

City of Grand Forks, ND

Snowmobile Ordinances

8-1203. Snowmobile; routes, restrictions and regulations.

(1) The use of snowmobiles within the corporate limits of the City of Grand Forks on officially designated routes shall be allowed from December 1 through April 1. At all other times the use of snowmobiles within the corporate limits is prohibited unless otherwise provided by law. The chief of police may alter or suspend the use of the officially designated routes due to weather or other conditions that temporarily cause the officially designated routes to be impassable or impracticable to snowmobile traffic.

(2) The officially designated routes for use of snowmobiles within the corporate limits of the City of Grand Forks shall be determined by the chief of police annually.

(3) By public proclamation, the mayor may suspend, in whole or in part, the restrictions of this section if, in the judgment of the mayor, emergency weather conditions make the use of other means of transportation impractical or hazardous. The proclamation shall be communicated in the manner most practical under the circumstances including broadcasting on television and radio, and shall be for a period of time not to exceed seventy-two (72) hours.

(4) No person shall operate a snowmobile within the corporate limits of the city between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

(5) All persons operating a snowmobile upon officially designated routes shall operate such snowmobile as follows:

(A) A snowmobile may make a direct crossing of a street or highway provided:

1. The crossing is made at an angle approximately ninety (90) degrees to the direction of the highway and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing;
2. The snowmobile is brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main traveled way of the highway;
3. The driver yields the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic which constitutes an immediate hazard; and
4. In crossing a divided highway, the crossing is made only at an intersection of such highway with another public street or highway;
5. Any person operating a snowmobile must comply with all traffic control devices, signals and/or signs.

(B) It is unlawful for any person to drive or operate any snowmobile in the following ways which are declared to be unsafe and a public nuisance:

1. At a rate of speed in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour;
2. In a careless, reckless, or negligent manner so as to endanger the person or property of another or to cause injury or damage to such person or property;

3. While under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a controlled substance;
4. Without a manufacturer-installed or equivalent muffler in good working order and connected to the snowmobile exhaust system; and
5. Other than in single file along officially designated routes.

(C) It is unlawful for any person to operate a snowmobile on private property without the express permission of the owner of such property.

(D) No snowmobile may be operated on publicly owned land, including school property, park property, playgrounds, recreation areas, and flood control dikes unless otherwise specifically designated.

(E) No snowmobile may be operated at any time along officially designated routes or along any right of way of any highway while towing a sled, skid, or other vehicle, unless the sled, skid, or other vehicle is connected to the snowmobile by a hinged swivel and secure hitch.

(F) Any person operating a snowmobile upon officially designated routes shall yield to any pedestrians, snow removal equipment, salt and sand equipment, or trail groomers.

(6) Except as provided by Section 39-24-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, no person may operate any snowmobile within the corporate limits of the city unless the snowmobile has been duly registered and signed a registration number by the state in which the owner resides. The registration number must be at least two (2) inches (5.08 centimeters) in height and of a reflectorized material, and must be securely affixed on each side of the forward half of the snowmobile in such position as to provide clear legibility for identification.

(Ord. No. 3557, § 6, 1-2-96; Ord. No. 3562, § 1, 2-5-96; Ord. No. 3923, § 1, 5-6-02)