



## Privately-Owned Golf Cart & Off-Road Vehicle Operation on Goshen College Property

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| Policy Owner      | Campus Safety                                         |
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### Policy Statement

This policy governs the operation and parking of privately owned golf carts and off-road vehicles on the Goshen College campus. It was developed in response to City of Goshen Ordinance 5184, which authorizes the operation of golf carts and off-road vehicles on certain city streets, and it establishes campus-specific requirements to protect pedestrian safety, preserve campus walkways and grounds, and align Goshen College practice with the city ordinance.

### Definitions

These definitions apply to terms as they are used in this policy.

**Golf Cart:** As defined in I.C. § 9-13-2-69.7.

**Off-Road Vehicle:** As defined in I.C. § 9-13-2-117.3 and Section 4.B of Goshen Ordinance 5184. Does not include motorcycles, motor scooters, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, or any vehicle capable of being registered and licensed by the State.

**Campus:** All real property owned, leased, or controlled by Goshen College.

**Campus Streets:** Streets and roadways on Campus that are open to motor vehicle traffic.

## **The Policy**

This policy supplements, but does not replace, the City of Goshen Ordinance 5184 and applicable Indiana law. Operators remain fully responsible for compliance with all federal, state, and local laws.

This policy applies to all employees, students, contractors, and visitors who operate or park a privately owned golf cart or off-road vehicle on Goshen College property.

Goshen College is private property. As such, this policy does not restrict the operation of golf carts or off-road vehicles owned by Goshen College and used by authorized Goshen College personnel for facilities, grounds, admissions, tours, maintenance, campus safety, athletic, or event-related purposes.

## **City Registration Required**

No privately owned golf cart or off-road vehicle may be operated anywhere on Goshen College property unless:

- The vehicle has a current, valid City of Goshen golf cart or off-road vehicle permit issued under Ordinance 5184;
- The city-issued decal is affixed and visible as required by the city ordinance; and
- The operator and vehicle otherwise meet all requirements of the city ordinance, including operator licensing, financial responsibility, equipment, and slow-moving vehicle requirements.

A city permit is a prerequisite for campus operation; it does not, by itself, grant permission to operate or park a golf cart or off-road vehicle on Goshen College property. The provisions of this policy must also be followed.

## **Goshen College Registration and Parking Permit**

Goshen College employees and students who hold a current City of Goshen golf cart or off-road vehicle permit may register their vehicle with Goshen College and receive a College-issued parking permit. The College parking permit is issued on the same basis as a standard motor vehicle parking permit.

Parking privileges by status:

- Employees who register a golf cart or off-road vehicle with the College may park the vehicle in any campus parking area designated for employee parking.
- Students who register a golf cart or off-road vehicle with the College may park the vehicle in any campus parking area designated for student parking.
- The College parking permit does not authorize parking in any area not open to the permit holder's standard motor vehicle permit (e.g., reserved spaces, accessible spaces without proper credentials, service-vehicle-only areas).

Registration is obtained through Campus Safety in the same manner that a standard vehicle registration is obtained. The College-issued permit or decal must be displayed on the vehicle as directed at the time of issuance, in addition to the city-issued decal.

A College parking permit grants parking privileges only. It does not authorize operation of the golf cart or off-road vehicle on campus sidewalks, city-owned sidewalks on or adjacent to campus, pedestrian walkways, plazas, quads, lawns, athletic fields, bike paths, trails, or any other area prohibited under this policy. Employees and students with a College permit remain subject to all operating restrictions in this policy and to Goshen Ordinance 5184.

Members of the general public, contractors, and visitors are not eligible for a Goshen College golf cart or off-road vehicle parking permit and may only park such vehicles on campus in Unrestricted Parking during daytime hours (sunrise to sunset), except in connection with an authorized event approved by the College.

The College may suspend or revoke a parking permit issued under this section for any violation of this policy, the city ordinance, or other applicable College policies.

### **Where Golf Carts and Off-Road Vehicles May Be Operated on Campus**

**Campus streets — permitted.** Privately owned golf carts and off-road vehicles meeting the requirements of this policy may be operated on campus streets and roadways open to vehicular traffic.

**Campus sidewalks — prohibited.** Privately owned golf carts and off-road vehicles may not be operated on any sidewalk on the Goshen College campus at any time, for any reason, regardless of width or apparent suitability. This prohibition is absolute and applies even when streets are congested, closed, or inconvenient.

**Other prohibited areas.** Privately owned golf carts and off-road vehicles may not be operated on:

- Pedestrian walkways, plazas, or quads;
- Bike paths and recreational trails;
- Lawns, athletic fields, or landscaped areas;
- Parking lot pedestrian crossings except to enter or exit a designated parking space;
- Any area marked or signed as closed to vehicular traffic; or
- Any area inside a building or under a covered walkway.

### **City-Owned Sidewalks On or Near Campus**

Several sidewalks that pass through or run alongside the Goshen College campus are not owned by the College. They are owned and maintained by the City of Goshen as part of the public right-of-way.

Even though these sidewalks are not college property, they remain off-limits to anyone operating a privately owned (non-college) golf cart or off-road vehicle. The Goshen ordinance prohibits operation of golf carts and off-road vehicles on any sidewalk under the city's jurisdiction. Operators are responsible for knowing the location of these city sidewalks. They include, without limitation:

- **The Winona Railway Trail** — e.g., the sidewalks along the east side of railroad tracks, the sidewalks bordering the north side of the athletic fields and that extend to 15th Street, the sidewalks on the west side of the railroad tracks that extend to Bethany Christian Schools.
- **Main Street / State Road 15** — e.g., the sidewalks along the west edge of Goshen College.
- **College Avenue** — e.g., the sidewalks along the north edge of Goshen College.
- Any additional segments as identified by Facilities or Campus Safety.

