

**COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP
MICHIGAN**

**ORDINANCE # _____
Columbia Township Golf Cart Ordinance**

*Prepared by Mark A. Eidelson, AICP, Landplan Inc.
Draft: November 8, 2021*

The Township of Columbia hereby ordains:

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to authorize and regulate the operation of golf carts on the streets and highways of Columbia Township pursuant to the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code, to provide opportunities for such golf cart use while minimizing the potential for nuisance conditions and the undermining of public safety and welfare, and the provision of penalties for the violation thereof.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

A. General: For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms and phrases shall have the corresponding meanings. An undefined term or phrase shall be construed according to its common meaning unless provided otherwise.

1. Golf Cart: A vehicle designed for transportation while playing the game of golf.
2. Operate: To ride in or on, and to be in actual physical control of the operation of a golf cart.
3. Operator: A person who operates or is in physical control of the operation of a golf cart.
4. Street: Any access way designed to facilitate vehicular traffic, dedicated to the public, and under the jurisdiction of Jackson County Road Department.
5. Shoulder: That portion of the street contiguous to the regularly travelled surface and extending the contour of the street, not designed for vehicular travel but maintained for the temporary accommodation of disabled or stopped vehicles otherwise permitted on the street.

SECTION 3: STREETS and HIGHWAYS CLOSED to GOLF CART TRAFFIC

All public streets in Columbia Township shall be open to golf cart operation pursuant to this Ordinance except U.S. 127 and M-50/Brooklyn Road, which are under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Transportation.

SECTION 4: OPERATING RESTRICTIONS

A. General: Except as set forth herein or otherwise provided by law, the operation of a golf cart on a street in Columbia Township shall comply with all of the following conditions:

1. Operator's Minimum Age: A person shall not operate a golf cart on any street unless he or she is at least 16 years old.
2. Required License: A person shall not operate a golf cart on any street unless he or she is licensed to operate a motor vehicle 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, and the Dominion of Canada pertaining to the licensing of persons to operate motor vehicles.
3. Speed: A golf cart shall be operated at a speed not to exceed 15 miles per hour and shall not be operated on a state trunk line highway or a highway or street with a speed limit of more than 30 miles per hour, except to cross that state trunk line highway or highway or street.
4. Direction: A golf cart shall be operated only in the same direction as the flow of traffic adjacent to the shoulder of the road.
5. Traffic Interference: A golf cart shall be operated in a manner that does not interfere with other street traffic.

6. Location:
 - a. A person operating a golf cart on a street shall drive as near to the right side of the street shoulder as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or a vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
 - b. A golf cart shall not be operated on a sidewalk constructed for the use of pedestrians.
7. Passing: A person operating a golf cart shall not pass between lines of traffic, but may pass on the left of traffic moving in his or her direction in the case of a 2-way street or on the left or right of traffic in the case of a 1-way street, in an unoccupied lane.
8. Signaling: The operator of a golf cart shall comply with the signal requirements of section 648 of the Michigan Vehicle Code that apply to the operation of a vehicle.
9. Time of Day: A golf cart shall not be operated on a street during the time period from 1/2 hour before sunset to 1/2 hour after sunrise.
10. Golf Cart Safety Features: A golf cart operated on a public street as permitted by this Ordinance shall comply with the following:
 - a. At least 2 headlamps that comply with section 685 of the Michigan Vehicle Code.
 - b. At least 1 tail lamp that complies with section 686 of the Michigan Vehicle Code.
 - c. At least 1 stop lamp and 1 lamp or mechanical signal device that comply with sections 697 and 697(b) of the Michigan Vehicle Code.
 - d. At least 1 red reflector on each side of the golf cart as far to the rear as practicable and 1 red reflector on the rear of the golf cart as required for low-speed vehicles by 49 CFR 571.500 of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.
 - e. One exterior mirror mounted on the driver's side of the golf cart and either 1 exterior mirror mounted on the passenger side of the golf cart or 1 interior mirror as required for low-speed vehicles by 49 CFR 571.500 of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.
 - f. Brakes and a parking brake that comply with section 704 of the Michigan Vehicle Code.
 - g. A horn that complies with section 706 of the Michigan Vehicle Code.
 - h. A windshield that complies with section 708(a) of the Michigan Vehicle Code.
 - i. A manufacturer's identification number permanently affixed to the frame of the golf cart.
 - j. Safety belts that comply with section 710(a) and that are used as required by section 710(e) of the Michigan Vehicle Code.

SECTION 5: PENALTIES

A violation of this Ordinance shall be deemed a civil infraction. Any person who violates this Ordinance shall be issued a citation for a municipal civil infraction and shall be subject to a civil fine of not more than Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) Dollars, in accordance with Public Act 12 of 1994, as amended. If the threat to public health and or safety necessitates immediate action, this procedure may be circumscribed and the Township Board may initiate injunctive action in Circuit Court or any such other relief as may be provided by law. Further, the court may order a person who causes damage to the environment, a road or other property as a result of the operation of a golf cart to pay full restitution for that damage above and beyond the penalties for civil fines.

SECTION 6: SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or portion of this Ordinance is found for any reason to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

SECTION 7: ORDINANCES REPEALED

All ordinances and/or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.