

Draft Guidelines for the Use of E-Bikes on NOVA Parks Trails

The following guidance is provided for novice and experienced e-bike riders wishing to ride within NOVA Park facilities.

Guidelines applicable to electric power-assisted bicycles are as follows:

What to Ride: For the purpose of these guidelines, NOVA Parks will define e-bikes as: An "Electric power-assisted bicycle" (e-bike) means a wheeled vehicle equipped with (i) pedals that allow propulsion by human power and ii) an electric motor with an input of no more than 750 watts that reduces the pedal effort required of the rider. This applies to both road and mountain style (e/MTB) e-bikes. They are not, and do not function like a wheelchair, motorized bicycle, moped, scooter, motorcycle, or ATV.

Where to ride: To protect NOVA Parks' valuable environmental and cultural resources, e-bike riders are strongly encouraged to operate only in areas where traditional (human pedal powered only) bicycles are allowed. Please do not disturb wildlife, livestock, or domesticated animals on park property.

Please ride responsibly: E-bike riders are expected to follow the same regulations and rules regarding access to the parks as other visitors. Please observe the established hours of operation and any posted signage.

Riders assume responsibility for the safe and respectful operation of their e-bike. It is expected that all bicycle riders yield to pedestrians and equestrians. In consideration of trail conditions and the safety of others, please maintain speeds under 20 miles per hour.

Reporting a problem: If you see an e-bike being operated in an unsafe or reckless manner, please call local police or park staff. (In case of emergency, call 9-1-1).

For general questions and inquiries about e-bikes in the parks, please contact NOVA Parks at feedback@nvrpa.org

Proposed Change to Regulations to Allow the Use of E-Bikes on NOVA Parks Trails

To allow e-bike use on NOVA Parks trails, staff recommends modifying 1.14 B. (3) from the Park Authority Regulations as noted below in blue.

The proposed amendment reads:

§1.14 Motor Vehicles and Traffic

A. Speed Limit Where None Is Posted. Where no speed limit is posted, no person shall operate a motor vehicle within a park at a speed greater than 20 miles per hour.

B. Prohibited Vehicles.

(1) No person shall operate within a park a motorized vehicle not licensed for regular use upon public highways, except motorized carts furnished or approved by the Park Authority may be operated within designated areas, and motorized wheelchairs may be operated in areas as provided for in §1.14 (C) below

(2) No person shall operate within a park a farm tractor or other farm machinery or a type of vehicle used primarily for earth-moving operations, whether or not licensed for regular use upon public highways, without the express written permission of the Park Authority.

(3) Mopeds are permitted only in areas where motor vehicles are permitted. *(Added: Mopeds, removed: motor-assisted bicycles, commonly referred to as "mopeds")*

C. Motorized Wheelchairs and Assistive Devices. Motorized wheelchairs and other motorized assistive devices for mobility-impaired persons are permitted in all areas where pedestrian access is permitted, unless otherwise posted by the Park Authority.

D. Off-Road Vehicle Operation. No person shall operate any type of motorized vehicle in areas of a park other than established roadways without the express written permission of the Park Authority, except as noted in §1.14 (C) above.

(Added)

E. E-Bikes. Electric power-assisted bicycles (e-bikes) equipped with pedals that allow propulsion by human power are considered bicycles and non-motorized vehicles for the purpose of these regulations, and are allowed in the same places that traditional, pedal-powered only bicycles are allowed.