



PRC 26-01 E-Bikes in Parks

January 8, 2026



Agenda

- Background & Definitions
- Proposed Policy
- Next Steps



Background

- **May 2025:** City Council amended the 2025-2026 Work Plan to include the development of an ordinance regulating the operation of e-bikes and e-motorcycles on the Island.
- **September 2025:** City Council adopted Ordinance No. 25C-24 establishing regulations for e-motorcycles
- **November 2025:** Staff conducted a study session with the PRC and the OSCT to discuss regulations for e-bikes and e-scooters in parks and open spaces. This meeting provided the direction for the proposed policy.

E-Motorcycle Definition

10.04.170 – Electric motorcycle

Electric motorcycle means a motorcycle, as defined by [RCW 46.04.330](#), which is powered by an electric motor and:

1. Is not equipped with fully operable pedals capable of propelling it. Foot pegs are not considered pedals; or
2. Has a motor with a power output that exceeds 750 watts; or
3. Has a motor that continues to provide assistance when the vehicle reaches the speed of twenty-eight miles per hour.



Talaria Sting Electric Dirt Bike
6,000W motor; top speed 47mph.



EK X21 Off Road E-Bike
3,000W motor; top speed of 45mph.

E-Bike Definition



Under RCW 46.04.169, "Electric-assisted bicycle" means:

- A bicycle with two or three wheels,
- A saddle,
- Fully operative pedals for human propulsion, and
- An electric motor. The electric-assisted bicycle's electric motor must have a power output of no more than seven hundred fifty watts.

There are three classes of e-bikes, distinguished by the e-bike's maximum assisted speed and how assistance is provided.

E-Bikes



Class 1 & 2 E-Bikes

Pedal-assist or throttle;
motor provides assistance
up to 20 mph.



Class 3 E-Bike

Pedal-assist; maximum
assisted speed of 28 mph.

E-Scooter Definition



Under RCW [46.04.336](#), "Motorized foot scooter" means a device:

- With two or three wheels that has handlebars,
- A floorboard that can be stood upon while riding, and
- Is powered by an internal combustion engine or electric motor that has a maximum speed of no greater than twenty miles per hour on level ground.

E-Scooters



Proposed Policy for E-Bikes & E-Scooters **in Parks**

- *Park* means and includes all city parks, public squares, public drives, parkways, boulevards, golf courses, park museums, pools, bathing beaches and play and recreation grounds under the management and control of the park and recreation department (MICC 9.30.030).
- *Open space land* means a parcel of land that is largely undeveloped and is suitable as a natural habitat (MICC 19.16.010).

Proposed Policy for E-Bikes & E-Scooters **in Parks**

The policy proposes the following regulations:

- Class 1 and class 2 e-bikes, and e-scooters, are not allowed within open spaces or parks except on paved trails, or as otherwise posted.
- Class 3 e-bikes are not allowed in open spaces or parks.

Proposed Policy for E-Bikes & E-Scooters **in Parks**

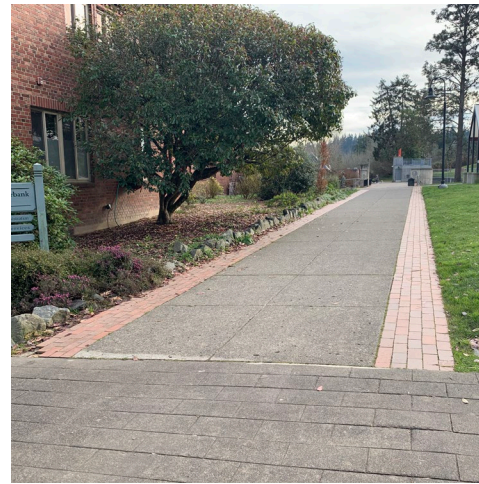
The policy would **allow** class 1 and class 2 e-bikes and e-scooters on the following trail surfaces.



Asphalt



Concrete



Brick



**Stone
(Pavers)**

Proposed Policy for E-Bikes & E-Scooters **in Parks**

The policy would **prohibit** e-bikes and e-scooters on the following trail surfaces.



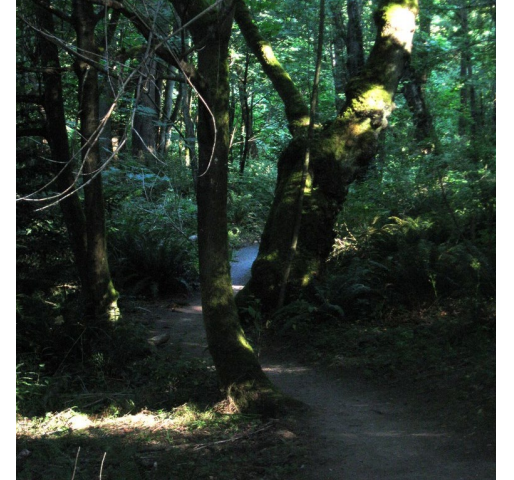
**Crushed Rock
/ Gravel**



**Wood /
Boardwalks**



Wood Chips



Dirt

Proposed Policy for E-Bikes & E-Scooters **in Parks**

- This policy follows the approach adopted by King County.
- The Parks & Recreation Director has the authority to adopt rules and regulations pertaining to the operation, management and use of the parks.
- As such, staff will be able to address areas that may have conflicts between trail users not covered under this policy.

Aubrey Davis Park & I-90 Trail

- While the City manages Aubrey Davis Park and the Mercer Island segment of the I-90 trail, this area is owned by WSDOT.
- The proposed policy maintains consistency of existing WSDOT regulations.
- If the City were to adopt regulations that were inconsistent with WSDOT policy, the City would need to seek approval from WSDOT.

South Mercer Playfields

- While the City manages the South Mercer Playfields, the Mercer Island School District (MISD) has the authority to establish the regulations for their properties.
- MISD has expressed that it is supportive of the current proposed policy.
- MISD intends to adopt the same policy for e-bikes and e-scooters at South Mercer Playfields as the policy for these vehicles for City park facilities.

Enforcement

- Staff coordinated with MIPD to develop the proposed policy.
- Direction on enforcement mechanisms or penalties for violations will come from the City Council. Input toward enforcement or penalties may be included in hand off memo.

Next Steps

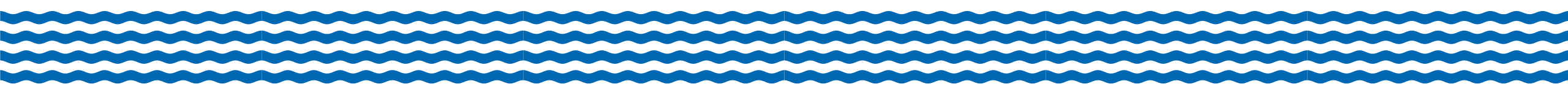
- Staff will work with the PRC's Chair and Vice Chair to develop handoff memo to the Mercer Island City Council.
- Staff will return to the PRC and OSCT at their regularly scheduled meetings to approve the hand off memo.
- Staff will then use this memo to prepare an ordinance establishing regulations for e-bikes for City Council consideration.
- Finally, following the adoption of regulations by the City Council, staff will coordinate with the MISD to develop signage and educate users of the South Mercer Playfields.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Approve the policy statement, as written in Exhibit 1, and direct staff to work with the Parks and Recreation Commission's Chair and Vice Chair to develop handoff memo to the Mercer Island City Council for approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission at a future meeting.

Open Space Conservancy Trust

Adopt the same standards for e-bikes and e-scooters as the Parks and Recreation Commission



Thank you.

