



**City of Frostproof
Golf Cart
Operator's Manual**

**Frostproof, Florida
August 1, 2019**

Ordinance 2019-1

The City Council of Frostproof adopted Ordinance 2019-1 on August 19, 2019 to allow the operation of golf carts upon designated roads in the City of Frostproof, Florida. This ordinance is provided in full in the contents of this Operator's Manual, Appendix "B".

Violations of Ordinance 2019-1 shall be enforced by law enforcement officers or a City code enforcement officer as such officer's legal authority and jurisdiction allows.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The freedom to use golf carts on City roads is a lifestyle benefit many Florida residents enjoy. When golf cart drivers share the public roads with automobiles, trucks, buses, bicycles and pedestrians, a high degree of care and knowledge in the operation of golf carts is essential. This Golf Cart Operator's Manual provides important guidance and instruction on golf cart operations, and is a valuable tool to ensure the safety of golf cart drivers, pedestrians and other roadway users.

The City of Frostproof provides this material to assist you with the State, County and City rules applicable for the use of golf carts on these roads.

- Please read this information carefully
- Please drive with caution
- Please be careful
- Please obey all traffic laws

GOLF CART SAFETY

This Golf Cart Operator's Manual is intended to encourage the safe operation of golf carts for general transport in the City of Frostproof and in consonance with City Ordinance No. 2019-1 and Florida Law 316.212. This manual outlines the basic expectations of golf cart safety. With this intent, the City shall promote safe golf cart operations with reliance on the following:

1. Golf cart operators shall be 16 years of age or over.
2. Golf carts may not be used on sidewalks or trails.
3. The City shall develop appropriate literature advising safe operation of golf carts and this manual.
4. The City shall coordinate and encourage safe golf cart operation on approved City roads and across permitted County and State roadways.

DISCLAIMER

This Golf Cart Operator's Manual addresses the requirements of City Ordinance 2019-1 and Florida Law. It offers safety advice not covered in the laws. However, this Manual should not be considered a legal reference or to be used as advice. The Golf Cart Operator's Manual may be periodically revised. Just as safe golf cart operation is the sole responsibility of the golf cart owner/operator, the golf cart owner/operator is solely responsible for knowing and complying with all pertinent rules and regulations on the use of golf carts in the City of Frostproof.

DRIVING IS A PRIVILEGE

The State of Florida considers the operation of a motor vehicle a privilege, not a right. One must not abuse the privilege or else risk losing it. The extension by the State of Florida to the operation of golf carts away from the golf course is likewise a privilege, and golf cart users in the City of Frostproof are challenged to protect that privilege and to avoid concerns that might result in the loss of this privilege.

2. CERTIFICATION OF PROFESSIONAL FINDINGS:

2018 FLORIDA STATUTES, CHAPTER 316.212

The City of Frostproof, Florida, in following Florida Statute 316.212, operation of golf carts on certain roadways, has procured the services of George F. Young, Inc., 299 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701, Mr. Gerald Dabkowski, PE, Sr. Vice President, Sr. Traffic Engineer for the review of all City, County and State roadways within the City limits of Frostproof, Florida, for the following conditions.

Mr. Dabkowski personally drove/observed every roadway within the City limits of Frostproof, Florida, with the following conclusions:

All of the City, County, State roadways within the City limits of Frostproof, Florida, have been driven/observed by Gerald Dabkowski, PE and with the assistance of Mr. James Keene, Director of Public Works, City of Frostproof, on December 10, 2018, for the opportunity to consider if golf carts may safely travel on or cross public roadways within Frostproof, Florida, City limits. The considering factors were observed on December 10, 2018 including lane widths, number of lanes, site distances, speeds of vehicles, posted speeds, lighting, volumes, geography and the character of motor vehicles using the roads.

