

ORDINANCE

SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKS –7.08 – ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

FIRST CONSIDERATION: February 19, 2026

FINAL CONSIDERATION: March 19, 2026

ORDINANCE # 230 – 3/26 PUBLICATION DATE March 26, 2026

The County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County does ordain as follows:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND S. 7.08 OF CHAPTER 7 OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN REGARDING ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

ANALYSIS

The proposed amendment makes the following changes:

- If a city, town or village authorizes an ATV/UTV route within their municipal boundaries then County highways that are on the authorized route are authorized by the County regardless of speed limit.
- Where portions of County highways have shared jurisdiction, each city, village or town must authorize the route before the County highway is opened to ATV/UTV use.
- The application process is removed because all County highways are within the boundaries of a city, village or town.
- The Highway Department will provide signs on County highways that are NOT authorized for use.
- The exceptions section is removed because it is addressed in State Statute.

The following has not been changed:

- Cities, villages and towns continue to have the ability to NOT authorize ATV/UTV use on some or all of the roads in their boundaries.
- Routes allowing ATV/UTV use must be signed in accordance with State Statute and Administrative Code.
- The process to discontinue a route that the County has authority over would continue to be by future amendment of this ordinance.

INFORMATION:

County Board Rules: Governing Body s. 2.02(8) states, in part: Ordinances are drafted by the Corporation Counsel. After the ordinance has been reviewed by a standing committee, each Supervisor will be given a copy of the ordinance showing the deleted language (grayed) and the new language (underlined) and an analysis of the intent of the ordinance. After introduction to the County Board, the ordinance shall be referred to the next monthly meeting unless waived by a 2/3 vote of the Supervisors present and a public hearing may be held if requested by a Supervisor. An amendment may be introduced and debated at either the original or the referred meeting. Copies of the ordinances of the County of La Crosse in their entirety are available with Corporation Counsel, County Clerk, or www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/code/. (rev. 3/03)

ORDINANCE # 230 - 3/26

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND S. 7.08 ENTITLED "ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES" OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

The County Board of supervisors of the County of La Crosse does hereby ordain as follows:

Section 1.

7.08 ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES.

- (1) STATE ALL-TERRAIN/UTILITY-TERRAIN LAWS ADOPTED. For purposes of this ordinance, all references to all-terrain vehicles (ATV) shall include utility-terrain vehicles (UTV) as defined by statute. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Chapter, the statutory provisions in section 23.33, chapters 340 to 348, and chapter 350 Wis. Stats., describing and defining regulations with respect to all-terrain vehicles, exclusive of any provisions therein for which the statutory penalty is a fine or term of imprisonment, are hereby adopted by reference and made part of this section as if fully set forth herein. Acts required to be performed or prohibited by such statutes are required by this section.
- (2) APPLICABILITY OF RULES OF THE ROAD TO ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES. The operator of an all-terrain vehicle upon a roadway shall, in addition to the provisions of section 23.33, Wis. Stats., also be subject to the rules of the road as provided in s. 346.02(11), Wis. Stats.
- (3) OPERATION ON COUNTY PROPERTY. No person shall operate any all-terrain vehicle on lands owned by the County except where the use is authorized by posted notice or County permit.
- (4) APPROVED ATV ROUTES

As of February 1, 2026, the following routes have been approved as ATV routes:

