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Interchange**

Tachikawa, Tokyo, (JP)

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Facility:

This facility is a large area about 9000m² of freestanding outdoor bicycle parking spaces. Tachikawa has several free of charge bicycle parking areas; only the closest to the station are charged.

Provider:

Tachikawa City Structure Office

Designer/ Architect:

Tachikawa City Structure Office

Cost of Provision:

Undisclosed information



General Description:

Tachikawa is a futuristic town at the far end of urban west Tokyo. The area around the Tachikawa JR train station features several large department stores, including Lumine, Isetan, and Takashimaya as well as one of the newest and largest cinemas in the Tokyo and a Keirin track. Tachikawa's planning aimed to decentralise commercial and cultural activities from central Tokyo. The station and the surrounding buildings are elevated on concrete structures and connected through bridges where most people walk, leaving the ground for bus stops, green areas, storage, parking areas and roads. The station connects to Tama monorail. Tachikawa is also a residential area, with many new families. The station is then used by a large number of students



and officials. The area has 17 bicycle parking areas 7 of which have large capacity (more than 500 bicycle spaces). Only 4 are charged with very low prices, the other 13 are free of charge. All of the parking areas are extensive. Consequently space saving bicycle racks are yet to be seen in this area as the community grows in size and the demand for parking spaces increases. The crime rate is very low in the area.



Location of Facility

Tachikawa station, west gallery bicycle parking JR Chuo Line, Japan

Scale (capacity):

1000 bikes

Length of Stay:

24 hours

Charges (cost to user):

¥100 a day, monthly subscriptions cost ¥1000 (students) (£5), ¥1500 general (£7.50), 3 months cost ¥2500 (students) (£12.50), ¥4000 general (£20). 6 months cost ¥4500 (students) (£22.50), and ¥7500 general public (£35)

Access:

The facility is 24 hours open access



Signage:

There are warning signs reminding to lock the bicycles and not leave belongings in the bicycle baskets. There are signs with prices and application procedures for membership, emergency numbers and 'CCTV in operation' signs. There are floor markings on the wall enclosing boxes and limiting the space where bicycles are supposed to go.

Furniture:

Steel fences, floor markings and a staff cubicle- it has minimal intervention



Technical Requirements:

It is a wide space of about 9000m². The main infrastructure this site has is fences made of weatherproof-coated steel and white floor markings.

Security, Guardianship and Lighting:

This site has no appointed guardians. There are two members of the staff who sell daily ¥100 tickets and subscriptions. Bicycles are left at the users' own risk, cycle crime is very low in the area, largely owing to cultural factors. Staff believe that the fence is a sufficient obstacle for potential thieves and point out that opportunists might find easier targets among the illegally parked bicycles left on the street. Public lighting and reflectors light the structure at night.

Maintenance and Servicing:

All maintenance is managed from within the rail authority.

Service Period (how long it will last):

The station building was designed for 50 years of service

Strengths:

- The subscription fees are among the cheapest found in Tokyo
- The wide available area has a lot of potential for further extension and future retrofitting

Weaknesses:

- The site could provide space for more bicycles, as in some areas the walkways are too wide

Useful References:

Official websites of Tachikawa ward (Japanese)

<http://www.city.tachikawa.tokyo.jp/jp/directindex/parking/churin1.html>

<http://www.city.tachikawa.tokyo.jp/jp/index.html>