Based upon the engineer's findings of all roads in Frostproof, Florida, the safe operation of golf carts, as the established definition of a golf cart by the Florida Statutes, are safe vehicles to be used on City roads within the City limits of Frostproof Florida during daytime and nighttime periods utilizing the required apparatus attached to the golf cart per Florida Statutes, with the following exceptions.

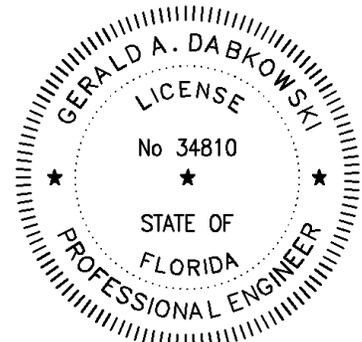
EXCEPTIONS

The following roads are **NOT** appropriate for golf cart usage as of this report/date:

- a) State Road 17 within the City limits
- b) County Roads 630 and 630 E within the City limits
- c) All roads posted above 25 miles per hour within the City limits

Gerald A. Dabkowski, PE

Florida
Professional Engineer
#34810
08/01/19



3. GOLF CART OPERATION FOR GENERAL TRANSPORT

A. CONDITIONS FOR GOLF CART OPERATION

For general transport purposes on City of Frostproof roads, in addition to the requirements of State and County laws, as well as common sense, the following conditions apply:

1. Golf cart operators should carry a valid Drivers License issued by the State of Florida or similar responsible governmental agency.
2. Provide proof of vehicle ownership (bill of sale or affidavit of ownership)
3. That the golf cart has the following, operable equipment for dawn to dusk operation:
 - a) Efficient brakes, reliable steering, safe tires.
4. That the golf cart has the following, operable equipment for dusk to dawn operation:
 - a) Efficient brakes, reliable steering, safe tires, red reflectorized warning devices in the front and rear, headlights, brake lights, turn signals.
5. Golf carts shall be restricted to operation on City roads that are specifically designated for golf cart operation.
6. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Polk County restricts golf cart operations on State and County roads except where specifically approved and signed by the appropriate agency.
7. Florida Statute 316.212: Operation of golf carts on certain roadways was recently amended to allow municipalities the ability to designate sidewalks for golf cart operation. The amendment resulted from a concern to protect golf cart operators from standard vehicular traffic. With this amendment, the City Council may choose to designate sidewalks for golf cart operation. Such a choice would be conditioned on a maximum golf cart speed of 15 MPH and a minimum sidewalk width of at least eight (8) feet wide, and that the sidewalk was outfitted with appropriate signage. There are presently no sidewalks in the City that qualify for such designation.
8. For informational purposes only. Golf cart owners might mistakenly believe their homeowners insurance covers them in event of any accidental occurrence with their golf cart. Such coverage is generally only in force for "a golf cart owned by insured operator when using for golfing purposes". Use of a golf cart for general transport purposes, including shopping, doctor's appointments, banking and such, will usually necessitate a separate golf cart insurance policy for coverage. The absence of such coverage exposes the owner/operator to personal liability for property damage and bodily injury to others. Some insurance companies will write attachments to your homeowner's policy for an additional fee, but most will not, which will make it necessary that you purchase a separate policy for this needed protection. The policy should provide coverage for liability, property damage, and comprehensive coverage for damage to your own golf cart.

B. GOLF CART OPERATING ZONES

At this time, the City has defined two zones for general transport using golf carts. A golf cart zone map illustrating the boundaries, excluded roads and allowed crossings for the Eastside and Westside golf cart zones are included in the Appendix. The following narrative explains the boundaries, excluded roads and allowed crossings.

EASTSIDE GOLF CART ZONE

The Eastside golf cart zone is bounded by State Road 17 to the East City limits.

- There is no permitted crossing of County Road 630 or 630 E, at this time.
- The only permitted crossing of State Road 17 is at E. Wall Street.

WESTSIDE GOLF CART ZONE

The Westside golf cart zone is bounded by State Road 17 to the west City limits.

