



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
George Washington Memorial Parkway
McLean, Virginia 22101

June 7, 2024

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.
PO Box 203
Mount Vernon, VA 22121-9998

Dear Ms. Pascoe,

Thank you for your letter dated May 1, 2024, and for sharing the resolution passed April 24, 2024, by the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) expressing opposition to the use of e-bikes on the George Washington Memorial Parkway's Mount Vernon Trail (MVT).

A [Record of Decision](#) was made in 2019, regarding the use of e-bikes on the MVT. This decision is documented and publicly available on the Plannig, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) [website](#) . The decision included feedback from various stakeholders, including the Friends of Mount Vernon Trail. It has also been incorporated into the park compendium of regulations.

We understand the significance of the MVT to the community and its users. We are also committed to ensuring the safety and enjoyment of all visitors while preserving the trail's historic and scenic character. Those efforts have included the 2020 Mount Vernon Trail Corridor Study and the South Parkway and Mount Vernon Trail Environmental Assessment (EA) completed this year. The study was the first comprehensive analysis of the design, condition, usage, and crash history of the corridor. It informed the EA, a process that included significant public engagement. In response to public comments, we stated in the EA "the usage of E-bikes would remain allowable on the MVT and would be governed by public use limits, conditions, or restrictions expressed in the park compendium." This process affirmed the 2019 Record of Decision.

The MVT stretches from Mount Vernon to Theodore Roosevelt Island, crossing two counties, one city, and the District of Columbia. While we understand your specific concerns regarding the segment of the trail within your community, it is crucial to consider the broader context and the needs of the entire trail and its diverse users. There are a variety of pedestrians and cyclists within the community who have differing views regarding trail use. While these uses are not incompatible, they do necessitate proper trail etiquette and sharing the trail.

We encourage all trail users to adhere to proper trail etiquette and report abandoned or discarded rental e-bikes directly to the rental companies. A list of common e-bike rental companies and their reporting mechanisms were shared with the MVCCA on May 14, 2024.

Thank you for your continued engagement and advocacy for the preservation of the Mount Vernon Trail.

Sincerely,

Charles Cuvelier
Superintendent

cc:

Lt. Timothy Wallace, U.S. Park Police

Jonathan Molineaux, Partnership Coordinator, National Park Service

Noah Simon, District Chief of Staff, Congressman Don Beyer

Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District Supervisor, Fairfax County

Scott Surovell, Virginia State Senator

Peyton Smith, Transportation Liaison, Office of Mount Vernon District Supervisor