

# PRC-17 E-Bike Regulations Study Session

November 12, 2025



# Agenda

- Definitions
- Trail Classifications
- Additional Considerations
- Discussion & Examples

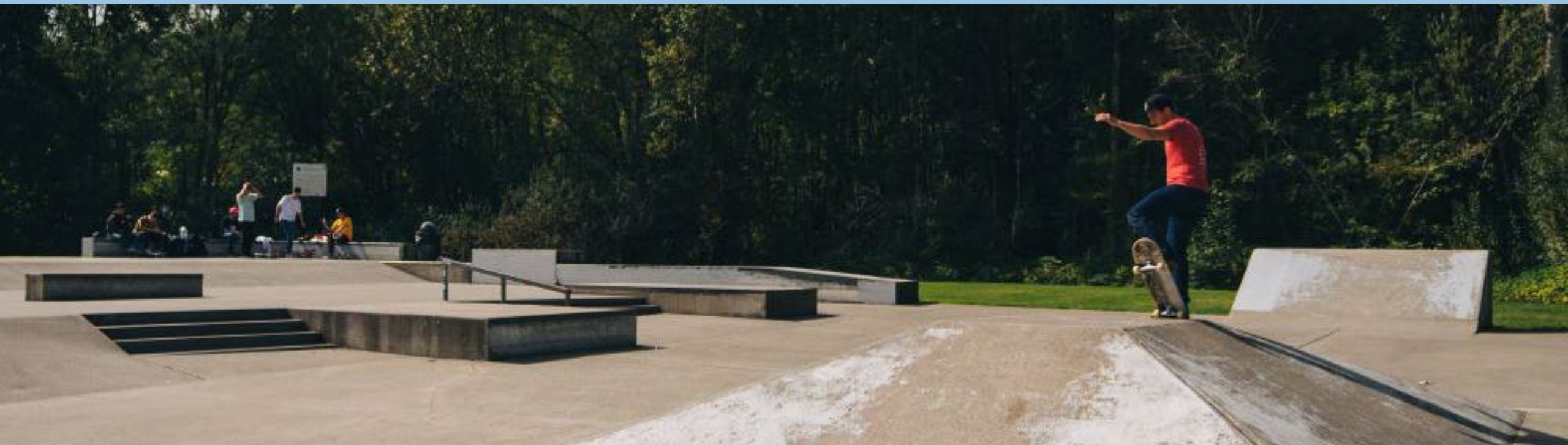


# Discussion Questions

- Should the City regulate e-bikes differently than regular bikes?
- Are there places where e-bikes should be prohibited?
  - This could include athletic fields, soft surface trails, playgrounds, sport courts, or open space areas.
- Should e-scooters be regulated differently than e-bikes?
- Are there classes of e-bikes that should not be permitted in parks or on trails?
- Are there certain parks/locations that we should designate as bike-free/pedestrian only?



# E-Bikes, E-Motorcycles, & E-Scooters



# 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.*





**TUTTIO ARC-I Kids Electric Dirt Bike**  
*750W motor; top speed of 22mph;  
no pedals.*



**Modified Class 2 E-Bike**  
*8,000W motor; top speed of 47mph.*



**Harley Davidson**  
LiveWire One Electric Motorcycle



**Zero Motorcycle**  
DSR / X Electric Motorcycle



# E-Motorcycle Regulations



City Council adopted Ordinance No. 25C-24 on September 19, 2025. Under the ordinance...

- E-motorcycles are not allowed on any sidewalk, pedestrian path, and within public parks.
- To operate an e-motorcycle, a person must have a valid driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement, and the e-motorcycle must have a valid license plate.

The ordinance will go into effect on January 1, 2026.

# 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 and/or throttle;  
maximum assisted speed of  
28 mph.



# Current E-Bike Regulations

Under RCW 46.04.169

	Class 1 & Class 2 E-Bikes	Class 3 E-Bikes
<b>Maximum Speed</b>	20mph	28mph
<b>Allowed?</b>	Anywhere traditional bikes are permitted, including mixed-use trails, bike lanes, and roads.	Roads and paved trails that allow motorized vehicles
<b>Prohibited?</b>	Areas designated non-motorized.	Soft surface trails, sidewalks, and on-shared use paths.

