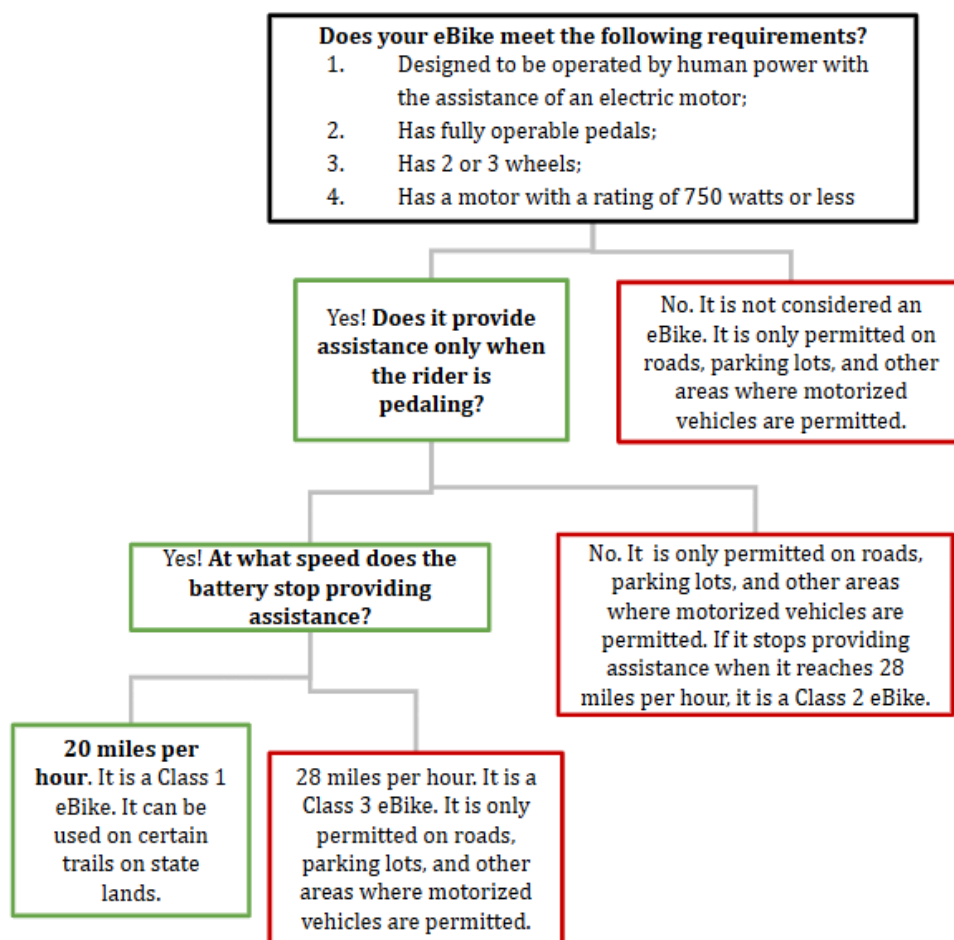


Bike and E-bike Regulation FAQ Sheet

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The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is opening some trails on state lands to Class 1 electric bicycles (sometimes called e-bikes or e-bicycles). 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 e-bike on state lands?



What is a Class 1 e-bike?

Class 1 e-bikes are the only kinds of e-bikes permitted on some natural surface trails on state lands. Class 1 is a type of electric bicycle (also called e-bikes or e-bicycles) included in the definition from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). MDOT defines e-bikes 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 two or three 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 e-bikes 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 e-bikes 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 e-bike on DNR lands?

Any place where you cannot ride an e-bike 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 e-bikes are allowed.

Please note that posted speed limits will be in effect.

Are there places where I can ride a bike, but not an e-bike?

Yes! On trails where you can ride a bike but not an e-bike, 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 e-bikes are allowed.

Why are Bikes and e-bikes not allowed on some trails?

Bikes and e-bikes will not be allowed on some trails to ensure the safety of the rider, other trail users, and the surrounding environment. Specifically, bikes and e-bikes 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 e-bikes.
- 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 e-bikes?

Yes. Speed limits for bicycles and e-bikes 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 e-bikes.



Rider on e-bike.

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 e-bike recklessly or carelessly.
- **Do not** ride in prohibited areas.

What is an adaptive e-bike?

An adaptive bike is a mobility device for individuals with physical disabilities or mobility challenges. It can be customized with hand cycles, three wheels, adaptive seating, and more.

Adaptive e-bikes are permitted on any state lands and trails where Class 1 e-bikes are permitted.



Riders on adaptive e-bikes