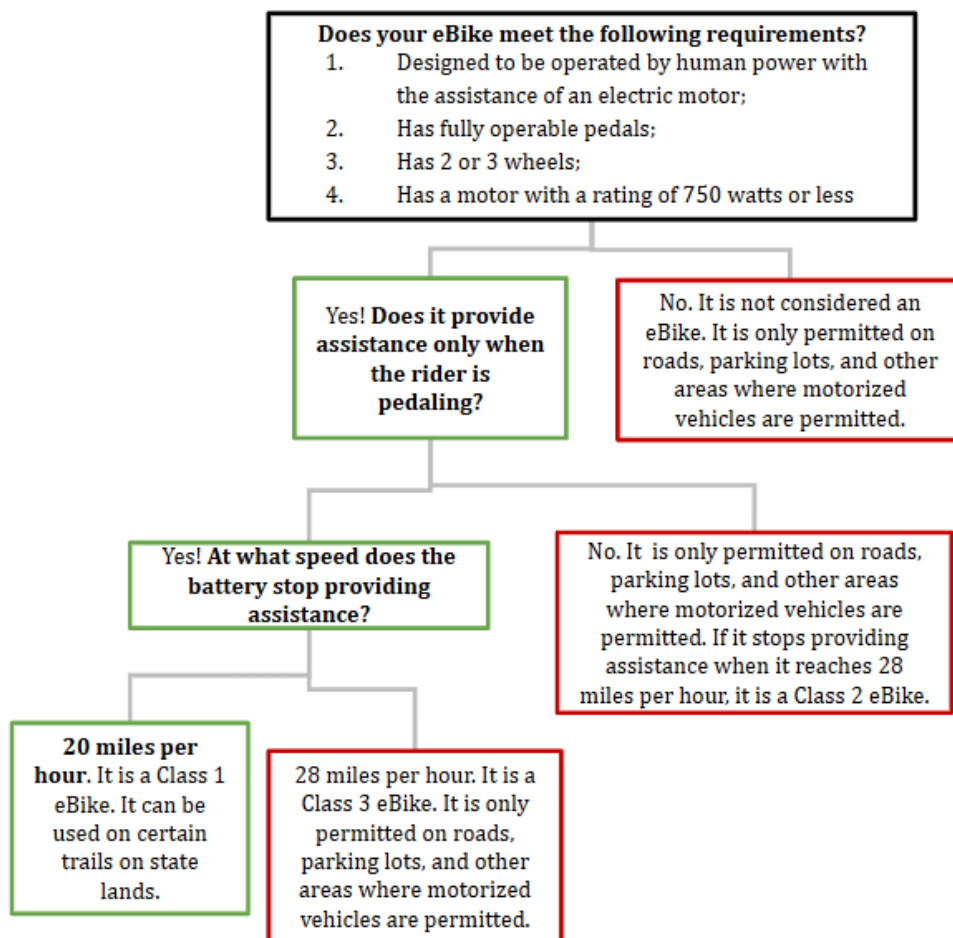


## eBike FAQ Document

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The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is opening some trails on state lands to Class 1 electric bicycles (sometimes called eBikes or eBicycles). Learn more about the new regulation, trail etiquette, and what to expect when hitting the trail in this document. Please [reach out to the Office of Outdoor Recreation](#) with any questions. We hope to see you outdoors soon!

### Can I ride my eBike on state lands?



### **What is a Class 1 eBike?**

Class 1 eBikes are the only kinds of eBikes permitted on some natural surface trails on state lands. Class 1 is a type of electric bicycle (also called eBikes or eBicycles) included in the definition from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). MDOT defines eBikes as vehicles that meet all of the following requirements:

1. Designed to be operated by human power with the assistance of an electric motor;
2. Has fully operable pedals;
3. Has 2 or 3 wheels;
4. Has a motor with a rating of 750 watts or less;
5. Fits into one of the following categories:
  - **Class 1: Provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and stops providing assistance when it reaches 20 miles per hour.**
  - Class 2: Provides assistance with a throttle and stops providing assistance when it reaches 20 miles per hour.
  - Class 3: Provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and stops providing assistance when it reaches 28 miles per hour.

### **What does this regulation change?**

Before this regulation, Class 1 eBikes were only permitted on the [Torey C. Brown Rail Trail](#), the [Western Maryland Rail Trail](#), public roads, and parking lots on DNR lands. This regulation expands where Class 1 eBikes are permitted to include select other natural surface trails.

### **What lands are covered by this regulation?**

This regulation covers lands managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, including:

- [State Forests managed by the Maryland State Forest Service](#)
- [State Parks, Natural Resource Management Areas, and other lands managed by the Maryland State Park Service](#)
- [Wildlife Management Areas managed by the Wildlife and Heritage Service](#)



*Natural surface trail at Patapsco Valley State Park, Hilton Area, by Karin Dodge.*

### **Where can I ride a Class 1 eBike on DNR lands?**

Any place you cannot ride an eBike will be designated by a post either at a trailhead, as notice on a bulletin board, and/or on the Department's website. Contact the land manager with questions about where eBikes are allowed.

*Please note that posted speed limits will be in effect.*

### **Are there places where I can ride a bike, but not an eBike?**

Yes! On trails where you can ride a bike but not an eBike, that information will be posted on the trailhead, on the bulletin board, and/or on the Department's website. Contact the land manager with questions about where eBikes are allowed.

### **Why are Bikes and eBikes not allowed on some trails?**

Bikes and eBikes will not be allowed on some trails to ensure the safety of the rider, other trail users, and the surrounding environment. Specifically, bikes and eBikes may not be allowed on trails based on the following criteria:

- If the trail is created for a specific user group (such as a hiker-only trail).
- If the trail does not have the appropriate infrastructure (such as stairs on the trail pictured below).
- If the trail surface is unsuitable for bikes or eBikes.
- If there are safety concerns (such as blind curves or steep drop-offs).
- If habitat protection is necessary.



*Trail at Patapsco Valley State Park, McKeldin Area*

**Are there speed limits for the eBikes?**

Yes. Speed limits for bicycles and eBikes will be posted either at a trailhead, as notice on a bulletin board, and/or on the Department's website. Existing speed limits, such as those at various state parks, will remain in effect. Contact the land manager with questions about speed limits for eBikes.



*Rider on eBike.*

### What trail courtesy should I follow?

Be a considerate rider! Your behavior on the trail sets the tone for the experience of all trail enthusiasts - keep the trail a kind, friendly, and respectful environment. Here are a few key reminders:

- **Do** pay attention to the rights and safety of those around you.
- **Do** follow posted speed limits.
- **Do** protect the wildlife, plants, and property around you by staying on the trail and not riding in poor conditions that may damage the trail.
- **Do** wear a helmet and be courteous when passing others.
- **Do** listen for other trail users and wildlife - be alert! Leave the earbuds/headphones at home.
- **Do** follow the right of way:



- **Do not** operate a bicycle or eBike recklessly or carelessly.
- **Do not** ride in prohibited areas.

### What is an adaptive ebike?

An adaptive bike is a bicycle with a specially made mobility device for individuals with physical disabilities or mobility challenges. It can be customized with hand cycles, three wheels, adaptive seating, and more. Adaptive eBikes are permitted on any state lands and trails where Class 1 eBikes are permitted.



*Riders on adaptive eBikes*