

CHAPTER 16

FOREST, PARKS AND RECREATION ORDINANCE

Rules Related to Motor Vehicles and Jeeps

6) **VEHICLES AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.**

- a) *Damage by Vehicle.* No person shall operate a vehicle for recreational use or other purpose in or on any property administered by the Committee in such a manner as to cause intentional soil displacement, soil erosion, soil or water pollution or other environmental damage as determined by the Department
- b) *Abandoned Vehicles.* As used in this section, vehicle means any motor vehicle, boat, ATV, UTV, motorcycle snowmobile, trailer, semi-trailer, mobile home, or any other vehicle as determined abandoned. No person shall leave any vehicle unattended without prior Department authority for more than 48 hours under such circumstances as to cause the vehicle to reasonably appear to have been abandoned. An abandoned vehicle shall constitute a public nuisance and may be removed from County property by the Department. Cost of recovery of the abandoned vehicle shall be the responsibility of the owner.
- c) *Speed.*
- i) No person shall operate any vehicle at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour in any developed recreational facility or contrary to official traffic signs on any road or recreational trail.
 - ii) No person shall operate any vehicle on County forest roads without posted speed limits at speeds exceeding 35 miles per hour.
 - iii) No person shall operate any vehicle on any trail or road at unreasonable speeds or speeds which create questionable safety for the operator, passengers or other users of the County lands.
- d) *Parking.* No person shall park, stop or leave standing, whether attended or unattended, any vehicle or watercraft, in any manner as to block, obstruct, or limit the use of any road, trail, waterway, facility, or contrary to posted notice.
- e) *Motorized Access for Mobility Impaired People.* Individuals with a State-issued, disability-parking placard or card, or other State-issued proof of disability, a valid, State-issued, disability-parking placard or card, or a Class A, B, or C Disability Permit issued by WI DNR or other State-issued proof of disability may apply for a Power-Driven Mobility Device (PDMD) from the Department. Under an approved PDMD permit use of other power-driven mobility devices (OPDM's) including defined motorized will be provided on specific areas of the forest lands that applicants wish. to access. Other Power-driven mobility device means any mobility devise powered by batteries, fuel, or other engines – whether or not designed primarily for use by individuals with mobility disabilities - that is used by individuals with mobility disabilities for the purpose of locomotion, or any mobility device designed to operate in areas without defined pedestrian routes. Permits will be reviewed, approved or denied based upon site specific indicators which provide for save operations of OPDM's within the application area. PDMD permitted access will be approved only on existing roads and trails and cross-country travel will not be approved.
- f) *Licensed Motor Vehicles.* Use of licensed motor vehicles on County land is only authorized on roadways and trails **not designated as closed** by signs, gates (open or closed) or physical barriers. Cross country or use of motor vehicles or on closed roads is a violation with exception of individuals with an approved special use permit, land use permit, private land access permit or with a valid Power-Driven Mobility Device permit as issued by the Department.

- g) *Licensed Motor Vehicles on Designated Snowmobile Trails.* Use of licensed motor vehicles is not authorized on designated snowmobile trails during the period that commences with the first trail grooming until such a time that the trail officially closes. Motorized Vehicle use of official roads that are utilized as snowmobile routes is authorized regardless of trail status. Use of motor vehicles on groomed snowmobile trails is a violation with exception of individuals who own or manage the land upon which the trail is located, as part of an operations and trail maintenance agreement or as part of official emergency response.
- h) *Off-Highway Motorcycles (OHM).* Use of OHM that are not DOT licensed on County land is only authorized on trails or routes designated on the Langlade County OHM Trails Map and on approved access roads or trails which are appropriately signed as open to unlicensed OHM. Cross country or use of OHM that are not DOT licensed on roads or trails not posted as open is a violation with exception of individuals with an approved Power-Driven Mobility Device permit including a specific machine and a specific area or other permits as issued by the Department. No person shall operate OHM in unauthorized areas. **There currently are no OHM trails designated on County lands.**
- i) *All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) and Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV).* with exception of individuals with an approved Power-Driven Mobility Device permit including a specific machine and a specific area or other permits as issued by the Department or agency.
- i) No person shall operate any ATV/UTV on public lands, trails, or roads unless authorized by the Federal, State, County or Local agency controlling the lands under a permit or **unless marked or designated as open** by action of the appropriate agency. County forest roads open to motor vehicle traffic are open to ATV/UTV use.
 - ii) No person shall operate any ATV/UTV on public lands, trails, or roads **designated as closed** to vehicles by a sign, physical barrier or gate (either open or closed) placed by the agency controlling the lands.
 - iii) No person shall operate any ATV/UTV cross country on public land.
 - iv) No person shall operate any ATV/UTV on private lands, trails, or roads unless authorized by the landowner individually or by a trail use easement or agreement as part of a public trail.
 - v) No person shall operate any ATV/UTV off from established trail surfaces on any lands. Trail surfaces shall be signed and marked with uniform motorized recreational (ATV/UTV) vehicle signs in accordance with Wisconsin Administrative Code.
 - vi) No person shall operate any ATV/UTV on designated trails when the trails have been officially closed by public notice from the Department or otherwise marked as closed.
 - vii) ATV/UTV use on established non-motorized trails is only authorized when such use is part of sled dog training on established sled dog trails, part of trail maintenance or part of trail safety operations.
 - viii) Landowners of any ATV/UTV shall be exempt from use limitations in this subsection on lands under their control.
- j) *Snowmobiles.* with exception of individuals with an approved Power-Driven Mobility Device permit including a specific machine and a specific area or other permits as issued by the Department or agency.
- i) No person shall operate any snowmobile on public lands, trails, or roads unless authorized by the Federal, State, County or Local agency controlling the lands under a permit or **unless marked or designated as open** by action of the appropriate agency. County forest roads open to motor vehicle traffic **are not** open to snowmobile use, unless part of a designated snowmobile trail.
 - ii) No person shall operate any Snowmobile on public lands, trails, or roads **designated as closed** to vehicles by a sign, physical barrier or gate (either open or closed) placed by the agency controlling the lands.
 - iii) No person shall operate any Snowmobile cross country on public land.

