



Renewable Communities

Massachusetts cities and towns
leading the way to 100% renewable energy

Pioneer Valley: ValleyBike Share

Launched in 2018, the ValleyBike Share program connects Western Massachusetts communities with an affordable, and green alternative transportation network.¹

ValleyBike was created through a partnership between Northampton, Springfield, Amherst, Holyoke, and South Hadley.² With help from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, these cities and towns secured a \$1.3 million federal grant.³

ValleyBike was officially launched in the summer of 2018. Between June and September 2018, the program allowed residents to travel more than 36,000 miles throughout their communities.⁴ By November, at the end of its first full season, ValleyBike's bicycles had covered 84,000 miles over 43,000 trips.⁵

The program's bicycles are available at an affordable rate, with different tiers of membership. A pay-per-ride pass costs \$2, while monthly and annual plans allow frequent users to save money.⁶

ValleyBike operates more than 500 bicycles spread out between 54 docking stations.⁷ Each bike is equipped with a GPS system to allow users to easily check availability and to facilitate the recovery of missing bicycles.⁸ The stations are situated conveniently at areas of high traffic in the communities they serve, including the campuses of UMass Amherst and Smith College.⁹

The bicycles have proven to be a reliable transportation option. While the bicycles weigh in at a sturdy 75 pounds,

they are equipped with electric assist (e-assist) technology to help commuters tackle the hilly terrain in the Pioneer Valley. The e-assist technology helps to increase the average distance riders cover per trip.¹⁰

The ValleyBike Share network is slated to expand, with service arriving in Easthampton in the summer of 2019.¹¹ PVPC has also taken other steps to encourage bicycle travel in the Pioneer Valley, including a partnership with Holyoke to develop a bike network plan targeted at improving the city's bicycle-friendly infrastructure.¹²

1. "ValleyBike Share," City of Holyoke, 27 June 2018, <<https://www.holyoke.org/news/valleybike-share-launch/>>.

2. Ibid.

3. "ValleyBike Share receives \$1.3M funding contract; program launch pushed back to 2018," Jim Kinney, MassLive, 13 May 2017, <https://www.masslive.com/business-news/2017/05/valleybike_share_13_m_funding_contract_i.html>.

4. "ValleyBike Share solving software glitch, adding bikes and stations," Jim Kinney, MassLive, 7 September 2018, <https://www.masslive.com/business-news/2018/09/valley_bike_share_software_fix.html>.

5. "Valley Bike Share program wraps up first season, eyes expansion," Jacquelyn Voghel, Daily Hampshire Gazette, 10 December 2018, <<https://www.gazettenet.com/ValleyBike-hg-121118-22084359>>.

6. "Pricing," ValleyBike Share, <<https://www.valleybike.org/#pricing>>.

7. "Valley Bike Share program wraps up first season, eyes expansion," Jacquelyn Voghel, Daily Hampshire Gazette, 10 December 2018, <<https://www.gazettenet.com/ValleyBike-hg-121118-22084359>>.

8. "Bikes," ValleyBike Share, <<https://www.valleybike.org/about/e-bike/>>.

9. "ValleyBike," University of Massachusetts Amherst, <<https://www.umass.edu/sustainability/regional-bike-share-program>>. "ValleyBike Electric Bike Share Offers Eco-Friendly Transport," Smith College, 25 June 2018, <<https://www.smith.edu/about-smith/news/valleybike-electric-bike-share>>.

10. "Valley Bike Share program wraps up first season, eyes expansion," Jacquelyn Voghel, Daily Hampshire Gazette, 10 December 2018, <<https://www.gazettenet.com/ValleyBike-hg-121118-22084359>>.

11. Ibid.

12. *Holyoke Bike Network Plan*, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 30 September 2016, <<http://www.pvpc.org/plans/holyoke-bike-network-plan>>.