

Bicycles and Play Vehicles

10-2-1	Definitions
10-2-2	Lighting and Other Equipment
10-2-3	Rules of the Road
10-2-4	General Bicycle Regulations
10-2-5	Bicycle Registration
10-2-6	Bicycle Penalties
10-2-7	Play Vehicles Regulated

Sec. 10-2-1 Definitions.

As used in this Chapter:

- (a) **Bicycle** means every device propelled by the feet acting upon pedals and having wheels, any two (2) of which are not less than fourteen (14) inches in diameter.
- (b) **Bicycles' Lane** means that portion of a roadway set aside for exclusive use of bicycles and so designated by appropriate signs and markings by the responsible governing body.
- (c) **Bike Route** means any bicycle lane, bicycle way or highway which has been duly designated by the responsible governing body and identified by appropriate signs and markings.
- (d) **Bicycle Way** means any path or sidewalk, or portion thereof, designated for the use of bicycles by the responsible governing body.
- (e) **Carrier** means any device attached to a bicycle designed for carrying articles.
- (f) **Right-of-Way** means the right of one vehicle or pedestrian to proceed in a lawful manner in preference to another vehicle or pedestrian approaching under such circumstances of direction, speed and proximity as to give rise to danger of collision unless one grants precedence to the other.
- (g) **Play Vehicles** means any coaster, skateboard, roller skates, sled, toboggan, unicycle or toy vehicle upon which a person may ride.

Sec. 10-2-2 Lighting and Other Equipment.

No person shall operate a bicycle upon a highway unless equipped as required in Sec. 347.81, Wis. Stats.

Sec. 10-2-3 Rules of the Road.

The provisions of Chapters 346 and 347, Wis. Stats., and applicable Village ordinances shall govern the operation of bicycles where appropriate. Every person driving a bicycle upon a roadway shall be granted all the rights and shall be subject to all the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by the laws of the State declaring rules of the road applicable to vehicles or by the traffic ordinances of the Village applicable to the driver of the vehicle, except as to those provisions of laws and ordinances which by their nature can have no application.

Sec. 10-2-4 General Bicycle Regulations.

- (a) **Parental Responsibility.** No parent or guardian of any child shall authorize or knowingly permit such child to violate any of the provisions of Section 10-2-3 and this Section.
- (b) **Street Operation.**
 - (1) Unless preparing to make a left turn, every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway carrying two-way traffic shall ride as near as possible to the right edge of the unobstructed traveled roadway. On one-way roadways, the operator of the bicycle shall ride as near as possible to the right edge or left edge of the unobstructed traveled roadway. Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall exercise due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction, allowing a minimum of three (3) feet between his bicycle and the vehicle.
 - (2) Every person when operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride such bicycle in single file.
 - (3) It shall be unlawful for any person riding upon a bicycle to cling to or attach himself or the bicycle to any other moving vehicle upon a street or highway.
 - (4) No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped. Infant seats are permitted if securely attached to the frame at the top mount and to the axle and frame at the rear bottom mount and if provided with hand holds, foot rests, foot guards and safety belt. The use of a back pack for carrying an infant is permitted. Persons are not permitted to be located on a bicycle in front of the operator of the bicycle.
 - (5) No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the safe operation of the bicycle with at least one hand on the handlebars at all times.
 - (6) No rider of a bicycle shall remove both hands from the handlebars or feet from the pedals, or practice any acrobatic or fancy riding on any street.
 - (7) Whenever a usable path for bicycles has been provided adjacent to a roadway, bicycle riders shall use such path and shall not use the roadway.
 - (8) No person may operate a bicycle or moped upon a roadway where a sign is erected indicating that bicycle riding is prohibited.

