

Ordinance 2025-7 - Regulating the Operation of Golf Carts and Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTVs) on Public Roads Within the Town Limits

This ordinance replaces Ordinance No. 2010-4 Authorizing and Regulating the Use of Golf Carts in the Town of Glenwood, Indiana.

SECTION I. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

- A. The purpose of this ordinance is to establish uniform safety regulations for golf carts and utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) operating on roads within the corporate limits of Glenwood, Indiana.
- B. This ordinance is created under the provisions of Indiana Code § 9-21-1-3.3 (as amended).

SECTION II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Golf Cart – A motor vehicle originally designed for operation on a golf course and not manufactured for highway use.
- B. UTV (Utility Terrain Vehicle) – A four-wheeled off-road vehicle not originally designed for highway use, typically used for recreation or work.
- C. Operator – Any person who is in control of a golf cart or UTV.
- D. ATV (All-Terrain Vehicle) – A motorized off-road vehicle designed for use on various terrain types, typically equipped with four low-pressure tires, a straddle seat for the operator, and handlebars for steering.

SECTION III. REGISTRATION AND PERMITTING

- A. There is no registration or permit process. Golf carts and UTVs may be operated within the limits of this ordinance and will be enforced solely by the Town Marshal or other law enforcement as need

SECTION IV. EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- A. All golf carts and UTVs operated on town roads must be equipped with the following:
 - At least one operational headlight, visible from 500 feet, is required from dusk until dawn.
 - At least two red reflectors mounted on the rear
 - Functional brakes
 - A rearview mirror
 - An audible horn
 - A slow-moving vehicle emblem affixed to the rear
 - For UTVs: seat belts for all occupants

SECTION V. OPERATIONAL RESTRICTIONS

- A. Operators must be at least 16 years of age and possess a valid Indiana driver's license.
- B. Operation is permitted from sunrise to sunset only, unless the vehicle is equipped with two functional headlights, tail lights, and turn signals.
- C. Operation is permitted only on roads where the posted speed limit is 30 mph or less.
- D. Operation of golf carts and UTVs on any road, or any portion of any road, designated as a state road (SR 44) is prohibited. These roads may be crossed at 90 degrees at any properly established intersection per Indiana Code § 9-21-1-3.3(C)(1).
- E. Golf carts and UTV side-by-side vehicles shall travel in single-file on town streets and alleys and yield to motor vehicle traffic as required by State law.
- F. Operation on sidewalks, trails, town's playground or private property without permission is prohibited.
 - If no other access is available, operation on the north and south side of West State Street (SR 44) is permissible with a speed limit of 10 mph or less and yielding to pedestrians and bicyclists. Street crossing is not allowed over private property (grass or driveway between sidewalk and highway) without the property owner's permission. The vehicles must stay entirely on the sidewalk and cannot drive onto private property grass.
 - An exception shall be made for any town employee or contractor acting in an official capacity while performing duties on behalf of the Town of Glenwood. This includes the operation of town vehicles or equipment on sidewalks when necessary for maintenance, inspection, utility work, or other town-related operations.
- G. This ordinance does not authorize the operation of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) on any public roads, highways, sidewalks, or public rights-of-way within the Town of Glenwood.

SECTION VI. INSURANCE REQUIREMENT

- A. All operators must carry proof of insurance meeting Indiana's minimum motor vehicle liability coverage.
- B. In accordance with Indiana Code § 9-25-4-1, golf carts and UTVs operated on public roads must maintain minimum liability insurance coverage. The required minimums are \$25,000 for bodily injury or death of one individual, \$50,000 for two or more individuals, and \$25,000 for property damage. Proof of insurance must be carried at all times while operating within town limits.

SECTION VII. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

- A. This ordinance shall be enforced by the Glenwood Town Marshal or any law enforcement agency with jurisdiction.
- B. Violations shall result in the following penalties:
 - First Offense – Verbal or written warning
 - Second Offense – \$100 fine
 - Third and Subsequent Offenses – \$250 fine per violation
- C. Vehicles that are unsafe or repeatedly in violation may be impounded.

SECTION VIII. LIABILITY

The intent of this section shall not be construed as a representation, opinion, claim, warranty, or guarantee that operating any particular golf cart or UTV side-by-side vehicle on any town street is safe, advisable, nor that any person is competent to so operate such a vehicle. The town expressly disclaims any liability for personal injury, death, property damage, and other losses caused or alleged to be caused or incurred by any person due to, or alleged to be due to, the operation of a golf cart or UTV side-by-side vehicle on a town street.

SECTION IX. SEVERABILITY AND AMENDMENTS

- A. If any portion of this ordinance is declared invalid by a court of law, the remaining provisions shall remain in full effect.
- B. Any revisions to Indiana Codes § 9-21-1-3.3 and § 9-25-4-1 will override provisions in this ordinance.

SECTION X. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon passage.

Passed and adopted by The Town of Glenwood on the 8th day of September, 2025.