



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION AGENDA
APRIL 07, 2025
41 MILES AVENUE, PPW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
6:00 PM**

*Craig Gleason, Chair
Chirag Mapara, Vice-Chair
Mike Buncic, Commissioner
Brant Corenson, Commissioner
Rob Stephenson, Commissioner
Kimberly Vrijen, Commissioner
Jay Mallugari, Youth Commissioner*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The Town of Los Gatos strongly encourages your active participation in the public process. If you are interested in providing oral comments during the meeting, you must attend in-person. If you wish to speak to an item on the agenda, please list the item number on the speaker card. The time allocated to speakers may change to better facilitate the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting in-person, you are welcome to submit written comments via email to ppwcomment@losgatosca.gov.

Public Comment During the Meeting:

When called to speak, please limit your comments to three (3) minutes, or such other time as the Chair may decide, consistent with the time limit for speakers at a Town meeting. Speakers at public meetings may be asked to provide their name and to state whether they are a resident of the Town of Los Gatos. Providing this information is not required.

Deadlines to Submit Written Comments:

If you are unable to participate in person, you may email ppwcomment@losgatosca.gov with the subject line "Public Comment Item #_" (insert the item number relevant to your comment). Persons wishing to submit written comments to be included in the materials provided to the Commission must provide the comments as follows:

For inclusion in the regular agenda packet: by 11:00 a.m. the Thursday before the Commission meeting.

For inclusion in the agenda packet supplemental materials: by 11:00 a.m. the Friday before the Commission meeting.

For inclusion in a desk item: by 11:00 a.m. the day of the Commission meeting.

Persons wishing to make an audio/visual presentation may do so only on agenda items, and must submit the presentation electronically, either in person or via email to ppwcomment@losgatosca.gov by 2:00 p.m. the day of the Commission meeting.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

CONSENT ITEMS *(Items appearing on the Consent are considered routine Town business and may be approved by one motion. Members of the public may provide input on any Consent Item(s) when the Chair asks for public comment on the Consent Items.)*

1. Approve Parks and Sustainability Commission Regular Minutes of February 3, 2025

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS *(Members of the public are welcome to address the Parks and Sustainability Commission on any matter that is not listed on the agenda and is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. To ensure all agenda items are heard, this portion of the agenda is limited to 30 minutes. In the event additional speakers were not able to be heard during the initial Verbal Communications portion of the agenda, an additional Verbal Communications will be opened prior to adjournment. Each speaker is limited to three minutes or such time as authorized by the Chair.)*

OTHER BUSINESS *(Up to three minutes may be allotted to each speaker on any of the following items.)*

2. Youth Science Institute (YSI) Presentation (Attachment)
3. Pickleball Update (Verbal)
4. Spring Into Green (Verbal)
5. E-Bike in Town Parks and Trails: Assessment of Regulations in Peer Agencies (Attachment)
6. Consider Locations of Meeting for June 2, 2025 and August 4, 2025 (Verbal)
7. Parks and Public Works Report (Verbal)
 - a. Volunteer Activities – Adopt a Highway, Santa Cruz Mountain Trail Stewardship Group (2/22), Planting Activities

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting scheduled: June 2, 2025

ADA NOTICE In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk's Office at (408) 354- 6834. Notification at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting date will enable the Town to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28 CFR §35.102-35.104]



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 04/07/2025

ITEM NO: 1

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
February 3, 2025**

The Town of Los Gatos Parks and Sustainability Commission conducted a Regular Meeting on February 3, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Gleason (absent), Commissioners Buncic, Corenson (arrived 6:03), Mapara, Stephenson (arrived 6:03), Vrijen, and Youth Commissioner Mallugari.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Approve Minutes of the Parks and Sustainability Commission Meeting of October 7, 2024.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Mapara to approve Consent Items 1.

Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

Bill Crites (resident) asked for an update on the court repairs and resurfacing at La Rinconada and Blossom Hill parks, as well as an update on efforts to address the vandalism occurring at the La Rinconada courts.

Jim Harbin, PPW Superintendent, and Jerett Blaskey, PPW Park Services Officer, responded to the questions and provided information.

OTHER BUSINESS

2. Introduction of New Members

The new Commission members briefly introduced themselves, sharing their backgrounds and reasons for joining. The existing Commission members and staff also introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of their tenure with the Commission.

3. Parks and Sustainability Commission 2025 Leadership

a. Elect 2025 Chair

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Buncic to nominate Chair Gleason as Chair.
Seconded by Commissioner Corenson.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

b. Elect 2025 Vice-Chair

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Buncic to nominate Commissioner Mapara as Vice-Chair.
Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

4. Updated to Town Council Policy 2-11

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, verbally reported on this item. Noted the update to the Council policy that includes provisions for excused and unexcused absences.

