

BICYCLES, ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, AND ELECTRIC BICYCLES

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this chapter:

Bicycle, Under Wis. Stats. § 340.01, a bicycle is generally defined as a vehicle propelled by human power upon which a person may ride, having two tandem wheels, or two parallel wheels and one forward wheel, all of which are 14 inches or more in diameter. They are considered vehicles and must obey traffic laws.

Electric Scooter means a device weighing less than 100 pounds that has handlebars and an electric motor, is powered solely by the electric motor and human power, and has a maximum speed of not more than 20 miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by the electric motor. An electric scooter does not include an electric personal assistive mobility device, motorcycle, motor bicycle, electric bicycle, or moped.

Electric bicycle Wis. Stats. §340.01(15ph) defines an electric bicycle as a bicycle that is equipped with fully operative pedals for propulsion by human power and an electric motor of 750 watts or less and that meets the requirements of any of the following classifications:

- (a) Class 1 electric bicycle is an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- (b) Class 2 electric bicycle is an electric bicycle that may be powered solely by the motor and is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- (c) Class 3 electric bicycle is an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour.

Electric personal assistive mobility device Wis. Stats. §340.01(15pm) defines an electric personal assistive mobility device means a self-balancing, 2-nontandem wheeled device that is designed to transport only one person and that has an electric propulsion system that limits the maximum speed of the device to 15 miles per hour or less.

Devices not meeting the definitions established under Wisconsin Statutes are prohibited from operation on public roadways, sidewalks, trails, or other public property within the Village.

State laws applicable

Every person operating a bicycle, electric bicycle, or electric scooter upon a public roadway shall be subject to all Village ordinances and Wisconsin traffic laws applicable to the operator of a vehicle, including but not limited to the provisions of Wisconsin Statutes §§ 346.77 through 346.82, except provisions that by their nature have no application.

Provisions for operation

Where prohibited

No electric scooters shall be operated on any roadway, trail, path, or property where a sign is erected indicating that bicycles and/or electric scooters are prohibited.

Operation on roadways

- Every person operating a bicycle, electric bicycle, or electric scooter upon a public roadway shall obey all instructions of official traffic-control devices, signs, and signals applicable to vehicles.
- Electric scooters may not be operated on any roadway with a posted speed limit greater than twenty-five (25) miles per hour unless the roadway contains a designated bicycle lane.
- Every person using an electric scooter upon a two-way public street shall ride as near as practicable to within five feet of the right curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking another vehicle, avoiding hazards, or making a left-hand turn.
- When riding in groups, users of bicycles, electric scooters, and electric bicycles shall ride in a single file line.
- On one-way roads, the user may ride as near as practicable to within five feet of the left-hand curb or edge of the roadway.
- Persons operating bicycles, electric bicycles, or electric scooters shall not impede the normal movement of motor vehicle traffic.
- The Village Board may designate streets where operation of electric bicycles and/or electric scooters is prohibited by posted signage.

Operation on sidewalks, bicycle ways, and trails

- Bicycles, electric bicycles, and electric scooters may be operated upon sidewalks, bicycle lanes, shared-use paths, and recreational trails unless otherwise prohibited by signage.
- Operators shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians at all times.
- Operators shall exercise due care and shall provide an audible signal before passing another pedestrian, bicycle, or scooter proceeding in the same direction

Clinging to other vehicles

No person operating a bicycle, electric bicycle, or electric scooter shall cling to or attach themselves to any moving vehicle.

Contests with other vehicles; stunt riding

No person using an electric bicycle or electric scooter shall:

- Participate in any race, speed, or endurance contest with any other moving vehicle on a Village roadway; or
- Perform any trick riding on any highway, bicycle way, or sidewalk; or
- Operate an electric scooter with no hands on the handlebars or otherwise practice any fancy or acrobatic riding or stunts while operating such electric scooter.

Right-of-way

- The operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a person using an electric scooter or electric bicycle in the same manner as for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- When using an electric scooter or electric bicycle, every person shall, upon entering a public roadway, yield the right-of-way to motor vehicles, except that a person using an electric scooter shall be subject to the same regulations as bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Operators of electric scooters or electric bicycles shall yield the right-of-way to bicycles in bicycle lanes and on bicycle paths.
- Every person operating an electric scooter or electric bicycle upon a sidewalk shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian or bicyclist and shall exercise due care and give an audible signal when passing a bicycle, electric scooter, electric bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, or pedestrian proceeding in the same direction.

Towing prohibited

The operator of any bicycle, electric scooter, or electric bicycle shall not tow, drag, or cause to be drawn behind the bicycle, electric scooter, or electric bicycle any coaster, sled, toy vehicle, trailer, person, on in-line or other skates, skateboard, or any other type of conveyance.

Passengers

No electric scooter or electric bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed or equipped.

Age limit

No person less than eight years of age shall operate an electric scooter or electric bicycle on Village roadways.

Headphones prohibited

No operator of an electric scooter or electric bicycle shall wear headphones, earphones, or earbuds covering or inserted into both ears while operating an electric scooter or electric bicycle.

Equipment regulations

Any bicycle, electric bicycle, or electric scooter operated between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise shall be equipped with:

- A white headlamp visible from at least 500 feet to the front; and
- A red reflector or red lamp visible from at least 300 feet to the rear.

All such devices shall also be equipped with a bell or audible warning device capable of signaling other users of the roadway or path.

Helmet requirements for minors

- Any person under the age of sixteen (16) years operating or riding as a passenger on a bicycle, electric bicycle, or electric scooter upon public property within the Village shall wear a properly fitted protective helmet meeting nationally recognized safety standards.
- Parents or guardians shall not knowingly permit a minor to operate or ride such devices without complying with this requirement.

Parking restrictions

No person shall park or leave unattended an electric scooter or similar device:

- On any roadway;
- On sidewalks or pedestrian travel ways where it obstructs pedestrian movement;
- Within bicycle lanes or bicycle ways;
- In any location where prohibited by signage.

Law enforcement may remove and impound any electric scooter parked in violation of this subsection.

Commercial rental prohibited

Short-term commercial rental or shared electric scooter or electric bicycle services are prohibited within the Village unless expressly authorized by the Village Board pursuant to a licensing agreement.

Parent liability

No parent or guardian of any child shall authorize or knowingly permit such child to violate this chapter or any applicable state law governing electric scooters or electric bicycles.

Penalty

Any person violating the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to a forfeiture as established in the Village's uniform forfeiture schedule, together with applicable court costs and fees.

Enforcement actions may include warnings, citations, or other lawful penalties depending on the nature and severity of the violation.

For minors under fourteen (14) years of age, initial violations may be addressed through warnings and parental notification prior to issuance of a citation.