



Ordinance No. 2025-11.10

## ORV ORDINANCE

TOWNSHIP OF WOODSTOCK  
LENAWEE COUNTY

An Ordinance pursuant to MCL 324.81131, authorizing and regulating the operation of off-road vehicles on streets within the Township of Woodstock, providing penalties for violations thereof, and providing for the distribution of public funds resulting from those penalties.

### THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODSTOCK, LENAWE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ORDAINS:

#### Section 1. Title.

This Ordinance shall be known as the Township of Woodstock ORV Ordinance.

#### Section 2. Definitions.

As used in this Ordinance:

- 2.1. **"ATV"** means a 3- or 4-wheeled vehicle designed for off-road use that has low-pressure tires, has a seat designed to be straddled by the rider, and is powered by a gasoline engine or an engine using other fuels.
- 2.2. **"Driver's License"** means any driving privileges, license, temporary instruction permit, or temporary license issued under the laws of any state, territory, or possession of the United States, Indian country as defined in 18 USC 1151, the District of Columbia, the Dominion of Canada, or any province or territory of the Dominion of Canada pertaining to the licensing of persons to operate motor vehicles.
- 2.3. **"Far Right of the Maintained Portion of the Roadway"** means the shoulder of the street but does not include the sidewalk.
- 2.4. **"Official state personal identification card"** means the official identification card issued by the Michigan Secretary of State under Act 222 of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended, or issued under a comparable statute by any state, territory, or possession of the United States, Indian country as defined in 18 USC 1151, the District of Columbia, the Dominion of Canada, or any province or territory of the Dominion of Canada to a person who is not legally blind and who has not currently had his or her driver's license suspended, revoked, or restricted.
- 2.5. **"Operate"** means to ride in or on and to be in actual physical control of the operation of an ORV.

- 2.6. "Operator"** means a person who operates an ORV.
- 2.7. "ORV"** means a motor driven off-road recreation vehicle capable of cross-country travel without benefit of a road or trail, on or immediately over land, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain. ORV includes, but is not limited to, a multi-track or multi-wheel drive vehicle, an ATV, 3-wheel, or 4-wheel vehicle, an amphibious machine, or other means of transportation deriving motive power from a source other than muscle or wind. ORV, however, does not include a registered snowmobile, a farm vehicle being used for farming, a vehicle used for military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement purposes, a vehicle owned and operated by a utility company or an oil or gas company when performing maintenance on its facilities or on property over which it has an easement, a construction or logging vehicle used in performance of its common function, or a registered aircraft.
- 2.8. "Roadway"** means that portion of a street improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.
- 2.9. "Safety Certificate"** means a certificate issued pursuant to Section 81129 of Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being MCL 324.81129, or a comparable ORV safety certificate issued under the authority of another state or a province of Canada.
- 2.10. "Shoulder"** means that portion of the street contiguous to the roadway generally extending the contour of the roadway, not designed for vehicular travel but maintained for the temporary accommodation of disabled or stopped vehicles otherwise permitted on the roadway.
- 2.11. "Sidewalk"** means that portion of a street between the curb lines or lateral lines of the street and the adjacent property lines intended for the use of pedestrians.
- 2.12. "Street" or "Road"** means the entire width between the boundary lines of a way publicly maintained when any part of the way is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel, except a state road as defined herein.
- 2.13. "State or Federal Highway "** means M-50, US 12, US 223, US 127, and any other road designated as such by the Michigan Department of Transportation.
- 2.14. "Township"** means the Township of Woodstock.
- 2.15. "Visual Supervision"** means the direct observation of the operator of an ORV with the unaided or normally corrected eye, where the observer is able to come to the immediate aid of the operator.

**Section 3. Prohibited Conduct.**

- 3.1.** No person shall operate an ORV on the road surface, roadway, shoulder or right-of-way

of any state or federal road or highway within the Township or on Round Lake Highway between US12 and US223. Directly crossing a state or federal road or highway or Round Lake Highway, to and from one Township street or road to another Township street or road is permissible.

- 3.2.** From time to time, and after publication in a newspaper of general circulation within Woodstock Township, the Township may designate, by resolution, additional roads in the Township that ORVs where are prohibited.

**Section 4. Permitted ORV Operations.**

- 4.1.** A person may operate an ORV on the far right of the maintained portion of the roadway on all streets within the Township except as restricted under Section 3.

