

Bulleted text in red and images will not be included as part of the policy, but are included in this draft to provide education.

## DRAFT - RECREATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY LONE LAKE PARK MULTI-USE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL USAGE

**Purpose of Policy:** The intent of this policy is to designate the appropriate usage for the multi-use mountain bike trail at Lone Lake Park in the City of Minnetonka.

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### Introduction

The multi-use mountain bike trail at Lone Lake Park is the only designated mountain bike trail in the City of Minnetonka park system. This policy identifies the designated times and activities for which the trail is available for use. This policy, and any future changes to it, are subject to review and approval by the Minnetonka Park Board.

1. **Park Hours** - Per city of Minnetonka park regulations, parks will be open for use between 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. The multi-use mountain bike trail will be open to riders during regular park hours.
2. **Seasons** – The trail may be used year round as conditions allow.
  - *Winter grooming would be required for winter fat-tire biking. Grooming can be done using snowshoes or a motorized groomer. Snowshoes would be used initially with the plan to purchase a groomer in the future.*
  - *Lone Lake Park is currently underutilized during winter months. Minnetonka's park system currently provides limited outdoor recreation opportunities in the winter. This would help fill that void and get more people outside in the winter.*
  - *Wet conditions due to precipitation or snow melt will cause the trail to be temporarily closed to all users.*
  - *Informal footpaths will remain open at all times for use by walkers.*
3. **Activities** – The trail may be used for mountain biking, hiking and running during spring, summer and fall as conditions allow. Winter use includes fat-tire biking and snowshoeing as conditions allow.
  - *Walking and hiking during winter months are prohibited on the multi-use mountain bike trail due to negative impacts to the trail snowpack.*
  - *Users may self-select if they want to walk or hike the trail, this is a purpose built mountain bike trail and some users may not find the experience pleasurable.*
4. **Races** – Organized races will not be allowed on the trail.
5. **Programs/Events** – Programs are limited to groups of 16 or less. Events are limited to two per year. Demos are limited to twice per month. Any outside programs, events or demos must be pre-approved by the City.
  - *Examples of programs may include but are not limited to: learn to ride classes for youth or adults, mountain bike skills camps, bike repair classes, environmental education, etc.*
  - *Examples of events may include but are not limited to: trail volunteer appreciation day, Minnetonka Mountain Bike Day. Events may include food trucks, music, activities, and promotional booths.*
  - *A typical demo entails a few bike manufacturer employees with a small van with bikes of various sizes for promotional use to trail users of all abilities.*

6. **Team Practices** – Teams are required to sign up for pre-approved practice days/times set by the land manager in order to limit the number on site at one time. Priority will be given to local teams within 5 miles of the trail.
  - *The City is currently working with local mountain bike teams to determine how to best schedule practices. The city will continue to adjust based on capacity concerns.*
7. **Dogs** – Per city ordinance, dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet when on improved trails, including the multi-use mountain bike trail. Off-leash dogs are allowed in the unimproved and unmaintained areas of the park under voice command, including the informal footpaths.
  - *Staff know existing park users strongly desire to keep using the park to walk their dogs off leash.*
  - *Staff want to keep consistent rules across Minnetonka parks & trails.*
  - *Staff want to keep all park users including trail users, walkers and their dogs safe.*
  - *The city will continue to evaluate the interactions between trail users and dogs on the multi-use mountain bike trail and recommend changes to the park board as needed.*
8. **E-bikes** (electric-assist or pedal-assist bicycles) are allowed on the multi-use mountain bike trail if they meet the state's definition and requirements (subdivision 27\*) and are mountain bike specific e-bikes. A motorized bicycle that does not meet this definition is not allowed. Examples included below.
  - *Electric mountain bikes are a small fraction of the market for mountain biking. Allowing their use removes a barrier to people with limited mobility or stamina including people with physical disabilities.*
  - *While city staff has mixed views on the use of e-bikes, it is currently considered best practice to allow their use.*
  - *The City will continue to evaluate the use and impacts of e-bikes and recommend changes to the park board as needed.*



Figure 1 Example of electric mountain bike, allowed on trail



Figure 2 Example of motocross bike, not allowed on trail



Figure 3 Example of electric standard bike, not allowed on trail

### Posted Trailhead Rules

1. Open to mountain biking, trail running and hiking in the spring, summer and fall  
*(generally April 1 to Oct. 31)*
2. Open to fat-tire biking and snowshoeing in the winter *(generally Nov. 1 to March 31)*
3. Trail is closed to all users when it is wet or muddy
4. Stay on designated trail
5. Do not modify the trail
6. Wear a helmet when biking
7. Control your bicycle
8. Announce your approach and yield to others
9. Respect wildlife
10. Dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet
11. Mountain bike specific e-Bikes are allowed if they meet the state's definition\*
12. Share the trail and be respectful of all users

\*Subdivision 27. Electric-assisted bicycle.

"Electric-assisted bicycle" means a bicycle with two or three wheels that:

(1) has a saddle and fully operable pedals for human propulsion;

(2) meets the requirements:

(i) of federal motor vehicle safety standards for a motor-driven cycle in Code of Federal Regulations, title 49, sections 571.1 et seq.; or

(ii) for bicycles under Code of Federal Regulations, title 16, part 1512, or successor requirements; and

(3) has an electric motor that (i) has a power output of not more than 1,000 watts, (ii) is incapable of propelling the vehicle at a speed of more than 20 miles per hour, (iii) is incapable of further increasing the speed of the device when human power alone is used to propel the vehicle at a speed of more than 20 miles per hour, and (iv) disengages or ceases to function when the vehicle's brakes are applied.

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