

Golf Cart Information

INDEX

Flowchart.....	1
Underspeed Motor Vehicle Information	2
Frequently Asked Questions	3
MWCD Operational Policy	6
BMV and Title Offices by County	10
Companies Capable of Equipping Golf Carts	11



Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

1319 Third Street NW • P.O. Box 349
New Philadelphia, OH 44663-0349
Phone (330) 343-6647 • Toll-free (877) 363-8500
Website www.mwcd.org

John Maxey, Deputy Chief Law Enforcement
jmaxey@mwcd.org

MWCD has a “Golf Cart Policy” - Now, what do I need to do to legally operate my golf cart on MWCD property?



I own or plan to purchase a Golf Cart!

FIRST!

#1 - Is your cart properly equipped?

See the list of companies capable of equipping golf carts to be street legal (page 11 of the MWCD Golf Cart Information)

SECOND!

#2 - Have your cart inspected!

Check the list of inspection sites for your area at mwcd.org or call the MWCD office for information. At the inspection you will need: 1) Proof of Insurance; and 2) a Valid Operator's License

GOLF CART PASSES INSPECTION!

#3 - Visit the County Title Office

You **MUST** go to one of the ten (10) Title Offices listed on page 10!
You will need: 1) Inspection Certificate, 2) Proof of Insurance, and 3) Proof of Ownership.

YOUR LAST STEP!

#4 - Visit the BMV Office

You **MUST** go to one of the BMVs listed on page 10.
You will need:
(1) Inspection Certificate; 2) Proof of Insurance; 3) Proof of Ownership; and Title.



Use of Golf Carts

UNDERSPEED MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMATION

An underspeed motor vehicle is defined as a four-wheeled vehicle, other than a truck, that is either originally designed and constructed with a top speed of 20 MPH or less, or is not originally designed and constructed for operation on a street or highway. Most golf carts fall under this description and therefore are considered an underspeed motor vehicle.

There are several requirements that must be met in order to legally operate a golf cart on the roadways and property owned by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD). Included in this information packet is a copy of the MWCD's release and waiver, golf cart use policy, maps of areas legal to operate (on and off road), and for your convenience a list of vendors who can equip your cart to be legal and a listing of registrars and title offices throughout the MWCD region. This information will allow you to make sure your golf cart meets the requirements before the inspection process.

Inspections must be scheduled by contacting the appropriate park office or by calling 330-343-6647.

If you will only be using your golf cart off road, the golf cart will not need to be licensed, however a permit is required.

Here are the steps you will need to complete in order to certify your golf cart for operation on MWCD property and roadways.

- 1) First, if necessary, have safety equipment installed on your golf cart.
- 2) Next, you will need to check posted inspection schedules for your area and take your golf cart to the designated location. At the time of inspection you will receive an information packet. Items you will need at the time of inspection are: proof of insurance, and a valid operator's license. Once the inspection requirements have been met, you will be given an Inspection Certificate to take to your local title office. Inspections will be in accordance with Section 4501:2-1 of Ohio Administrative Code.
- 3) Next, you will take your Inspection Certificate, Proof of Insurance and Proof of Ownership to the title office. Once they have verified everything is in order, they will issue you a Certificate of Title. **You MUST go to the title office in one of the ten (10) counties where MWCD permits operation of golf carts.**
- 4) Finally, you will need to take the above items to a Deputy Registrar who will verify that you have completed the above steps. You will be issued the license plates for your golf cart. **You MUST go to the registrar's office (BMV) in one of the ten (10) counties where MWCD permits operation of golf carts.**



Use of Golf Carts

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What equipment is required on my golf cart?

Rear tail light, license plate light (rear), two or more stop lights, two head lights, a horn, a rear view mirror, windshield, turn signals, two license plates.

Where can I purchase the required equipment or have it installed?

Enclosed is a list of vendors who will sell you the equipment or install the equipment. MWCD does not endorse or recommend these vendors; this list was generated by research on the Internet. You may choose the vendor you wish to use.

How much will it cost to have my golf cart equipped?