- There is no permitted crossing of County Road 630 at this time.
- The only permitted crossing of State Road 17 is at W. Wall Street.

REMEMBER: GOLF CART USAGE IS NOT PERMITTED ANYWHERE ON SIDEWALKS & TRAILS.

C. THE CITY OF FROSTPROOF AND FLORIDA LAW

Florida State laws provide that “A golf cart may be operated only upon... a municipal street that has been designated by a municipality for use by golf carts. (Florida Statute 316.212 & 316.2125). Prior to making such designation, the responsible local governmental entity must first determine that golf carts may safely travel on or across the public road or street, considering factors including speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using the road or street.” The City of Frostproof, Ordinance No. 2019-1 provides for golf cart operation on and across certain roads pursuant to Florida Law. In addition, under State law, golf carts are not required to be registered with the Division of Motor Vehicles or carry a license plate. Specific elements of Florida Law and their application in the City of Frostproof are summarized as follows:

1. **MOTOR VEHICLE:** An automobile, motorcycle, truck, trailer, semi trailer, truck tractor and semi trailer combination, or any other vehicle operated on the roads of this state, used to transport persons or property, and propelled by power other than muscular power, but the term does not include traction engines, road rollers, such vehicles as run only upon a track, bicycles, or mopeds.
2. **GOLF CART:** A motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour. A golf cart may be operated on municipal roads that have been designated for such operation by the local municipality. The City of Frostproof Ordinance No. 2019-1 does allow operation on certain roads:

- a) Golf carts may only be operated on roads that have a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour or less.
- b) Golf carts may cross State or county roads only at such locations that have been specifically designated for golf cart crossings.
- c) Under City Ordinance permitted modification of Florida Law, a golf cart may not be operated on designated public roads by any person under the age of 16.
- d) Under Florida Law, golf carts may be operated only during the hours between sunrise and sunset unless the local municipality has specifically approved their nighttime operation. The City of Frostproof Ordinance No. 2019-1 allows nighttime operation of properly- equipped golf carts.
- e) A golf cart, during daylight operation must be equipped with efficient brakes, reliable steering apparatus and safe tires.
- f) Golf carts are not permitted to drive on State or County roads except in such locations as are specifically permitted for purposes of crossing such roads. In addition, golf carts are not permitted to operate on City of Frostproof roads which have posted speed limits higher than 25 miles per hour or which have excessive traffic. A golf cart may cross those roads at a designated golf cart crossing.

D. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: (For Informational Purposes)

Unlicensed transportation vehicles (examples such as ATV, UTV, Side by Sides, skate boards, hoverboards, Segway, scooters, etc.) except City owned vehicles, may not be used on State, County or City roads including sidewalks and trails.

Rules of Traffic

The Florida Driver's Handbook rules apply to both automobile and golf cart operators.

CAUTION: VIOLATING FLORIDA STATUTES 316.212, 316.2125, OR OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES MAY RESULT IN BEING ISSUED A TRAFFIC CITATION.

Traffic Lanes

Always drive on the right side of the road except in those rare cases when you might be passing a bicyclist, parked car, or special direction by legal entities. A golf cart, being a slow vehicle, must stay in the right lane unless passing or turning left.

Making Turns

You must use hand signals or directional signals to show that you are about to turn. Turning a corner may seem to be a simple operation, but many traffic crashes are caused by drivers who do not turn correctly. There are nine (9) steps in making a good turn:

1. Make up your mind about your turn before you get to the turning point. Never make "last-minute" turns.
2. Look behind and to both sides to see where other vehicles are if you must change lanes before making your turn. Use your turn signal before changing lanes also.
3. Move into the correct lane as you near the intersection. The correct lane for the right turn is the lane next to the right edge of the roadway. On a two-lane road with traffic in both directions, an approach for a left turn should be made in the part of the right half of the roadway nearest the centerline.
4. Give a turn indication for at least the last 100 feet before you make your turn. Let other drivers know what you are going to do.
5. Slow down to a safe turning speed.
6. When you are slowing to make a right turn, the bicyclist you passed may be catching up to you. Search over your shoulder before turning. Yield to bicyclists and pedestrians.
7. When turning left, you may be crossing the path of a vehicle, pedestrian or bicyclist. Always search before starting your turn.
8. Make the turn, staying in the proper lane. Yield the right-of-way to any vehicle coming from the opposite direction.
9. Finish your turn in the proper lane. A right turn should be from the right lane into the right lane of the roadway entered. A left turn may be completed in any lane lawfully available, or safe, for the desired direction of travel.

