

Electric Bicycles (E-Bikes)



**Draft
Recommendation**

April 13, 2017

Current City of Durango Regulations on Electric Bicycles

In April 2016 the City of Durango Code of Ordinances was revised to clarify the language on electric bicycles and other motorized vehicles within City open space, parks and trails systems. The adopted ordinance prohibits the following conditions:

Sec. 18-34(j) To drive or park any motorized vehicle on any park, playground, trail, recreational facility or city owned open space except in an area established and maintained as a public street, driveway or public parking area. The exception would include the authorized use of maintenance and/or emergency response vehicles as well as disabled individuals requiring motorized use for access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. As used in this section the term "motorized vehicle" shall include motorcycles, motor-driven cycles, motor vehicles, motorscooters, motorbicycles, motorized bicycles, neighborhood electric vehicles and electric bicycles as defined in the Model Traffic Code.

Advisory Board Review

In response to citizen inquiries regarding the prohibited use of electric bicycles (E-Bikes) on City trails, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Natural Lands Preservation Advisory Board, and the Multi-Modal Advisory Board held a joint Board meeting on September 19, 2016 to present information regarding E-Bikes and hear public testimony. Information on E-Bikes is also posted on the City of Durango website at www.durangogov.org/electricbikes

Following the September 2016 meeting, the Advisory Boards established an E-Bike Subcommittee comprised of the following representatives:

- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Anthony Savastano and Christoph Cikraji
- Natural Lands Preservation Advisory Board: Mark Smith and Michael Burke
- Multi-Modal Advisory Board: Kim Baxter and Spencer Compton

The E-Bike Subcommittee met on the following dates to discuss potential policies related to the use of E-Bikes on City trails:

- November 2, 2016
- December 5, 2016
- January 25, 2017
- February 21, 2017

Policy considerations pertaining to E-Bikes were also discussed during this time frame with each Advisory Board at their regular Board meetings in November, December, January, February and March.

City Trail Rules and Etiquette

To accommodate the increasing use of City trails, the Advisory Boards recommended expanding upon the Share the Trail philosophy to provide clear guidelines for the use of City trails to enhance the enjoyable experience of all trail users without adversely impacting the use of others. The Advisory Boards are aware of the need to maintain or improve upon the current level of safety and quality of recreational experience for all trail users to ensure Durango remains a trail friendly town.

Please respect other trail users and adhere to the following local trail expectations:

- **Be Courteous.** All trail users should be respectful and aware of other users regardless of their mode, speed, or level of skill. Dogs must be on a leash. Keep trails clean and safe by disposing of trash and animal waste.
- **Be predictable.** Travel in a consistent and predictable manner. Keep right and pass on left. Always look behind before changing positions on the trail.
- **Yield to other trail users.** Yield to slower and on-coming traffic. Bicyclists yield to pedestrians; and bicyclist headed downhill yield to bicyclist headed uphill. Yielding the right-of-way requires slowing down to a safe speed, being prepared to stop, establishing communication and passing safely. When merging onto a multi-use hard surface trail, yield to other users on the primary trail corridor.
- **Be observable.** Provide an easy to hear warning before passing. Give a clear signal using voice (state “On your left”), bell or horn before passing. Wear lights and reflective clothing at night. Wear only one ear bud if listening to devices.
- **Don’t block the trail.** When in a group or with your pets, move off the trail to avoid blocking the flow of other users. When stopping, trail users should move off the trail.
- **Control your speed.** Slow down and use caution when approaching other trail users and blind turns. Obey the posted speed limit on City trails ranging from 10 – 15 mph.

Trail etiquette for natural surface trails:

- **Respect the trail.** Stay on designated trails. Stay off natural surface trails that are wet or muddy. Avoid creating braided or social trails.
- **Yield to Horses.** All trail users yield to equestrians.

Trail rules and etiquette are publicized on the City of Durango website, tri-fold brochures distributed to a variety of locations including the Welcome Center, and the Durango Park and Recreation Activities Guide. City Park Rangers routinely educate trail users and the Police Department provides law enforcement.

The Animas River Trail (ART) is the most highly utilized trail in the City trail system. The City of Durango will continue to encourage public engagement regarding the management of the trail system and promote the satisfaction of trail users. Appropriate and feasible infrastructure changes will be implemented to ensure the standards for development of the Animas River Trail

are consistent with the goals of the adopted Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Master Plan.

Due to heavy and increasing utilization on the Animas River Trail, additional cautionary signage and trail markings will be installed in 2017. A posted speed limit of 10 mph will be in effect on the Animas River Trail from Memorial Park south to Cundiff Park and as the trail continues south the posted speed limit will be 15 mph to the terminus at Dallabetta Park. Future extensions of the Animas River Trail will be evaluated to determine the appropriate speed limit to be posted.