Depending on how your golf cart is equipped, we have received estimates ranging from \$250 to \$750.

Is any special equipment required for off-road?

No, but if you are operating your golf cart off-road you must be at least 16 years of age and have a valid driver's license.

Can I carry passengers on my cart?

Yes, but only the manufacturer's recommended capacities.

Where do I get my golf cart inspected?

Depending on your location there will be several options for inspections. Campers can get their golf carts inspected at their home park. Cottage site lessees will be given times, dates and locations specific to their area for inspections. If posted times and dates are not convenient, inspections can be made by appointment.

Do I need to have my golf cart inspected every year?

No, There is a one-time inspection. If you receive an off road permit and wish to make your cart street legal, then you will have to have your cart inspected.

Is there a fee for the inspection?

No, there is no fee for the inspection, however acquisition of a title and license plates will have a set fee established by the State of Ohio. The golf cart owner is responsible for these fees.

What legal documents do I need at the time of inspection?

You will need to have proof of insurance and a valid drivers license.

Where do I get a title for my golf cart?

You will need to go to the title office in one of the ten (10) counties where MWCD permits operation of golf carts. A list of title offices and phone numbers will be provided in your information packet.

Where do I get license plates for my golf cart?

You will need to go to the Registrar (BMV) in one of the ten (10) counties where MWCD permits operation of golf carts. A list of BMV offices will be provided in your information packet.

Can I go to my local Title office or Registrar?

You must go to the title office or registrar in one of the ten (10) counties where MWCD permits operation of golf carts. MWCD is required by law to notify only those counties where they permit the operation of golf carts.

Who is permitted to operate a golf cart?

Whether your golf cart is operated on-road or off-road, you must be 16 years of age and have a valid driver's license.

What if I have to travel, operate or cross a Federal, State, County or Township road to access MWCD property?

Under Ohio law, MWCD cannot authorize operation of a golf cart on roadways that are not MWCD public roadways. This is not permitted unless the jurisdiction with authority over roads also authorizes the use of golf carts.

Can I operate my golf cart anywhere on MWCD property?

No. You can only operate your golf cart on MWCD public roadways and areas designated by MWCD.

Will approved MWCD areas to operate golf carts be made available?

Yes, maps will be made available of each individual area by reservoir that outlines MWCD public roadways.

Does it matter what the posted speed limit is?

No person shall operate an underspeed vehicle, including but not limited to a golf cart, on any public roadway where the posted speed limit for such a roadway is greater than 25 miles per hour.

Am I required to carry any documentation on the golf cart?

Yes, if it is an off-road permit, you are required to carry a copy of the permit along with the same required information and documentation you carry in your automobile.

Where do I place the inspection decal?

On the lower portion of the windshield on the passenger side.

Do I need a permit if I am not operating my golf cart on the roadway?

Yes, you will need a permit to operate off-road, however, the equipment that is mandatory for on-road operation is not required for off-road operation.

What is an off-road permit?

This is a permit that allows you to go off-road with your golf cart. These areas will be designated for your use. An example would be going to and from your dock from your home.

Are there any exceptions for ADA regulations on golf carts?

Yes, in MWCD operated campgrounds people who have handicapped placards will be granted exceptions to go off road.

Who will do the inspections?

MWCD will conduct the inspections. Only certified MWCD Rangers will be able to perform the inspections.

Why is MWCD doing this?

Due to the fact that most MWCD public roadways are intended for motor vehicles and are subject to the Ohio Revised Code. If golf carts are going to operate on MWCD public roadways then they must comply with state law.

Is a golf cart and an underspeed vehicle (USV) the same thing?

Yes, an USV and a golf cart are one in the same. These are vehicles not originally designed to operate on street or highway and top attainable speed is 20 miles per hour.



MWCD OPERATIONAL POLICY

Use of Golf Carts

Policy

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) will allow the use of golf carts on MWCD public roadways and other approved areas within its landholdings, in compliance with the direction of the Ohio Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), and MWCD rules. For this policy, MWCD public roadways include roads designated for public use in MWCD parks and campgrounds, MWCD cottage site residential areas, MWCD marinas, and Atwood Resort. For this policy, MWCD public roadways do not include dedicated Township, County, State, or Federal roadways and/or highways, because use of golf carts on these roads is under the jurisdiction of the Township, County, State, or Federal governments.

