



10-4

A weekly Q&A
with local
law enforcement

Q: Where in Owatonna can I use my bike, roller skates, and skateboard this summer?

A. Due to the high pedestrian and vehicle traffic in downtown Owatonna, the city has implemented boundary restrictions for skateboards and roller skates. The boundaries are detailed in city ordinance 735:05 Subd. 1 (c). There are four major streets that outline the boundaries. The North and South sides of the boundaries are Rose Street and Mill Street. The boundaries on the East and West side extend from Grove Avenue and Oak Avenue. Riding a skateboard or roller skates on any street or sidewalk within the downtown boundaries is unlawful.

In accordance with city code 730:30, bicyclists in Owatonna also have similar regulations to obey. Bicyclists also have a boundary area around the downtown businesses; however, you may ride in the street, but not on sidewalks. The downtown boundaries for bicycles extend from Front Street to Mill Street on the North and South boundary. The boundary streets for the East and West extend from the center lines on Oak Avenue to Elm Avenue.

Since there are restrictions to where one may use their bicycle, skateboard or roller skates in town, it should also be noted that the Park and Recreation Department offers a state-of-the-art skate park for anyone and everyone to exhibit some fun without worrying about vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Aside from the downtown district, a bicycle, skateboard or roller skates may be used on any roadway in the City of Owatonna.

Safety for all pedestrian, vehicles, skaters and bicyclists is of the utmost concern for local law enforcement. The following are a few city ordinances and safety tips that if followed, will ensure an enjoyable, yet safe summer for all citizens.

- When using a skateboard, roller skates or bike, ride as close to the right hand curb as possible.
- No one may operate a skateboard or roller-skates on a city street or sidewalk after sunset and prior to sunrise.
- All traffic laws and traffic control signals apply to bicyclists, roller skaters and skateboarders. This means you must stop at red lights and stop signs, operate in a safe non-reckless manner, and obey all other traffic laws.
- Bicyclists must display proper hand signals prior to executing a stop or turn.
 1. To signal a left turn; extend your left hand straight out from your shoulder.
 2. A right turn is signaled by making a 90 degree angle with your left arm at your elbow and pointing upwards.
 3. A stop may be displayed by making a 90 degree angle with your left arm at your elbow and pointing downwards.
- With the exception of bike paths and bike lanes, you may not ride more than two abreast.
- Trick riding of bicycles is prohibited on streets and sidewalks within city limits.

More information regarding these ordinances is obtainable online on the City of Owatonna website: www.ci.owatonna.mn.us Also, feel free to come to the Law Enforcement Center or flag down a police officer on patrol if you have any further questions.

Scott W. Kirchner
Community Service Officer