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Repair stations offer convenient options for campus cyclists

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Biking to, from and around campus may sound like a convenient transportation option for students.

There's less trouble with finding a parking place, since bike racks are located near almost every campus building, and a bike could get you to class faster than walking. Plus, biking is a more environmentally sustainable solution than driving, but what about flat tires, loose chains and other problems that could arise?

Bike repair stations have been placed in two locations on Tennessee Tech's campus to address those very needs.

"They are designed to be really easy to use and they have all of the tools you would need for basic repairs," said Kaitie Hutton, a graduate assistant who oversees Tech Bike Share program for the Office of Sustainability.

The purple repair stations, located outside of New Hall North and on Capitol Quad, feature wrenches, hex tools, a tool for removing a tire and a pump for inflating flat tires. Not sure how to fix your bike? Use your phone to scan the QR code on the station to easily find bike repair tutorials and help.

The two repair stations were installed at the end of last semester and Hutton expects use to pick up as spring comes along.

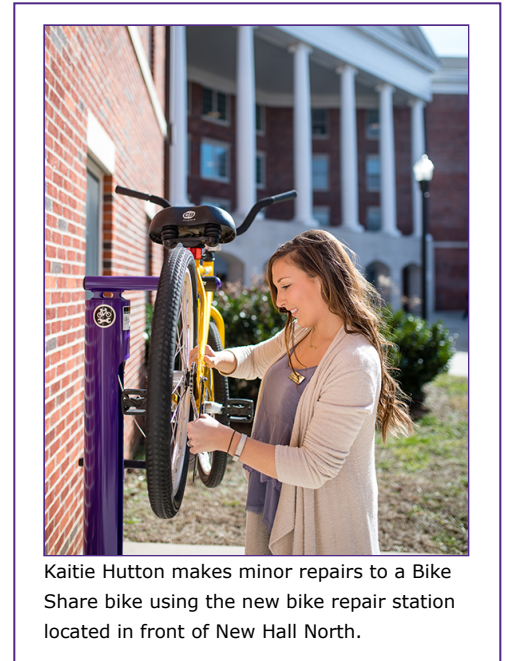
Along with the repair stations, Bike Share also has two racks of bikes that the campus community can check out and use for the day, free of charge. Those bikes, along with helmets and locks, can be checked out for campus use with an Eagle Card at New Hall North or at the Fitness Center.

With the help of student worker and marketing major Dylan McCool, Hutton keeps the Bike Share bikes and the repair stations in order.

"Dylan is very talented and can fix pretty much anything," Hutton said. "So if there is ever a problem with a bike or one of the stations, I can call him and he knows exactly what to do."

More bike racks with bikes available for checkout could be installed on campus soon, Hutton said, and if the repair stations see enough use, another one of those could be in the campus' future as well.

To learn more about the repair stations and the Bike Share program, visit <https://www.tntech.edu/planning-and-finance/facilities/sustainability/bikeshare> (<https://www.tntech.edu/planning-and-finance/facilities/sustainability/bikeshare>).



Kaitie Hutton makes minor repairs to a Bike Share bike using the new bike repair station located in front of New Hall North.



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