

City of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Office of Boards and Commissions
Mission Bay Park Committee
Date: September 1, 2026

Patrick Hadley, Deputy Director - Mission Bay/Shoreline Parks:

The Mission Bay Park Committee (MBPC) would like to voice its concern about and provide recommendations to address illegal motorized vehicles on the Mission Bay Park bikepath, in particular, on the Mike Gotch Bridge.

The bike path from De Anza Cove to Fiesta Island has signage that clearly notifies users that no motorized vehicles, scooters, bicycles, devices are allowed on the bike path (photo attached). It was not intended to be a motorized vehicle roadway. The bridge is part of the park's bike path that provides safe access for pedestrians and bicyclists crossing Rose Creek. It is posted with City signage that prohibits motorized vehicles, but the wording and graphics are not as specific as those along the rest of the bike path (photo attached). However, and especially during the summer season, multiple motorized vehicles (golf carts, e-bikes, scooters) regularly use the bridge. This creates a safety risk for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Our committee encourages the public – locals and visitors alike – to visit and safely recreate within the parklands and bay. And to do that respectfully, including obeying basic safety regulations. To encourage better compliance with the bike path regulations, we recommend these actions by the City Parks and Recreation Department:

1. Immediately replace the current No Motor Vehicles sign at both ends of the Mike Gotch Bridge with the signage that is used along the rest of the bike path (Prohibited Motorized Vehicles,...).
2. For a short period after that replacement, station park rangers at the bridge to inform any users that motorized vehicles are not allowed to drive/ride across the bridge. We assume that if e-bike and e-scooter riders walked their bikes/scooters across the bridge that would be considered acceptable "compliance" with the prohibition (a sign stating/illustrating that should be placed on the same post as the new Prohibited Motorized Vehicles).
3. Concurrently, contact Campland, which rents motorized golf carts, and advise them that they must notify their patrons that motorized vehicles are not allowed across the bridge (with the possible allowance for walking e-bikes and e-scooters). Also, advise the site manager and post signage at the temporary RV camping operation at De Anza Cove of the City's enforcement of the prohibition of motorized vehicles on the bike path and bridge

We expect that those actions would greatly reduce non-compliance and improve the overall safety and experience for those who use the bike path/bridge. If they do not, then we will work with the City to identify additional measures, such as installing removable, locked bollards at both ends of the bridge that physically prevent larger motorized vehicles (particularly golf carts) from accessing the bridge.

The Committee understands and appreciates the budgeting and financial challenges facing the

City of San Diego. We believe that these recommendations are implementable (simple, effective and low-cost) and necessary. Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

Jeff Johnson
Chairman, Mission Bay Park Committee
On behalf of Mission Bay Park Committee
Cc: Council President Joe LaCava and Councilmembers
Andy Field, Director - Parks and Recreation

Attachments (Photos)

Bike Path Sign “Prohibited Motorized Vehicles, Scooters, Bicycles, Devices”



Current Mike Gotch Bridge Sign “No Motor Vehicles”