Guidelines

Introduction

This document is intended to regulate the use of golf carts on MWCD land. The Ohio Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Motor Vehicles states that most golf carts are Underspeed Vehicles (USV), and defines a USV as: “a four-wheeled vehicle other than a truck that either is originally designed and constructed with a top attainable speed of 20 mph or less, or is not originally designed and constructed for operation on a street or highway.” Also, in 1990 the Ohio Attorney General described a golf cart as “a four-wheeled motorized vehicle that is designed and manufactured for the primary purpose of transporting people and equipment on a golf course,” and concluded that a “golf cart may not lawfully be operated on public streets and highways unless it satisfies the statutory requirements that are applicable to motor vehicles.” For these guidelines, the above descriptions of a golf cart will apply.

According to the Ohio Attorney General’s office, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has observed that most unmodified golf carts can achieve a maximum speed of less than twenty miles per hour, and the agency has declined, therefore, to develop Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) with which such golf carts must comply. There are other types of vehicles similar to golf carts designed to reach speeds of between twenty to twenty-five miles per hour that are manufactured to meet FMVSS, and are licensable from the factory without need for further modification. These guidelines do not regulate such vehicles.

MWCD Public Roadways

The operation of golf carts on public roadways within MWCD landholdings is a privilege and not a right. The MWCD reserves the right to change the requirements for, or the regulation of such operation, including this policy at any time, based on the discretion of the Board of Directors. In order for someone to operate a golf cart on an MWCD public roadway, the following requirements must be met:

1. The MWCD chief law enforcement officer must send a letter to the BMV, Title Section, at their current address of record, certifying that he has a program of inspecting golf carts.
2. The MWCD chief law enforcement officer, or his or her designee, provides the applicant a certificate of inspection regarding the inspection requirements of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 4501:2-1. The officer also provides an inspection sticker indicating the date the cart was inspected and that it passed inspection. The sticker is to be placed on the cart, in a location approved by the MWCD. The cart must have:
 - a. Rear taillight (ORC 4513.05)
 - b. A light to illuminate the license plate so that the plate is legible from a distance of 50-feet (ORC 4513.05)

- c. Two or more stop lights (ORC 4513.071)
 - d. Two headlights (ORC 4513.04)
 - e. A horn (ORC 4513.21)
 - f. A rear view mirror (ORC 4513.23)
 - g. A windshield (glass or safety glass) (ORC 4513.24)
 - h. Directional signals (ORC 4513.261)
 - i. Two license plates (ORC 4503.21)
3. The applicant takes the inspection certificate to the Clerk of Court's title office in any Ohio county. The clerk will verify that the inspection certificate accompanies the title evidence and the vehicle inspection requirements of OAC 4501:2-1. If verified and everything else is in order, the clerk should issue the title.
 4. The applicant obtains insurance for the cart. Proof of insurance is required per ORC 4509.101.
 5. The applicant will take the title to a deputy registrar in any county. If all is in order, the deputy registrar will issue license plates.
 6. A valid drivers license is required for any operation of a motor vehicle on any public or private property used by the public (ORC 4507.02(A)(1)).
 7. The cart may then be operated on MWCD public roadways and other approved areas within MWCD landholdings in accordance with Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 4511, MWCD rules, and with the equipment required by ORC Chapter 4513.

Off-Road

The granting of a special-use off-road permit to operate a golf cart off of public roadways within MWCD landholdings is a privilege and not a right. The MWCD reserves the right to change the requirements for, or the scope of, such permits or this policy at any time, based on the discretion of staff and the Board of Directors. All persons requesting a permit must execute a release/waiver document. Any permit may be revoked for: failure to follow the limitations prescribed for the permit, or for reckless or negligent operation of an off-road permitted vehicle, or the loss of viability of the underlying disability placard that is required for permits issued in MWCD parks or campgrounds, or other reason for cause, in the discretion of management of the MWCD. A valid drivers license is required for any operation of a motor vehicle on any public or private property used by the public (ORC 4507.02(A)(1)).

