

Excerpt from Chapter 73 – Recreations Vehicles/Use of Trails – Amendment to be considered at the October 8, 2024 Council Meeting.

USE OF TRAILS

§ 73.15 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this subchapter, the following definitions apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

BICYCLE. Any land-based vehicle powered by human muscle.

E-BIKES.

Class 1 E-Bike: The class 1 e-bike is a pedal-assisted bike. The bike's motor will support you till 20 mph. Then, the motor will automatically cut its power. A pedal-assisted e-bike means you have to pedal your bike to activate the motor. The throttle won't work separately.

Class 2 E-Bike: A class 2 e-bike is a throttle-assisted bike. But, the throttle will support only 20 mph top speed. A class 2 e-bike has a separate throttle control. So, you don't have to pedal your bike to activate the motor. Just twist the throttle and your e-bike will run fully on the motor.

Class 3 E-Bike: Class 3 e-bikes can be called really speedy. These bikes can reach 28 mph speed. But, it's a pedal-assisted bike. Therefore, to activate the throttle, you have to pedal your bike.

HORSEBACK RIDING. Includes all modes of human travel produced in part by non-human muscle.

MOTOR VEHICLE. Any self-propelled or gas powered vehicle and any vehicle propelled or drawn by a self-propelled vehicle including, but not limited to, automobiles, trucks, dune buggies, mini bikes, motorcycles, golf carts, mopeds, motor scooters, motorized bicycles, and ATVs.

PERSON. Any individual, partnership, corporation, or association.

SNOWMOBILE. Any self-propelled vehicle designed for travel on snow or ice and steered by skis or runners.

TRAILS. All of the land contained within the area, designated by the city as part of its recreational trail system.

§ 73.16 TRAIL USES.

(A) Generally. Subject to limitations imposed herein, unless otherwise specifically provided, the trails of the city are intended to be used for hiking, bicycling, rollerblading,

skateboarding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, e-bikes and electric scooters and generally all forms of non-motorized recreation.

(B) Motor vehicles. No motor vehicles shall be operated upon the trails unless otherwise excluded in § 73.18.

(C) Horseback riding. Horseback riding is not permitted on the trails.

(D) Snowmobiles. No snowmobiles shall be operated upon the trails.

(E) Traffic control.

(1) Trail signs shall be obeyed.

(2) Trail users must stay on the right half of the trail when meeting another trail user.

(3) When passing or overtaking another trail user, passing shall occur on the left and only when such left half is clearly visible and free from oncoming traffic for sufficient distance ahead to permit such overtaking and passing to be completed without interfering with the safety of any trail user approaching from the opposite direction or any trail user being overtaken.

(4) Any trail user who is about to enter or cross a trail shall yield to the right-of-way of any trail user already on the trail to be entered or crossed.

(F) Temporary closing. Temporary closings for aircraft crossing where permitted by City Council by use of gates and stop signs.

(G) Speed Limits. Speeds shall be limited to 15 miles per hour on the Glendalough Trail where the trail starts at the school until the trail meets North Shore Drive. The balance of the trail along North Shore Drive until it meets County Road 16 shall be limited to 20 miles per hour.

Penalty, see § 70.99

§ 73.17 REGULATION OF OPERATING OF BICYCLES, E-BIKES & SCOOTERS ON TRAILS.

(A) Manner and number riding. No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped, except:

(1) On a baby seat attached to the bicycle, provided that the baby seat is equipped with a harness to hold the child securely in the seat and that protection is provided against the child's feet hitting the spokes of the wheel; or

(2) In a seat attached to the bicycle operator.

(B) Carrying articles. No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle, or article which prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand upon the handle bars or from properly operating the brakes of the bicycle.

(C) Bicycle equipment.

(1) No person shall operate a bicycle at nighttime unless the bicycle or its operator is equipped with a lamp which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a red reflector of a type approved by the Department of Public Safety which is visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle. No person may operate a bicycle at any time when there is not sufficient light to render persons and vehicles on the trail clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet ahead unless the bicycle or its operator is equipped with reflective surfaces that shall be visible during the hours of darkness from 600 feet when viewed in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle. The reflective surfaces shall include reflective materials on each side of each pedal to indicate their presence from the front or the rear and with a minimum of 20 square inches of reflective material on each side of the bicycle or its operator. Any bicycle equipped with side reflectors as required by regulations for new bicycles prescribed by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission shall be considered to meet the requirements for side reflectorization contained in this division (C). A bicycle may be equipped with a rear lamp that emits a red flashing signal.

(2) No person shall operate a bicycle unless it is equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

(3) No person shall operate upon a trail any bicycle equipped with handlebars so raised that the operator must elevate the hands above the level of the shoulders in order to grasp the normal steering grip area.

(4) No person shall operate upon a trail any bicycle which is of such a size as to prevent the operator from stopping the bicycle, supporting it with at least one foot on the trail surface, and restarting in a safe manner.

(5) Electric foot scooters are allowed on the same trails as bicycles, and operators have the same rights and responsibilities as the operator of a bicycle, according to state law. The following Minnesota laws are specific to motorized foot scooters:

- An electric foot scooter may not carry any additional passengers besides the operator.
- No one under age 12 may operate a motorized foot scooter.
- People under 18 who are using an electric foot scooter must wear a helmet.
- Foot scooters with gasoline or other liquid fuel-propelled motors are prohibited.

(D) Turning, lane change. An arm signal to turn right or left shall be given continuously during the last 100 feet traveled by the bicycle before turning, unless the arm is needed to control the bicycle, and shall be given while the bicycle is stopped waiting to turn.

(E) Bicycle parking. A bicycle parked on a trail shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of pedestrians or other traffic.

(F) Peace officer operating bicycle. The provisions of this section governing the operation of bicycles do not apply to bicycles operated by peace officers while performing their duties.

Penalty, see § 70.99

§ 73.18 EXCEPTIONS TO MOTOR VEHICLE EXCLUSION.

The following motor vehicles are exempt from the general prohibition contained in § 73.16:

(A) Military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicles used for official or emergency purposes;

(B) Vehicles authorized by permit, lease, or contract;

(C) Vehicles owned by private persons engaged in the upkeep and maintenance of the trail systems under the direction of the local unit of government that manages the trail;

(D) Vehicles registered to or operated with the permission of a land owner on whose lands the trail system has been constructed, but only with respect to operation on the land of that owner;

(E) Segways, hoverboards and other self-balancing devices are defined in Minnesota law as “electric personal assistive mobility devices.” They are allowed on paved trails, or wherever pedestrians are allowed. They must be operated at a speed that is reasonable and prudent under the conditions;

(F) Electric wheelchairs or other electric devices operated by an individual who is physically disabled; and

(G) Temporary closing for aircraft crossing where permitted by City Council by use of gates and stop signs.