



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

January 8, 2026

City of Cottleville Clarifies Regulations for “Mini Bikes” and Similar Motorized Devices

In response to the growing popularity of small recreational motorized vehicles commonly referred to as “mini bikes,” the City of Cottleville recently adopted amendments to its Traffic Code to better define, classify, and regulate these devices.

Why the City Updated the Code

The City’s prior ordinance framework was written before many of today’s mini bikes, pocket bikes, and similar devices were widely marketed or used. As a result, newer vehicles often did not fit neatly into existing definitions, creating confusion for residents and challenges for enforcement—particularly when these devices appeared on sidewalks, trails, streets, and in city parks.

While the City’s general position has long been that many of these vehicles were not permitted in public spaces, the lack of clear definitions made enforcement inconsistent and difficult.

What the New Ordinance Does

The newly adopted ordinance updates and expands definitions within the Traffic Code to clearly distinguish between bicycles and electric bicycles, motorcycles and motorized bicycles, motorized scooters, and motorized play vehicles, a category that expressly includes mini bikes, pocket bikes, go-carts, and similar devices capable of motorized propulsion.

Where Mini Bikes Are Not Allowed

Under the amended code, motorized play vehicles are prohibited on sidewalks, streets,

roadways, and within City parks, except for limited and specific circumstances such as approved special events.

Relationship to State Law

The ordinance aligns local regulations with Missouri law by reinforcing that vehicles exceeding certain engine sizes or speed capabilities must meet state licensing, registration, and operator requirements to be legally operated on public streets. In many cases, mini bikes are not eligible for registration and therefore cannot be lawfully operated in those areas.

Why This Matters for Enforcement

From an enforcement perspective, the amendments provide clear, objective definitions officers can rely on in the field, reduce subjective interpretation, improve consistency in enforcement, and help residents better understand expectations before operating these devices in public spaces.

Bottom Line

The City did not create new prohibitions so much as it clarified existing ones to reflect modern devices. The updated ordinance improves public safety, protects pedestrians and trail users, and ensures the City's code keeps pace with evolving recreational vehicle trends.

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