

Padres Announce 2008 Season of Cycling Sundays

The 2008 baseball season will bring more pedal-powered fans to PETCO Park, using the healthy and green bicycle transport option. A morning bike ride followed by afternoon baseball game make a great combination, according to Pedal to the Park (PTP) founder Dave White, whose organization put on PTP events to the ballpark in April and September 2007.

After several years of PETCO Park operation, the Padres recognized that more and more people want to ride to the games, and that the Bicycle Parking Pavilion (BPP) is the perfect response. The Padres equipped, erected, and staffed the BPP for the final four games of the 2007 season.

Based on September's success, the Padres announce expanded BPP service, to include all 13 Sunday afternoon home games on the 2008 schedule; beginning with Sunday April 6th (vs the Dodgers) and ending with the very last game of the Padres regular season, Sunday September 28th.

About the BPP, Padres Vice President of Ballpark Operations Mark Guglielmo added: "We believe this will be a fantastic transportation option that will continue to grow in popularity."

The Pavilion design comes from the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition and features an efficient and versatile self-racking system in a large fenced area. The BPP is staffed from a couple hours before to a half hour after the game. Security and ownership control is two-fold: 1) BPP staff and security personnel guard the BPP, and 2) each bicycle is numerically joined to its owner with a twin wristband system.

Bicycle Coalition Executive Director Kathy Keehan recommends cyclists use the Martin Luther King Promenade – which runs alongside the trolley tracks parallel to Harbor Drive – or Park Boulevard for final approach to the ballpark and the BPP. Keehan adds: "We congratulate the Padres on their commitment to green transportation options and we invite Coalition members and all local cyclists to come out and enjoy the Pavilion."

Pedal to the Park's next event is Sunday May 25, 2008. Organizers hope that cyclists and Padres fans will consider the variety and enjoyment offered by events like PTP, which sends all excess proceeds to non-profit benefit partners Therapeutic Recreation Services for cyclists with disabilities, and the Bicycle Coalition to improve cycling in San Diego.

PTP offers several prescribed route options – from a Ride Leader guided leisure and novice-friendly 10 mile route, to longer and higher routes for intermediate and advanced cyclists. You can take it easy or satisfy a training workout.

White also points out that anyone can create their own route of discovery for 'Cycling Sundays at PETCO Park'. Start from home or any other place you might transport your bike to begin a ride. Use your imagination and sense of discovery, along with a San Diego Region Bike Map (available from SANDAG). Pick a route to the game, and perhaps a shorter, more direct route back after the game. In any case, be safe and enjoy a pedal to the park and a Padres game during the 2008 baseball season.

Website and email references:

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