# 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





# Current E-Scooter Regulations

E-scooters are subject to many of the same regulations as e-bikes, with a few important distinctions:

- E-scooters cannot be ridden on sidewalks or soft-surface trails.
- E-scooters have a minimum rider age of 16.

# Mercer Island City Code

## **9.30.150 Park Rules - Vehicles**

It is unlawful to ride or drive any bicycle, motor vehicle, motorcycle, electric motorcycle as defined in MICC Ch. 10.04, or motor-driven cycle over or through any park except along and upon the public roads, streets or other designated areas therein or to operate any vehicle at a speed in excess of the posted speed limit. Both the operator or driver of such motor vehicle, motorcycle, electric motorcycle as defined in MICC Ch. 10.04, or motor-driven cycle and such vehicle shall be properly licensed if required by state law or City of Mercer Island ordinance.

# State Parks & Trails Rules

- Under state law, e-bikes and e-scooters cannot be ridden on trails marked as non-motorized and trails with a natural dirt surface.
- This means these vehicles cannot be ridden in Pioneer Park, Upper Luther Burbank Park, Island Crest Park ravine, or anywhere where posted signs prohibit motorized vehicles.
- However, state law allows a jurisdiction to permit the operation of e-bikes and e-scooters on these trails.



# Other Jurisdictions



Various jurisdictions in King County have adopted local regulations for e-bikes and e-scooters. Some examples include:

- **King County** allows class 1 and class 2 e-bikes on regional trails and paved pathways within park areas and prohibits class 3 e-bikes from any trails or pathways within park.
- The **City of Everett** prohibits all e-bikes and e-scooters in any park, except in designated areas in areas vehicles are permitted, like parking lots.
- The **City of North Bend** prohibits class 3 e-bikes on trails and within parks.

# Open Space Trail Use Guidelines

- The [Open Space Trail Use Guidelines](#) restricts motorized vehicles, including e-scooters and motorcycles.
- Pedestrians and bicyclists are allowed on all soft surface trails unless otherwise posted.



# Enforcement

- Community members are encouraged to **call 911** to report unsafe and illegal behaviors involving e-bikes, e-scooters, and e-motorcycles.
- The City has received complaints of e-bikes and e-scooters operating in the skate park, racing around the sidewalks at Mercedale Park, and impacting reservations groups at the South Mercer Playfields and at Island Crest Park.
- Currently, when feasible, MIPD will attempt to contact youth riding these vehicles.
- If warranted, MIPD will call their parents or guardian to pick up the youth and their vehicle.



# Trail Classifications



# Trail Classifications

- The Parks, Recreation, & Open Space (PROS) Plan describes categories for the recreational trail classification system.
- While some sections of trail will accommodate higher volumes of traffic and provide regional connections, other sections may rely on local streets and sidewalks to create a connection between trails.



