



# Electronic Bike Use on Trails

Community Services Committee: January 24, 2024



# Overview

- Background
- Trail Rules
- E-bike Classifications
- Biking Community Feedback
- Benchmarking
- Recommendations
- Questions

# Background

- Inquiries were received from park staff regarding e-bikes rules for trails
- Research ensued which included an informal request for feedback regarding e-bike use on Burleson trails on Burleson MTB Riders Facebook page





# Trail Rules

- City Ordinance 58-21 states (a) No person shall operate or use or a motor vehicle, including motorcycles, scooters or mini-bikes, on a trail or path not designated for use by such vehicle. This prohibition shall not apply to motorized mobility devices as defined by V.T.C.A., Transportation Code § 542.009.
- Under the Transportation Code that is referenced in the City Code 58-21, e-bikes and mobility devices are not banned from trails. E-bikes are defined in the Transportation Code under Sec. 664.001 as follows: "Electric bicycle" means a bicycle:
  - A) equipped with:
    - (i) fully operable pedals; and
    - (ii) an electric motor of fewer than 750 watts; and
  - (B) with a top assisted speed of 28 miles per hour or less.

# E-bike Classifications (Transportation Code)



- Class 1 (allowed)
  - Equipped with motor that assists the rider only when rider is pedaling
  - Top assisted speed: 20 MPH
- Class 2 (prohibited)
  - Equipped with a motor that may be used to propel the bicycle **WITHOUT** the pedaling of the rider
  - Top assisted speed: 20 MPH
- Class 3 (allowed)
  - Equipped with a motor that assists the rider only when the rider is pedaling
  - Not available in mountain bikes
  - Top assisted speed: 28 MPH





# Biking Community Feedback

- Informal request for feedback concerning e-bikes on trails was posted to Burleson MTB Riders Facebook page
- Feedback was posted in comments and generated interest in community which resulted in other forms of input on the matter
- Feedback included:
  - Concerns of top out speed of e-bikes being too fast
  - No concern over top speed of e-bikes as some bikes move at faster speeds than e-bike top out speeds
  - Support for e-bikes, including Class 2, as removing participation barriers for those with limited abilities
  - Support for making trails more accessible



# Benchmarking

- Staff reached out to 9 agencies regarding trail rules, ordinances, and any pertinent concerns or developments – 5 agencies responded before deadline.
  - Bedford: working through existing trails ordinances and requested information from Burleson
  - Cleburne: working through existing trails ordinances and requested information from Burleson
  - Flower Mound: prohibits motorized vehicles on trails excluding devices designed to assist persons with limited mobility.
  - North Richland Hills: prohibits motorized vehicles on trails except “power-driven mobility devices that conform to State and Federal laws and regulations.” E-bikes are permitted for use on trails up to 12 MPH. Requested information from Burleson for updated evaluation.
  - Rowlett: No motor vehicles on trails unless authorized by director or designated for specific use. Motor vehicle is defined as any self-propelled vehicle. All motor vehicles in parks or on trails are limited to 15 MPH.





# Community Survey

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- The community is currently being surveyed to receive feedback regarding their understanding of e-bikes and perspectives of them being used on city trails.
  - Survey results through the 23<sup>rd</sup> will be provided at the meeting
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THE CITY OF  
**BURLESON**  
TEXAS  
Parks and  
Recreation

**WE WANT  
YOUR INPUT!**

**Electric Bikes**

The graphic features a dark green background with a white silhouette of a hand pointing towards the text 'WE WANT YOUR INPUT!'. To the right, the City of Burleson logo is displayed, including the text 'THE CITY OF BURLESON TEXAS Parks and Recreation' and a small silhouette of a person riding a bicycle on a hill.







# Recommendations

- *Note: limited ability or feasibility to regulate compliance*
- Prohibit use of Class 3 e-bikes due to top out speed
- Allow Class 2 e-bikes on designated, soft-surface trails (e.g. Chisenhall Hike and Bike Trail)
- Continue educational outreach (e.g. Trail Etiquette Pop-up Signs) efforts and update ordinances
- Confer with Parks Board and Community Services Committee for additional recommendations for action





Jen Basham  
Parks and Recreation Director  
[jbasham@burlesontx.com](mailto:jbasham@burlesontx.com)  
817-426-9297