

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>