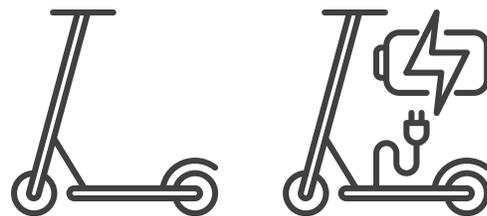


Safety Tips for Riding Scooters in Brown County



Before you take a scooter of any type for a spin around Brown County, know and follow these safety tips to help keep you and others safe.

Wear a Helmet

Choose safety over style. It might be challenging to carry a helmet around with you, but it's one of the smartest things you can do.



Look Out for Grates, Potholes, Cracks

If the pavement is rough or uneven, avoid going fast or find a different route. If your scooter gets stuck, you could end up flying over the handlebars. Always look ahead and make sure the space in front of you is clear of trouble.

Avoid Busy Streets and Sidewalks

Follow bicycling laws and ride in the street, not the sidewalk. In general, scooters are the most comfortable to ride on a low-traffic street.

Be Alert Coming Out of Alleys

Darting out quickly from an alley can be very dangerous. Always look for pedestrians and vehicles before riding out of an alley.

Ride on the TRAIL portion of the Bike Circle Route, But Not the Sidewalk

Scooters are allowed on the trail portion of the Bike Circle Route in New Ulm (speed limit on the trail is 12 mph) but not the sidewalk portion. Scooters can be used on the paths to parking on school campus — follow the same rules as those for bicycles.



Avoid Wet Surfaces

In wet conditions, you're better off walking or ride-sharing.

Be Aware and Mindful

Be aware of your surroundings. Don't hang anything on the handlebars, don't ride with a passenger, put your phone away and don't use earbuds.



Follow Speed Limits

Just like other motorists on the road, scooter users are expected to obey a speed limit. Keep speeds low and the scooter under control at all times. Fortunately, most electric scooters max out at 15 mph, which also happens to be the speed limit. The speed limit on the bike trail is 12 mph.

Park Your Scooter Properly to Keep Walkways Unobstructed

Scooters may be parked on the sidewalk or similar areas designated for bicycle parking.



An Important Message for Parents

If you're going to purchase a scooter of any kind for your child:

- ✓ Be sure you know where your child is riding the scooter.
- ✓ Make sure they know how to ride safely and that they understand the rules of the road.
- ✓ **Know Minnesota laws:**
 - The minimum age to operate a motorized foot scooter is 12 years old.
 - All riders under the age of 18 are required to wear a helmet when operating a motorized foot scooter.



Common injuries while riding include:

- Severe road rash (shorts and a T-shirt offer no protection, so consider what you wear)
- Broken wrists
- Head injuries

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