- (c) **Bicycle Parking.** No bicycle shall be parked in front of or adjacent to any commercial establishment unless the bicycle is parked on the sidewalk parallel to the street and as close as possible to the curb. No person shall leave a bicycle at such a place or in such a way as to create a hazard to pedestrians, automobile operators or to anyone else.
- (d) **Required Equipment.** Every bicycle, when operated upon a highway, shall be equipped with a brake adequate to control the movement of and to stop such vehicle whenever necessary. Such brake shall be maintained in good working order at all times.
- (e) **Bicycles Not to be Pulled by Moving Vehicles.** No person riding upon a bicycle shall cling or attach himself or his bicycle to any other moving vehicle upon a street or highway, nor shall the operator of any such bicycle tow or draw any coaster wagon, sled, person on roller skates, toy vehicles or any other similar vehicle on such highway.
- (f) **Speed.** No person shall operate a bicycle at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under existing conditions or in excess of any posted speed limit.
- (g) **Operation on Sidewalks.**
- (1) No person over the age of ten (10) shall ride or propel any bicycle upon any public sidewalk or thoroughfare of the Village set apart for pedestrians, except bicycles having wheels sized twenty (20) inches or under. This exception shall not apply to twenty (20) inch or under bicycles designed or modified to BMX specifications.
 - (2) No person shall ride or propel any bicycle upon any public street, alley, boulevard or sidewalk of the Village in such manner as to interfere with the rights of other persons using such street, alley, boulevard, or sidewalk.
- (h) **Bicycle Operation While Hearing Obstructed.** No person may operate a bicycle upon a highway while such operator is using any audio device attached directly to ear or ears of such operator that materially impairs the ability of such operator to hear traffic signals or warnings.
- (i) **Mopeds Prohibited on Bicycle Ways.** No person may ride a moped or motor bicycle with the power unit in operation upon a bicycle way.
- (j) **Riding Bicycle on Bicycle Lane.**
- (1) Unless two-way traffic is authorized by the Village Board on any portion of a roadway which it has set aside as a bicycle lane and appropriate traffic signs are installed, every person operating a bicycle upon a bicycle lane shall ride in the same direction in which vehicular traffic on the lane of the roadway nearest the bicycle lane is traveling.
 - (2)
 - a. Unless otherwise provided under Subsection (k)(2)b below, a person operating a bicycle may enter or leave a bicycle lane only at intersections or at driveways adjoining the bicycle lane.
 - b. A person may leave a bicycle at any point by dismounting from the bicycle and walking it out of the lane. A person may enter a bicycle lane at any point by walking his bicycle into the lane and then mounting it.
 - (3) Every person operating a bicycle upon a bicycle lane shall exercise due care and given an audible signal when passing a bicycle rider proceeding in the same direction.

- (4) Every operator of a bicycle entering a bicycle lane shall yield the right-of-way to all bicycles in the bicycle lane. Upon leaving a bicycle lane, the operator of a bicycle shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles and pedestrians.
- (k) **Riding Bicycle on Bicycle Way.**
 - (1) Every person operating a bicycle upon a bicycle way shall:
 - a. Exercise due care and give an audible signal when passing a bicycle rider or a pedestrian proceeding in the same direction.
 - b. Obey each traffic signal or sign facing a roadway which runs parallel and adjacent to a bicycle way.
 - (2) Every person operating a bicycle upon a bicycle way open to two-way traffic shall ride on the right side of the bicycle way.
 - (3) Every operator of a bicycle entering a bicycle way shall yield the right-of-way to all bicycles and pedestrians in the bicycle way.

Sec. 10-2-5 Bicycle Registration and Licensing.

- (a) **Registration Required.** It shall be unlawful for any resident of the Village to operate a bicycle upon any of the streets, alleys, or public highways of the Village of Merrilan, unless said bicycle is properly registered and tagged as herein provided.
- (b) **Fee.** Registration shall be made by filing with a Village police officer the name and address of the owner together with a complete description of the bicycle on forms provided by the Village and paying a registration fee of Two Dollars (\$2.00). Registrations shall be serially numbered and kept on file by the Village Marshal or Village Clerk-Treasurer as a public record.
- (c) **Identification Tag.** Upon such registration, the said officer shall cause an identification tag to be affixed to the bicycle registered, serially numbered to correspond to the registration number. Such tag shall remain affixed to the bicycle unless removed by said officer for cause or for retagging upon reregistration. In case of theft or loss, a duplicate tag shall be issued upon payment of a fee covering the cost of such tag.
- (d) **Expiration.** Registration shall annually expire on June 30th. All bicycles shall thereupon be reregistered in like manner.
- (e) **Restrictions and Suspension.** No bicycle shall be registered which is in unsafe mechanical condition. Village law enforcement officers shall have the authority to suspend the registration of and remove the identification tag from any bicycle operated contrary to any state law or the Village code or operated while in an unsafe mechanical condition, such suspension and removal to continue for a period not to exceed ten (10) days, provided that such registration shall not be reinstated or such identification tag be replaced while such bicycle is in unsafe mechanical condition. Such suspension and removal shall be in addition to other penalties provided hereunder.

