

NORTH CAROLINA'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW



NORTH CAROLINA'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR THE ROAD

- » E-bikes are defined as “electric assisted bicycles,” so long as the electric bicycle’s motor is under 750w, has a maximum speed of 20mph, and has operable pedals. The same rules of the road apply to both electric bicycles and human-powered bicycles.
- » Electric bicycles are not subject to the registration, licensing or insurance requirements that apply to motor vehicles.

- » Helmets are not required but the age minimum for electric bicycle use is 16. Electric bicycles are allowed on sidewalks if bicycles are allowed.
- » State law does specifically address whether electric bicycles are allowed on bike paths. Consult your local authority or agency for information about whether electric bicycles are permitted on bike paths.

* The following North Carolina laws are referenced: N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-4.01 (7a & 49).

eMTB GUIDELINES

- » On federal, state, country and local trails, electric mountain bike (eMTB) access varies significantly.
- » Generally, any natural surface trail that is designated as open to both motorized and non-motorized uses is also open to eMTBs.
- » eMTBs may not be allowed on trails managed for non-motorized activities.
- » Do not ride your eMTB in areas where the local rules are unclear. Ride legally and only on authorized trails to show that mountain bikers are responsible trail users.
- » When in doubt, ask your local land manager about access to specific trails. Local land rules change frequently.

NORTH CAROLINA'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR TRAILS

- » LOCAL: Consult your local land management agency.
- » STATE: According to the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, Class 1, 2 and 3 electric bicycles allowed wherever bikes are allowed. Contact the department for the most up to date information. PeopleForBikes is monitoring this policy and will update this document as needed.
- » FEDERAL: The majority of public lands managed for recreation in North Carolina are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service, where eMTBs are considered motorized vehicles and have access to motorized trails. Contact the U.S. Forest Service Southern Regional Office for more information.

CHECK OUT

- » A map of great eMTB rides at peopleforbikes.org/emtb
- » eMTB “Adventures” at peopleforbikes.org/electric-bikes

GREAT eMTB RIDES IN NORTH CAROLINA

» **Lake Norman State Park**
Statesville | 26 miles

» **Lake James State Park**
Nebo | 12.9 miles

With an electric bicycle, bicyclists can ride more often, farther, and for more trips.

Electric bicycles are designed to be as safe as traditional bicycles, do not compromise consumer safety, and benefit bicyclists who may be discouraged from riding a traditional bicycle due to limited physical fitness, age, disability or convenience.

In many states, electric bicycles are regulated under antiquated laws primarily aimed at combustion engine vehicles such as mopeds or scooters. PeopleForBikes is clarifying state laws governing the use of electric bicycles in the U.S. Every state’s law is different, but the objective is to ensure that low-speed electric bicycles are regulated similarly to traditional, human-powered bicycles.



Learn more at PeopleForBikes.org/electric-bikes

- » Blogs and webinars
- » Electric bicycle laws around the country
- » Electric bicycle statistics and research
- » Buying guide
- » Retailer materials
- » eMTB management resources