# Shared-Use Paved Trails

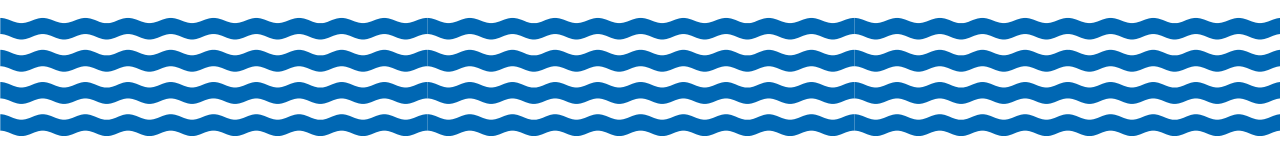
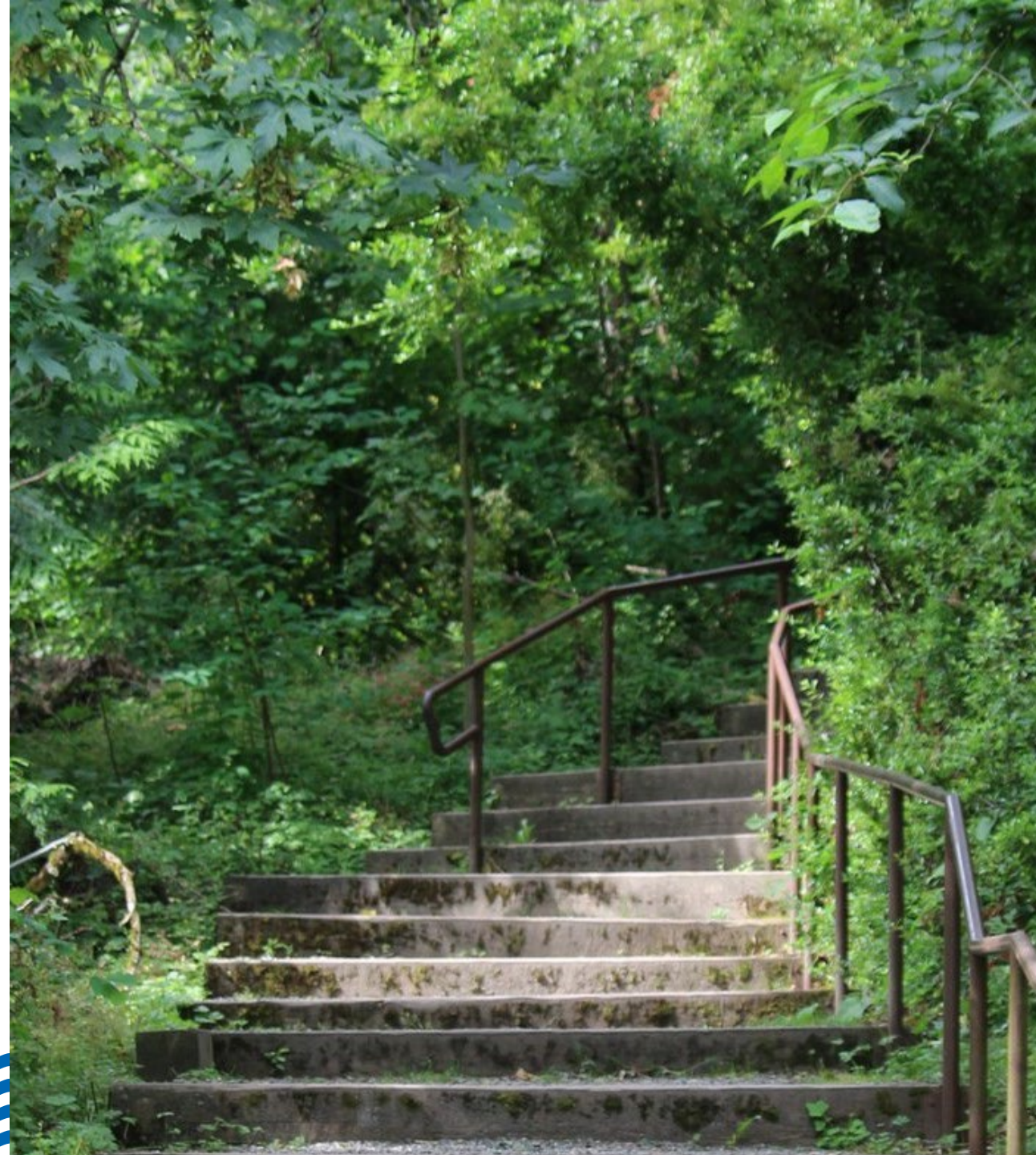
- Trails that connect neighborhoods, parks, schools, Town Center, and other cities.
- Paved with either asphalt or concrete.
- Minimum 10ft width.
- Typically used by pedestrians, bicyclists, people with other wheeled-devices.





# Neighborhood Links

- Linkage trails that connect neighborhoods and other open spaces, parks, and schools.
- Consist of both soft-surface and hard-surface materials and vary in width.
- Designed for a variety of non-motorized uses, like walking, hiking, biking, and equestrian connections.





# Natural Surface Trails

- Trails that provide connection to natural areas within the community.
- May connect with multi-use paved trails.
- 2-4 feet wide.
- Typically used by hikers, dog walkers, and mountain bikers.





# Park Trails

- Pathways, sidewalks, and hiking trails located within parks.
- Provide access and circulation in park facilities.





