

# Biking in Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests:

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

*Biking is an activity for everyone – for all ages and abilities. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) lands offer thousands of miles of biking trails and public-use roads that range from gravel forest roads to rail-trails to highly technical single-track trails. Some trails are ideal for beginners and families while other trails appeal to seasoned bikers looking for a challenge.*

### BIKES PERMITTED IN STATE PARKS AND FORESTS




All bicycles (bikes), traditional and electric (e-bikes), are permitted on DCNR public use roads, unless they are marked as prohibited for bikes. Traditional bikes and all e-bikes that comply with the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code ([75 Pa. C.S. § 102](#)), meeting the criteria noted to the right, are permitted on DCNR trails.

### WHERE BIKING IS PERMITTED ON DCNR LANDS

Both traditional and e-bikes are permitted on all DCNR-managed trails open to biking, which includes mountain bike trails, rail-trails, and multi-use trails in state parks and forests.




Biking also is permitted on DCNR-managed motorized trails and public use roads unless they are marked as prohibited for bikes.

State forest roads and trails that are not open to biking include:

-  Trails in natural areas
-  Designated hiking trails (blazed with yellow or orange)
-  Trails or roads specifically marked closed to biking

### ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR RIDING ON DCNR LANDS

All riders are required to maintain safe speeds at all times, complying with recommended and/or posted speed limits. E-bike riders must also comply with the following:

-  Electric assistance may not be used to exceed 20 miles per hour
-  Using the electric motor exclusively to move an e-bike without pedaling is prohibited on non-motorized trails
-  Riders under the age of 16 are not permitted to ride e-bikes on state or local highways



### KNOW WHAT YOU'RE RIDING

To ride on DCNR lands, be sure your bike meets the specifications of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code ([75 Pa. C.S. § 102](#)):

- Weighs no more than 100 pounds
- Has an electric motor that does not exceed 750 watts
- Has fully functional pedals

### HOW TO MEASURE WATTAGE

Your e-bike's wattage can be calculated by multiplying the voltage with the amp hours (Ah). For example: A 48 volt 10-Ah battery pack has 480 watt hours (48 X 10 = 480).

### DOES YOUR BIKE HAVE A THROTTLE?

Class 2 e-bikes (see below for classifications) are equipped with an electric throttle that allows the user to operate the bike without pedaling. Class 2 e-bikes are permitted on DCNR lands as long as they meet the specifications noted above. Please note that the use of the throttle is not permitted on non-motorized trails managed by DCNR.

### KNOW YOUR CLASSIFICATIONS
















Although the e-bike classifications are not codified in Pennsylvania, most e-bikes will fit into one or more of the classifications below:

	 Class 1 eBikes	 Class 2 eBikes	 Class 3 eBikes
	Pedal Assist	Yes	Yes
Throttle	No	Yes	No
Top Assisted Speed	20 mph	20 mph	28 mph

*DCNR's policy applies specifically to state parks and forests. It does not apply to state game lands, national forest lands, private preserves, municipal and county-managed lands and trails, etc. Bike and e-bike users should be knowledgeable of the guidelines and policies for anticipated destinations.*

## **SAFETY AND ETIQUETTE RULES**

Do your part to make sure everyone is safe and has a good trail experience. Bikers should be knowledgeable of basic trail etiquette, safety practices, and rules applicable to specific trails and lands, including:

-  Know the type and specifications of the device you're riding and where you can ride it.
-  Maintain safe speeds at all times, consider trail and weather conditions, and always be cognizant of other users along the trail.
-  Stay to the right, pass on the left.
-  Let other trail users know you are coming – give a friendly greeting.
-  Limit distractions, don't impair your hearing (i.e., by wearing headphones or ear buds).
-  Obey all trail and road signs.
-  Slow down in congested areas.
-  If you're on wheels, yield to pedestrians.
-  Use special care when passing horses.
-  Helmets are required by law for people under the age of 12 and are recommended for bicyclists of all ages.
-  Maintain single file when passing or being passed.
-  Be aware of battery storage capacity of your e-bike and available charging options. Users should not assume that trails open to e-bikes include e-bike charging stations.
-  Stay on the trail. Do not go off the trail (even to pass), create new trails, or cut switchbacks.
-  Don't block the trail. When taking a break, move to the side of the trail to allow others to pass safely.
-  Expect the unexpected. Humans and animals can be unpredictable.



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