

Unleashing the power of community bike hubs



What are community bike hubs?

Community bike hubs are welcoming spaces that aim to break down barriers that prevent people from beginning and continuing to cycle; this often includes accessing a bike, maintaining a bike, knowing how to ride, and having people to ride with. All programs offered at community bike hubs are either free or low-cost.

Why are they essential for all cities invested in active transportation?

While safe, well-maintained infrastructure might be the most powerful factor for getting people to ditch their cars in favour of active travel, bike networks aren't just about infrastructure. Imagine driving without a place to get gas or an oil change?

To truly support people on bikes, cities must provide folks with a broad range of supports. A complete bike network provides people who bike or want to bike with places to learn and get help; that's where community bike hubs come in. By integrating bike hubs as an essential part of transportation master plans, cities adopt a holistic approach to active transportation and create necessary conditions for transportation mode-shift to happen that much faster.



Who are we?



Charlie's FreeWheels

Charlie's Freewheels uses bikes to support the development of empowered young leaders and self-assured young cyclists. Charlie's FreeWheels serves Moss Park and Regent Park in downtown Toronto.

CultureLink Bike Hub

The CultureLink Bike Hub supports local cyclists and fosters a culture of repair and re-use. The CultureLink Bike Hub is located near Jane and Finch in North York.

GateWay Bicycle Hub

The Gateway Bicycle Hub is a community project that encourages the repair and repurposing of bicycles in order to reduce waste, promote cycling culture, offer capacity-building opportunities.

Markham Cycles

Markham Cycles is York Region's 1st community bicycle hub. Markham Cycles aims to build cycling culture by offering free programs and workshops to everyone.

Newmarket Cycles

Newmarket Cycles is a fun space where anyone can explore biking for free. Newmarket Cycles works to build bike culture and remove barriers to biking.

Sheridan Bike Hub

The Sheridan Bike Hub is a go-to spot to support all things cycling at Sheridan College. There is a Bike Hub located at both the Mississauga and Brampton campuses.



What programs do we offer?



While programs vary at every hub, each one typically offers some variation on the following three programs:

1 DIY Repair Programs

DIY Repair sessions are operated by highly experienced bike mechanics who can teach drop-in visitors how to perform basic repairs on a bike. Participants can learn to repair the bike they already own or refurbish one from a pool of discarded bikes, depending on the hub.

2 Earn a Bike Programs

Earn a bike programs allow participants to learn how to perform bike mechanics and bike maintenance, with the ultimate goal of taking home the bike they've worked on at the end of the program. These programs vary in length and breadth, ranging anywhere from a few hours to multiple months.

3 Learn-to-Ride Programs

Led by highly experienced riders, most hubs offer group rides where participants can learn the basics of riding a bike, grow their community, and build confidence riding on local streets and neighbourhood trails.



What is our impact?

Charlie's FreeWheels | est. 2010 **Area served: Regent + Moss Park**



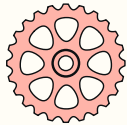
1,600 participants
900 bikes fixed
200 bikes given away

CultureLink Bike Hub | est. 2018 **Area served: Jane + Finch**



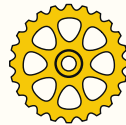
23,216 participants
4,241 bikes fixed
892 bikes given away

GateWay Bicycle Hub | est. 2019 **Area served: Thorncliffe Park**



8,527 participants
4,724 bikes fixed
1,014 bikes given away

Markham Cycles | est. 2019 **Area served: City of Markham**



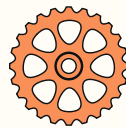
8,528 participants
2,729 bikes fixed
392 bikes given away