In order for someone to operate a golf cart off of a public roadway within MWCD landholdings, the following requirements must be met:

MWCD Parks/Campgrounds

1. A special-use off-road permit may be issued by the park manager, or his or her designee, to MWCD campground residents who qualify for and have obtained a disability placard from the BMV. This permit will allow the applicant to take the golf cart off of an MWCD public roadway to specific locations and under certain conditions, as detailed on the permit. The applicant's permit must be kept with the cart, and presented when requested by a law enforcement officer or MWCD agent. Only one active permit per campsite is allowed.
2. In the event the MWCD determines off-road golf cart traffic is detrimental to ground conditions, for example, by increasing erosion, it may require the applicant to cease cart operation, relocate cart operation, or make necessary improvements to remedy the problem.
3. There are non-public roadways, typically "service roads", in MWCD parks and campgrounds, accessible only to authorized MWCD personnel.

MWCD Leased Cottage Site Residential Areas

1. A special-use off-road permit may be issued by the MWCD to the current lessee(s) of record, to allow them to take a cart on to MWCD public land not involving a public roadway, at specific locations and for certain situations, and these conditions will be explained on the permit. The permit must be kept with the cart, and presented when requested by a law enforcement officer or MWCD agent. Only one active permit per lease is allowed. The lessee will ensure only legitimate use of their cart and will take action to deter unauthorized cart use.
2. In the event the MWCD determines off-road cart traffic is detrimental to ground conditions, for example, by increasing erosion, it may require the applicant to cease cart operation, relocate cart operation, or make necessary improvements to remedy the problem.
3. Construction projects on public land to facilitate cart operation or improve cart access may require an MWCD construction permit. Recognizing the public usage of this land, certain construction permits (for example: a bridge) cannot be issued to individual lessees. In such cases, a lessee association must exist or be established, and this association must agree to accept responsibility for such projects. Construction permits may then be issued to the association.

Docking Associations and Private Clubs

1. Except as noted in paragraph number 3 directly below, a special-use off-road permit may be issued by the MWCD to the association or club to allow association or club members to take carts on to MWCD public land not involving a public roadway, at specific locations and for certain situations, and these conditions will be explained on the permit. The association or club will ensure only legitimate use of carts by its members and will take action to deter unauthorized cart use.
2. In the event the MWCD determines off-road cart traffic is detrimental to ground conditions, for example, by increasing erosion, it may require the association or club to cease cart operation, relocate cart operation, or make necessary improvements to remedy the problem. A construction permit may be required.
3. Members of private clubs may operate golf carts within club lease boundaries for purposes of club operations, in compliance with the terms of their Club Site lease and MWCD rules.

Youth Camps

1. Except as noted in paragraph number 3 directly below, a special-use off-road permit may be issued by the MWCD to the camp to allow camp personnel to take carts on to MWCD public land not involving a public roadway, at specific locations and for certain situations, and these conditions will be explained on the permit. The camp will ensure only legitimate use of carts by its personnel and will take action to deter unauthorized cart use.
2. In the event the MWCD determines off-road cart traffic is detrimental to ground conditions, for example, by increasing erosion, it may require the camp to cease cart operation, relocate cart operation, or make necessary improvements to remedy the problem. A construction permit may be required.
3. Youth camp personnel may operate golf carts within camp lease boundaries for purposes of camp operations, in compliance with the terms of their Club Site Lease and MWCD rules.

Private Dock Licensees

1. A special-use off-road permit may be issued by the MWCD to the current licensee of record to allow them to take a cart on to MWCD public land not involving a public roadway, at specific locations and for certain situations, and these conditions will be explained on the permit. The permit must be

kept with the cart, and presented when requested by a law enforcement officer or MWCD agent. The licensee will ensure only legitimate use of their cart and will take action to deter unauthorized cart use.