5. 2025 Commission Work Plan

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, verbally reported on this item.

The Commission asked questions and discussed this item.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Vrijen to move to approve the 2025 Commission Work Plan with two modifications. One to the word e-bike and make it say with motorized conveyances and to change number five to specifically say parks and trails master planning.
Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

6. Receive a Report an Update on Field Use Policy

Meredith Johnston, PPW Administrative Technician, presented the draft Field Use Policy.

The following information was provided in the updated draft Field Use Policy

1. Park Accessibility and Event Restrictions
2. Scheduling Meetings
3. Contact Person Requirement
4. Attendance at Scheduling Meetings
5. Scheduling Process and Fairness

6. Tentative Schedule Review
7. Field and Park Capacity Overview

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, provided additional information on draft Field Use Policy.

The Commission asked questions and discussed this item.

Meredith Johnston, PPW Administrative Technician, and Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, responded to the questions.

MOTION: **Motion** by Commissioner Vrijen to recommend adoption of Field Use Policy and to do outreach after.

Seconded by Commissioner Buncic.

VOTE: **Motion passed unanimously**

7. E-Bikes in Town Parks and Trails

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, and Jerett Blaskey, PPW Park Services Officer, verbally reported on this item.

The Commission asked questions and discussed this item.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, and Jerett Blaskey, PPW Park Services Officer, responded to the questions and provided information.

Verbal comment:

Basim Jaber (nonresident) spends a lot of time riding a mountain bike and an e-bike on the trails in Los Gatos. Gave a background on e-bikes classes; class 1, class 2, and class 3. Almost went head on into one of them going uphill on a single track on a Surron electric motorcycle. They were putting people in harm's way going uphill on a downhill trail. These are high powered motorcycles and when modified they can go as fast as 60 to 80 miles per hour with an incredible amount of torque. In favor for allowing class 1 on trails. Focus on the behavior not the e-bike.

8. Parks and Public Works Report

- a. February 22, 2025 Santa Cruz Mountain Trails Stewardship Volunteer Day at Flume Trail

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, verbally reported on this item. The Santa Cruz Mountain Trail Stewardship project has organized a volunteer workday at Novitiate on the Flume Trail, situated on the east side of the Los Gatos Creek Trail, uphill from East Main Street. The scheduled is Saturday, February 22, 2025.

The Commission asked questions.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, responded to the questions and provided information.

b. Adopt a Highway - April 5, 2025

PPW Park Services Officer, verbally reported on this item. Anyone interested can visit the Town website for the contact email. Once the date is set, a reminder email will be sent one week prior. A training video is required to watch before the event.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, provided an update on the Lynne Avene and Community Garden project. In the process of soil testing and that it might not be possible for public use. We have hit some challenges.

The Commission asked questions.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, responded to the questions and provided information.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, reported that this was Jim Harbin, PPW Superintendent, last Commission meeting.

The Commission thanked Jim Harbin for his service.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Corenson verbally reported that the Beautification Committee did not meet.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the February 3, 2025, meeting as approved by the Parks and Sustainability Commission.

/s/ Nicolle Burnham, Director of Parks and Public Works

Grow Your Love of Nature at the Youth Science Institute

At the Youth Science Institute (YSI), we're helping to turn kids into budding scientists and nature enthusiasts. Every wildflower patch is a habitat, every rock is a geology lesson, every leaf a botany adventure, and every creek a living ecosystem to explore. We're not just teaching science—we're igniting a passion for learning and nature in children, families, and communities.



Nature Centers

YSI operates three Science and Nature Centers in two beautiful Santa Clara County Parks and a historically significant and scenically stunning San Jose City Park.

Visit our Nature Centers to discover local ecosystems first-hand with over 70 animal ambassadors and interactive exhibits. Whether with your kids or grandkids, out with hiking friends, or a community group, every Nature Center visit sparks curiosity and fosters an appreciation for the natural world.



VASONA

Vasona Lake County Park
333 Blossom Hill Rd
Los Gatos, CA 95032



SANBORN

Sanborn County Park
16055 Sanborn Rd
Saratoga, CA 95070



ALUM ROCK

Alum Rock Park
15350 Penitencia Creek Rd
San Jose, CA 95127



Plan Your Visit! See ysi-ca.org for current hours and events

YSI Needs Nature to Thrive

Thank you to our County and City partners for the beautiful parks we call home!