Newmarket Cycles | est. 2022 **Area served: Town of Newmarket**

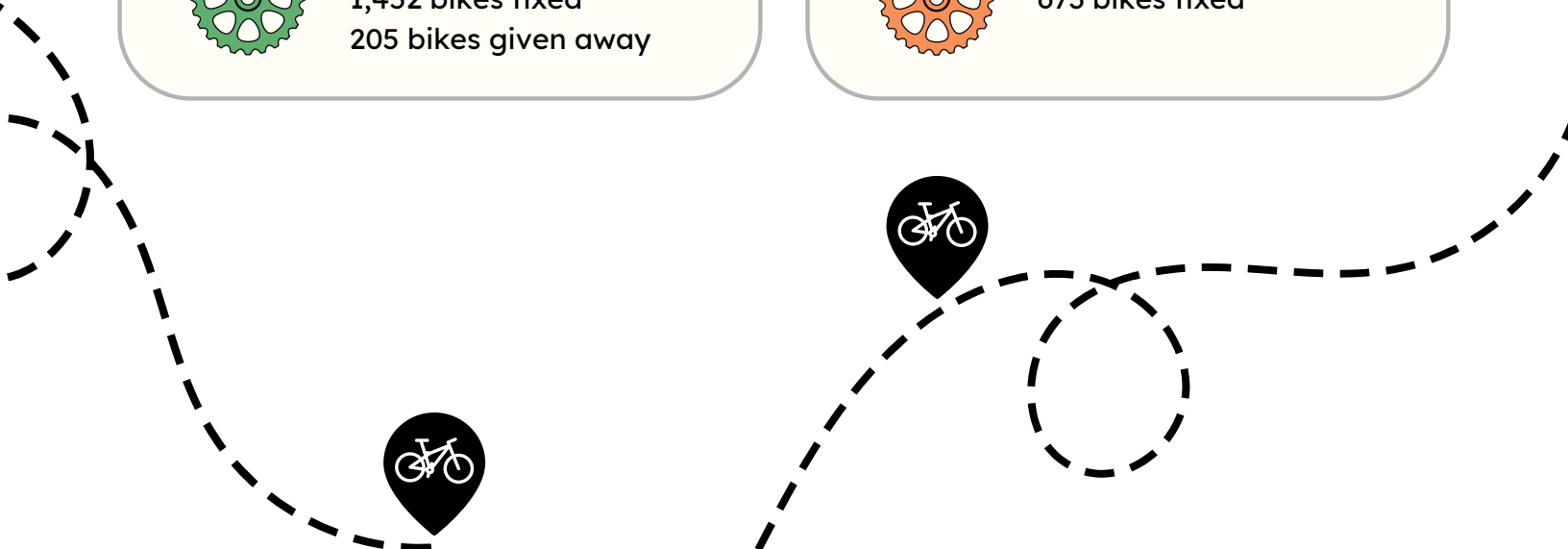


1,788 participants
1,452 bikes fixed
205 bikes given away

Sheridan Bike Hub | est. 2019 **Area served: Peel Region**



5,458 participants
673 bikes fixed



What are participants saying?

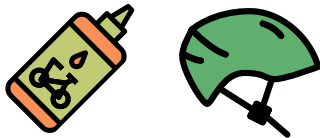


"I couldn't afford a bike and I am so glad that this program helped me get a bike. I can now go anywhere I want. They also gave me a basket where I can put my groceries. I love them."

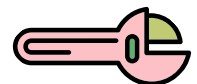
"Charlie's Freewheels changed my life! Through their amazing programming, I learned to build my own bike with my brother."

"There is no better way I can think to encourage and empower a community for biking. The most amazing part is, the service are totally free!"

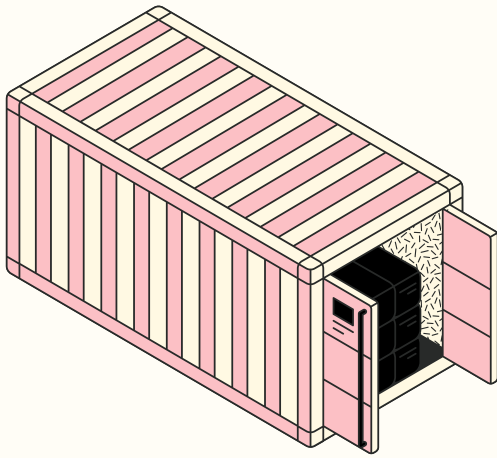
"Charlie's Freewheels isn't just about bikes; it's about a brighter future for our community"



"The Bike Hub program had a huge positive impact on me. It made me 10x more active during the summer and fall. I was able to use my bike do the simplest things such as go to the gym at any hour, run to grab food or go to the movie theatre at any time without worrying I might not have a means of coming back home if I miss the last bus."



What's our collective impact across the GTA?

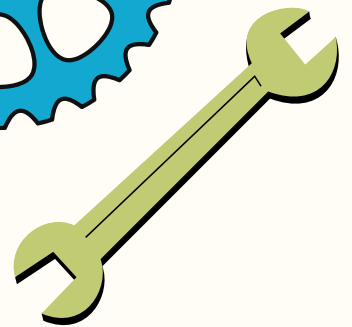
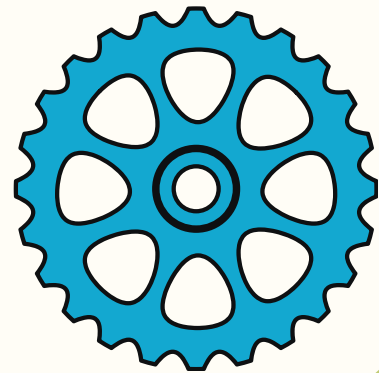


49,117 participants

14,700 bikes fixed

2,700 bikes given away

1,600 bikes rescued from landfill



**150 group rides
with 1,400
participants**