

# Department Policy & Procedure

Subject: <b>Bicycle Use Policy</b>		Number: 7.11.1.2
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Approved: <u>Jesús Aguirre</u> <small>Jesús Aguirre (Aug 24, 2020 09:11 PDT)</small>	Department: <b>Seattle Parks and Recreation</b>	Page 1 of 3

## 1. PREFACE

This policy has been developed because bicycling on park roads, trails, and within park areas has become an extremely popular recreational activity. The increasing use of mountain bicycles and electric-assisted bicycles has created a need to develop management policies to reduce conflicts with other park users and reduce negative impacts on park resources. In addition, sensitive natural areas, such as: Ravenna, Carkeek, Woodland Park, Seward, Schmitz, Washington Park Arboretum, Waterfront Trail, Camp Long, Discovery Park, and Interlaken must be protected.

## 2. PURPOSE

**2.1** To establish a policy for responsible bike use within the Seattle Parks and Recreation system.

## 3. ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED

**3.1** Seattle Parks and Recreation

## 4. REFERENCES

- 4.1** RCW 46.04.169: Electric-assisted bicycle
- 4.2** SMC 18.12.040: Superintendent’s authority – Rulemaking – Enforcement
- 4.3** SMC 11.14.055: Bicycle and Electric-assisted bicycle

## 5. POLICY

- 5.1** Bicycles will be allowed in Seattle parks on roads and paths designed for shared use (60 inches or more in width), or where high use will not adversely impact sensitive environments.
- 5.2** All bicycles are prohibited off roads and paths in environmentally sensitive or natural areas within Seattle parks such as wetlands, streams, meadows, newly forested sites or steep slopes where bicycle use could cause damage to plants, soils, streams or natural elements of the park land.
- 5.3** Bicycle use is prohibited in Camp Long.
- 5.4** Bicycles will be operated at a safe speed, especially when passing other users, and in a responsible manner as determined by Department staff. The code of behavior or conduct contained in this policy is required of all wheeled device operators using Seattle park lands. Travel at speeds in excess of 15 miles per hour, or any lower speed that may be posted, shall constitute in evidence a prima facie presumption that the person

violated this section.

- 5.5** Bicycles are restricted to paved surfaces only at Discovery Park, Schmitz Park, and in the Washington Park Arboretum.
- 5.6** Bicycle use in Ravenna, Carkeek, Seward, Interlaken, Lincoln and Woodland Parks, and in natural areas and greenbelts will be restricted to trails 60 inches wide or greater.
- 5.7** Bicycle riding is restricted from docks, floats and connecting ramps, including the Arboretum Waterfront Trail, because of danger to the bicyclist as well as the general public using those facilities, and deterioration of the waterfront trail surface.
- 5.8** The Superintendent has the discretion to designate specific trails as either limited to pedestrian use only or allowed for pedestrian and bicycle use, regardless of trail width. The Superintendent can only do so after public review by the Board of Park Commissioners.
- 5.9** The Superintendent shall implement this policy in compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), Washington Law Against Discrimination, and related implementing regulations. Accordingly, this policy does not and shall not be interpreted to restrict the use of wheelchairs (electric-assisted or manual), mobility aids, or Other Power Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs) or any other assistive device reasonably necessary to enjoy parks and recreation facilities or to access government programs. The Superintendent may, however, impose reasonable limits on OPDMD use to facilitate safe and healthy use of multi-use trails.
- 5.10** Class 1 and Class 2 electric-assisted bicycles are allowed on park roads to the extent allowed by and under conditions set by SMC 18.12.200 and are allowed on multi-use trails to the extent allowed by and under conditions set by the Seattle Parks and Recreation Multi-Use Trail Policy 7.11.3.
- 5.11** Class 3 electric-assisted bicycles are not allowed on any park trail.

## **6. DEFINITIONS**

- 6.1 Bicycles** means any wheeled, non-motorized device which is operator-propelled and transports the operator on land. Examples include, but are not limited to, bicycles (mountain bicycles), tricycles, quadcycles, and scooters.
- 6.2 "Electric-assisted bicycle"** means a bicycle with two or three wheels, a saddle, fully operative pedals for human propulsion, and an electric motor ([RCW 46.04.169](#)). The electric-assisted bicycle's electric motor must have a power output of no more than seven hundred fifty watts. The electric-assisted bicycle must meet the requirements of one of the following three classifications:
  - (1) "Class 1 electric-assisted bicycle" means an electric-assisted bicycle in which the motor provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty miles per hour; or
  - (2) "Class 2 electric-assisted bicycle" means an electric-assisted bicycle in which the motor may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle and is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty miles per hour; or
  - (3) "Class 3 electric-assisted bicycle" means an electric-assisted bicycle in which the motor provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches

the speed of twenty-eight miles per hour and is equipped with a speedometer.

**6.3 Bicyclist Code of Behavior:** Sections of the National Off-Road Bicycle Association (NORBA) in their "Off-Road Cyclist's Code":

- Always yield the right of way - even if, at times, it seems inconvenient.
- Pass with care - let others know of your presence well in advance.
- Stay on permitted trails - riding cross-country damages the landscape.
- Control your speed - safe speeds are relative to the terrain and your experience as a rider.
- Don't litter - pack out what you pack in.

Other guidelines are:

- Ride within your capabilities. Walk your bike in congested areas.
- Obey bicycle and other regulatory signs.
- Supervise and instruct youngsters in the proper techniques of cycling.

**7. RESPONSIBILITY**

- 7.1** It is the responsibility of all Seattle Parks and Recreation staff to monitor implementation of these policies. Each affected Director may assign staff to inspect impacted parks and recommend appropriate actions to the Superintendent including closure of an area or park.
- 7.2** The Park Resource Managers may have signs made and installed as needed, to control and direct bicycle use in parks.
- 7.3** The Communications Office may inform Department management of complaints received regarding bicycle use on parks.
- 7.4** Prior to closing any new park or trails to bicycle use, the Superintendent will notify the Board of Parks Commissioners which may hold a public hearing prior to the Superintendent taking such action.