



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 also receives many comments related to conflicts of use on these trails. Recently, a new state law classified e-bikes and now allows some of them on multi-use trails, where not otherwise prohibited. The goal of this policy change is to create a safe, clear, and consistent experience for all users on these shared use paths.



Speed Limit



For the first time, the pilot will place a 15-mile per hour speed limit for all users on the five multi-use trails included. This aligns with existing speed limits on King County's regional trails and other trail owners in the region. At all times, people should continue to travel at speeds that are safe for the conditions of the trail.

E-Bikes



Electric-assisted bicycles were recently classified by Washington State and permitted on multi-use trails unless prohibited by local laws. The pilot allows Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes (which stop assisting riders at 20 mph). All rules and apply to these bikes, including the speed limit. No other form of motorized vehicles is permitted as part of this pilot, except ADA-compliant mobility devices, which are currently allowed.

Education



The pilot includes 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/multiusetrail