

Town of Westford  
Dodge County, Wisconsin  
Ordinance 02-2021

**ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF ALL-TERRAIN AND UTILITY-TERRAIN VEHICLES ON TOWN ROADS**

The Town Board of the Town of Westford, at a duly-noticed public meeting with quorum present and voting, hereby ordains the following:

**SECTION 1.0 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish all-terrain and utility-terrain vehicle routes in the Town of Westford and to regulate the operation of all-terrain and utility-terrain vehicles in the Town.

**SECTION 2.0 AUTHORITY**

The Town Board of the Town of Westford, Dodge County, Wisconsin has the specific authority to adopt this All-Terrain and Utility-Terrain Vehicle Ordinance under s.23.33(8)(b) and (11), Wis stats.

**SECTION 3.0 ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE**

The ordinance adopted on proper notice with a quorum and roll call vote by a majority of the Town Board present and voting, provides the authority of the Town to designate all-terrain and utility-terrain vehicle routes in the Town and to regulate the use of those routes and all-terrain and utility-terrain vehicles in the Town.

**SECTION 4.0 DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of the Ordinance, the following definitions shall be used. Words used in the present tense include the future; the singular number includes the plural number; and the plural number includes the singular number. The words "shall", "will", and "must" are always mandatory. The words "may" and "should" are discretionary terms. The masculine shall include the feminine. Terms not defined in the Section, shall be interpreted based on common usage.

Town: means Town of Westford, the Town Board or any other Town of Westford official(s) authorized by the Town Board to act on behalf of the Town of Westford.

All-terrain vehicle (ATV): means a commercially designed and manufactured motor-driven device that has a weight, without fluids, of 900 pounds or less, has a width of 50 inches or less, is equipped with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator, and travels on 3 or more low-pressure tires or non-pneumatic tires.

Utility-terrain vehicle (UTV): means the following:

1. A commercially designed and manufactured motor driven device that does not meet federal motor vehicle safety standards in effect on July 1, 2012, that is not a golf cart, low-speed vehicle, dune buggy, mini-truck, or tracked vehicle, that is designed to be used primarily off of a highway, and that had, and was originally manufactured with, all of the following:
  - a. A weight, without fluids, of 3,000 pounds or less
  - b. Four or more low-pressure tires or non-pneumatic tires
  - c. A steering wheel
  - d. A tail light
  - e. A brake light
  - f. Two headlights
  - g. A width of not more than 65 inches

- h. A system of seat belts, or a similar system for restraining each occupant of the device in the event of an accident
  - i. A system of structural members designed to reduce the likelihood that an occupant would be crushed as the result of a rollover of the device
2. A commercially designed and manufactured motor driven device to which all of the following applies:
- a. It has a weight, without fluids, of more than 900 pounds but not more than 2,000 pounds
  - b. It has a width of 50 inches or less
  - c. It is equipped with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator
  - d. It travels on 3 or more low-pressure tires or non-pneumatic tires

#### **SECTION 5.0 OPERATION OF ALL-TERRAIN AND UTILITY-TERRAIN VEHICLES**

Pursuant to s.23.33(3)(d)4, Wis. stats., except as otherwise provided in s.23.33(4), Wis. stats., no person may operate an all-terrain or utility-terrain vehicle on the roadway of any highway in the Town except on roadways that are designated as all-terrain and utility-terrain vehicle routes by this ordinance.

#### **SECTION 6.0 DESIGNATION OF ALL-TERRAIN AND UTILITY-TERRAIN VEHICLE ROUTES**

All roads under the jurisdiction of the Town of Westford are designated all-terrain and utility-terrain vehicle routes.

#### **SECTION 7.0 CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL-TERRAIN AND UTILITY-TERRAIN VEHICLE ROUTES**

Pursuant to s.23.33(8)(d), Wis. stats., the following restrictions are placed on the use of the Town all-terrain and utility-terrain vehicle routes designated by this resolution:

**7.1** Routes shall be marked with uniform all-terrain and utility-terrain vehicle route signs in accordance with s. NR 64.12(7), Wisconsin Administrative Code. No person may do any of the following in regard to signs marking Town all-terrain and utility-terrain vehicle routes:

- a. Intentionally remove, damage, deface, move, or obstruct any uniform all-terrain or utility-terrain vehicle route or trail sign or standard or intentionally interfere with the effective operation of any uniform all-terrain and utility-terrain vehicle route or trail sign or standards if the sign or standard is legally placed by the State, any municipality, or any authorized individual.
- b. Possess any uniform all-terrain or utility-terrain vehicle route or trail sign or standard of the type established by the department for warning, instruction, or information of the public, unless he or she obtained the uniform all-terrain and utility terrain vehicle route or trail sign or standard in a lawful manner. Possession of a uniform all-terrain or utility-terrain vehicle route or trail sign or standard creates a rebuttable presumption of illegal possession.