E-Bike Policy Recommendations

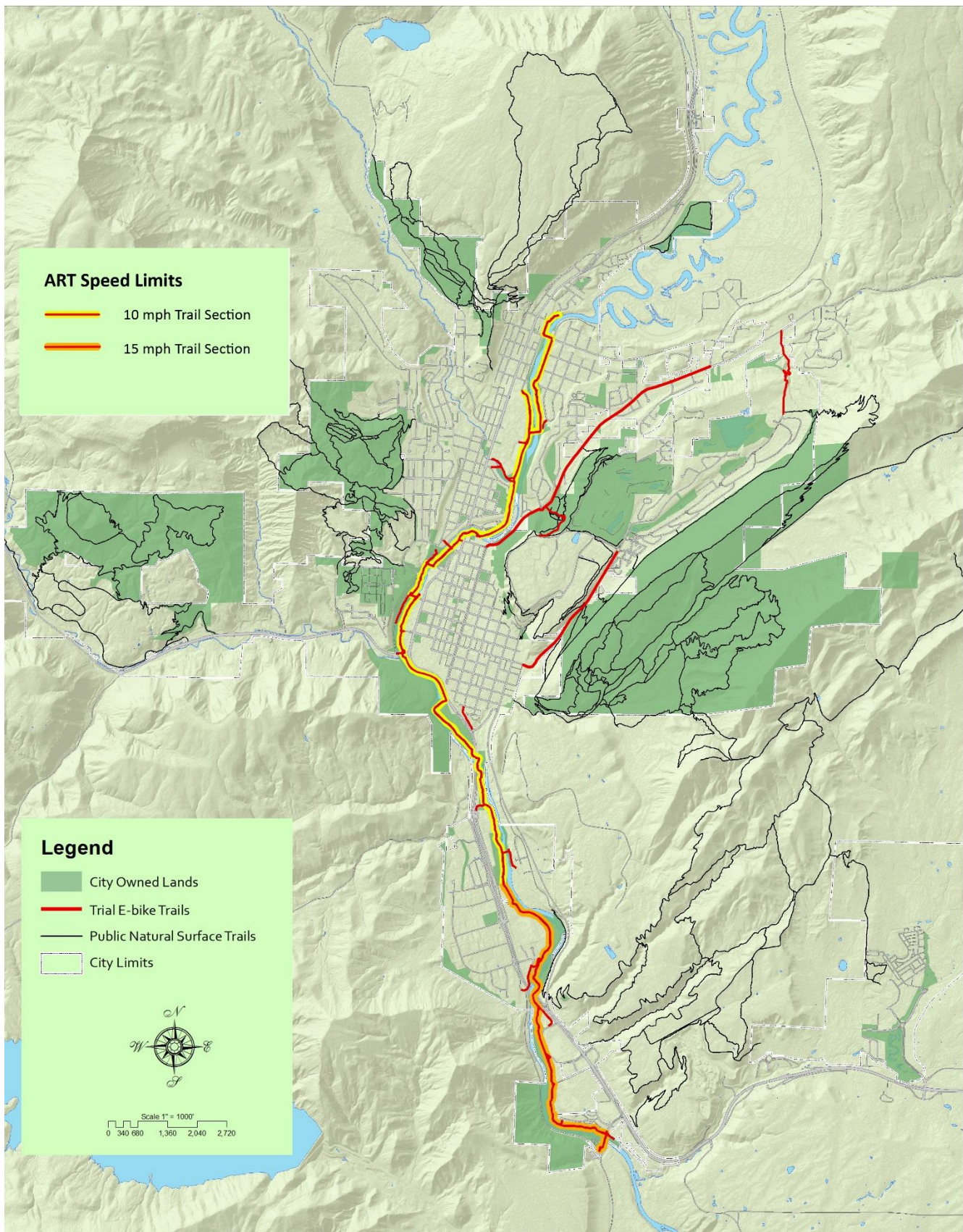
The Advisory Boards recognize the emerging use of E-Bikes and the importance of accessible trails. To evaluate the impacts of allowing E-Bikes on City Trails, a trial period of one year is recommended with the following guidelines:

- Only human powered recreational vehicles are allowed on City trails, with the exception of devices approved for people with disabilities;
- Pedal Assist Class I and Class II E-Bikes are only permitted on designated City trails;
- A Class I electric bicycle or low-speed pedal-assist electric bicycle is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour;
- A Class II electric bicycle or low-speed pedal/throttle-assist electric bicycle is a bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour. Exclusive use of the throttle to propel a Class II electric bicycle is not permitted on City trails;
- Designated multi-use hard surface trails are limited to the Animas River Trail including adjacent spur connections, Florida Road Trail and Goeglein Gulch Road Trail;
- Electric bicycles are not permitted on natural surface trails in City open space areas protected by conservation easements and in areas where there are reasonable alternative routes on City streets and hard surface trails; and
- Natural surface commuter connectors are limited to the snowcat connector on Chapman Hill linking Florida Road to Fort Lewis College, and the connector linking Jenkins Ranch Road to Ball Lane and Florida Road.

During the trial period, City residents are encouraged to contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (970) 375-7321 or by email at rec@durangogov.org to provide information regarding the use of E-Bikes on designated City trails. Written comments will be posted on the City of Durango website.

At the completion of the trial period, the Advisory Boards will convene to evaluate the E-Bike trial program to formulate a recommendation to the Durango City Council regarding the continuation of the program.

See map below to illustrate the trial E-Bike trails, which are highlighted in red.



Trial E-Bike Trails