- (f) **Removal of Identification Tag Prohibited.** No person shall wilfully remove, deface or destroy any such identification tag or any bicycle frame number.
- (g) **Report Change of Information.** Within seven (7) days after any bicycle registered hereunder shall have changed ownership or been dismantled and taken out of service or operation, the person in whose name the bicycle has been registered shall report such information to the Village Marshal. In case of change of ownership, the registration shall thereupon be changed to show the name of the new owner. In case of dismantling and taking out of service or operation, the registration shall be cancelled and identification tag returned to the Village Marshal.

Sec. 10-2-6 Bicycle Penalties.

- (a) Any person sixteen (16) years of age or older who shall violate any provision of this Chapter may be issued a Uniform Traffic Citation and be subject to the penalties provided by the Uniform State Traffic Deposit Schedule.
- (b) Any person twelve (12) years of age through fifteen (15) years of age who shall violate any provisions of this Chapter may be issued a citation and be subject to the penalties provided by the Deposit Schedule and, upon conviction thereof, may be required to forfeit not more than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00), together with the cost of the prosecution and, in default of such payment, the Court may suspend the child's operating privileges, as defined in Sec. 340.01, Wis. Stats., for not less than thirty (30) days nor more than ninety (90) days.
- (c) Any person under fourteen (14) years of age who shall violate any provision of this Chapter may be issued a special Bicycle Violation Warning Notice along with the following additional actions:
 - (1) First offense in one (1) year: A warning letter sent to the parent or guardian.
 - (2) Second offense in the same year: Vehicle license stickers shall be invalidated by the Village Marshal for a period of not longer than fifteen (15) days as said officer may deem necessary. The owner of said vehicle shall neither use this vehicle nor any other vehicle during said suspension.
 - (3) Third offense in the same year. Vehicle license stickers shall be invalidated by the Village Marshal for a period of not less than fifteen (15) days nor more than thirty (30) days as said officer may deem necessary. The owner of said vehicle shall neither use this vehicle nor any other vehicle during said suspension.
 - (4) Fourth and subsequent offense in the same year: Mandatory referral to Jackson County Juvenile Court.
- (d) All violations shall be determined based on the preceding twelve (12) month period to establish which violation has occurred.
- (e) Any parent or guardian of any child who authorizes or knowingly permits such child to violate any of the provisions of this Chapter may be subject to the provisions of Sections 346.77 and 346.82(1), Wis. Stats.

Sec. 10-2-7 Play Vehicles Regulated.

- (a) Operation of Play Vehicles on Public Streets, Sidewalks, Parks, Cemeteries, Alma Center-Merrillan-Humbird School District Property and Private Property are hereby regulated.
- (1) No person may operate a play vehicle on any private property in the Village of Merrillan without permission of the owner.
 - (2) No person may operate any electric vehicle or gas propelled devices on a sidewalk in the Village of Merrillan unless it is a specifically designed device for the movement of a disabled person and is operated by a disabled person.
 - (3) No person under the age of 12 may operate a play vehicle in the Village of Merrillan without a protective helmet designed for use with a bicycle or play vehicle. The Village encourages the use of other protective gear for children under the age of 12.
 - (4) The operator of a play vehicle shall operate it in a safe manner and shall yield the right of way to any and all pedestrians.
 - (5) No person shall place or construct any temporary structures (i.e., ramps, rails, jumps, obstacles, an obstacle course) on any street or sidewalk in the Village of Merrillan.
 - (6) No person may operate a ground-based radio-controlled device on a village street. No person may operate a ground-based radio-controlled device on a village sidewalk in a manner that creates a public nuisance or interferes with pedestrian movement. No person may operate an airborne radio-controlled device on any public way in the Village of Merrillan.