Community Events

Discover the wonders of nature through YSI's free weekend events for families. Our offerings include engaging storytimes, guided nature walks, wildlife watching, and hands-on outdoor activities that help our community members learn while having fun in nature.

YSI also participates in local events like the Vasona Fantasy of Lights, the Migration Festival, Park Clean-Ups, and many more! Explore our events page to see what's in store.



Science Programs

Encourage enthusiasm for science with your school or community group with YSI's 10 engaging programs, featuring hands-on experiments, live animal encounters, and immersive nature experiences that bring classroom lessons to life!

We offer field trips to our Nature Centers, in-school programming, and even birthday parties. If there are people who are excited about science, we have a team of dedicated instructors ready to spark their curiosity and show them how amazing nature truly is.



Featured Programs



Animals Adaptations



Five Senses Nature Walk



Climate Change: Understanding the Challenge



Life of an Ohlone



Outdoor Summer Camps

YSI science camps immerse children in the wonders of the natural world through outdoor adventures, hands-on activities, and exciting encounters with local wildlife and habitats. From interactive science games to live animal ambassadors, every day fosters curiosity, builds social skills, and inspires a lasting connection to the environment.

Our more than 20 unique camps are held yearly in beautiful Vasona Lake County Park, and are lead by exceptional staff who are passionate about science education, getting out in nature, being safe, and having fun!



Favorite Camps



Groovy Gardening



Chemistry and Physics



Bike and Hike



Something's Fishy



Get Involved to Help YSI Grow

Join us in empowering the next generation of curious minds, outdoor adventurers, and environmental stewards!

Visit
Engage

Partner
Share

Volunteer
Donate





TOWN OF LOS GATOS
PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION REPORT

MEETING DATE: 04/07/2025

ITEM NO: 5

DATE: April 4, 2025
TO: Parks and Sustainability Commission
FROM: Nicolle Burnham, Parks and Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Receive Information Regarding Regulation of E-Bike Use in Parks and Open Spaces in Nearby Jurisdictions

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive information regarding regulation of E-Bike use in parks and open spaces in nearby jurisdictions.

BACKGROUND:

This report responds to the Commission work plan item brought forward by staff during the February meeting of the Parks and Sustainability Commission. It provides an overview of California's legal definitions of e-bike classes, explores regulations enacted by other municipalities, and examines the role of e-bikes within the Town's parks and open spaces.

DISCUSSION:

State of California E-Bike Classifications:

According to California Vehicle Code (CVC) 312.5, an "electric bicycle" is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts. CVC Section 312.5(a) defines e-bikes into three classes depending on the bicycle's level of assistance and speed:

- A "class 1 electric bicycle," or "low-speed pedal-assisted 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 2 electric bicycle," or "low-speed throttle-assisted 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.
- A "class 3 electric bicycle," or "speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a speedometer and a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour.

PREPARED BY: Name: Meredith Johnston
Title: Administrative Technician

SUBJECT: Receive Information Regarding Regulation of E-Bike Use in Parks and Open Spaces in Nearby Jurisdictions

DATE: April 4, 2025

Staff has gathered data on the rules and regulations surrounding e-bike use in other municipalities, focusing on enforcement challenges and the strategies these municipalities employ to ensure compliance. This includes an examination of different approaches to regulation, monitoring, and the practical measures taken to address issues such as speeding, safety, and education in e-bike management.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District E-Bike Policy:

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) has established specific policies regarding the use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) on its preserves. As of June 29, 2022, the Board of Directors approved the following guidelines:

- **Designated Trails:** Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes are permitted on select paved and improved trails at Ravenswood and Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserves. These trails are clearly marked to indicate e-bike access.
- **General Restrictions:** E-bikes remain prohibited on all other District trails, including those where traditional mountain bikes are allowed. This decision was informed by studies assessing the potential impacts of e-bikes on natural resources, visitor experiences, and trail maintenance.
- **Accessibility for Mobility Disabilities:** E-bikes are permitted as mobility devices for visitors with mobility disabilities on trails where bicycles are allowed, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

These policies aim to balance recreational use with the preservation of natural habitats and the enjoyment of all visitors of Midpen.