Night Driving

Florida State law does not authorize the use of public roadways by golf carts at night, even if the golf cart is equipped with both headlights and taillights. However, City Ordinance No. 2019-1 does allow nighttime operation of golf carts on City roads with proper equipment.

Emergency Vehicles

Golf cart drivers must yield the right-of-way to law enforcement personnel cars, fire engines and other emergency vehicles using sirens and/or flashing lights.

Open Intersections

An open intersection is one without traffic control signs or signals. When you enter one, you must yield the right-of-way if:

1. A vehicle is already in the intersection
2. You enter or cross a state highway from a secondary road
3. You enter a paved road from an unpaved road
4. You plan to make a left turn and a vehicle is approaching from the opposite direction
5. When two cars enter an open intersection at the same time, the driver on the left must yield to the driver on the right.

Speeding

Golf carts are not known for their racing qualities. Electric golf carts with their fixed battery and electric motor combination, seldom can reach more than about twelve (12) miles per hour. Over smooth and level roadways, progress at this speed can seem agonizingly slow. So, some golf cart owners may attempt to boost speed with lower gear ratios, altered motor field strength, and higher horsepower ratings to get the golf carts to go faster. The result has been the achievement of speeds over twenty-five (25) miles per hour. **However, per the Florida Statutes and City Ordinance No. 2019-1, the maximum allowable golf cart speed is twenty (20 mph).**

Children Drivers

Children, under the age of 16, are not allowed to drive golf carts on City of Frostproof roads even when accompanied by an adult.

Passenger Safety Tips

Passengers and drivers should always keep their feet inside the golf cart while it is in motion. There is a tendency to leave a leg or foot outside of the cart while it is in motion. Many serious injuries are reported from unexpectedly catching on the ground or a stationary object. Moreover, passengers should have both feet planted firmly on the floor while the golf cart is moving. For extra stability, a passenger should sit with his right hip against the right arm of the seat.

Pedestrians and Bicyclists

It is the driver's responsibility to do everything possible to avoid colliding with any pedestrians, bicyclist or other person. All motorists must yield to bicyclists and pedestrians utilizing the sidewalk. At any non-signalized intersection, marked mid-block crossing or driveway, motorists must yield to pedestrians wishing to cross the road or driveway. At signalized intersections, before making any turn, motorists must yield to pedestrians and bicyclists.

