

CA Board Votes:

- A) Update on CA open space policy to consider e-scooters as electric bicycles.

Old Policy Language

Traffic and parking on CA open space are under the direction of CA staff or Howard County Police. Operating any motorized conveyance (with the exception of class one electric bicycles as defined under Maryland law and personal mobility devices) within parklands, on pathways or in any other place not customarily used for motorized vehicular traffic is prohibited. Not all of CA's pathways are suited for the use of electric bicycles and personal mobility devices, and caution should be used in operating them. CA open space may not be used in such a way as to infringe upon the safe flow of traffic in neighboring streets.

New Policy Language

Traffic and parking on CA open space are under the direction of CA staff or Howard County Police. Operating any motorized conveyance within CA parklands or on CA property not customarily used for motorized vehicular traffic, is prohibited. A motorized conveyance may be used on CA pathways if it is a class 1 electric bicycle or electric scooter as defined under Maryland law or a personal mobility device. Not all of CA's pathways are suited for the use of electric bicycles, electric scooters and personal mobility devices, and caution should be used in operating them. Class 1 e-bikes, where allowed, may not be ridden at a pedal-assisted speed in excess of 20 miles per hour and must yield to pedestrians. E-scooters, where authorized, may not be ridden at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour and must yield to pedestrians. Certain areas, such as the Plaza by Lake Kittamaqundi, are designated for pedestrian use only, and the use of motorized conveyances as well as bicycles is prohibited. Signs to that effect are posted in those areas. CA open space may not be used in such a way as to infringe upon the safe flow of traffic in neighboring streets.

- B) To allow commercial e-scooter sharing services to operate on CA pathways subject to a license agreement between the parties.