Marin County E-bike Policy:

- **Paved Pathways:** Class 1 or Class 2 e-bike are allowed on multi-use paved pathways maintained by the County of Marin. Class 3 e-bikes are prohibited within Parks facilities except upon public roadways and parking lots or when specifically signed to permit them.
- **Speed Limits:** The speed limit for all bicycles is 15 mph on County-maintained pathways. Some pathways may have a speed limit of 10 mph.
- **Restrictions:** You cannot ride a Class 3 e-bike on a bike path. Class 3 e-bikes must be ridden in a bike lane or bike route. Class 3 e-bikes must stay on public roadways and in parking lots within Parks facilities

SUBJECT: Receive Information Regarding Regulation of E-Bike Use in Parks and Open Spaces in Nearby Jurisdictions

DATE: April 4, 2025

On March 25, 2025, Marin County Board of Supervisors approved the introduction of an e-bike ordinance that would make it illegal for children under age 16 to operate a Class 2 e-bike in unincorporated Marin and require riders of all ages to wear helmets on such e-bikes. This ordinance is scheduled as a consent item on the agenda for May 20, 2025. ¹

Managing the Impact of E-Bikes in Los Gatos Parks and Trails:

The growing popularity of e-bikes presents challenges for Los Gatos park services and trail management. The wide variation in e-bike designs makes it difficult to distinguish between classes (1, 2, and 3), complicating regulation enforcement. With high user volumes, safety concerns, and limited park officer availability, managing e-bike use has become increasingly complex. The Town has 1.5 park service officers that must cover vast regions, and enforcing e-bike regulations requires resources that are often stretched thin.

Evolving technology and inconsistent rider knowledge add to the difficulty, while resistance to regulations and a lack of public education further complicate efforts to ensure a safe experience for all park visitors. Balancing e-bike benefits with effective regulation is a pressing concern for park authorities.

Proposed Work Plan for Policy Development:²

Following are the steps staff will be taking to address concerns related to e-bikes in parks and trails:

- **Research:** Gather data on e-bike usage, legal requirements, and best practices.
- **Get Feedback:** Collect input from the Commission and Town Attorney's office.
- **Propose Potential Changes:** Develop policy options, such as trail designations, speed limits, and educational programs.
- **Discuss Changes:** Review proposed changes with the Commission
- **Recommend Changes:** Present final recommendations to the policy committee and council for approval.
- **Adopt:** Implement the ordinance change and new policy after approval.
- **Work Plan Timeline:** The entire process is expected to take 18 to 24 months due to staffing limitations.

¹Marin County March 20 and 25, 2025 <https://www.marincounty.gov/news-releases/e-bike-ordinance-draft-reaches-supervisors-desks#:~:text=A%20draft%20ordinance%20heading%20to,assisted%20speed%20of%2020%20mph.>

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SUBJECT: Receive Information Regarding Regulation of E-Bike Use in Parks and Open
Spaces in Nearby Jurisdictions

DATE: April 4, 2025

CONCLUSION:

E-bikes are an important component of sustainable park management in Los Gatos, offering numerous environmental, accessibility, and recreational benefits for residents and visitors alike. As the popularity of e-bikes continues to grow, staff is recommending that the Town of Los Gatos develop a thoughtful and comprehensive policy to manage their use within the park system. This work will be completed by staff in the coming months with input requested from the Commission at critical intervals.

Attachments:

1. E-Bike Data

Jurisdiction	Enforcement Challenges	Who and how Do They Enforce? Rangers, PD, or Volunteers	Notes	Outreach	Regulations/Rules/Ordinance/Memorandum
East Bay Regional Park District (EBRD)	No response received	No response received	No response received	No response received	Class I E-Bikes: Permitted on all trails where traditional bicycles are allowed Class II E-Bikes: Allowed only on paved regional trails Class III E-Bikes: Not permitted on any EBRPD trails Speed Limit: All e-bikes must adhere to the 15 mph speed limit on trails Trail Etiquette: Riders should slow down around others, use a bell or call out when passing, and stay on designated trails Ordinance: 38/ ORDINANCE NO. 2023 - 09 - 196 & Section 409.8 Link to Ordinance Memorandum: Link to Memorandum Rules: Link to Rules E-bike Website: Link to Website
Santa Clara County Parks (SCC)	No response received	No response received	No response received	No response received	Class I E-Bikes: Permitted on designated trails where traditional bicycles are allowed Class II E-Bikes: Permitted on designated trails where traditional bicycles are allowed Class III E-Bikes: Not permitted on any EBRPD trails Speed Limit: Maximum speed is 15 MPH or slower when passing or in poor conditions Trail Etiquette: All bikes must stay on designated trails.Absolutely no reckless and/or negligent riding. Yield to all other users and announce your passing to other users Helmet: All visitors under 18 must wear a helmet while riding bikes. Helmets are also required on unpaved dirt trails for everyone, regardless of age Ordinance: NS-702.93 Sec. B14-11.2 Definitions., Sec. B14-13.1 Activities., and Sec. B14-42.3. Bicycle Use on Trails and Park Roads. Link to Ordinance Rules: Link to Rules General Policy: No fully electric bicycles or scooters are allowed within County Parks. E-bike Website: Link to Website
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space (Midpen)	Electric bicycles (e-bikes) are not allowed on Midpen natural trails, except for individuals with a mobility disability, as per the Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMD) policy. E-bikes are permitted on all public roads and parking areas open to motor vehicles. Under the ADA, proof of a qualifying disability is not required, but individuals may be asked for credible assurance, such as a valid state-issued disability card or placard, or a verbal representation. E-bike riders must also adhere to the same ordinances as regular bicycles, including speed limits, which are enforced by rangers using radar.	Rangers - verbal warnings, written warnings, and citations. Running radar and targeted intercept events on our multi-use trails focused on safety and sharing the trails helps get the word out too.	A policy is only effective if it can be properly enforced. The park system's urban interface presents challenges in accommodating various e-devices, including Class 3 commuter e-bikes, which are often ridden by teenagers. These e-bikes should not be allowed on multi-use trails and are better suited for bike lanes or roadways. It's recommended to collaborate with the police department to review relevant vehicle codes for e-bikes and other devices, including CVC 312.5, CVC 21207.5(b), and CVC 24016(b).	website + added more signage	Class I E-Bikes: Permitted in Ravenswood Open Space Preserve and Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve Class II E-Bikes: Permitted in Ravenswood Open Space Preserve and Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve Class III E-Bikes: Not permitted Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs): E-bikes are authorized for use by individuals with mobility disabilities on trails where bicycles are allowed, including narrow-width unpaved trails. Speed Limit: Control your speed at all times and obey the 15 mph speed limit (5 mph when passing or on blind turns) Trail Etiquette: Bicyclists should always yield to all other trail users. On wide trails, slow down and pass with care. When encountering equestrians and hikers on narrow trails, make your presence known well in advance, particularly when approaching from behind. Stop and wait for them to pass or signal you through. Yield to other bicyclists traveling uphill. Helmet: Bicyclists are required to wear Policy: 4.07 Link to Policy E-Bike Policy Evaluation: Link to E-Bike Policy Evaluation Rules: Link to Rules General Policy: E-bikes are not permitted on most Midpen trails