Vehicle Maintenance

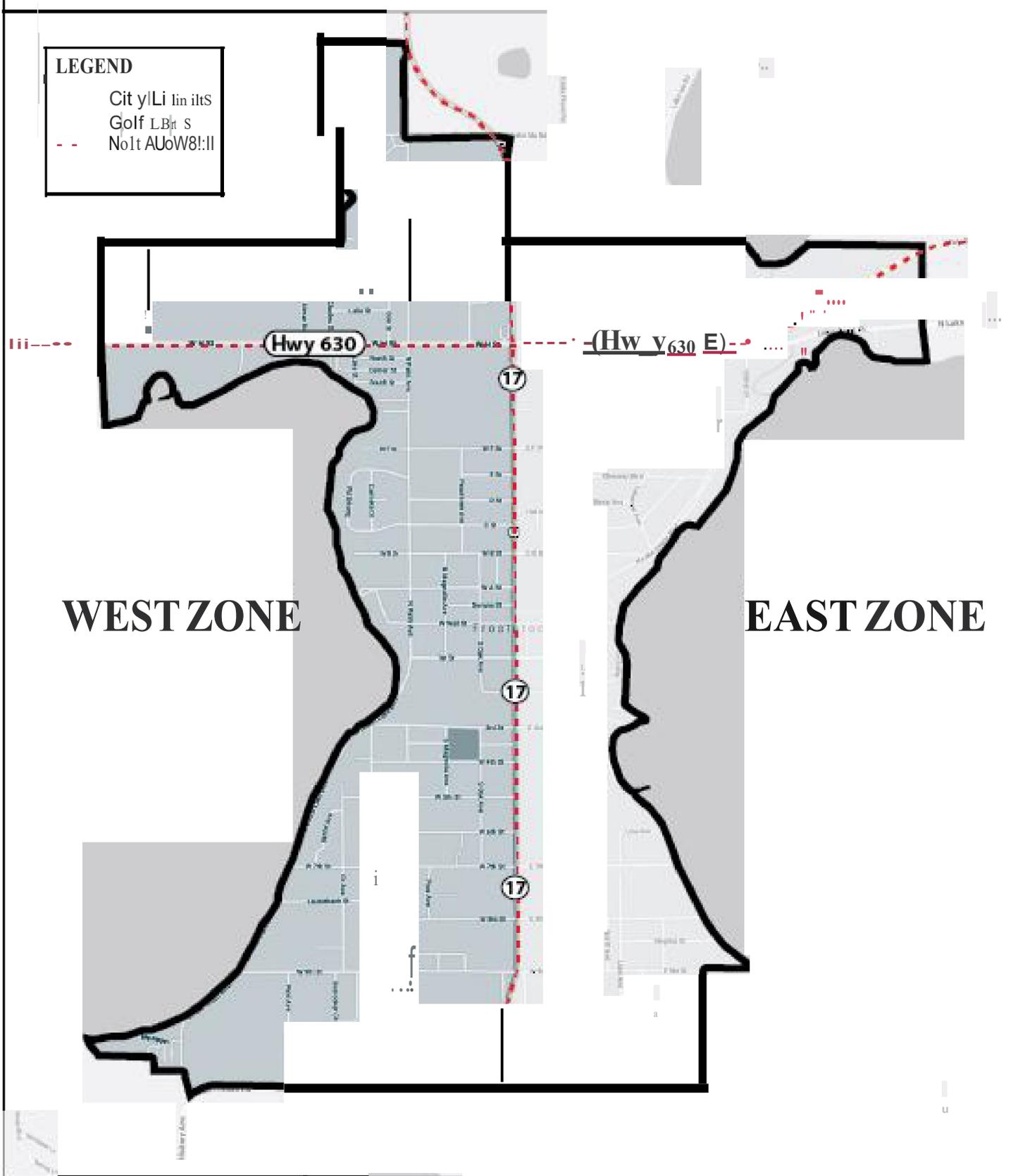
Regardless of how well you drive, you are not safe unless your golf cart is in good operating condition. You should regularly check for safe operation of brakes, lights (if so equipped), steering, turn signals (if so equipped) and tires. You should also make sure your batteries are charged to good operating levels. A faulty symptom such as loose holding brakes, wheel wobble or unstable steering should prompt the immediate attention of a mechanic.

Common Sense Applies

Golf cart drivers must comply with driving laws and all rules of common sense. Never move your golf cart until you have looked in front, behind and to the side for pedestrians and oncoming traffic. Then, signal and pull into traffic when safe.

Driving is a Full Time Job Concentration is one of the most important elements of safe driving. The driver's seat is no place for daydreaming, mental napping, window shopping, scenic viewing or distracting conversation (including cell phone usage and texting).

LEGEND
 City Limits
 Golf Links
 - - - - -
 Not Available



George E Young, Jr.
 City Engineer



City of Frostproof

Golf Cart Access
 December 10, 2018