

**TOWN OF WATERTOWN
ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV) AND
UTILITY-TERRAIN VEHICLE (UTV) ROUTE ORDINANCE**

The Town Board of the Town of Watertown, Jefferson County, Wisconsin, does hereby ordain as follows:

Section 1. General.

Following due consideration of the recreational and economic value to access businesses and residences weighted against possible dangers, public health, public safety, liability aspects, terrain involved, traffic density and other traffic risks, this Ordinance is enacted pursuant to Sections 59.02 and 23.33 Wis. Stats., and the provisions of the Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 64 regulating ATV operation, which is hereby incorporated and adopted.

Section 2. Applicability and Enforcement.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall apply to all town highways within the jurisdiction of Jefferson County and the provisions of this Ordinance shall be enforced by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

Adoption of this Ordinance shall not prohibit any law enforcement officer or DNR warden from proceeding under any other ordinance, regulation, statute, law, or order that pertains to the subject matter addressed under this section.

Section 3. Limitations.

The following limitations apply on all areas designated in this Ordinance: Operators and passengers of all ATVs/UTVs shall comply with all federal, state and local laws, orders, regulations, restrictions, and rules, including, but not limited to, Section 23.33 Wis. Stats. and Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 64.

This Ordinance incorporates by reference all definitions under Section 23.33 Wis. Stats. and Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 64 and any other applicable Wisconsin Law defining ATVs/UTVs and regulating ATV/UTV use unless this Ordinance states otherwise. ATVs/UTVs shall be operated on the extreme right side of the roadway on the paved surface. ATVs/UTVs may be operated on paved surfaces only, unless yielding the right of way. ATV/UTV operators are required to have applicable liability insurance. ATVs/UTVs shall not be operated at a speed greater than the posted speed limits. ATVs/UTVs may not be operated on any town highway route without fully functional headlights, taillights, and brake lights. ATVs/UTVs may not be operated on any town highway route between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.

No person may operate an ATV/UTV on any town highway route without a valid driver's license and shall display the license upon demand from any law enforcement officer or official described in Section 23.33(12) Wis. Stats.

Section 4. ATV/UTV Routes.

Town highway routes designated for ATV/UTV use shall be established and approved by the Jefferson County Highway Committee. Any modification to the routes designated for ATV/UTV use shall be approved by the Jefferson County Highway Committee.

The routes designated as an ATV/UTV vehicle route shall be as follows: All Town Highways within Jefferson County jurisdiction.

The Jefferson County Highway Committee and/or the Town of Watertown Town Board shall have the authority to suspend operation on any Town Highway route or segment thereof due to hazards, construction, emergency conditions, road damage, or any other issue deemed appropriate for public safety. Routes subsequently removed as an ATV/UTV vehicle route will be posted on the Town of Watertown website.

No Town highway segment may be designated as an ATV/UTV vehicle route if it is located within a City or Village which has jurisdiction responsibility for that segment without City or Village permission.

Section 5. Route Signs.

Jefferson County ATV Clubs shall be responsible for all costs related to the creation, installation, maintenance, or removal of any ATV/UTV signs, including speed limit signs that are placed on any Town road, which is designated an ATV/UTV route.

All signs shall be in compliance with the Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

No person may erect or, remove any official designated route sign unless authorized by the Jefferson County Highway Department or Town of Watertown Town Board in writing.

No person shall operate an ATV/UTV contrary to any authorized and official posted sign.

Section 6. Penalties.

This Ordinance shall be enforced by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office or any law enforcement official as set forth in Section 23.33(12) Wis. Stats., including the issuance of a citation under Section 66.0113 Wis. Stats.

The penalties set forth in Section 23.33(13)(a) Wis. Stats., are adopted and incorporated by reference herein.

Section 7. Severability.

Should any sub-section, clause, or provision of this Ordinance be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part declared invalid.

Section 8. Maintenance.


Designation of segments of the Town highway system as ATV/UTV routes does not impose upon the Town of Watertown a greater duty of care or responsibility for maintenance of this segments than for any other segment of Town highway. Operators of ATV/UTVs on Town highways assume all the usual and normal risks of ATV/UTV operation.


Section 9. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall be effective upon enactment and publication.

Dated: 08/09/, 2021.

TOWN OF WATERTOWN

By 
John Thoma, Town Chairman

By 
Robert Preuss, Town Supervisor

By 
Blain Parsons, Town Supervisor

Attest: August 9, 2021.


James Wendt, Town Clerk