

ARTICLE IV. GOLF CARTS

Sec. 17-51. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this article except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Driver means the person driving and having physical control over the motorized cart.

Motorized cart means those electric and gasoline powered carts, commonly referred to as golf carts, but which must have a minimum of four (4) wheels and which have an attainable top speed not greater than twenty-five (25) miles per hour on a paved level surface and which is manufactured in compliance with those federal motor vehicle safety standards for low-speed vehicles. Specifically excluded from this definition are those motorized conveyances commonly referred to as ATVs, four-wheelers, mules, and gators.

Owner means the person holding title to the motorized cart.

Parking area means those areas accessible to the public by motor vehicular traffic and which are designated for temporary parking of motor vehicles, usually in places referred to as parking lots.

Street means the public roadways of the City of Nassau Bay by whatever name (e.g., road, alley, avenue, highway, route, boulevard, etc.) that:

- a) Has a posted speed limit of thirty-five (35) miles per hour or less; or
- b) Provides for no more than two (2) lanes of vehicular traffic per direction; or
- c) Is not designated as part of either the state or federal highway system.

(Ord. No. 2009-656, § 1, 11-9-09)

Sec. 17-52. Electric and gasoline motorized cart required equipment.

Every motorized cart must be equipped as mandated by the Texas Transportation Code, H.B. No. 2553 Section 551.404 Subsection (a) and/or required by the City of Nassau Bay the following:

- (1) Operational headlamps;
- (2) Operational tail lamps;
- (3) Side reflectors;
- (4) Operational parking brake; and
- (5) Rearview mirror(s).

(Ord. No. 2009-656, § 2, 11-9-09)

Sec. 17-53. Gasoline carts.

Every motorized cart powered by gasoline shall at all times be equipped with an exhaust system in good working order and in constant operation and meeting the following specifications:

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- (1) The exhaust system shall include the piping leading from the flange of the exhaust manifold to and including the muffler and exhaust pipes or including any and all parts specified by the manufacturer.
 - (2) The exhaust system and its elements shall be securely fastened with brackets or hangers, which are designed for the particular purpose of fastening motorized cart exhaust systems.
 - (3) The engine and powered mechanism of every motorized cart shall be so equipped, adjusted and tuned so that the exhaust is the amount of a motorized cart in good working order.
 - (4) It shall be unlawful for the owner of any motorized cart to operate or permit the operation of such cart on which any device controlling or abating atmospheric emissions which is placed on a cart by the manufacturer is rendered unserviceable by removal, alteration or which interferes with its operation.

(Ord. No. 2009-656, § 3, 11-9-09)

Sec. 17-54. Operation regulations.

- (a) All drivers of motorized carts shall hold a valid driver's license and shall abide by all traffic regulations applicable to vehicular traffic when using the authorized streets and parking areas of the city.
- (b) Motorized carts shall not be operated on sidewalks at any time.
- (c) All motorized carts are entitled to a full use of a lane on the authorized streets and parking areas of the city and no motor vehicle shall be driven in such a manner as to deprive any motorized cart of the full use of a lane.
- (d) The driver of a motorized cart shall not overtake and pass in the same lane occupied by the vehicle being overtaken.
- (e) No driver shall operate a motorized cart between lanes of traffic or between adjacent lines of rows of vehicles.
- (f) The driver of a motorized cart with a current and valid driver's license operating the cart on a street (as defined herein) may cross a multi-lane or a county or state route only at a signalized intersection.

(Ord. No. 2009-656, § 4, 11-9-09; Ord. No. O2013-714, 8-12-13)

Sec. 17-55. Liability.

Nothing in this article shall be construed as an assumption of liability by the City of Nassau Bay for any injuries to persons, pets or property which may result from the operation of a motorized cart by an authorized driver.

Owners are fully liable and accountable for the actions of any individual that they provide permission to operate and drive said motorized cart, both on personal and/or city and public properties. This described liability responsibility especially applies to personal injuries or property damage resulting from motorized cart drivers who are minors under the age of twenty-one (21) with or without a current and valid Texas drivers license.

(Ord. No. 2009-656, § 5, 11-9-09)

Sec. 17-56. Penalties.

Any person who violates the terms of this article shall be penalized as follows:

The maximum penalty allowed by law for such a misdemeanor and in addition to traffic violations the driver of the motorized cart may be subject to pursuant to Texas Law, the owner of the motorized cart shall be subject to the following civil penalties:

- (1) For the first offense, a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00);
- (2) For the second offense, a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00).

(Ord. No. 2009-656, § 6, 11-9-09)

GOLF CART REGULATIONS

As of April 2021, there are new updates to golf cart laws and regulations in the City of Nassau Bay.

Highlights: Golf carts need to have a special golf cart license plate to drive on public roadways. Also, a driver's license is also REQUIRED to operate a golf cart.



NEW UPDATES TO **GOLF CART** Laws & Regulations

Golf carts need to have a special
GOLF CART LICENSE PLATE
to drive on public roadways.

A driver's license is also
REQUIRED
to operate a golf cart.

Anyone operating a golf cart on a public roadway must have a driver's license.

**Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton ruling on April 5, 2021.*

CHANGES

to golf cart operation requirements:

GOLF CARTS OPERATING ON PUBLIC ROADWAYS MUST DISPLAY A SPECIAL LICENSE.



The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles does not register golf carts, but a "golf cart" license plate can be obtained from the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector office.

To obtain a golf cart license plate:

- ◆ Complete Form 130-U.
- ◆ On the application, mark the non-title registration box on the top of the application.
- ◆ Pay a \$14.75 fee for the plate.
- ◆ Mail-in the form or schedule an appointment for an in-person visit at www.hctax.net.

The golf cart license plate does not change where and when golf carts are allowed to operate on public roads.

Slow moving emblems are still required on golf carts within the City.

Anyone operating a golf cart on a public roadway must have a driver's license. (*Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton ruling on April 5, 2021.)

Changes to golf cart operation requirements:

Golf carts operating on public roadways MUST display a special license.

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles does not register golf carts, but a "golf cart" license plate can be obtained from the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector office.

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The golf cart license plate does not change where and when golf carts are allowed to operate on public roads.

Golf carts must have a minimum of four wheels and operate no faster than 25 miles per hour. Motorized vehicles commonly referred to as ATVs, four-wheelers, mules, and gators are specifically prohibited from use on Nassau Bay roadways and parks.

Golf carts are not allowed to be operated on state highways, which would include NASA Rd 1/NASA Parkway. Golf carts are not allowed to be driven on sidewalks or in city parks, except for park roads and parking areas. No carts are to be driven or parked on the grass areas of the city parks. Golf carts cannot overtake another vehicle in the same lane of traffic and cannot pass between lanes of traffic or adjacent lines of rows of vehicles.

Slow-moving emblems are still required on golf carts within the City. Each golf cart must have the following working equipment, operational headlights and taillights, side reflectors, parking brake, and rear-view mirrors.

In general, golf carts in the City are regulated by Chapter 17, Article IV - GOLF CARTS of the City's Code of Ordinances. You can view this section of the Code by clicking here: [**Chapter 17, Article IV - Golf Carts**](#) **(link)**.



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