Jurisdiction	Enforcement Challenges	Who and how Do They Enforce? Rangers, PD, or Volunteers	Notes	Outreach	Regulations/Rules/Ordinance/Memorandum
City of Palo Alto	No enforcement challenges as we don’t differentiate between e-bike classifications or other e-devices.	Park Rangers handle enforcement, with education being the primary tool. Visitors are typically warned about regulations, and to date, no citations have been issued.	It’s suggested to review the policies of neighboring communities to create a consistent regional approach, making rules easier to follow for riders and improving commuting. Additionally, a permit for ADA Reasonable Modification has been implemented to address mobility concerns. This annual permit requires riders to provide a copy of their DMV-issued handicap placard and must be carried when riding an e-bike on gravel or dirt trails. The permit has been approved by the Palo Alto City Attorney’s Office.	No response received	<p>Open Space Policy: All e-bikes (class 1,2, and 3) are allowed on paved roads and trails and are prohibited elsewhere including on unpaved roads and trails All e-bikes (class 1,2, and 3) are allowed for city staff in open space and parks for maintenance and enforcement purposes, consistent with P.A.M.C. 22.04.150(f) Other electric powered mobility devices are allowed on paved roads and trails at theBaylands Nature Preserve and are prohibited in other open space preserves (PearsonArastradero Preserve, Foothills Nature Preserve, and Esther Clark Park) Parks Policy: All e-bikes (class 1, 2, and 3) are allowed on paved and unpaved trails in parks, and are prohibited elsewhere (turf, sports courts, playgrounds, landscaped areas, etc.) in parks Other electric powered mobility devices are allowed on paved and unpaved trails in parks, and are prohibited elsewhere (turf, sports courts, playgrounds, landscaped areas, etc.) in parks</p> <p>Note: We don’t differentiate between e-bike classifications or other e-devices. We have had a speed limit rule in place since 2001-ish: 15 mph for all riders, 5 mph passing or overtaking Speed Limit: The maximum speed for all trail uses is 15 miles per hour, unless a lesser maximum speed is posted, and no person shall exceed the maximum speed on any trail Trail Etiquette: , e-bike and other electric powered mobility device users, and equestrians are required to slow to 5 miles per hour when passing others or approaching blind turns Helmet: No person shall operate a bicycle or similar device on Parks or Open Space preserves without wearing an A.N.S.I. or Snell-approved bicycle helmet for head protection. No parent or guardian shall allow any child under the age of 18 to ride a bicycle without a helmet.</p> <p>Ordinance: Section 22.04.220 Link to Ordinance Rules: Link to Rules</p>
San Dimas	The Parks and Recreation Department manages 13 miles of multi-use trails for horses, bikes, and pedestrians, but motorized vehicles are not allowed. There is an issue with Class 3 electric bike operators, as they should not be on the trails due to their motor.	Violations on our trails are addressed by the Sheriff’s Department on a complaint basis.	No response received	No response received	<p>Access: The City of San Dimas has specific ordinances regarding the use of bicycles and "wheeled toys," which include e-bikes. Sidewalk Usage: Operating any bicycle or wheeled toy is prohibited on sidewalks within certain areas, such as Bonita Avenue between Walnut Avenue and Cataract Avenue, and San Dimas Avenue between Bonita Avenue and Arrow Highway. However, walking alongside a bicycle or carrying a wheeled toy is permitted in these areas. Street Usage: Operating, parking, or leaving any wheeled toy on the traveled way of any public street or alley is prohibited. Parking Restrictions: Bicycles and wheeled toys must not be parked or left in a manner that obstructs pedestrian or vehicle passage. Violations may result in impoundment by the police department. Public Assembly Areas: The use, operation, parking, or leaving of skateboards and other wheeled toys is prohibited in places of public assembly where such prohibitions are posted.</p> <p>Ordinance: Section 10.18.010 Link to Ordinance Rules: Link to Rules</p>
City of San Jose	The situation is complex as motorized bikes, Class III electric bikes, scooters, and motorized boards are only prohibited if specified by the city. While some municipal codes restrict them, ordinances haven’t yet aligned with state laws. The focus is on ensuring safe riding, with posted speed limit signs in parks and plans to use radar guns for educational enforcement.		No response received	Durning summer months we provide education about helmets and remind vistors to stay on path.	<p>Access: e-bikes are permitted on streets and bike lanes where regular bicycles are allowed. However, local regulations may impose additional restrictions or requirements. For instance, Santa Clara County Parks and San José Parks permit e-bikes to travel anywhere that ordinary bicycles are permitted, aligning with California Law AB 1096, which states that Type-1 and Type-2 e-bikes are permitted on any paved surface that any regular bicycle is permitted to travel. Ordinance: 21207.5 (a) Notwithstanding Sections 21207 and 23127 of this code, or any other law, a motorized bicycle or class 3 electric bicycle shall not be operated on a bicycle path or trail, bikeway, bicycle lane established pursuant to Section 21207, equestrian trail, or hiking or recreational trail, unless it is within or adjacent to a roadway or unless the local authority or the governing body of a public agency having jurisdiction over the path or trail permits, by ordinance, that operation. (b) The local authority or governing body of a public agency having jurisdiction over a bicycle path or trail, equestrian trail, or hiking or recreational trail, may prohibit, by ordinance, the operation of a class 1 or class 2 electric bicycle on that path or trail.</p> <p>Ordinance: Link to Ordinance Rules: Link to Rules</p>

