

ORDINANCE #2024-01

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE ROUTES AND REGULATING THE OPERATION OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

WHEREAS, the Town of Belvidere Board, Buffalo County, adopts this ordinance pursuant to the authority of Sections 23.33(8)(b), 23.33(11) and 59.02, Wis. Stats. As amended. In addition, the provision of Sec. 23.33, Wis. Stats. And the provisions of Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 64 regulating ATV operations; and,

WHEREAS, Section 23.33(11) (am), Wis Stats. Allows counties with respect to highways under their jurisdiction to designate highways as all-terrain vehicle routes; and,

WHEREAS, in order to assure safe use of all-terrain vehicles and utility terrain vehicles, the Town of Belvidere Board does here by ordain the following:

Section I – Purpose or Intent: The Town of Belvidere Board adopts the following ATV/UTV routes for the operation of ATV/UTV's upon the roadways listed in Section III. Following consideration of the recreational value of ATV/UTV use in the Town of Belvidere and the potential impacts to the public's health, safety, and welfare, this Ordinance is created and adopted. A copy of a map showing the location of the ATV/UTV routes shall be kept on file at the Buffalo County Highway Department and the Buffalo County Sheriff's Department.

Section II – Definitions (the following definitions apply throughout this chapter):

1. All-Terrain Vehicle ("ATV") has the meaning specified within Sec. 340.01(2)(g), Wis. Stats.
2. ATV/UTV Route shall mean a highway designated for use by all-terrain and utility-terrain vehicle operators by the governmental entity having jurisdiction.
3. Utility-Terrain Vehicle ("UTV") has the meaning specified in Sec.23.33(1), (ng), Wis. Stats.

Section III – Routes:

All roads under the jurisdiction of the Town of Belvidere, Buffalo County, Wisconsin, are designated approved ATV/UTV vehicle routes. All county Trunk Highways are approved.

1. No designated ATV/UTV route may be used until approved as open for use by the Belvidere Town Board and properly signed.
2. The Belvidere Town Board may suspend or open any route at any time for any reason.
3. If it is determined by the Belvidere Town Board that a road must be closed due to emergency or other safety issues, the ATV/UTV route will be suspended until such time as the road is reopened.
4. The Buffalo County Highway Department shall maintain a list of approved all-terrain vehicle routes open for use on County Trunk Highways.
5. The Buffalo County Clerk shall ensure a copy of the approved open for use route is sent to the Buffalo County Sheriff's Office, state traffic patrol and to any other law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over any portion of the route adopted, as well as the Department of Natural Resources in Madison, Wisconsin.

Section IV – Conditions: The operation of ATV's and UTV's on any portion of a Belvidere Town Roadway designated as an ATV/UTV route shall be subject to the following:

1. Operation shall be subject to all provisions of Sec. 23.33, Wis. Stats., which is adopted as part of this ordinance by reference to Sec.23.33(11), Wis. Stats.
2. All ATV/UTV operators shall observe a speed limit of not more than 35 MPH or the posted roadway speed limit, whichever is lower.
3. All ATV/UTV operators shall ride single file on the far-right hand side of the paved portion/lane of traffic of the roadway. Operation on the gravel shoulders, grassy in-slope, ditches, or other highway right-of-way area is prohibited. Left turns may be made from any part of the roadway which is safe given prevailing conditions.
4. All ATV/UTV operators shall maintain liability insurance for their ATV/UTV in the amount established by the State of Wisconsin for motor vehicle operation and by utilizing any ATV/UTV, agrees to fully indemnify and hold harmless the Town of Belvidere for all liability arising from use or non-use of ATV and/or UTVs on Town of Belvidere Highways.
5. All ATV/UTV operating on town roads must be equipped with a functioning headlamp and tail lamp, illuminated while operating on a County Highway.
6. All ATV/UTV operators shall only operate on roadways between the hours of 5 AM and 10 PM.
7. ATV/UTV routes will be open for use all year.
8. On all roads shared with another jurisdiction the most restrictive ordinance shall apply.
9. All ATV/UTV operators ages 16 years or older must have a valid driver's license. All ATV safety certified operators age 12-15 must also be accompanied by a parent, guardian or adult designated by the parent or guardian with continuous verbal directions and physical control. Any such parent, guardian or adult shall hold a valid driver's license. Anyone under age 12 cannot operate on any roadways.
10. All operators under the age of 18 must wear protective headgear as required by Sec. 23.33, Wis. Stats.
11. All occupants riding in, or operating a UTV, shall be required to wear a seatbelt when travelling on any trail or route within the Town of Belvidere.
12. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any bottle or receptacle containing alcohol beverages if the bottle or receptacle has been opened, the seal has been broken, or the contents of the receptacle has been partially removed, while operating or as a passenger on an ATV or UTV on any road or road route in the Town of Belvidere.
13. ATV/UTV operators who are born after January 1, 1988 and operating on a highway are required to have an ATV Safety Certificate provided by the Department of Natural Resources.

Section V – Signs: The Town of Belvidere, as the maintaining authority for roadways designated as ATV/UTV routes, shall have oversight of the installation of signage in compliance with s. NR 64, Wisconsin Administration Code. The quantity and location of signs shall be reviewed and approved by the Town of Belvidere.

1. No person may intentionally remove, damage, deface, move, or obstruct any uniform ATV/UTV route or trail sign or standard or intentionally interfere with the effective operation of any uniform ATV/UTV route or trail sign.
2. Signs may be mounted on any existing Town of Belvidere signpost, except for Stop Signposts. Posts shall be suitably sized for mounting the necessary number of signs at the location.
3. No person shall operate an ATV/UTV contrary to any authorized and official posted sign.

Section VI – Enforcement: This ordinance shall be enforced by any law enforcement officer as applicable and authorized to enforce the laws of the State of Wisconsin, as set forth in Wisconsin Statutes Sec. 23.33(12). This Ordinance may be enforced by citation by any law enforcement agency in every municipality within Buffalo County.

Section VII – Penalties: The State of Wisconsin All-Terrain Vehicles penalties as found in Sec. 23.33(13)(1), Wis. Stats. And/or any resolutions are adopted by reference. Any person who violates this Ordinance shall, upon conviction, be required to forfeit penalty costs, together with the cost of action.

Section VIII – Severability: The provision of this ordinance shall be deemed severable and it is expressly declared that the Town of Belvidere would have passed the other provisions of this ordinance irrespective of whether one or more provisions may be declared invalid, the remainder of the ordinance and the application of such provisions to other persons circumstances shall not be deemed affected.

Section IX – Saving Clause: This Ordinance in no way be deemed to supplant or otherwise invalidate any provisions of state statute relating to the subject matter hereof. Any person entrusted with the enforcement of this Ordinance may, in the exercise of his or her discretion, proceed under applicable state statutes.

Section X – Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and posting as provided by law. (pending placement of signage)

Adopted this 14th day of MAY, 2024.

By the Town of Belvidere Board.



Ron Speltz, Town Chairperson

Attested by:



Deborah M Ruff, Town Clerk