

## **Protecting Your Bicycle Against Theft:**

- . Always lock your bicycle securely, whether you're gone for a few minutes or a few hours. Remember, most bikes that are stolen were not locked!
- . Mark your bicycle with an engraver to deter thieves and to help the police in identifying and returning a stolen bike to the rightful owner. Use a unique number. Record the serial number of your bicycle and keep it with the sales receipt and a photograph of the bike. Register your bike with the police.
- . The most common tools used by a bicycle thief are bolt or cable cutters. These tools are powerful enough to cut through chains, cables and padlocks up to 3/8 inch thick. A hardened steel chain or cable at least 7/16 inch thick with the same size padlock can provide a degree of security for an inexpensive bike in a low risk area.
- . The best security lock for a bicycle is a 'U' shaped lock specifically designed for bicycles. Their construction discourages sawing, cutting or smashing. Shop around and avoid cheaply made locks. The less expensive locks are usually made of a lesser grade steel and will not stand up to an attack.

## **How and Where to Lock Your Bicycle:**

- . Thieves tend not to like crowds, so park your bicycle where there is a high degree of pedestrian traffic.
- . Always attach the bicycle to an immovable object, such as a bicycle rack, light pole, etc. Make sure it cannot be taken by merely lifting the chain or cable over the fixed object. Try to avoid locking your bike to a tree or other living plant. The constant abrasion of the metal bicycle will damage the tree over time and may kill it altogether.
- . Position the lock as high off the ground as you can so it's difficult to gain leverage by bracing one leg of a bolt cutter against the ground.
- . Always try to anchor both wheels as well as the frame with your chain or cable. If you have quick-release wheels, take the front wheel off the bike and lock it with the frame. Never lock your bike by the front or rear wheel alone. Thieves will as willingly steal part of your bike if they cannot get the entire bicycle
- . If your bicycle is stolen, please report it to the Police Department. Many times the Police recover bicycles that have not been reported stolen, and are unable to give them back to the rightful owners