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E-Bikes and Mackinac Island State Park

MACKINAC ISLAND – The absence of motor vehicles in Mackinac Island State Park is uniquely effective in retaining the historic character of this National Historic Landmark. State law currently forbids the use of e-bikes within Mackinac Island State Park and the City of Mackinac Island without authorization from those respective entities.

The Mackinac Island State Park Commission and City of Mackinac Island have the following exception for e-bikes: use of **Class I** electric assist tricycles/bicycles for persons with disabilities **as that term is defined in 42 USC 12102** is permitted in the Mackinac Island State Park in accordance to MISPC procedures.

“We’re trying to preserve our nearly century and a quarter automobile ban on Mackinac Island while at the same time accommodating persons with disabilities so everyone can continue to enjoy the beauty of this special place,” said Steve Brisson, Mackinac State Historic Parks director.

Class I e-bikes are pedal-assist only and have a maximum speed of 20 miles per hour. A Class I e-bike typically is equipped with an electric motor of not more than 750 watts, and the motor must only engage when the rider is pedaling. Because they are pedal-assist only, they can both accommodate persons with disabilities that would otherwise be unable to enjoy the practice of riding a traditional bicycle, and also help preserve the island’s century-old ambiance characterized by horses and traditional bicycles. The exception outlined above is similar to an ordinance passed by the City of Mackinac Island.

Any e-bike with a throttle to engage the motor is not allowed in the City of Mackinac Island or in Mackinac Island State Park.

All e-bikes must have a label affixed somewhere on the bike that denotes whether it is a Class I, Class II, or Class III electric bike. If a bike does not have a label on it, the rider may prove that the e-bike is a Class I bike or that it has been modified to meet that definition. Additionally, all e-bikes need to be registered with the Mackinac Island Police Department, located on Market Street.

Within Mackinac Island State Park, Michigan State Police officers and the deputized park ranger will issue warnings to educate the public until they feel further action is necessary.

More information can be found on the Mackinac Island Police Department website, <http://www.cityofmi.org/police-department-12/>, or at mackinacparks.com/e-bikes.

Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan's Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, the Biddle House, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Historic Downtown Mackinac, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks' rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or on the web at www.mackinacparks.com.

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