



Park Ordinance 107 2026 Update for Proposed Amendments

Physical Development Committee

June 16, 2026

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Parks Department

Background and Process



Park Ordinance Updated in 2023

- Modernized
- Emphasized “allowed” vs “unlawful” activities
- Addressed enforcement challenges

3 Years- Recorded Challenges and Areas of Confusion

- Consulted with other agencies
- Discussed with Sherriff’s Office
- Discussed with County Attorney’s Office

Purpose



- Correct and clarify language
- Add detail to select activities
- Make recommended changes to accommodate real life application

Language Clarification



Greenways and Trails

Conservation Areas

Special Use Permits

Commercial Photography

Foraging

State language

Winter Activities

Waterfront Areas

Posting of Additional Rules and Restrictions

Disturbance of Wildlife

- To protect wildlife and their habitat, it shall be unlawful, when in a County Park, for any person to:
 1. Kill, trap, hunt, injure, pursue, feed, or in any manner disturb or cause to be disturbed any animals and/or species of wildlife, except fishing ~~or hunting~~ pursuant to State game and fish laws and Section 6.6 of this Ordinance, or hunting pursuant to State game laws with a permit during a ~~County-sponsored hunt~~ County-authorized hunting event; or

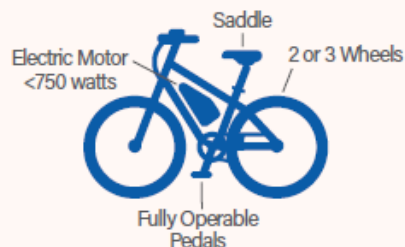
Speed Limit Change

- Metropolitan Council Regional Park and Trails Implementing Agency and County and City Regional Parks and Trails staff developed Speed and E-Bike Regulation Best Practice in 2026.
 - In-lieu of a speed limits, language recommendation is *“must operate all bicycles in a safe manner and cannot operate speeds faster than are reasonably safe with regard to the operator, trail conditions, and other trail users”*
 - *Difficulty of enforcing speed limits and speed limits do not apply well in all areas (dense park vs long linear segments)*
 - *Not all e-bikes, or bikes generally, have speedometers*
 - *Variation of trail types and conditions within the system may dictate different speeds*
 - *Using etiquette requirements instead of a general or blanket trail speed limit*

✓ Met Council Recommendation

An e-bike is a bicycle with two or three wheels, a saddle, and fully operable human-propelled pedals. E-bikes are defined by class (1, 2, and 3) and have an electric motor less than 750 watts.

[\(Minnesota Statutes 169.011 Definitions, Subdivision 27\)](#)



| | Class 1/2/3 E-Bike | E-Moto |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Operable Pedals | Required | Not required (often fake) |
| Motor Power | 750W | Often 1,000W-6,000W+ |
| Top Speed | 20-28 mph | 30-65+ mph |
| Throttle | Class 2 only (20 mph) | Usually throttle-only |
| Licensing/Registration | No | Required (in most states) |

Speed Limit Change



- Current State of MN law is 28 mph for e-bikes, 20 for e-motos
- Current Dakota County ordinance requires a maximum speed of 15 mph.
- Sherriff's Office recommendation is to remove speed limit from Dakota County Park Ordinance 107 and rely on State and Local laws
- Proposed amendment states it shall be unlawful to "Operate a bicycle carelessly or heedlessly in disregard of the rights of others, including at a speed faster than is reasonably safe or in any manner that endangers or is likely to endanger any property or any person, including the any park visitor, park employee, or the rider."
- Ordinance also states that is shall be unlawful to "Operate a bicycle in violation of Minn. Stat. ch. 169"

Electric Powered Devices (EPDs)



Electric Powered Devices (EPDs) are allowed in ~~Dakota County Parks~~ on Dakota County Park Greenways if they are operated in a safe manner in accordance with any State or Local laws. EPDs are not allowed on trails inside a County Park, with the exception of ~~Additionally, all ADA-approved mobility devices. can be used throughout the Dakota County Park system as needed.~~

~~Beyond ADA-approved mobility devices, the~~ The following EPDs are allowed on ~~all paved surfaces~~ greenways:

- ADA-approved electric mobility devices
- E-bikes (electric-assist/pedal-assist)
- Free-standing electric devices such as Segways, hover boards, stand-up scooters, skateboards, longboards
- Kid-Powered powered electric rRide-ons
- Electric Scooters scooters

Electric Powered Devices (EPDs)



All accepted devices must:

1. Be powered by electricity/battery;
2. Not be operated carelessly or heedlessly in disregard of the rights of others, including at a speed faster than is reasonably safe or in any manner that endangers or is likely to endanger any property or any person, including any park visitor, park employee, or the rider. Be operated in a safe manner, not exceeding speeds above 15 mph;
3. Not be operated in violation of Minn. Stat. ch. 169
4. Yield to non-motorized vehicles and devices; and
5. Yield to pedestrians and slower users; and
6. Always pass other users on the left, with an audible signal in advance of passing.

Class 1 electric mountain bikes are allowed on designated mountain biking trails.

Motorized Recreational Vehicles



Motorized vehicles and uses not allowed on County Park Greenways and trails

- Golf carts/Go karts
- Motorized bicycles (e-motos)
- Motorized scooters with dual motors, gas motors, or wattage exceeding state law.
- Motorized vehicles, such as all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, or off-highway vehicles, except when specifically permitted.
- Any vehicle that is larger than half the width of the trail
- Modified e-bikes, such as a change to electric motor or the electric drive system, or the use of an application to increase or override the electric drive system, or through any other means that makes the device no longer meet the requirements or classification of an e-bike.

Lakeville Example



RIDE SMART, RIDE SAFE

| MINNESOTA STATUTES | ELECTRIC ASSISTED BIKE | MOTORIZED BICYCLE | ELECTRIC SCOOTER | OFF-HIGHWAY MOTORCYCLE |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| HOW FAST CAN I GO ON TRAILS? | 15 mph MAX Unless Posted | 15 mph MAX Unless Posted | 15 mph MAX Unless Posted | X |
| DO I NEED A DRIVER'S LICENSE? | NO | YES- Or Permit | NO | YES |
| WHAT IS THE AGE TO OPERATE? | 15 | 16 | 12 | 16 |
| DO I NEED TO WEAR A HELMET? | Recommended | REQ - If Under 18 | REQ - If Under 18 | REQ - If Under 18 |
| CAN I HAVE A PASSENGER? | Not Unless It's Meant to Carry | NO | NO | NO |
| DO I NEED A LICENSE PLATE? | NO | NO | NO | YES |
| CAN I RIDE ON THE TRAILS? | YES | NO | YES | NO |
| CAN I RIDE IN VEHICLE LANES? | YES, Only Far Right | YES, Only Far Right | YES, Only Far Right | NO |
| CAN I RIDE ON SIDEWALKS? | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| ARE THERE ENGINE RESTRICTIONS? | Power Output of <750 Watts | Power Output of <1500 Watts | Power Output of <750 Watts | Power Output of <1500 Watts |
| DO I NEED LIGHTS ON FRONT & BACK? | Yes, a WHITE light in front & a RED light in rear are required and need to be visibly ON when riding during sunset to sunrise. | | | |

Next Steps



- Discussion and Direction: June 16, 2026
- Schedule Public Hearing: July 7, 2026
- Public Hearing and Adoption: August 4, 2026

QUESTIONS?