

RESOLUTION NO. 06-2024-05

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND SUPPORT OF LAND USE ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR AMENDMENT NO. 4 OF 2024 - E BIKES

ADOPTED: June 13, 2024

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Division manages approximately 3,000 miles of trails open to the use of bicycles located on both Parks and Recreation and Forest Resources Division (FRD) administered lands, serving an increasing demand for this recreational activity by people of all ages and abilities. One area seeing much greater popularity and an increase in demand of riding opportunities is electric bicycles; and

WHEREAS, Michigan MCL 257.13e defines an electric bicycle as a device equipped with a seat or saddle used by the rider, fully operable pedals for human propulsion and an electric motor not greater than 750 watts, and provides for three different classifications: Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3; and

WHEREAS, MCL 324.72105 allows an individual to operate a class 1 electric bicycle on a linear trail that has an asphalt, crushed limestone, or similar surface, or a rail trail. It also prohibits the use of an electric bicycle on a trail that is specifically designated as nonmotorized and that has a natural surface tread made by clearing and grading the native soil with no added surfacing materials unless a local authority or agency of this state having jurisdiction over a trail allows the operation of an electric bicycle on that trail; and

WHEREAS, electric bicycles can help with barriers to cycling such as hilly topography and long distances to destinations, and well as grant people with physical limitations new recreation or the option to continue previous recreation activities not allowed due to their mobility impairments. This proposal would provide increased access to our natural resources by those who may not be able to access it otherwise; and

WHEREAS, several other states and municipalities have expanded access to electric bicycles on natural surface mountain biking trails with few documented issues related to the expansions and areas opened to expanded use of class-1 electric bicycles are also not likely to have any more impact on the resource or trail surface than traditional mountain bikes or other trail users; and

WHEREAS, several advisory groups, as well as other divisions of the Department have been consulted in the preparation of this order allowing for feedback and input, with the majority of comments received being in support of expansion.

THEREFORE, IT IS PROPOSED that bicycle trails and pathways managed by the Parks and Recreation Division be open to class-1 electric bicycles, including natural surface mountain biking trails, and that Class-2 electric bicycles be authorized for use by an individual with a mobility disability on bicycle trails and pathways through the issuance of an annual Use Permit, and it is proposed that this order will be reviewed after a period of one year from the effective date to allow the Department time to assess the impact of electric bicycle use on natural surface pathways. If after the one-year period, significant negative impacts shall be evidenced, the Order shall be

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rescinded. However, if after the one-year period, no significant negative impacts are evidenced, the Order shall remain in effect; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee supports the Director's approval of the amendments to the referenced attached Land Use Order.

Submitted by: Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

Motioned by: Chuck Nelson
Seconded by: Mike McDonald

Yeas:	10
Nays:	0
Abstained:	0
Absent:	2

This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their meeting on June 13, 2024, as Resolution No. 06-2024-05.