2. In the event the MWCD determines off-road cart traffic is detrimental to ground conditions, for example, by increasing erosion, it may require the licensee to cease cart operation, relocate cart operation, or make necessary improvements to remedy the problem. A construction permit may be required.
3. Construction projects on public land to remedy cart operation problems or improve cart access may require an MWCD construction permit. Given the public accessibility of this land, certain construction permits (for example: a bridge) cannot be issued to individual licensees.

Marinas

1. Marinas may operate golf carts off of a public roadway within marina lease boundaries for purposes of marina operations, in compliance with the terms of their marina lease and MWCD rules.

Atwood Resort

1. Atwood Resort may operate golf carts off of a public roadway within resort lease boundaries for purposes of resort operations, in compliance with the terms of its lease and MWCD rules.

*Adopted 3/20/2009
Effective 4/1/2010*



Use of Golf Carts BMV AND TITLE OFFICES BY COUNTY

**Note: Please call offices to verify hours of operation*

				HOURS OF OPERATION*
ASHLAND COUNTY				
BMV #0302 Ashland County Auto Title Office (Courthouse Basement)	502 Claremont Avenue 142 West Second Street	Ashland, OH 44805 Ashland, OH 44805	(419) 281-2125 (410) 282-4288	8:00-6:30 M; 8:00-5:00 T-F; 8:00-12:00 S 8:00-5:00 M; 8:00-4:00 T-TH; Closed S
BELMONT COUNTY				
BMV #0706 Ohio Auto Club	51560 National Road	St. Clairsville, OH 43950	(740) 695-9432	8:00-6:30 M; 8:00-5:00 T-F; 8:00-12:00 S
BMV #0707 Barnesville A of Commerce	130 West Main Street	Barnesville, OH 43713	(740) 425-1028	8:00-6:30 M; 8:00-5:00 T-F; 8:00-12:00 S
BMV #0705	318 Howard Street	Bridgeport, OH 43912	(740) 635-0111	8:00-6:30 M; 8:00-5:00 T-F; 8:00-2:00 S
Title Office	121 East Main Street	St. Clairsville, OH 43950	(740) 699-2139	8:30-6:00 M; 8:30-4:15 M-F; Closed S
CARROLL COUNTY				
BMV #1007	155 West Main Street	Carrollton, OH 44615	(330) 627-7356	8:00-5:00 T-T-W-F; 8:00-6:30 TH; 8:00-12:30 S
Title Office (Carroll County Courthouse)	119 South Lisbon Street, Suite 401	Carrollton, OH 44615	(330) 627-6437	8:00-4:00 M-F; Closed S
COSHOCTON COUNTY				
BMV #1604	275 Downtowner Plaza	Coshocton, OH 43812	(740) 622-8031	8:00-5:00 M-T-W-F; 8:00-6:30 TH; 8:00-12:00 S
Title Office	706 South Seventh Street	Coshocton, OH 43812	(740) 622-1154	8:30-4:30 M-F; Closed S
GUERNSEY COUNTY				
BMV #3005	224 Dewey Avenue Center, Room 2	Cambridge, OH 43725	(740) 439-4088	8:00-6:30 M; 8:00-5:00 T-F; 8:00-2:00 S
Title Office	224 Dewey Avenue, Room 6	Cambridge, OH 43725	(740) 432-9235	8:30-5:00 M; 8:30-4:00 T-F; Closed S
HARRISON COUNTY				
BMV #3406	538 North Main Street, Suite D	Cadiz, OH 43907	(740) 942-8200	8:00-6:30 M; 8:00-5:00 T-F; 8:00-12:00 S
Title Office	538 North Main Street, Suite C	Cadiz, OH 43907	(740) 942-8200	8:00-6:30 M; 8:00-5:00 T-F; 8:00-12:00 S
MUSKINGUM COUNTY				
BMV #6010	255 Sunrise Center Road	Zanesville, OH 43701	(740) 455-2767	8:00-6:30 M; 8:00-5:00 T-F; 8:00-2:00 S
Title Office	22 North Fifth Street	Zanesville, OH 43701	(740) 455-7103	8:30-4:30 M-F; Closed S
NOBLE COUNTY				
BMV #6103	40 Olive Street	Caldwell, OH 43724	(740) 732-5571	8:00-6:30 M; 8:00-5:00 T-F; 8:00-12:00 S
Title Office	350 Courthouse	Caldwell, OH 43724	(740) 732-5604	8:00-11:30 & 12:30-4:00 M-T-W; 8:00-11:30 TH; 8:00-11:30 & 12:30-7:00 F
RICHLAND COUNTY				
BMV #7008 Richland Carousel Park	15-17 East Temple Court	Mansfield, OH 44902	(419) 522-9400	8:00-5:00 M-TH; 8:00-7:00 F; 8:00-12:00 S
BMV #7009	159 Mansfield Avenue	Shelby, OH 44875	(419) 342-2266	8:00-6:30 M; 8:00-5:00 T-F; 8:00-12:00 S
Title Office	77 North Mulberry Street	Mansfield, OH 44902	(419) 774-5510	8:00-4:00 M-F; Closed S
TUSCARAWAS COUNTY				
BMV #7901	1260 Monroe Street NE, Suite 11-F	New Philadelphia, OH 44663	(330) 602-8787	8:00-6:30 M; 8:00-5:00 T-F; 8:00-2:00 S
BMV #7914 Twin City Chamber of Commerce	206 East Third Street	Uhrichsville, OH 44683	(740) 922-6111	8:00-6:30 M; 8:00-5:00 T-F; 8:00-12:00 S
Title Office (Tuscarawas County Courthouse)	125 East High Avenue, Room 125	New Philadelphia, OH 44663	(330) 365-3227	9:00-6:00 M; 9:00-4:30 T-F; Closed S
Title Office (Uhrichsville Branch Office)	206 East Third Street	Uhrichsville, OH 44683	(740) 922-6804	9:00-6:30 M; 9:00-5:00 T-F; 8:00-12:00 W & S



