike thieves to back off.

Tamper-resistant means that once your shield is placed, it is very difficult not only to remove, but difficult to remove without leaving obvious signs of tampering.



Key to success

A long-term community-wide commitment to preventing bike theft, including bike owners, bike shops, business owners and the police.



Our Plan

- Free shields for our paying members.
- Ask bike shops to incorporate registration during a bike purchase and sell shields.
- Advocate for tri-cities and Waterloo Police to join as partners.
- Encourage businesses across the Region to install bike racks in visible locations, or improve existing ones.

Our ask to CoK is to promote 529 Garage in:

- Website
- Bike cages
- Bike valet
- Bike-related events





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Advocating for better, safer cycling in Waterloo Region.



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