

MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Policy and Procedure

Subject: Bicycling	Effective Date: 9/27/93	Approval: Res. No. 142-93
	Revised Date: 3/24/97	Approval: Res. No. 94-97
	Revised Date: 01/24/22	Approval: Res. No. 18-22
	Revised Date:	Approval:

Purpose:

Whereas bicyclists are a recognized user group of the County park trails, this policy will provide guidelines under which access to trails will be designed to protect the interests of all park patrons who wish to utilize the trails systems within the Morris County Park System and its valuable land resources.

This policy applies to all forms of bicycling on all types of trail terrain (e.g. paved, dirt, stone, etc.). All park patrons must abide by Morris County Park Commission Rules and Regulations.

Definitions:

- **Low-speed electric bicycle:** two or three wheeled vehicle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts that meets the requirements of one of the following classifications:
 - **Class 1 e-bike:** Low-speed electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches 20 miles per hour.
 - **Class 2 e-bike:** Low-speed electric bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- **Motorized bicycle:** a pedal bicycle having a helper motor characterized in that either the maximum piston displacement is less than 50 cc. or said motor is rated at no more than 1.5 brake horsepower or is powered by an electric drive motor and said bicycle is capable of a maximum speed of no more than 25 miles per hour on a flat surface or a pedal bicycle having an electric motor that is capable of propelling the bicycle in excess of 20 miles per hour with a maximum motor-powered speed of no more than 28 miles per hour on a flat surface.

Policy:

- A. Bicycling is permitted on internal park roadways for the purposes of accessing facilities, and designated bike and multi-use trails.
 1. Trail use designations are indicated on individual Park Commission trail maps. Bicycling is restricted to trails for which it is a permitted use.
 2. Cyclists may ride on established trails ONLY. Off-trail bicycling and the creation of new trails is strictly prohibited.
 3. The use of bicycles is prohibited on all trails and walkways at the following facilities:
 - a. Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center
 - b. Cooper Gristmill
 - c. Elizabeth D. Kay Environmental Center
 - d. Fosterfields Living Historical Farm
 - e. The Frelinghuysen Arboretum
 - f. Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center
 - g. Hedden County Park
 - h. Historic Speedwell
 - i. Mount Hope Historical County Park
 - j. Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area
 - k. Willowwood Arboretum
 4. The Park Commission reserves the right to restrict trail use or close trails in the interest of public safety or resource management.
 5. Low-speed electric bicycles (Classes 1 and 2) are permitted in park areas and on trails where regular bicycles are permitted.
 6. Motorized bicycles are only permitted for use to access Park Commission facilities but not on trails and walkways.
- B. Cyclists are required to obtain a permit through the Park Commission's Recreation & Visitor Services Division under the following scenarios:
 1. Any organized bicycling event including competitive events, races, demonstrations, charity rides, training classes and clinics.
 2. Group rides of 25 bikers or more.
 3. Night-riding activities.
- C. All cyclists are required to abide by all State rules and regulations pertaining to the use of bicycles including:

1. New Jersey helmet laws.
 2. Bicycle must be equipped with a bell or other audible device that can be heard at least 100 feet away.
 3. Adherence to all state and local automobile driving laws.
- D. All cyclists should implement the following best riding practices to ensure a positive experience for all park users:
1. Maintaining control of the bicycle at all times.
 2. Using safe speeds. Speed should be gauged according to trail conditions and presence of other trail users. Riders should always approach blind spots and sharp curves with caution.
 3. Giving other patrons space and avoiding unpredictable movements.
 4. Yielding the trail to ALL other users (hikers, joggers, equestrians, skaters, etc.). When passing patrons on horseback, giving special attention to the directions given by the equestrian.
 5. Yielding to climbing riders when riding downhill.
 6. Observing and obeying dismount zones.
 7. Always staying to the right of a trail in single file and passing to the left.
 8. Letting park patrons know they are being passed by use of audible signal device.
- E. All cyclists should implement the following best riding practices to ensure protection of trails and park natural resources:
1. Never riding on trails the Park Commission has marked as closed.
 2. Never chasing or harassing wildlife.
 3. Avoiding riding when trails are saturated or muddy.
 4. Practicing leave no trace principles.