# Additional Considerations



# Impacts on Other Trail Users

- E-bikes could have an impact on other trail users due to higher speeds and torque, and potential environmental damage like erosion and habitat disturbance.
- Key considerations include sense of safety, trail width, resting and passing areas, and maximum speed.



# Accessibility

- E-bikes can provide access to trails for people who may have mobility challenges or find traditional bikes too strenuous, allowing them to enjoy nature or to commute.
- E-bikes can enable riders to cover more ground or tackle more difficult routes, extending their range and experience on the trail.

# Accessibility

- However, the speed and size of e-bikes can also create user conflicts with people using mobility devices.
- One option to promote ADA accessibility would be to designate certain trails as walking only, including ADA devices.
  - E-bikes and bicycles would not be allowed on these trails.

# Micromobility

- With the opening of the Sound Transit Light Rail Station expected in 2026, staff anticipate an increased need for connection between Town Center and other parts of the Island.
- E-bikes provide an opportunity to promote micromobility to various groups, as e-bikes are an accessible and often inexpensive alternative to single-occupancy vehicle travel.
- Commuters could utilize the Island's vast trail system to travel to/from Town Center on an e-bike.

# Next Steps

- Staff will develop a policy statement for where e-bikes should be allowed based on the feedback received from this meeting.
- Staff anticipate a second joint meeting between these two bodies to finalize this policy statement and present recommendations for its implementation.
- Finally, staff will use these recommendations to prepare an ordinance establishing regulations for e-bikes for City Council consideration



# Questions?



# Discussion



# Discussion Questions

- Should the City regulate e-bikes differently than regular bikes?
- Are there places where e-bikes should be prohibited?
  - This could include athletic fields, soft surface trails, playgrounds, sport courts, or open space areas.
- Should e-scooters be regulated differently than e-bikes?
- Are there classes of e-bikes that should not be permitted in parks or on trails?
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# Example: – Aubrey Davis Trail

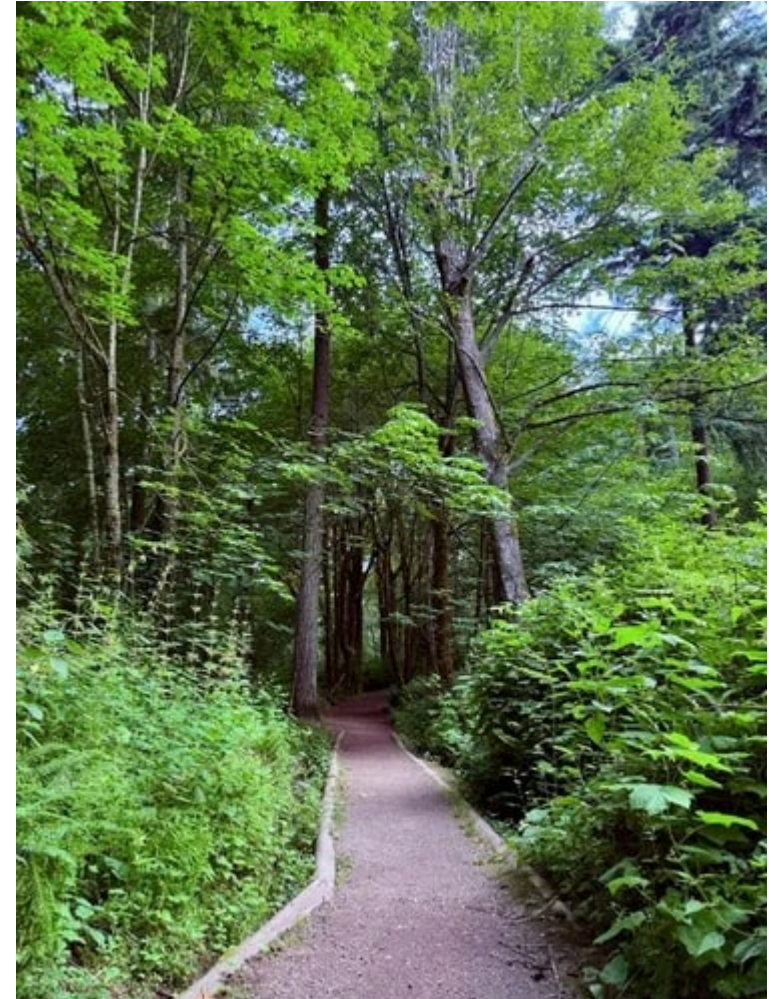
- Aubrey Davis Trail, as part of the I-90 corridor, connects multiple cities.
- Aubrey Davis Park has diverse uses, including athletic fields, playgrounds, picnic shelters, and pedestrian facilities.
- I-90 trail and includes portions of side-walk through Town Center.