- iv) No person shall operate any Snowmobile on private lands, trails, or roads unless authorized by the landowner individually or by a trail use easement or agreement as part of a public trail.
 - v) No person shall operate any Snowmobile off from established trail surfaces. Trail surfaces shall be signed and marked with uniform motorized recreational (Snowmobile) vehicle signs in accordance with Wisconsin Administrative Code.
 - vi) No person shall operate any Snowmobile on designated trails when the trails have been officially closed by public notice from the Department or otherwise marked as closed.
 - vii) Snowmobile use on established non-motorized trails is only authorized when such use is part of sled dog training on established sled dog trails, part of trail maintenance or part of trail safety operations.
 - viii) Landowners of any Snowmobile shall be exempt from use limitations in this subsection on lands under their control.
- k) *Undefined Motorized Vehicles.* Use of motorized vehicles including but not limited to power driven boards, tracked motorcycles, golf carts, E-Bikes which exceed a maximum power output of 750w or other undefined motorized vehicles on County land is a violation, with exception of individuals with an approved Power-Driven Mobility Device permit including a specific machine and a specific area or other permits as approved by the Committee.
- l) *Watercraft.*
- i) No person shall moor, anchor, or leave unattended any watercraft overnight in the waters of any recreation site or land under the management, supervision and control of the Committee.
 - ii) No person shall remain overnight in any watercraft in the waters of any recreation site under the management, supervision, and control of the Committee.
 - iii) No person shall operate a boat within any water area marked by buoys or other approved regulatory devices as a swimming beach, nor operate a watercraft in a restricted area contrary to regulatory notice marked on buoys or other approved regulatory devices.
 - iv) No person shall power-launch or power-load watercraft in any landing operated by the County.
- m) *Bicycles.* No person shall operate a bicycle in any area that is signed as restricted for bicycle use. Bicycle use is restricted on designated motorized trails on County property. Cross country use of bicycles or use on unapproved trails is a violation of the Chapter.
- n) *Electric Bicycles(E-Bikes).* The State of Wisconsin defines electric bikes as a bicycle with a motor attached. E-bikes are classified as “motor bicycles,” and are regulated like bicycles, so long as the bicycle’s motor has a maximum power output of 750w, has pedals that propel the bike with human power and the bike doesn’t exceed 20 mph.
- i) No person shall operate an E-Bike in any area that is signed as restricted for bicycle use.
 - ii) No person shall operate an E-Bike within any recreational area in excess of 10 mph or faster than the posted speed limit, whichever is lowest.
- o) *Animal Propelled Wheeled Wagons or Carts.* No person shall operate an animal propelled wheeled wagon in any area that is closed to vehicles as defined by barriers or signs, unless part of a permitted special use.
- p) *Damage by Vehicles or Non-vehicular Traffic.* No person shall operate a vehicle or utilize other modes of transportation for recreational use or other purpose in or on any property administered by the Committee in such a manner as to cause soil erosion, excessive road damage, pollution or other damage.
- q) *Official Use Exempt.* This subsection, in its entirety does not apply for emergency response, patrol watercraft or departmental watercraft.

FORFEITURES RANGE FROM \$50.00 TO \$200.00 FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE.