

ORDINANCE 2026-09
ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30,
ARTICLE III, SECTION 30-90 THRU 30-93 – Motorized Scooters, Electric Bicycles,
Electric Assisted Bicycles, and Electric Skateboards, Pedestrian Right-of-Way
On Bicycle, Electric Bicycle, Electric Assisted Bicycle, and Scooter Facilities, and
Electric Skateboard, Requirements for Helmets, and Penalty.
OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE TOWN OF WAKE FOREST, NORTH
CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the current Chapter 30 Article III was last updated in 2026 through Ordinance No. 2026-01, adopted January 20, 2026; and

WHEREAS, previous adoption occurred in 2019 through Ordinance No. 2019-09, adopted January 19, 2019; and

WHEREAS, previous adoption occurred in 2005 through Ordinance No. 2005-53 adopted November 15, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Updates to Chapter 30, Article III Section 30-90 thru 30-93- Motorized Scooters, Electric Bicycles, Electric Assisted Bicycles, and Electric Skateboards, Pedestrian Right-of-Way On Bicycle, Electric Bicycle, Electric Assisted Bicycle, and Scooter Facilities, and Electric Skateboard, Requirements for Helmets, and Penalty of the Code of Ordinances for the Town of Wake Forest, North Carolina edit the previous ordinance to add electric skateboards, add civil penalties, provide clear legal language, make enforcement for law enforcement easier and terminate Resolution 2026-01.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Wake Forest, to amend the Code of Ordinances as follows:

Sec. 30-90. Motorized Scooters, Electric Bicycles, Electric Assisted Bicycles, and Electric Skateboards.

- (a) Definitions. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Shared streets:

All existing public or private street rights-of-way where bicycles share the roadway with motor vehicles unless otherwise prohibited by law.

Shared streets may utilize signs placed on vertical posts or markings stenciled on the pavement.

Motorized scooter:

A device with no more than three 12-inch or smaller diameter wheels that has handlebars, is designed to be stood upon or that is equipped with a seat or saddle for use by the rider, and is powered by an electric or gasoline motor that is capable of propelling the device with or without human propulsion at a speed no greater than 15 miles per hour on a paved level surface.

Electric bicycle:

A bicycle with two or three wheels that is equipped with a seat or saddle for use by the rider, no pedals for human propulsion, and an electric motor of no more than 750 watts, whose maximum speed on a level surface when powered solely by such motor is no greater than 20 miles per hour. Any electric bicycle that travels at a speed of over 20 miles per hour on level ground is defined as either a motorcycle or a moped according to N.C. General Statutes and the driver is responsible for adhering to all N.C. laws regarding the operation of same.

Electric assisted bicycle:

A bicycle with two or three wheels that is equipped with a seat or saddle for use by the rider, fully operable pedals for human propulsion, and an electric motor of no more than 750 watts, whose maximum speed on a level surface when powered solely by such motor is no greater than 20 miles per hour.

Electric skateboard:

A self-balancing, single-wheel or multi-wheeled, battery-powered personal transportation device that is propelled by an electric motor and controlled by the rider shifting body weight.

Micromobility device:

Any of the above-described devices or other similar device designed for personal transportation and capable of being operated on public streets, sidewalks, greenways, or other public ways.

(b) Operation of motorized scooters, electric bicycles, electric assisted bicycles, and electric skateboards.

1. All motorized scooters, electric bicycles, electric assisted bicycles, and electric skateboards used and operated upon and across shared streets and other designated bicycle facilities within the Town of Wake Forest's jurisdiction shall be considered vehicles and the riders of such motorized scooters shall be subject to all provisions of the Town of Wake Forest Code and Chapter 20 of the North Carolina General Statutes applicable to the driver of vehicles except those which by their nature can have no application.
2. Motorized scooters, electric bicycles, electric assisted bicycles, and electric skateboards are not permitted to operate on sidewalks. Motorized scooters, electric bicycles, electric assisted bicycles, and electric skateboards may operate on shared streets, greenways, parks, multi-use paths, and bicycle lanes. The operator of a motorized scooter, electric bicycle, electric assisted bicycles, and electric skateboards using parks, greenways, or multi-use paths shall comply with all traffic regulations posted along the facility shall stop or otherwise yield the right-of-way before entering or crossing a public street.
3. Motorized scooters, electric bicycles, electric assisted bicycles, and electric skateboards use or operation in Town parks that does not comply with this ordinance or is otherwise detrimental to the health, welfare, or safety of the general public in the opinion of the Town Manager or Designee may result in a suspension from Town parks pursuant to Town Ordinance Section 22-20.
4. A motorized scooter, electric bicycle, or an electric skateboard may not operate on any road with a speed limit over 25 miles per hour.

5. No motorized scooter, electric bicycle, electric assisted bicycle, or electric skateboard shall not exceed a speed of 10 miles per hour while being operated on a greenway, in a park, or on a multi-use path.

Sec. 30-91. Pedestrian Right-of-Way On Bicycle, Electric Bicycle, Electric Assisted Bicycle, Scooter Facilities, And Electric Skateboard.

The operator of a bicycle, electric bicycle, electric assisted bicycle, motorized scooter, and electric skateboard shall at all times yield the right-of-way to pedestrians on and across sidewalks, parks, shared streets, greenways, bicycle lanes, and multi-use paths.

Sec. 30-92. Requirements For Helmets.

With regard to any motorized scooter, electric bicycle, electric assisted bicycle, or electric skateboard used on a public roadway, shared street, greenway, in a park, on a multi-use path, or other public right-of-way: It shall be unlawful for any parent or legal guardian of a person below the age of 16 to knowingly permit that person to operate or be a passenger on motorized scooter, electric bicycle, electric assisted bicycle, or electric skateboard unless at all times when the person is so engaged he or she wears a protective bicycle helmet of good fit fastened securely upon the head with the straps of the helmet.

Sec. 30-93. Penalty.

- (a) Impoundment: The Town Manager, the Manager's designee or any law enforcement officers of the Town may impound any bicycle, electric bicycle, electric assisted bicycle, electric skateboard, motorized scooter, moped, motorcycle or other vehicle operated pursuant to Section 30-94, and to retain possession of same until ownership is established, issue a civil penalty and dispose of the vehicle if ownership is not established and civil citations are not paid within 90 days of issuance; provided that nothing herein contained should be construed to limit the authority of law enforcement officers to take into custody any bicycle, electric bicycle, electric assisted bicycle, electric skateboard, motorized scooter, moped, motorcycle or other vehicle believed to be stolen or used in the commission of a crime separate from this chapter and as permitted by applicable law.
- (b) In addition to impoundment, an owner who knowingly operates or allows to be operated a bicycle, electric bicycle, electric assisted bicycle, electric

skateboard, motorized scooter, moped, motorcycle or other vehicle in violation of this chapter or any Town of Wake Forest town ordinance chapter will be subject to civil citations as follows:

- a. \$100 for first offense cited under this chapter.
 - b. \$200 for second offense cited under this chapter.
 - c. \$500 for third and subsequent offenses cited under this chapter.
- (c) A person cited under this Section, or the parent, guardian, or other person claiming an ownership interest in a bicycle, electric bicycle, electric assisted bicycle, electric skateboard, motorized scooter, moped, motorcycle or other vehicle involved in a citation may request administrative review of the citation and civil penalties in accordance with the procedures described in Sec. 30-94(h).

Adopted and effective this 11th day of June 2026.

ATTEST:



Evelyn Wright

Town Clerk



Ben Clapsaddle
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Nathan McKinney

Town Attorney