Proposed

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

PRK-1.23 Motorized Wheeled Vehicles in Parks [Proposed]

POLICY CATEGORY: Park Use
POLICY NUMBER: PRK-1.23

Authorized By: Sonia Schmanski
Deputy City Administrator for Vibrant Communities

Authority: Portland City Charter 2-406(I) (2025); Portland City Code Chapter 1.05; and Portland City Code Chapter 20.04.040; delegated by City Administrator to the DCA for Vibrant Communities

Date Adopted:

Adopted by the City Administrator, as delegated to the Service Area:

_____ _____
Deputy City Administrator Date
Sonia Schmanski

---

1. Purpose

Pursuant to Portland City Code 20.12.179, the Director may issue rules to restrict the time, place, and manner in which a person may operate a motorized wheeled vehicle in a park.

The objective of this Administrative Rule is to increase recreational opportunities for visitors, especially those with physical limitations. In addition, the rule seeks to ensure motorized wheeled vehicles are operated predictably and safely and that they don’t impede a visitor's recreational experience or damage park resources. This Rule simplifies and unifies the regulation of motorized wheeled vehicles in parks while ensuring safe and accessible parks for all users.

Proposed

In addition, the Rule also addresses the impacts of Shared Scooters, as defined in Portland Policy Document TRN-15.01. Specifically, the Rule balances the ability of park users to experience parks using a shared motorized mobility method while simultaneously ensuring the increased use of Shared Scooters does not negatively impact park operations, other visitors, or park resources.

2. Rules

A. Definitions

1. “Electric bicycle or scooter” means any electric assisted bicycle or electric personal assistive mobility device as defined in ORS 801, or electric wheeled device on one or two wheels with a power output of less than 1,000 watts.
2. “Motor vehicle” means any motor vehicle, motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle as defined in ORS 801, or moped or wheeled device with a combustion engine or, if the source is electric, a scooter or moped with power output of 1,000 watts or greater.
3. “Medical mobility device” means any motorized wheeled device that is a wheelchair, scooter, or other medical mobility device used by a person who needs the device to be mobile.
4. “Shared Scooter Permitee” is defined in Portland Policy Document TRN-15.01.

B. Places where motorized wheeled vehicles may be used

1. Motor vehicles must operate only on designated paved or gravel park roads or parking areas.
2. Electric bicycles and scooters must operate only on paved pathways and roadways in a park, and must not be brought into any building, enclosure, or other covered facility, or any place with signage or markings indicating bicycles or scooters are prohibited. This does not apply to medical mobility devices.
3. Any vehicle issued a permit under PCC 20.08 may operate in a park according to the conditions of the permit.

C. Manner of use

1. When operating an electric bicycle or scooter, the operator must:

Proposed

a. Not exceed 12 miles per hour while on park pathways, unless posted otherwise;
b. Reduce speed to 5 miles per hour when approaching others on pathways;
c. Yield right-of-way to pedestrians;
d. Provide an audible signal before passing a pedestrian;
e. Dismount and wheel the vehicle when entering any area with signs or markings indicating that the rider must dismount off a bicycle, scooter, or similar wheeled vehicle. This does not apply to medical mobility devices.

2. When operating a motor vehicle, the operator must:

    a. Abide by all applicable park and traffic rules, including posted speed limits and parking restrictions.

D. Shared Scooters in parks time, place, and manner

1. Shared Scooter Permittees, as defined in Portland Policy Document TRN-15.01, may operate Shared Scooters in parks if they meet the requirements of this section.

    a. Shared Scooter Permittee's must:

        i. Hold an active and approved Portland Bureau of Transportation permit for shared scooter operations;
        ii. Not deploy scooters to be placed in a park;
        iii. Not allow a person to end a scooter session and park a scooter in a park;
        iv. Remove a scooter from a park when it is parked or otherwise left unattended in a park for longer than 24 hours;
        v. Display safety messaging to users that outlines the parking, speed, and safety requirements of this Administrative Rule for the use of electric bicycles and scooters in parks;
        vi. Geofence all park locations to restrict speeds to meet this Administrative Rule requirement while operating in a park;

Related

20.12.170 Use of Certain Devices or Equipment.