

# Jefferson County Open Space Website

<https://www.jeffco.us/3618/e-bikes>

## e-bikes

Based on several factors including 2017 research, existing resource impact studies, state laws, and enforceability, Jeffco Open Space is piloting a program that allows electric bicycles (e-bikes) on Jeffco Open Space managed trails.

**Class 1 e-bikes are allowed on natural surface trails within the parks**

**Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes are allowed on paved trails within the parks**

Adopting this pilot approach is in line with Colorado state regulations, which currently allow Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes on paved trails. In April, 2017 Colorado state legislators passed [HB 17-1151](#), which defined three different classes of e-bikes, required manufacturers to label e-bikes by class, defined e-bikes as non-motorized vehicles, and allowed the use of Class 1 and 2 e-bikes on bike or pedestrian paths where bicycles are allowed to travel. This bill gives local land management agencies the ability to determine e-bike use on trails under their jurisdiction.

## What is an e-bike?

An e-bike is an “electrical assisted bicycle” equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor not exceeding 750 watts of power. E-bikes generally fall into Class 1, 2 or 3. Available for multiple uses, e-bikes can assist with longer commutes and allow riders with limited physical ability to recreate outdoors.



## Class 1 e-bikes

A Class 1 e-bike is a low-speed, *pedal-assisted* bicycle equipped with a motor that activates only when the rider is pedaling, and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches 20 miles per hour.

Road e-bikes are built for flat surface roads:



eMTBs are built for all-terrain trails:



### **Class 2 e-bikes**

A Class 2 e-bike is a low-speed, *throttle-assisted* bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches 20 miles per hour.

## **Regulations**

### **FEDERAL**

E-bikes are classified as motorized vehicles and are only allowed on motorized trails, including Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Forest (USFS) lands.

### **COLORADO**

E-bikes are classified as bicycles and have the same rights of the road as traditional bicycles. Class 1 e-bikes are allowed in all Colorado State Parks where bicycles are permitted.

### **LOCAL**

Local governments have the authority to authorize the use of e-bikes on bike or pedestrian paths. JCOS allows Class 1 e-bikes on natural surface trails and Class 1 *and* Class 2 e-bikes on paved trails within the parks.