



# CITIZEN'S GUIDE: GOLF CART and UTILITY TASK VEHICLE(UTV)

**Ordinance Effective-** December 4, 2022



# General Information

---

Only persons over 18 years of age and holding a valid Driver's License owning a Golf Cart or Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) and wanting to operate them within the Mason City Limits shall adhere to the guidance outlined in City of Mason Ordinance 240, Chapter 44, Sections 44-1, 44-2, 44-3, and 44-4.

## Chapter 44, Golf Carts and Utility Task Vehicle

---

### City Council Ordinance Adopted 11.14.22

#### Section 44-1. As used in this ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:

1. Golf Cart: A vehicle designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 15 miles per hour.
2. Utility Task Vehicle (UTV): A vehicle designed and manufactured for off-road recreation and work use with two or more seats and a roll-over protection system. Also commonly known as a side-by-side.
3. Driver's License: A valid license issued to operate a motor vehicle issued by the state of Michigan or any other state.
4. Operator: Only persons over 18 years of age and holding a valid Driver's License may operate a golf cart or utility task vehicle on roads.

#### Section 44-2. Rules and Regulations.

1. Golf Carts and Utility Task Vehicles shall not be operated on or alongside a public road or street with a posted speed limit greater than 25 miles per hour.
2. Golf Carts and Utility Task Vehicles may cross a road with a posted speed limit greater than 25 miles per hour. Golf Carts and Utility Task Vehicles must cross in a manner that is the most direct route to minimize crossing distance.
3. Any person who operates a Golf Cart or Utility Task Vehicle must be at least 18 years of age.
4. No person may operate a Golf Cart or Utility Task Vehicle unless that person is licensed to drive upon the public streets, roads, and highways of Michigan. Golf Cart and Utility Task Vehicle Operators must always carry their Driver's License on their person while operating a Golf Cart or Utility Task Vehicle on public roads.
5. Any person who operates a Golf Cart or Utility Task Vehicle on a public road must adhere to all applicable State and local laws, regulations, and ordinances.
6. An Operator may not allow the number of people in the Golf Cart or Utility Task Vehicle at any one time to exceed the maximum capacity specified by the manufacturer. The Operator shall not allow passengers to ride on any part of a Golf Cart or Utility Task Vehicle not designed to carry passengers, such as the part of the Golf Cart designed to carry golf bags or the flatbed of the Utility Task Vehicle.
7. In no instances shall a Golf Cart or Utility Task Vehicle be operated at a speed greater than 15 miles per hour. No Golf Cart or Utility Task Vehicle may be operated at a speed greater than reasonable and prudent for the existing conditions.
8. Golf Carts and Utility Task Vehicles must be operated at the right edge of the roadway and must yield to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
9. Golf Carts and Utility Task Vehicles must abide by all parking rules and limits. Golf Carts and Utility Task Vehicles may not be parked on sidewalks.
10. Golf Carts and Utility Task Vehicles must have basic equipment supplied by the manufacturer, including a vehicle identification or serial number. Such equipment must include all safety devices as installed by said manufacturer.
11. The Operator of a Golf Cart or Utility Task Vehicle must meet signal requirements of Section 648 of the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code.
12. Golf Carts or Utility Task Vehicles may not be operated one half-hour before sunset to one half-hour after sunrise.

13. The City Manager, or designee, may authorize the operation of Golf Carts or Utility Task Vehicles by specific persons, groups, or organizations outside of the restricted times or on restricted streets prescribed in this ordinance for special events or specific purposes.

**Section 44-3. Registration, Inspection and Fee Prior to Usage.**

1. All Golf Carts and Utility Task Vehicles must complete a Golf Cart registration application with required fee and submit to the City for approval. Before driving on public roads, the Operator of a Golf Cart or Utility Task Vehicle must have a valid registration sticker issued by the City and have signed and submitted an acknowledgement that they have read the City Ordinance
2. Each owner of a Golf Cart or Utility Task Vehicle that is operating on a public road, must have proof of ownership, and liability insurance, and a completed Waiver of Liability provided by the City, releasing the City from liability that may arise as a result of operation of a Golf Cart or Utility Task Vehicle inside the City.
3. All Golf Carts and Utility Task Vehicles must meet the requirements or minimum standards as set forth above in this Ordinance.
4. The registration sticker shall be valid for no more than one year and all registration stickers will expire on December 31. Registration stickers must be visible on a Golf Cart or Utility Task Vehicle operated on a public road. Lost or stolen registration stickers are the sole responsibility of the owner and must be replaced before the Golf Cart or Utility Task Vehicle is operated on a public road.

