



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST STAFF REPORT

Item 2
April 16, 2026
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Community Engagement Plan for E-Bike Regulations in Parks & Open Spaces	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive report. No action necessary.	

STAFF:	Amelia Tjaden, Management Analyst Ryan Daly, Recreation & Facilities Director (Interim) Sam Harb, Parks Operation Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Lisa Anderl
EXHIBITS:	1. E-Bike Regulations Community Engagement Plan

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an overview of the community engagement plan for developing e-bike regulations in parks and open spaces.

- Mercer Island has seen an increase in usage of e-bikes, electric scooters (e-scooters), and electric motorcycles/electric dirt bikes (e-motorcycles/e-dirt bikes) over the past two years.
- In November 2025, staff conducted a study session with the Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC) and the Open Space Conservancy Trust (OSCT) to discuss regulations for e-bikes and e-scooters in parks and open spaces on the Island ([PRC 25-17](#)). The PRC and OSCT met again in January 2026 requested more information be provided and that staff engage the community more broadly on potential regulations.
- As such, the City will conduct a comprehensive outreach campaign to engage the community on the development of e-bike regulations. The purpose of this agenda item is to share the community engagement plan for developing e-bike regulations.
- The community engagement plan will include online and in-person engagement opportunities, posts on social media and in the MI Weekly, as well as, engagement through other City-distributed newsletters.

Staff will return in Fall 2026 to present findings from the community engagement efforts and restart the development of e-bike regulations in parks and open spaces.

BACKGROUND

Mercer Island has seen an increase in usage of electric bikes (e-bikes), electric scooters (e-scooters), and electric motorcycles/electric dirt bikes (e-motorcycles/e-dirt bikes) over the past two years. In May 2025, the 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 ([AB 6688](#)). The following actions have been taken thus far:

- In September 2025, the Mercer Island City Council adopted Ordinance No. 25C-24 establishing regulations for e-motorcycles ([AB 6772](#)).
- In 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 on the Island ([PRC 25-17](#)).

In January 2026, staff conducted a study session with the PRC and the OSCT to discuss a proposed policy for e-bike regulations in parks and open spaces. As a result of this meeting, the PRC and the OSCT requested more information be provided and that staff engage the community more broadly on potential regulations.

DISCUSSION

The City will conduct a comprehensive outreach campaign to engage the community on the development of e-bike regulations. The purpose of this agenda item is to share the community engagement plan for developing e-bike regulations.

Exhibit 1 provides an overview of the Community Engagement Plan. In short, the plan includes:

- Let's Talk page with information about the development of e-bike regulations.
- An online survey to collect data on the community's use of the City's park and trail system, the operation of e-bikes, and perceptions of proposed regulations. The questions will largely follow the 2022 statewide survey on [E-Bike Use on DNR- and WDFW-Managed Lands](#).
- In person engagement opportunities at ~5 events, dependent on Commissioner and staff availability.
- Promotion on social media, the MI Weekly, and other City-distributed newsletters.

NEXT STEPS

Following this presentation, staff will create materials for the community engagement campaign. Staff will engage with a subcommittee from the Parks & Recreation Commission to finalize the survey questions. Staff anticipate that the Let's Talk page and survey will go live at the end of April. Staff will then broadcast this information on City social media pages, in the MI Weekly, and in other City-distributed newsletters. Finally, staff, Trustees, and Commissioners will attend in-person events through the spring and summer to engage directly with community members.

Staff will return in Fall 2026 to present findings from the community engagement efforts and restart the development of e-bike regulations in parks and open spaces.