**7.2** Operation shall be subject to all provisions of s.23.33, Wis. stats., which is adopted as a part of this ordinance by reference, pursuant to s.23.33(11), Wis. stats.

**7.3** Operators must abide by all traffic laws unless further restricted by this Ordinance.

**7.4** No ATV/UTV shall be operated at a speed greater than 35 miles per hour unless posted at a lower limit.

**7.5** ATV/UTV's may be operated on paved surfaces only, unless yielding the right of way.

**7.6** ATV/UTV operators shall ride single file.

**7.7** No ATV/UTV may be operated on any designated route without fully functional headlights, tail lights and brake lights.

**7.8** No ATV/UTV may be operated on any designated route between the hours of 11:59pm and 5:00am daily, unless a different restriction of hours of operation has been specified by the Town and notice of the same is duly posted on the segment.

**7.9** All ATV/UTV operators shall ride on the right-hand side of the paved portion of the highway, unless making a left turn. Operation on the gravel shoulders, grassy in-slope, ditches, or other highway right-of-way is prohibited, unless yielding right of way.

**7.10** No ATV/UTV may be operated on any designated ATV/UTV route if the ATV/UTV does not meet all applicable Federal noise and air pollution standards.

**7.11** No person under the age of 16 (sixteen) may operate an ATV/UTV on any segment of Town Road which is designated as an ATV/UTV route.

**7.12** No person under the age of 18 (eighteen) may operate an ATV/UTV on any designated route unless wearing approved protective head gear.

**7.13** Every person who operates an ATV/UTV on a segment of Town road which is designated as an ATV/UTV route shall have in his or her immediate possession a valid motor vehicle operator's license, and shall display the license document upon demand from any law enforcement officer or official described in s.23.33(12), Wis. stats.

## **SECTION 8.0 ROUTE SIGNS**

- a. All required designated route signs shall be purchased, installed and maintained by the Town of Westford Board or its designee.
- b. Expenses for purchase, installation and maintenance of highway route signs are to be paid for by the applicant, Town of Westford Board or its designee.
- c. All signs posted shall be compliant with Federal and State Statutes.
- d. No person may erect, remove, obscure, or deface any official designated route sign unless authorized by the Town of Westford Board.
- e. No person shall operate an ATV/UTV contrary to any authorized and official posted sign.

## **SECTION 9.0 ENFORCEMENT**

This ordinance may be enforced by any Town Board Officer or law enforcement officer authorized to enforce the laws of the State of Wisconsin. A copy of this ordinance shall be sent by the Town Clerk to the Department of Natural Resources, the Dodge County Sheriff's Department and any other law enforcement agency serving the Town of Westford jurisdiction.

## **SECTION 10.0 PENALTIES**

The penalties under s.23.33(13)(a), Wis. stats., are adopted by reference.

## **SECTION 11.0 MAINTENANCE**

Designation of segments of the Town road system as ATV/UTV routes does not impose upon the Town a greater duty of care of responsibility for maintenance of those segments than for any other segment of Town road. Operators of ATV/UTV's on Town roads assume all the usual and normal risks of ATV/UTV operation.

**SECTION 12.0 SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

**SECTION 13.0 RESERVED AUTHORITY**

The Town of Westford Board may withdraw, rescind, modify, suspend or terminate any designation of an ATV/UTV route made under this ordinance.

**SECTION 14.0 DATE**

This ordinance is effective immediately upon passage by the Town Board and publication or posting. The Town Clerk shall properly publish this ordinance as required under s.60.80, Wis. stats.

Adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021

TOWN OF WESTFORD

By: Dannel Banes  
Dannel Banes, Chairman

Dale Macheel  
Dale Macheel, Town Supervisor

Corey Welch  
Corey Welch, Town Supervisor

ATTEST

Gail White  
Gail White, Town Clerk