

**CITY OF FOREST LAKE
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

ORDINANCE NO. 752

**AN ORDINANCE ENACTING TITLE VII, CHAPTER 71, SECTION 71.07
OF THE FOREST LAKE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS
ON PUBLIC STREETS AND AMENDING SECTION 35.01 TO INCLUDE ASSOCIATED PERMIT FEES.**

The City Council of Forest Lake, Minnesota ordains:

SECTION 1: ENACTMENT. Forest Lake City Code, Section 71.07 is hereby enacted as follows:

A. PURPOSE AND INTENT

Pursuant to its authority under Minn. Stats. §169.045, the City authorizes the operation of motorized golf carts on public streets under City jurisdiction with speed limits of 30 miles per hour or less (“designated roadways”), as permitted under this section.

B. DEFINITIONS

Golf Carts A motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour. Golf carts shall have no increased power, wheelbase or tire modifications from a standard manufactured gas or electric golf cart.

C. DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC AREAS FOR USE

Pursuant to its authority under Minn. Stats. §169.045, the City authorizes the operation of motorized golf carts on public streets under City jurisdiction with speed limits of 30 miles per hour or less (“designated roadways”), as permitted under this section.

D. PERMITTED USES

Operation of a motorized golf cart must adhere to the following requirements:

1. Operator and passengers must be seated at all times.
2. Operator may cross any street or state/county highway intersecting a designated roadway.
3. Motorized golf carts may only be operated on designated roadways from sunrise to sunset, unless equipped with original equipment headlights, taillights, and rear-facing brake lights. They shall not be operated in inclement weather or when visibility is impaired by weather, smoke, fog or other conditions, or at any time when there is insufficient light to clearly see persons and vehicles on the roadway at a distance of 500 feet.

4. When operated on designated roadways, motorized golf carts shall display the slow-moving vehicle emblem provided for in Minn. Stat. §169.522 and be equipped with a rear-facing mirror. Operators shall adhere to all rights and duties applicable to drivers of other vehicles under the provisions of Minn. Stat. Ch. 169, except when those provisions cannot be reasonably applied to a motorized golf cart, and except as otherwise specifically provided in Minn. Stat. §169.045, Subd. 7.
5. Operators shall make a complete stop when entering an uncontrolled intersection. The operator shall then yield the right-of-way to any vehicles or pedestrians which constitute an immediate hazard.
6. Except as otherwise specifically permitted and authorized, it is unlawful for any person to operate a golf cart within the limits of the City as follows:
 - a. On any designated roadway within the City at a speed in excess of 20 miles per hour
 - b. On any private property unless such property is designated for golf cart use, or the operator has the express consent of the property owner
 - c. In any cemetery
 - d. On designated roadways within the City while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotics or habit forming drugs, or while possessing an open container of such substances
 - e. In a manner that is careless, reckless or negligent or that creates loud, unnecessary or unusual noise which disturbs, annoys or interferes with the peace and quiet of other persons
 - f. So as to tow any person or thing except through the use of a rigid tow bar attached to the rear of the golf cart
 - g. On a public sidewalk or walkway provided for or used for pedestrian travel on boulevards within any public right-of-way
 - h. On any public or private school grounds, except with permission expressly obtained from responsible school authorities
 - i. On any other publicly owned lands including, but not limited to, trails, park property, playgrounds, and recreation areas, except for upon roadways, parking areas or other designated locations to enter and exit, and with the exception of those holding a valid handicap permit.

E. CROSSING OF STREETS OR HIGHWAYS

A golf cart may make a direct crossing of a street or highway, other than an interstate highway or freeway, provided:

1. The crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the street or highway and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing.
2. The driver yields the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic which constitutes an immediate

hazard.

3. In crossing a divided street or highway, the crossing made only at the intersection of such street of highway with another public street or highway.
4. If the crossing is made between the hours of 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise or, in conditions of reduced visibility, both front and rear lights shall be on.

F. PERMIT REQUIRED

1. No motorized golf cart may be operated on a designated roadway without first obtaining a permit. A permit, with a fee as set by the City Council's adopted fee schedule, shall be issued to the owner of the motorized golf cart upon a completed application on the form prescribed by the City, accompanied by proof of ownership, and proof of insurance complying with the provisions of the Minnesota No-Fault Automobile Insurance Act Minn. Stats. §65B.41 et seq.
2. A permit shall be valid for three years unless otherwise revoked.
3. Only persons 18 years of age or older shall be permitted to operate a motorized golf cart on any local public streets as designated in this article.
4. An individual who can demonstrate that they are a physically handicapped person as defined in Minn. Stat. §169.345, Subd. 2, and who shall submit a certificate signed by a physician indicating the individual is able to safely operate a motorized golf cart on roadways, may apply for and shall be granted a handicap permit for operation of a golf cart within the City for parking purposes only.
5. A valid City-issued permit must be displayed on golf carts at all times.
6. A permit for a golf cart may be revoked at any time by the City or a law enforcement official if the permittee has violated any provisions of this section or state statute, or if there is evidence the permittee cannot safely operate the golf cart on the designated roadways.
7. Authorized City staff may operate motorized golf carts without obtaining a permit on City streets, sidewalks, trails, rights-of-way, and public property when conducting City business.

G. TRAFFIC ORDINANCE APPLICABLE

City and State traffic regulations shall apply to the operation of recreational vehicles upon streets and highways, except for those relating to required equipment, those which by their nature have no application and those inconsistent with the provisions herein.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT: Forest Lake City Code 35.01 is hereby amended to include the underlined language below:

Licenses and Permits

Golf Cart Permit City Residents: \$50/3 years Non-Residents: \$100/3 years

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE: This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force upon its passage and publication according to law.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Forest Lake this 14th day of April 2025.

Blake Roberts
Mayor

Jolleen Chaika
City Clerk