

# Padres Bicycle Pavilion Re-Opens

## Coalition success story has unwritten chapters

What do the Padres, Giants, Cubs, Nationals and Mariners have in common – and why do cyclists care? At the leading edge of bicycle facilities and services at major league ballparks, each has a separate tale of social movement causing change. You can help write the San Diego script, by pedaling to Petco Park on *Cycling Sundays* this season.

Opening Day 2008 for the Bicycle Parking Pavilion (BPP) was Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>, and motoring fans could only cheer, while bicyclists “hit for the cycle”.

The BPP is like having a reserved parking space every SINGLE Sunday game. DOUBLE your fun with a bike ride and ballgame – for the whole family. It’s a TRIPLE play – convenient, staffed and free. Score it a Padres HOME RUN!

The most common route for local change involves three elements – instigator, facilitator (Coalition role), and actionee. When the partnership mixture is right, the result can be satisfying and sweet.

In the summer of 2006, a personal habit was expanded to a Padres game group ride. The 25 bikes easily overwhelmed the fixed racks (capacity of 10) near the main ballpark entrance. The Padres were willing to help, with crowd barriers as makeshift racks.

The “trenches” work of advocacy for change followed, and continues. The rise of a homegrown event called Pedal to the Park (PTP) demonstrated both the problem and the solution to ballpark managers and operators. After the “Tour de Petco” prologue, two PTP Stages were announced for the 2007 season.

With the support and advice of the Executive Director, the PTP proposal was embraced by the Coalition Board. Next, followed the blending of expertise from Jim Baross, the Coalition’s point-man for bike parking at the annual Earth Fair. Fold in a “How to” Playbook and a photo survey of un-racked bicycles around the ballpark. The Padres swung and hit the pitch, with a commitment to first class facilities to make major league memories for fans riding bikes. It fits with green initiatives, and according to Petco Park General Manager Richard Andersen: “It’s just the right thing to do.”

So, friends and instigators, what’s your action item? What can you bring to mix with Coalition leadership and ideas to blend your recipe for positive change? You can start by coming to any Coalition function – every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. Another target of opportunity: Who wants to help show our Miramar neighbors how to “green-up” the balance of bikes to motor vehicles for an improved and integrated transport plan – Pedal to the Air Show?

Meanwhile, celebrate Bike Month in San Diego. Join local cyclists of all ages and abilities for Pedal to the Park on Sunday May 25 – you can try out the Padres BPP while supporting the Coalition’s recipe for success. The Pedal to the Park story is captured in articles and photos at <http://pedaltothepark.com> where you can also find a registration link.