Use of Golf Carts

COMPANIES CAPABLE OF EQUIPPING GOLF CARTS TO BE STREET LEGAL

Used Golf Cart Sales 36500 Old Piedmont Road, Freeport, OH 43973	(740) 359-0903 OR (740) 968-1741
Bob Rhodes, RJR Electronic Sales, Inc. Mineral City, OH 44656	(440) 777-5454 OR (440) 567-7161
Mark Hadley 1031 Stone Creek Road, New Philadelphia, OH 44663	(330) 447-4018
South East Golf Car Company 23165 Aurora Road, Cleveland, OH 44146	(440) 439-3013 OR (888) 684-4653
Stark and Sons Golf Cars 5317 Columbus Sandusky Road North, Marion, OH 43302	(419) 845-2400
Classy Carts 1867 East Lincoln Way, Wooster, OH 44691	(330) 264-4581
The Gallery Shop 14188 Lincoln Street, North Lawrence, OH 44666	(330) 833-6887
Valley View Golf Cars 5565 Huckleberry Street NW, North Canton, OH 44720	(330) 494-9626
Golf Cart Care Sales and Services 300 West Beech Street, Alliance, OH 44601	(330) 821-3063
The Golf Car Company 8899 Memorial Drive, Plain City, OH 43064	(614) 873-1055 OR (800) 589-8833
Shelby Golf Cars 3212 State Route 39, Shelby, OH 44875	(419) 342-0053
Bay Carts 111 Orchard Street, Mansfield, OH 44903	(419) 526-4437
Professional Golf Cart Sales and Service 521 Camden Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101	(304) 428-1246
Dick Derrick Waynesburg, OH 44688	(330) 209-1645
Action Sales & Service 8248 CR 245, Holmesville, OH 44633	(800) 327-2779
Willandale Golf Cart Sales 111 N. Wooster Ave., Strasburg, OH 44680	(330) 663-3824
Colerain Golf Cart Sales 51840 National Road E., St. Clairsville, OH 43950	(740) 633-9675

MWCD does not endorse or recommend the above individuals or businesses. Contacting these entities produced this list. You may use any vendor you choose whether they appear on this list or not.