



Seattle
Parks & Recreation

Multi-Use Trail Pilot

Overview

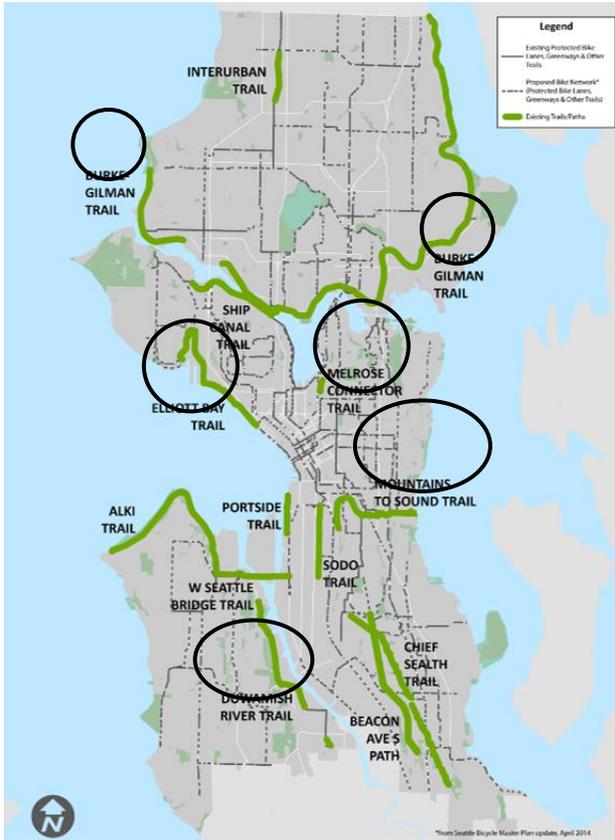


Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) is implementing a phased policy change on how we manage multi-use trails under our jurisdiction. The first phase will include a pilot project that institutes a 15-mph speed limit, allows Class 1 and Class 2 electric-assisted bicycles, and conducts an education and outreach campaign on trail use and etiquette. The pilot project will take place on five multi-use trails (Burke-Gilman Trail, Elliott Bay Trail, Mountains to Sound Trail, Melrose Connector Trail, and Duwamish Trail) starting August 1, 2018 and lasting for one year.

Background



Previously, Seattle's multi-use trails had no speed limit and inconsistent regulations across multiple jurisdictions. SPR received many complaints of speeding cyclists and distracted pedestrians leading to conflicts. Meanwhile, a new state law has classified e-bikes and allows them on multi-use trails. The goal of this policy change is to create a safe, clear, and consistent experience for all users on these shared use paths that aligns with regional and national standards.



Speed Limit



The pilot will, for the first time, place a 15-mile per hour speed limit for all users on these shared-use paths. This aligns with existing speed limits on King County's regional trails and other trail owners in the region. Signs will be placed along these trails to reiterate the new rules and an education campaign will help to amplify this limit.

E-Bikes



Electric-assisted bicycles were recently classified by Washington State and permitted on multi-use trails unless prohibited by local laws. The pilot proposes allowing Class 1 and Class 2 bikes, which stop assisting riders at 20 mph. All other rules and etiquette will apply to these bikes, including the speed limit. No other form of motorized vehicles are permitted as part of this pilot.

Education



The pilot will include signs describing proper trail rules and etiquette, and an outreach and engagement campaign with the Seattle Department of Transportation and community partners. Surveys and observations will be conducted to gather user data and perceptions throughout the pilot.



Submit comments and questions to:

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Seattle.gov/parks/multiuse