# Example – Island Crest Park

- Island Crest Park has primarily soft-surface, narrow trails over varied topography.
- The trails provide a connecting route between Island Crest Way & West Mercer Way.
- Island Crest Park balances many programmed activities with normal park access.





# Example – Luther Burbank Park

- Large regional park- mix of paved and soft surface trails.
- Mix of uses- passive and programmed.
- The park is highly utilized by dog walkers and other pedestrians.
- Tends to see the most crowding in the park system.



# Example – Pioneer Park

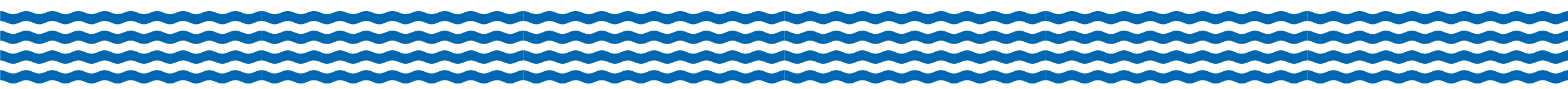
- 6.6 miles of trails, including equestrian trails.
- Motorized vehicles prohibited in the park.
- Pedestrians and bicyclists allowed on all soft-surface trails.



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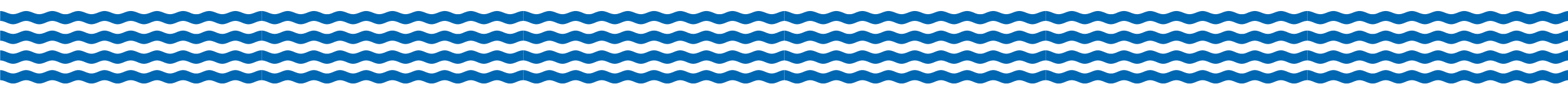
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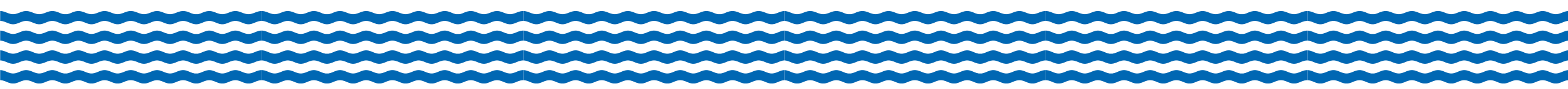
# **Are there places where e-bikes should be prohibited?**

This could include synthetic turf fields, soft surface trails, playgrounds, sport courts, or areas designated as open space.

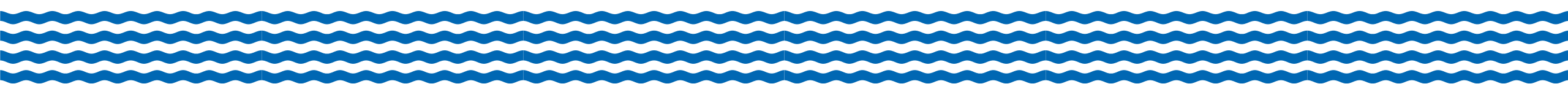




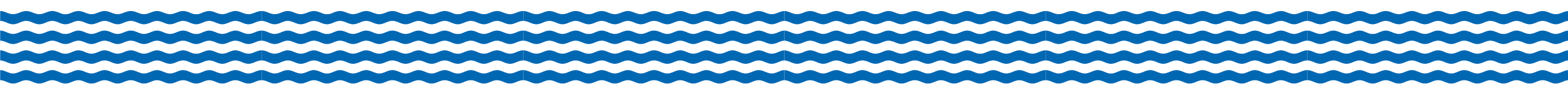
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**Thank you.**