If an operator is unsure whether a particular sidewalk is owned by the City or the College, the operator should treat it as off-limits. When in doubt, use the street.

### **State Highway Restriction**

Consistent with the Goshen ordinance and Indiana law, golf carts and off-road vehicles may not be operated on any highway within the corporate boundaries of the City that is designated as part of the Indiana State Highway System, including but not limited to S.R. 15, S.R. 4, S.R. 119, and U.S. 33. This restriction applies regardless of whether the highway runs along or through campus.

### **Operator Requirements**

Operators of privately owned golf carts and off-road vehicles on campus must:

- Be at least sixteen (16) years of age and hold a valid, unsuspended, unrevoked driver's license issued by a State Bureau of Motor Vehicles;
- Comply with all federal, state, and local traffic laws, including those governing slow-moving vehicles under I.C. 9-21-9;
- Not exceed 15 miles per hour, or any lower posted limit on a campus street;
- Ensure all passengers are seated in factory-installed seats with seatbelts properly fastened as specified by the manufacturer; and
- Operate the vehicle in a manner that does not unreasonably impede traffic, endanger pedestrians, or endanger property.

The owner of a golf cart or off-road vehicle may not permit any person who does not meet these requirements to operate the vehicle on campus.

## **Hours of Operation**

Privately owned golf carts and off-road vehicles may be operated on campus streets between sunrise and sunset. Lights must be used during daytime when weather conditions reduce visibility such that the vehicle would not otherwise be visible from at least 500 feet.

## **Equipment**

Vehicles must meet all equipment requirements of the city ordinance, including:

- For golf carts: rear-view mirror, headlights, tail lights, brake lights, and front and rear turn signals;
- For off-road vehicles: the minimum safety equipment required under I.C. 14-16-1;
- A properly displayed slow-moving vehicle emblem; and
- All required equipment maintained in good working order.

## **Financial Responsibility**

Operators must maintain financial responsibility (insurance) on the vehicle in at least the minimum amounts required by Indiana law (I.C. § 9-25-4-4 and § 9-25-4-5). Proof of insurance must be carried on the vehicle and produced on request by Goshen College Campus Safety or other authorized personnel.

## **Parking**

Privately owned golf carts and off-road vehicles may be parked on campus only as follows:

- Employees who hold a Goshen College parking permit may park in any campus parking area designated for employee parking.
- Students who hold a Goshen College parking permit may park in any campus parking area designated for student parking.
- Visitors may park only in Unrestricted Parking — the lots at the College Mennonite Church, the Goshen College Music Center, and the Goshen College Recreation-Fitness Center — and only during daytime hours (sunrise to sunset).

Regardless of permit status, golf carts and off-road vehicles may not be parked on sidewalks, lawns, building entrances, fire lanes, accessible (ADA) ramps or access aisles, loading zones, or any other location that obstructs pedestrian or vehicle traffic.

A golf cart or off-road vehicle parked outside the area authorized by the permit holder's designation is subject to the applicable Goshen College fine, payable to the College, in addition to any other penalty under this policy.

## **Responsibilities**

**Compliance.** All employees, students, contractors, and visitors who operate or park a privately owned golf cart or off-road vehicle on Goshen College property are responsible for complying with this policy.

**Enforcement.** Goshen College Campus Safety is responsible for enforcement of this policy. Other authorized College officials may also enforce this policy.

## **Violations**

Violations of this policy may result in:

- A written warning;
- Suspension or revocation of the Goshen College parking permit;
- Loss of golf cart or off-road vehicle privileges on campus;
- Referral to the appropriate student conduct, employee discipline, or visitor-trespass process; and/or
- Referral to the Goshen Police Department for enforcement of Ordinance 5184, including civil penalties beginning at \$175.00 and increasing for repeat offenses, and possible vehicle impoundment or permit revocation under the city ordinance.

Repeated or serious violations may result in permanent loss of the privilege to operate or park any golf cart or off-road vehicle on campus.

Goshen College reserves the right to have any privately owned golf cart or off-road vehicle on its property booted or towed at any time for infractions of this policy.

## **Procedures**

### **Obtaining a Goshen College Parking Permit for a Golf Cart or Off-Road Vehicle (Available to Employees & Students of Goshen College Only)**

1. First obtain a current City of Goshen golf cart or off-road vehicle permit under Ordinance 5184.
2. Bring proof of the city permit, proof of insurance, and a valid driver's license to Campus Safety.
3. Complete the standard vehicle registration process at MyGC and select "other" for vehicle type.
4. Receive and properly display the College-issued permit or decal, in addition to the city-issued decal.

Permits must be renewed consistent with the term of the city permit.

## **Related Policies**

Goshen College Motor Vehicle Registration and Parking, which can be found at <https://www.goshen.edu/student-life/campus-parking/>

## **Appendices**

**Appendix A — Severability.** The provisions of this policy are severable. If any portion of this policy is held invalid, the remaining provisions remain in full force and effect.

**Appendix B — Governing Authority.** City of Goshen Ordinance 5184 — *Authorizing the Use of Golf Carts and Off-Road Vehicles on Highways under the Jurisdiction of the City of Goshen, Indiana.*