

## **GOLF CARTS**

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**77.01 PURPOSE.** The purpose of this chapter is to permit the operation of golf carts on streets in the City as authorized by Section 321.247 of the Code of Iowa.

**77.02 GOLF CART DEFINED.** A golf cart is defined as:

A gasoline or electric motored device having at least three wheels; adequate seating space for the operator/driver and/or passengers; storage space for golf equipment; incapable of exceeding 20 miles per hour; and having been factory manufactured for the intended use as a golf cart.

**77.03 OPERATOR REQUIREMENTS.** All operators of golf carts upon City streets within the City limits of De Soto must have a valid driver's license and be at least 16 years of age. Golf carts are allowed to operate on said roadways from sunrise to sunset only and must be properly insured with proof of insurance retained on the golf cart. Golf carts are not allowed to operate on City streets if the ambient air temperature is less than forty degrees Fahrenheit and/or other conditions that may exist making travel hazardous for the operator and/or passengers. Operators are accountable for all passengers on the golf cart and will not allow reckless or dangerous behavior by passengers on said vehicles. Golf carts shall not be driven on the private property of others (without their express written consent) and shall not be parked on the City terrace or other City property not normally afforded vehicular parking privileges.

**77.04 SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIRED.** All golf carts used on City streets shall have the following safety equipment:

1. A slow moving vehicle sign (as defined by State law).
2. A "bicycle" flag with a pole height of not less than five feet and a flag consisting of orange, green or yellow reflective material and size of not less than 54 square inches in surface area.
3. Operational brakes.

**77.05 PROHIBITED AREAS.** Golf carts shall not be operated upon any City street which is a primary road extension through the City, but shall be allowed to cross a City street which is a primary road extension through the City. Golf carts are not allowed on sidewalks or the City parking or terrace located between the street and sidewalk.

77.06 GOLF CART PERMIT REQUIREMENT. No person shall operate a golf cart on any City street unless the golf cart possesses a City of De Soto golf cart permit issued by the City of De Soto through the City Clerk's office. The annual \$25.00 golf cart permit can be obtained before January 1st for the next calendar year and shall expire on December 31st of that year. The purchaser of said permit must be the golf cart owner; at least 16 years of age at the time of permit purchase; and be able to provide proof of appropriate liability insurance at the time of permit purchase. The golf cart shall be subject to inspection by the De Soto Police Department at the time of permit purchase or within 48 hours of said purchase. The permit application shall provide complete owner information and shall be retained by the City Clerk and recorded with the De Soto Police Department. The permit sticker shall be clearly displayed on the right rear fender of the golf cart and must not be obstructed from clear visibility.

77.07 LAW ENFORCEMENT. The De Soto Police Department shall administer all municipal, state and federal laws regarding the safe and law abiding use of a golf cart upon City streets within the City of De Soto. The operator of a golf cart upon a City street shall observe all traffic laws. The golf cart shall not exceed 20 miles per hour upon any City street within De Soto. The operator of a golf cart shall be subject to criminal and civil liability for violations of State and City laws in the same manner as the operator of a registered vehicle.

77.08 ACCIDENT REPORTS. The operator or the permitted owner of the golf cart shall immediately notify the City of De Soto Police Department whenever a golf cart is involved in an accident resulting in injury or death to anyone; or property damage amounting to more than \$1,000.00, shall file an accident report within 48 hours in accordance with Iowa law.

77.09 SCHEDULED VIOLATIONS/FINES. A violation of this chapter may be charged as a municipal infraction or as a simple misdemeanor as defined by State code. The civil penalty assessed for a first offense shall be \$50.00; a second offense \$100.00; and a third offense and each subsequent \$300.00.