- 4.2.** When operating an ORV as authorized under this Ordinance, the operator shall comply with all of the following regulations:

- A.** The operator shall be a person 16 years of age or older and have a valid driver's license.
- B.** The operator and each passenger shall wear a crash helmet and protective eyewear approved by the United States Department of Transportation, unless the ORV is equipped with a roof that meets or exceeds the standards for a crash helmet and the operator and each passenger wears a properly adjusted and fastened seatbelt.
- C.** The owner or person in charge of an ORV shall not knowingly permit the vehicle to be operated by an individual who is incompetent to operate the vehicle because of mental and physical disability.
- D.** The ORV operated within 100 feet of a dwelling shall travel at a speed no greater than the minimum required to maintain controlled forward movement of the vehicle. The ORV shall not be operated at a speed greater than 25 miles per hour.
- E.** The ORV shall be operated with the flow of traffic on the street.
- F.** The ORV shall be operated in a manner that does not interfere with traffic on the street.
- G.** All ORVs shall be operated in a single-file formation, except when overtaking and passing another ORV or when being overtaken and passed by another ORV.
- H.** The ORV shall at all times be operated displaying a lighted headlight and lighted taillight.
- I.** The ORV shall be equipped with a throttle so designed that when the pressure

used to advance the throttle is removed, the engine speed will immediately and automatically return to idle.

- J.** The ORV shall at all times be equipped with a muffler in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise and annoying smoke. No ORV operated within the Township limits shall have the baffles of its muffler removed, destroyed, or damaged, nor shall any ORV operated within the Township limits have a muffler cutout, bypass, or similar device.
- K.** The ORV shall at all times be equipped with a braking system that may be operated by hand or foot, capable of producing deceleration at 14 feet per second on level ground at a speed of 20 miles per hour; a brake light, brighter than the taillight, visible from behind the vehicle when the brake is activated.
- L.** The ORV shall be licensed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the license shall be permanently attached to the vehicle in the manner prescribed and in the location designated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in accordance with state law.
- M.** The owner or registrant of a motor vehicle (ORV) required to be registered in this state shall maintain security for payment of benefits under personal protection insurance, property protection insurance, and residual liability insurance. Security shall only be required to be in effect during the period the motor vehicle is driven or moved upon a street or road. Notwithstanding any other provision in this act, an insurer that has issued an automobile insurance policy on a motor vehicle that is not driven or moved upon a street or road may allow the insured owner or registrant of the motor vehicle to delete a portion of the coverages under the policy and maintain the comprehensive coverage portion of the policy in effect. The operator of the ORV shall have in their immediate possession proof of insurance when operating the ORV on streets and/or road and produce proof of insurance when requested by law enforcement.

**Section 5. Penalties.**

- 5.1.** A person who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be responsible for a municipal civil infraction as defined in Public Act 12 of 1994, amending Public Act 236 of 1961, being Sections 600.101-600.9939 of Michigan Compiled Laws, and shall be subject to a civil fine of not more than Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) Dollars.
- 5.2.** In addition to the fine specified in subsection (a) above, the court may order a person who causes damage to the environment, a street, or other property as a result of the operation of an ORV, to pay full restitution for that damage.
- 5.3.** The Township Treasurer shall deposit all fines and damages received by the Township from the Courts under Section 5 of this Ordinance into the Police Fund.

**Section 6. Enforcement Officers.**

State, county and local law enforcement officers and the Township Ordinance Enforcement Officer or a designee are designated as the authorized officials to issue municipal civil infraction citations directing alleged violators of this Ordinance to appear in court.

**Section 7. Validity.**

If any section, provision, or clause of this Ordinance or the application there of to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any remaining portions or application of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid portion or application.

**Section 8. Effective Date.**

This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its enactment.

**Section 9. Repealer**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance, including without limitation, Ordinance 2025-04.15 adopted on April 15, 2025, are repealed.

This ordinance was offered for adoption by the Township Board Member J. Wheaton, Trustee, and was seconded by Township Board Member H. Perry, Treasurer, the vote being as follows:

YEAS: ( 5 ) Supervisor Anderson, Trustee Hassett, Treasurer Perry, Clerk Wilson, Trustee Wheaton

NAYS: ( 0 ) None

ABSENT: ( 0 ) None

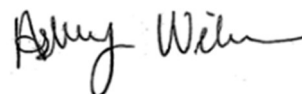
Ordinance was declared adopted on November 10, 2025.



James Anderson  
Woodstock Township Supervisor

**CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION AND PUBLICATION**

I, Ashley Wilson, the duly elected Township Clerk, certify that the foregoing ordinance was properly enacted by the Township Board of the Township of Woodstock, Lenawee County, Michigan on November 10, 2025, and that it was published in The Brooklyn Exponent on November 18, 2025.



Ashley Wilson  
Woodstock Township Clerk