



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: City Council
Meeting Date: July 21, 2025
From: Tiana Rundell, Interim Parks and Recreation Director
Subject: Policy Discussion: Bike Use in City Parks

DECISION TO BE MADE:

Provide direction to staff as to where the use of e-bikes in City parks is allowed and establish rules to be posted regarding their usage.

APPLICABLE COUNCIL GOAL:

- 1.6 – Update Park Rules and City Facility Rules to ensure safe and equitable use for all.
- 5.7 – Work with community service personnel to ensure that parks are patrolled regularly and that park regulations are enforced.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT:

The City Council reviewed Ordinance 2025-15 to amend conduct and exclusion provisions in the Sandy Municipal Code on [April 21, 2025](#) and [June 16, 2025](#). The [ordinance](#) was adopted on June 16, 2025. During these meetings, there was extensive discussion regarding the use of e-bikes in City parks and the enforceability of related rules. The Council ultimately determined that motorized vehicles (i.e. e-bikes and e-scooters) should be prohibited in all parks, except as otherwise expressly allowed in designated areas or by written authorization from the City Manager or designee.

For context, the Jim Slagle Loop Trail and Tickle Creek Trail are designated as multi-use trails. Additionally, Cedar Park features Base Camp, an action sports park designed for bikes, scooters, and skateboards.

Upon further evaluation, staff has identified the need to address not only the use of e-bikes and e-scooters, but also the generally accepted use of bicycles in City parks.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS / ANALYSIS:

Council Comments Heard and Addressed

During the discussions held in April and June of this year, multiple Councilors expressed a preference for regulating behavior, not the classification of devices (types of e-bikes or e-scooters). In response, staff has focused on creating consistent, enforceable guidelines that promote safety and appropriate

use across all City parks, while still allowing for recreational biking and commuter cycling where appropriate.

Potential Solutions

Staff has identified a few possible solutions, with one rising to the forefront for potential implementation:

1. Disallow bikes and scooters in all City parks, with the exception of Cedar Park's Base Camp action sports areas.
2. Allow bikes and scooters in all City parks with no formal regulations.
3. Mimic the State of Oregon's regulations for e-bikes and scooters – generally allowing these devices on bike paths, bike lanes, and roads where traditional bicycles are allowed. E-bikes are not allowed on sidewalks.
4. Develop clear expectations which may vary from park to park, depending on the intended use of each location.

Staff believes that option 4 is the best path forward.

Developing Clear Expectations

Passive vs. Active Use Defined

To better guide implementation and park designations, staff recommends distinguishing between passive and active bicycle use:

Passive Bike Use refers to leisurely riding or using a bicycle as a means of commuting to or from a destination. This includes casual riding on park paths, children learning to ride, or traversing a park to reach another destination.

Active Bike Use refers to more intensive, recreational biking activities such as downhill biking, adventure riding, use of jump lines, pump tracks, and other features designed for sport or skill-based riding.

This distinction helps establish expectations for user behavior and guides where different types of bike use are appropriate based on each park's intended purpose and infrastructure.

Staff Observations and Safety Concerns

City staff has observed an increasing number of unsafe interactions between park users and individual operating bikes, e-bikes, and scooters – especially on narrow paths not designed for multi-use. In Sandy Bluff and Bornstedt Parks, pedestrians have been forced off the trail due to high-speed or inattentive riders. These incidents highlight the need to regulate active use while continuing to support passive bike use in a safe, controlled manner.

Implementation Framework for Option 4

Park Specific Regulations

- All City Parks – Passive bike use will continue to be allowed on trails designed for shared use. Active bike use is reserved for designated areas. Clear signage and consistent trail markings will be used to indicate where bikes are permitted or restricted.

- Sandy River Park – This park will support both passive and active bicycle use in clearly designated areas.
- Cedar Park’s Base Camp Action Sports Park – Active recreational bike use is permitted and encourages within the designated action sports areas, including jump lines, pump tracks, and skill-building features. Passive bike use is also supported along the return trail (multi-use) and on the Goodfellow Way loop to maintain a safe pedestrian environment.

Proposed Safe Use of City Paths and Trails for Bikes, e-Bikes, and Scooters

To promote safe and respectful use of shared trails, staff proposed the following rules be posted as part of the updated signage across City parks:

1. Speed Limit
 - a. Ride at a safe speed. Passive use not to exceed 12 MPH. Active use not to exceed 20 MPH.
 - b. All users must slow down when approaching pedestrians, curves, or congested areas.
2. Yield to Pedestrians
 - a. Bikes, e-bikes, and scooters must yield to pedestrians at all times.
 - b. Announce your presence when passing – use a bell or call out “on your left!”
3. Pass Safely
 - a. Pass only when it is safe and clear to do so.
 - b. Maintain at least 3 feet of distance when passing.
 - c. Pass on the left; never weave through groups.
4. Stay Right, Pass Left
 - a. Keep to the right side of the trail unless passing.
 - b. Pedestrians and slower users should stay right as well.
5. Be Alert and in Control
 - a. Stay aware of your surroundings – no headphones in both ears.
 - b. Always maintain control of your bike, e-bike, or scooter.
6. No Reckless Riding
 - a. Racing and aggressive riding are prohibited in passive use areas.
 - b. Be especially cautious near playgrounds, trailheads, and rest areas.
7. Respect All Users
 - a. Be courteous to all trail users – including dogs, strollers, and children.
 - b. Obey all posted signs and park rules.
8. Park Responsibly
 - a. Do not block trails when stopped. Pull off the trail to rest or regroup.

Staff believes that setting clear expectations and regulating behavior is the best approach in keeping our parks safe and usable for all parkgoers. Incorporating regulations similar to what is described above will allow for safe bike and scooter use, regardless of whether a traditional bike/scooter or electronic variety.

BUDGET IMPACT:

New signage will be needed and the changes will need to be communicated to the public. These nominal expenses can be absorbed within the existing Parks and Recreation budgets.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Council discuss the proposed rules and provide staff direction in the implementation of these rules.