**Section 44-4. Enforcement:**

Violation of the provisions of this Ordinance shall constitute a civil infraction and carry a penalty of \$50.00 for a first offense, \$100.00 for a second offense, and \$200.00 for each additional offense.

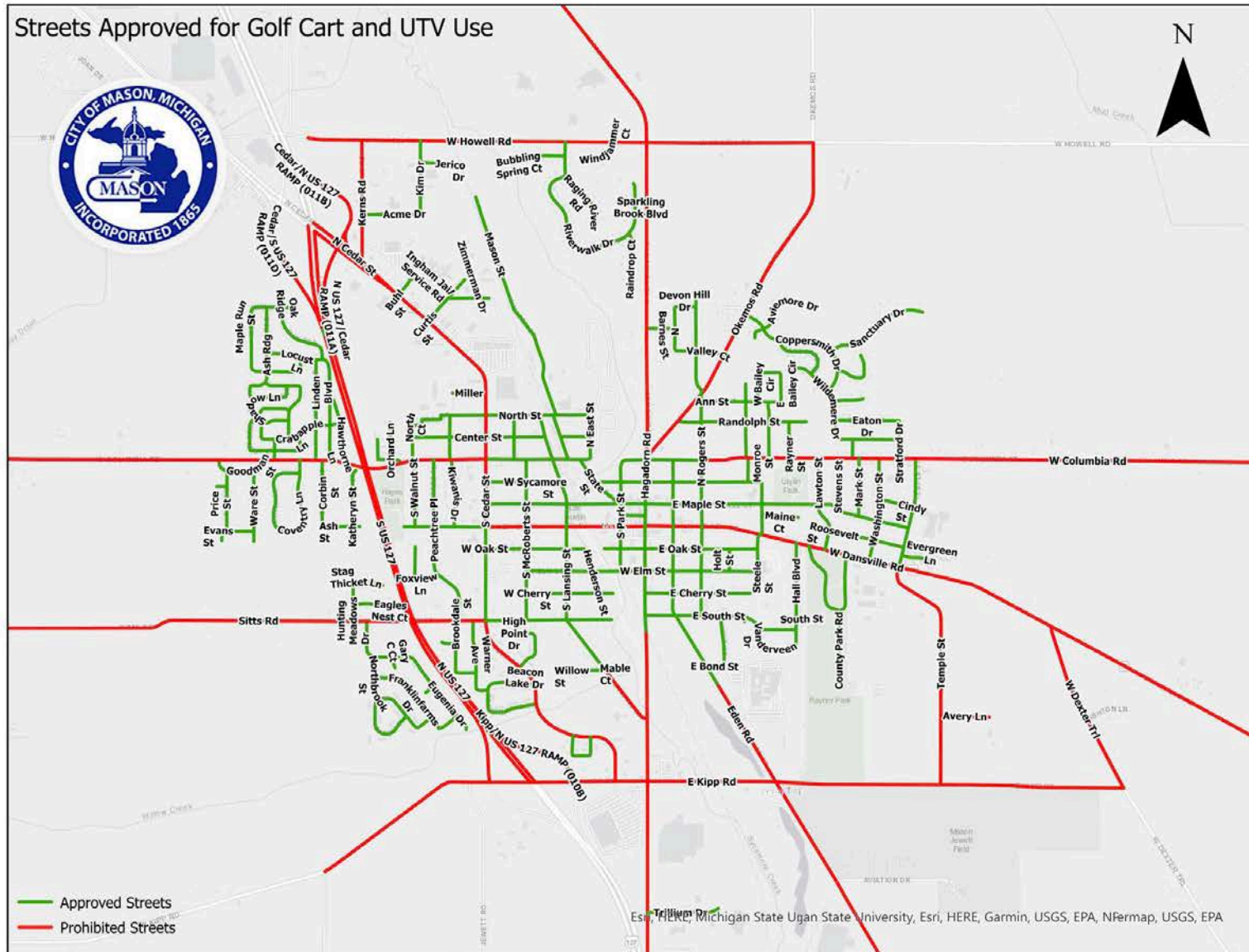
**Sunset Provision.** The provisions of this ordinance shall expire December 31, 2024.