Jurisdiction	Enforcement Challenges	Who and how Do They Enforce? Rangers, PD, or Volunteers	Notes	Outreach	Regulations/Rules/Ordinance/Memorandum
State of California	No response received	No response received	No response received	No response received	<p>Class I E-Bikes Definition: A low speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle equipped with a motor which provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when a speed of 20 mph is reached.</p> <p>Class II E-Bikes Definition: A low speed throttle-assisted electric bicycle equipped with a motor used exclusively to propel the bicycle and NOT capable of providing assistance when a speed of 20 mph is reached.</p> <p>Class III E-Bikes: Definition: A low speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle equipped with a speedometer, and a motor which provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when a speed of 28 mph is reached.</p> <p>The operator of a Class 3 electric bicycle: Must be 16 years old or older. Must wear a bicycle safety helmet. Must not transport passengers. May ride an electric bicycle in a bicycle lane if authorized by local authority or ordinance. All electric bicycle classes are exempt from the motor vehicle financial responsibility, DL, and license plate requirements (CVC §24016).</p> <p>What are the speed limits for e-bikes in California? Most e-bikes have a maximum speed of 20 miles per hour Some e-bikes can reach speeds of up to 28 miles per hour You must obey posted speed limits</p> <p>Vehicle Code - 21207.5 (a) Notwithstanding Sections 21207 and 23127 of this code, or any other law, a motorized bicycle shall not be operated on a bicycle path or trail, bikeway, bicycle lane established pursuant to Section 21207, equestrian trail, or hiking or recreational trail, unless it is within or adjacent to a roadway or unless the local authority or the governing body of a public agency having jurisdiction over the path or trail permits, by ordinance, that operation. (b) The local authority or governing body of a public agency having jurisdiction over an equestrian trail, or hiking or recreational trail, may prohibit, by ordinance, the operation of an electric bicycle or any class of electric bicycle on that trail. (c) The Department of Parks and Recreation may prohibit the operation of an electric bicycle or any class of electric bicycle on any bicycle path or trail within the department’s jurisdiction.</p> <p>Vehicle Code - 23127 No person shall operate an unauthorized motor vehicle on any state, county, city, private, or district hiking or horseback riding trail or bicycle path that is clearly marked by an authorized agent or owner with signs at all entrances and exits and at intervals of not more than one mile indicating no unauthorized motor vehicles are permitted on the hiking or horseback riding trail or bicycle path, except bicycle paths which are contiguous or adjacent to a roadway dedicated solely to motor vehicle use.</p> <p>Assembly Bill No. 1096 Chapter 568 Link to Assemble Bill According to California Vehicle Code (CVC) 312.5, an “electric bicycle” is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts. CVC Section 312.5(a) defines e-bikes into three classes depending on the bicycle’s level of assistance and speed: (1) A “class 1 electric bicycle,” or “low-speed pedal-assisted 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. (2) A “class 2 electric bicycle,” or “low-speed throttle-assisted 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. (3) A "class 3 electric bicycle," or "speed pedal-assisted 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 28 miles per hour, and equipped with a speedometer. -The operator must be 16 years of age or older (Section 21213 CVC). -The operator must also wear a helmet, regardless of age (Section 21213 CVC). -A passenger must wear a helmet, regardless of age (Section 21213[b] CVC). Additional Safety Information Any E-Bike outside of these legal classifications is considered an "out of class electric vehicle" and is not considered an E-Bike, making it illegal to operate on a public roadway. Tampering with E-Bike batteries may cause a thermal event, causing the battery to explode, catch fire, or release hazardous smoke that could be fatal.</p>

