



Making a difference...together

Fact Sheet

Electric Bicycles on Regional Trails



What is an electric bicycle?

An electric bike, or motor-assisted cycle is defined within British Columbia's *Motor Vehicle Act* as a two- or three-wheeled vehicle with pedals and an electric motor. Key characteristics of a motor-assisted cycle also include:

- Electric Motor rated at 500 watts or less.
- Functioning pedals: At start-up, the motor must not engage until the bike reaches speeds of 3 km/hour. In addition, the motor must disengage when the operator stops pedaling, releases the accelerator or applies the brake.
- Limited top speeds: The motor must not be capable of propelling the cycle faster than 32 km/hour on level ground, without pedaling.
- Have a manufacture label stating that it is a "power-assisted bicycle."

The ICBC website provides a detailed description of a motor-assisted cycle and compares with other two-wheeled vehicles like mopeds or scooters.
www.icbc.com.

Are electric bicycles allowed on the Galloping Goose and Lochside regional trails?

Yes. Following a comprehensive review, the Capital Regional District-Regional Parks decided in April 2006 to allow electric bicycles on the regional trails.

Why did CRD Regional Parks decide to allow electric bicycles on regional trails?

CRD received requests from members of the public to use electric bikes on regional trails, and as a result carried out a review. CRD is supportive of this new green technology, which may benefit trail visitors with disabilities and mobility restrictions.

Why is the speed set at 32 km/hour?

The maximum speed of 32 km/hour (20 mph) is equivalent to the speed reached by an average cyclist on a traditional bicycle. Regulators wanted electric bicycles to match the speed of conventional bikes. If the speed had been set lower (24 km/hour), as first proposed, commuter cyclists would find electric bicycles too slow to be a reasonable alternative to travel by car.

Do other cities allow electric bicycles on their trails?

Yes. CRD is following the lead of other jurisdictions, such as the City of Ottawa, which permit electric bicycles on trails where bicycles are allowed. Electric bicycles are common in many cities in California, where they were developed, and in Europe.

Do electric bicycles have to follow the same rules as other cyclists on the regional trails?

Yes. In the *Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw* electric bicycles are subject to the same regulations as other allowable "cycles". All cyclists must obey the posted etiquette rules and be courteous to others. CRD strives to ensure that all visitors to regional parks and trails have safe and enjoyable visits.

Do I need a license for my electric bicycle?

No license or registration is required. However, cyclists on electric bicycles are required by law to wear helmets.

Are other motorized vehicles allowed on trails?

No. Other types of motorized transportation are not permitted on the regional trails.

Will this issue be considered again in the future?

Yes it will be reviewed within the broader context of regional trail management when the management plans for the Galloping Goose and Lochside regional trails are updated.

For more information on regional parks and trails, please visit the CRD Parks web site at www.crd.bc.ca/parks.