## Requirements to be Eligible to Operate

---

1. **Registration:** All Golf Cart's and UTV's owners must complete a Golf Cart registration application with required \$40 fee and submit to the City for approval. Registration expires on December 31st of each year.
2. **Acknowledgment of Ordinance:** All Golf Cart's and UTV's owners must complete a signed acknowledgement that they have read and understand Chapter 44 the City's Code of Ordinances annually before receipt of a registration sticker.
3. **Proof of Ownership and Liability Insurance:** Annually operators must show proof of ownership and liability insurance, completing a Waiver of Liability provided by the City, releasing the City from liability that may arise because of operation of a Golf Cart or UTV inside the City.
4. **Plate:** All operators must display on their Golf Cart or UTV a City of Mason issued plate.
5. **Annual Registration Stickers:** Before driving on public roads, the Operator of a Golf Cart or UTV must have a valid registration sticker issued by the City. The registration sticker must be visible on the vehicle while operating on the public road. Lost or stolen registration stickers are the sole responsibility of the owner and must be replaced before the Golf Cart or UTV is operated on a public road.

# Allowable Streets to Travel





# GOLF CART / UTILITY TASK VEHICLE FAQ

**Can I cross restricted roads?**

Yes, operators may cross restricted areas to gain access to permitted areas.

**Can my child who does not have their license yet drive while I am operating my golf cart or UTV?**

No, state law requires a valid driver's license for operation.

**Can I drive my golf cart or UTV in City parks?**

No, the ordinance permits operation on City streets only.

**How much does it cost to register my golf cart or UTV?**

\$40

**Can I park my golf cart or UTV on sidewalks?**

No, all golf carts or UTV's must be parked in parking spaces.

**Can I possess alcohol while operating a golf cart or UTV?**

No, Alcohol possession as well as impaired driving of motor vehicles is prohibited by state law. See state law below

[Public Act 300 of 1949 \(Excerpt\) 257.624a](#)

[Public Act 300 of 1949 \(Excerpt\) 257.625](#)

**What if I don't have signals?** The Operator of a Golf Cart or UTV must meet signal requirements of Section 648 of the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code. See state requirements in link below

[Public Act 300 of 1949 \(Excerpt\) 257.648](#)



# GOLF CART / UTILITY TASK VEHICLE Registration Form

## Owner

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Vehicle

Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_  
Color: \_\_\_\_\_ VIN#: \_\_\_\_\_  
Insurance Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_  
Insurance Carrier Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Renewal (if applicable)

City Issued Plate Number \_\_\_\_\_

## Release and Waiver of Claims Pursuant to Golf Cart and UTV Ordinances

I hereby release the City of Mason, its employees, elected officials, administrators, and contractors from any liability that may arise as a result of my operating of a golf cart and/or UTV pursuant to the City of Mason's applicable ordinances. Additionally, I waive any claim that I have or may have against the City of Mason, its employees, elected officials, administrators, and contractors as a result of my operating of a golf cart and/or UTV within the City of Mason.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Acknowledgement of Ordinance

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand the restrictions and rules identified in Chapter 44 the City's Code of Ordinances. Additionally, I understand it is my responsibility to follow those restrictions and ensure others operating my vehicle are also aware of restrictions while operating within the City of Mason.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Police Department Use Only

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Proof of ownership provided and put on file at Department

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Proof of insurance provided and put on file in Department. If not clear it is covered, received and attached statement to file from insurance carrier.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed Rules and Map with Applicant

Inspected and applicant has met all requirements. Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPROVED

Plate Number and Date Issued: \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Issued Date: \_\_\_\_\_