Jurisdiction	Enforcement Challenges	Who and how Do They Enforce? Rangers, PD, or Volunteers	Notes	Outreach	Regulations/Rules/Ordinance/Memorandum
State of California Parks	No response received	No response received	No response received	No response received	<p>The following is State Parks’ e-bike policy:</p> <p>No person shall operate an e-bike in a park unit of the State Parks System, except on public roadways [i] and in areas allowed through a Superintendent’s Order.</p> <p>E-bike use on trails and nonpublic, controlled-access [ii] roads shall be allowed only where designated by Superintendent’s Order in the following park unit classifications:</p> <p>State recreation area</p> <p>State vehicular recreation area</p> <p>Regardless of park unit classification, e-bikes may be allowed on paved (asphalt or concrete) bike trails used for local or regional commuting where such designation (e.g., classification of e-bikes allowed) is consistent with e-bike designations of adjoining trails operated by other agencies.</p> <p>Regardless of unit classification, upon issuance of a Superintendent’s Order, class 1 e-bike may be allowed for research or demonstration purposes necessary to improve knowledge and understanding of potential issues related to e-bike use. E-bike designations for these purposes may only occur on trails and non-public access (controlled access) roads already designated for traditional (non-electric) bicycles, or new routes constructed for test purposes.</p> <p>Requests for the use of e-bikes to provide access for people with disabilities shall follow the Department’s Other Power-Driven Mobility Device policy.</p> <p>E-bike use in park units:</p> <p>State recreation areas:</p> <p>Except for public roadways, only class 1 e-bikes shall be allowed by Superintendent’s Order on controlled-access roads and trails.</p> <p>Except for public roadways, class 2 or 3 e-bikes are not allowed.</p> <p>Class 1 e-bikes may be designated for use only on trails and controlled-access roads that already allow traditional (non-electric) bicycles.</p> <p>State vehicular recreation areas:</p> <p>Class 1, 2 and 3 e-bikes may be allowed by Superintendent’s Order for use on trails and controlled-access roads.</p> <p>All other park unit classifications:</p> <p>Class 1 e-bikes may be temporarily allowed by Superintendent’s Order for use on trails and nonpublic, controlled-access roads for research and demonstration purposes.</p> <p>Except for public roadways, class 2 or 3 e-bikes are not allowed.</p>
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority	No response received	No response received	No response received	No response received	<p>Link to E-Bike Website</p> <p>Are e-bikes and/or other power-driven/motorized devices allowed at Open Space Preserves?</p> <p>To increase recreational opportunities for those with disabilities, the Open Space Authority allows the use of Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs) on Authority lands, where they can be operated safely, without posing a risk of harm to natural and cultural resources. Persons without mobility disabilities may not use OPDMDs on Authority lands. An OPDMD is a battery, fuel or other engine-powered mobility device that is used by individuals with mobility disabilities for the purpose of locomotion (e.g. Segway® PT, ATVs, electric bicycles or other mobility devices designed to operate in areas without defined pedestrian routes). Please see our Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices Policy for more information.</p>
Marin	Enforcing e-bike rules has been challenging due to limited resources within police departments, sheriffs, and park rangers. A report by the Civic Grand Jury in Spring 2024 highlighted these difficulties. A newly launched Special Committee on Youth E-bike Safety will focus on education and outreach, rather than enforcement. Additionally, many school districts have introduced e-bike registration programs, ensuring bikes are of a legal speed class for students’ ages.	Enforcing the rules is challenging as police departments, sheriffs, and park rangers, responsible for enforcement within their jurisdictions, are stretched thin.	No response received	No response received	<p>Access: You may ride a Class 1 or Class 2 e-bike on multi-use paved pathways maintained by the County of Marin.</p> <p>The speed limit for all bicycles is 15 mph on County-maintained pathways. Some pathways may have a speed limit of 10 mph. Always check the speed limit. Follow the Share the Path rules: be courteous, know the rules, and be responsible.</p> <p>You CANNOT ride a Class 3 e-bike on a bike path. Class 3 e-bikes MUST be ridden in a bike lane or bike route. Class 3 e-bikes MUST stay on public roadways and in parking lots within Parks facilities.</p> <p>10.05.030 - Bicycles.</p> <p>a) No person shall operate any bicycle or similar vehicle within parks except upon paved roads, fire protection roads, designated bicycle and multi-use pathways, or public roads not signed against such use. Furthermore, no person shall operate or possess any bicycle or similar vehicle elsewhere within parks, including trails, unless signed specifically to permit such operation.</p> <p>b) No person shall operate any class 1 or class 2 electric bicycle within parks except upon paved roads, paved designated bicycle and multi-use pathways or public roads not signed against such use. Furthermore, no person shall operate or possess any class 1 or class 2 electric bicycle elsewhere within parks, including fire roads and trails, unless sign specifically to permit such operation.</p> <p>c) No person shall operate any class 3 electric bicycle within parks except upon public roads or parking lots or other areas signed specifically to permit such operation.</p> <p>d) Any person operating a bicycle or electric bicycle on a designated multi-use pathway shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and horses.</p> <p>Rules:</p> <p>Link to Rules</p> <p>Ordinance: 3711</p> <p>Link to Ordinance</p> <p>E-Bike Website:</p> <p>Link to E-Bike Website</p> <p>Special Committee on Youth E-Bike Safety:</p> <p>Link to Special Committee on Youth E-Bike Safety</p> <p>Civil Grand Jury Completed Report:</p> <p>Link to Civil Grand Jury Complete Report</p>

Jurisdiction	Enforcement Challenges	Who and how Do They Enforce? Rangers, PD, or Volunteers	Notes	Outreach	Regulations/Rules/Ordinance/Memorandum
Town of Los Gatos					<p>Town of Los Gatos</p> <p>Class I E-Bikes: Definition: 20 MPH max pedal assist only, no throttle Access: Allowed wherever regular bicycles are allowed. Equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling. Power maxes out at 20 mph.</p> <p>Class II E-Bikes: Definition: 20 MPH max throttle assist, pedal assist Access: Allowed wherever regular bicycles are allowed. Equipped with a throttle-actuated motor. Power maxes out at 20 mph.</p> <p>Class III E-Bikes: Definition: 28 MPH max peddle assist, no throttle Access: Allowed in bike lanes or separated bikeways adjacent to the roadway. Not allowed on trails. Riders must be 16 years old and all ages must wear a helmet. Power maxes out at 28 mph. Any e-bike that can go over 28 mph is not street legal. Equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling.</p> <p>Rules: Link to Rules</p> <p>Ordinance: 2340 - Chapter 5 - Section 5.10.010, Sec. 5.10.020, Sec. 5.10.030, Sec. 5.10.040, Sec. 5.10.050, Sec. 5.10.060, Sec. 5.10.070, Sec. 5.10.080, Sec. 5.10.090, Sec. 5.10.100 Link to Ordinance</p> <p>Link to Ordinance</p> <p>Ordinance: (Ord. No. 2212, § I, 2-4-13) Section 19.10.035, 19.10.037, 19.10.038 Link to Ordinance</p> <p>E-bike Website: Link to E-Bike Website</p>