

# MTC E-bikes and Other Powered Devices Policy

(revised September 2021)

## Statement of Purpose

The Montour Trail is a multipurpose recreational non-motorized trail. Vehicles with internal-combustion engines are strictly prohibited. This policy details permissible modes of transport devices, such as electric-powered devices, and their acceptable operation on the Trail. It also relates which assistive devices can be used by people who have disabilities and/or special needs.

MTC's E-bikes and Other Powered Devices Policy is guided by the tenet that all users should be able to have a safe and quality experience, no matter their limitations.

## Section A: Gasoline-Powered Vehicles

Internal-combustion engine-powered forms of transportation (including ATVs, UTVs, motorized dirt bikes, motorcycles, snow mobiles and mobility-assist devices) are not allowed, with the following exceptions:

- Maintenance and other specific vehicles designated by Montour Trail Council
- Emergency and police vehicles

## Section B: Devices for Mobility-Impaired Users

Wheelchairs as defined by DOJ regulations are always allowed, whether powered or manual, except for gasoline-powered mobility devices.

Electric and battery-powered mobility devices are allowed if they:

- Are less than 36 inches wide
- Are restricted to traveling less than 15 mph under their own power on a level surface
- Are operated at a speed safe for conditions\*
- Have a power rating less than 750 watts
- Weigh under 100 pounds
- Meet the DOJ definition of "wheelchair"

## Section C: Devices for the General Public

Some electric-powered forms of transportation are allowed to operate on the Montour Trail.

- Electric-powered bicycles and tricycles (e-bikes\*\*) that meet specific requirements:
  - Must have pedals and be operated only in pedal-assist mode
  - 750 watts of power or less
  - Maximum weight 100 pounds
  - Not wider than 36 inches
  - Operated at a speed safe for conditions but no faster than the 15-mph speed limit\*

If **electric powered**, these specific devices are prohibited on the Trail:

- Unicycles
- Quadracycles

- Scooters
- Skateboards
- Hoverboards/single-wheel boards/one wheels
- Segways
- Golf carts
- Motorcycles/mopeds

### **Definitions**

\* **Speed safe for conditions** relates to varying user circumstances (other nearby trail users, special events, congested trail sections, faster/slower users, dogs on leashes, etc.) as well as to trail hazards (loose gravel, limited sight line, heavy rain/snow/ice, steep drop-off). Riding too fast for conditions is a top contributor to accidents, especially on a multi-use trail such as the Montour.

\*\***Bicycles with an electric assist system** are considered to be any unicycle, bicycle, tricycle, or quadracycle with an electric motor not exceeding 750 watts of power, a maximum weight of 100 pounds, pedal-assist, and top-speed utilized not in excess of 15 miles per hour, or less if otherwise noted.

This definition is in compliance with the Consumer Product Safety Commission Public Law 107–319, 116 Stat., Act 2776 and the Federal Highway Administration Title 23, United States Code 217.  
Consumer Product Safety Commission 16 CFR Part 1512

Summary of Public Law 107-319, 116 Stat. Act 2776:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/BUSINFO/frnotices/fr03/low.pdf>

Federal Highway Administration Title 23, United States Code 217:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/sec217.htm>