1. CTH A entire length from CTH C to STH 162
 2. CTH AE entire length from CTH A to CTH TA
 3. CTH B from Bangor Village Limit to CTH J & West Salem Village Limit to STH 162 & CTH M to CTH O
 4. CTH C entire length from STH 108 north to south and West Salem Village Limit to CTH M
 5. CTH D from CTH C to the Holmen Village Limit
 6. CTH DD entire length from CTH T to CTH D
 7. CTH DE entire length from STH 16 to CTH C
 8. CTH E entire length from STH 16 to CTH DE
 9. CTH EE entire length from STH 162 to CTH T
 10. CTH FO entire length from CTH OA to CTH F
 11. CTH G entire length from STH 33 to CTH P
 12. CTH H entire length from STH 33 to County Line
 13. CTH I entire length from CTH M to STH 33
 14. CTH II entire length from STH 162 to CTH I
 15. CTH J from Rockland Village Limits to Monroe County Line
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16. CTH JB entire length from STH 162 to STH 33
17. CTH JJ entire length from STH 162 to CTH J
18. CTH M from CTH Q to West Salem Village Limit and (south end) West Salem Village Limit to STH 14
19. CTH MH from CTH XX east to Holmen Village Limit
20. CTH N entire length from 162 to STH 14
21. CTH NN entire length from CTH M to STH 162
22. CTH O entire length from CTH B to CTH M
23. CTH OA entire length from CTH O to STH 33
24. CTH P entire length south and east to County Lines
25. CTH PI entire length STH 162 to County Line
26. CTH Q entire length from CTH V to STH 108
27. CTH T entire length from STH 162 to STH 53
28. CTH TA entire length from CTH T to CTH A
29. CTH TT entire length from CTH T to CTH V
30. CTH U from the eastern Bangor Village Limit to the western Rockland Village Limit
31. CTH V from CTH T to Holmen Village Limit
32. CTH VV entire length from CTH T to Jackson County Line
33. CTH X entire length CTH P to County Line
34. CTH XX from CTH O north to STH 35
35. CTH Y entire length from CTH J to the Monroe County Line
36. CTH YY entire length from CTH M to STH 33 and STH 33 to STH 14
37. CTH OT from STH 35 west through Midway to STH 35
38. CTH S from City of Onalaska limits to CTH M
39. CTH W from CTH D east to CTH D
40. CTH Z – All
41. CTH ZB – All
42. CTH ZM – All
43. CTH ZN – All
44. CTH ZZ – All

- (5) APPROVAL OF NEW ATV ROUTES. Pursuant to Wis. Stats. §23.33 a city, village or town may adopt a local ordinance authorizing or not authorizing ATV/UTV routes within their jurisdiction. If a city, village or town has passed an ordinance authorizing ATV/UTV routes within their jurisdiction, all County highways that are on the route authorized by the city, village or town, regardless of speed limits, are also authorized by the County. Where portions of County highways have shared jurisdiction, each city, village or town must authorize the route before the County highway is opened to ATV/UTV use. Cities, villages or towns that pass, modify or rescind any ordinance authorizing or not authorizing ATV/UTV routes must inform the County upon adoption.
- (6) SIGNAGE. Routes shall be marked with uniform ATV route signs in accordance with sec. NR 64.12 (7), Wisconsin Administrative Code. Cities, villages or towns that have opened ATV/UTV routes in their jurisdiction are responsible for signage. The County Highway department will install signage on county highways that are NOT designated as ATV/UTV routes.
- (7) DISCONTINUATION OF ROUTES. The La Crosse County Highway Department and the La Crosse County Sheriff shall have the authority to temporarily close any ATV/UTV route on the County Trunk Highway System,
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if the situation warrants. For permanent termination of a route on a County highway, this ordinance can be amended in the same manner as any other ordinance. Deletion or modification of existing routes must be introduced as an ordinance revision at the Committee level and then advanced to the full board pursuant to Board Rules.

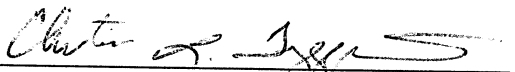
(8) CONDITIONS FOR THE PUBLIC USE OF ATV/UTV ROUTES


- (a) All ATV/UTV operators must obey and not exceed the posted speed limit.
- (b) All operators must ride single file.
- (c) All operators shall operate only on the extreme right side of the paved portion of the roadway. Operation on the shoulder, ditch, or right-of-way is prohibited and illegal.
- (d) No open containers of alcoholic beverages are allowed while the machine is in motion.
- (e) Headlights and taillights must be on at all times. Brake lights are required.
- (f) All machines must be registered with the DNR and display the proper decals.
- (g) All operators and passengers under the age of 18 must wear a DOT approved helmet.
- (h) All operators must follow the DNR regulations for safety certificates.
- (i) ATV/UTV's may only be operated on County routes between the hours of 5:00 a.m and 10:00 p.m.

(9) ENFORCEMENT. This ordinance shall be enforced by any law enforcement officer authorized to enforce the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

(10) PENALTIES. The Wisconsin ATV penalties as found in Wisconsin Statute 23.33(13) are adopted by reference.

LA CROSSE COUNTY

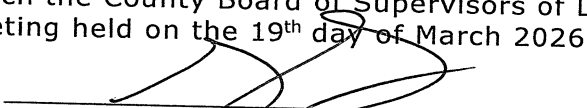
By: 
Tina Tryggestad, County Board Chair

By: 
Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk

PASSED: March 19, 2026
PUBLISHED: March 26, 2026

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original ordinance required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 19th day of March 2026.


Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk