

Becker County Ordinance # 22

MANAGEMENT OF ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES IN PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY OF ALL COUNTY ROADS
WITHIN THE COUNTY'S JURISDICTION

Article 1 Statutory Authority

1. Minnesota Statutes 84.92 84.928 regulate the operation of all-terrain vehicles, including the operation of all-terrain vehicles within public road rights of way.
2. Minnesota Statute 84.928 Subdivision 1 generally restricts Class 1 all- terrain vehicles from using the roadway, shoulder, and inside bank or slope of a county state-aid or county highway.
3. Minnesota Statute 84.928 Subdivision I (k) authorizes a County Board by ordinance to allow the operation of all-terrain vehicles on a public road or street to access businesses and residences and to make trail connections.
4. Minnesota Statute 84.928 Subdivision Ia(h) authorizes a road authority by permit to designate corridor access trails on public road right of way for purposes of accessing established all-terrain vehicle trails.
5. Minnesota Statute 84.928 Subdivision 6(c) authorizes a County Board by ordinance to allow the operation of all-terrain vehicles on the road shoulder and inside bank or slope of the county state-aid or county highway if safe operation in the ditch or outside slope is impossible.

Article 2 Purpose and Intent

The purpose and intent of this ordinance is as follows:

1. Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 84.928 Subdivision 6(c), to allow the legal use of class I all-terrain vehicles on the extreme right hand side of all gravel- surfaced county highways for the purpose of enhanced all-terrain vehicle operator safety and to prevent damage to road ditches and slopes.
2. Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 84.928 Subdivision I (k), to allow the legal use of class I all-terrain vehicles on the extreme right hand side of the road and shoulder of specific county highways for the purpose of accessing businesses such as food and fuel.
3. Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 82.928 Subdivision I a(h), to allow for a corridor access permit process to allow the legal use of class 1 all-terrain vehicles on the extreme right hand side of specific county highways for the purpose of accessing established ATV trails.

Article 3 Definitions

The following definitions apply to this ordinance:

1. County means the County of Becker, Minnesota.
2. County Highways means county state aid highways, county roads and unorganized town roads under the jurisdiction of Becker County.
3. Gravel-surfaced County Highway means those that have a full-width driving surface consisting only of loose aggregate material.

4. Paved County Highways means those that consist of paved traffic lanes and paved and/or gravel surfaced shoulders.
5. ATV Club shall mean an organization which meets the following criteria.
 - a. A non-profit organization duly organized under the laws of the State of Minnesota and recognized by the Minnesota Secretary of State.
 - b. Has adopted by-laws, including the election of officers such as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.
 - c. Is a member, in good standing, of the ATV Association of Minnesota.
 - d. Has a current Club Trail Agreement with Becker County and a current Certificate of Insurance on file as required by the agreement

Article 4 Operation

1. Class 1 all-terrain vehicles may be operated on the extreme right hand side of all gravel-surfaced county highways. Operation shall be in compliance with the regulations contained in Article 6 of this Ordinance.
2. Class 1 all-terrain vehicles may be operated on the extreme right hand side of the traffic lane on the following segments of paved county highways for the purpose of avoiding wetlands or sensitive areas and for accessing businesses such as food and fuel. Operation shall be in compliance with the regulations contained in Article 6 of this Ordinance.
 - a. Intersection of Balmi Cemetery Rd and County Highway 38 into the City of Wolf Lake
3. Operation of class 1 all-terrain vehicles on all other paved county highways shall remain as restricted as in Minnesota Statute 84.928 Subdivision 1.
4. Segments of class 1 all-terrain vehicles operations may be amended as needed by the County Board of Commissioners as Corridor Access Permits are sought for.

Article 5 Corridor Access Permit

A Corridor Access Permit Process is available under this Ordinance to allow legal all-terrain vehicle operation on the traffic lanes of specific paved county highways.

1. The applicant for this permit must be made by an ATV Club. Permit application forms are available at the Becker County Highway Department.
2. The city council or township board(s) in which the corridor is located must support all-terrain vehicles using the specific county highways. A resolution of support shall be included with the application.
3. Operation on approved corridor access routes shall be in compliance with the regulations contained in Article 6 of this Ordinance.
4. The Becker County Natural Resources and/or Highway Committee shall make a recommendation to the Becker County Board of Commissioners for approval or denial of permit application requests.
5. Signage shall be approved by the Becker County Highway Department to indicate the location of corridor access permit areas.
6. Permits may be revoked by the Becker County Board of Commissioners at any time.

Article 6 Operation Regulations

For operation of Class 1 all-terrain vehicles under this Ordinance, the following regulations shall apply:

1. The maximum speed of operation shall be 25 miles per hour.
2. Direction of travel shall be in the same direction as vehicular traffic.
3. Left turns may be made from any part of the road if it is safe to do so under the prevailing conditions.
4. Operation shall not result in the spinning of tires or displacement of aggregate or soil material
5. Groups of riders shall be in single-file formation.
6. Hours of operation shall be limited to 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.
7. A person 12 years of age but less than 16 years must possess a valid all- terrain safety certificate issued by the commissioner of natural resources and must be accompanied by a person 18 year of age or older who is in possession of a valid driver's license.

Article 7 Prohibitions and Enforcement

1. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any of the provisions of this Ordinance, or to fail, resist, or refuse to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance.
2. It shall be unlawful for the owner of an ATV, or any person, to allow, permit, or require the operation of such vehicle by another in any manner that would be in violation of this Ordinance.
3. Penalty
 - a. Any person found to have violated this Ordinance, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by up to a \$1,000 fine and/or 90 days in jail.
 - b. Any person who refuses or fails to comply with the Order of the County Sheriff is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by up to a \$1,000 fine and/or 90 days in jail.
 - c. Any person who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects, or refuses to comply with, or resists the enforcement of any provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by up to a \$1000 fine and/or 90 days in jail.
4. The Becker County Attorney's Office shall have the authority to prosecute any and all violations of this Ordinance.

Article 8 Interpretation

In their interpretation and application, the provisions of this Ordinance shall be held to be minimum requirements and shall be liberally construed in favor of the governing body and shall not be deemed a limitation or repeal of any other powers granted by Minnesota Statutes.

Article 9 Incorporation

This Ordinance expressly adopts and incorporates the provisions of Minnesota Statutes sections 84.92 to 84.928. When the provisions of this Ordinance impose greater restrictions than those of any other statute, ordinance, rule, or regulation, the provisions of this Ordinance shall be controlling. Where the provisions of any other statute, ordinance, rule, or regulation impose greater restrictions than this Ordinance, the provision of such statute, ordinance, rule, or regulation shall be controlling.

Article 10 Severability

If any article, section, clause, provision, or portion of this Ordinance is adjudged unconstitutional, void, unenforceable, or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected hereby.

Article 11 Effective Date

This Ordinance shall be effective and enforceable on March 19, 2024, and shall be published in the official newspaper(s) of Becker County as provided by Minnesota Statutes.

Article 12 Adoption of Ordinance

Passed by the County Board of Commissioners this 19th day of March, 2024.

John Okeson
Board Chair

Carrie Smith
Interim County Administrator