

Vehicle Access on Sidewalks and Campus Grounds Safety Program

Purpose

To ensure pedestrian safety, protect campus infrastructure, and regulate authorized vehicle access on campus pedestrian thoroughfares (paths, walkways, fire lanes).

General

This program applies to all individuals and departments operating motor vehicles within campus pedestrian-designated areas, encompassing paths, walkways, fire lanes, and other similar spaces.

Definitions

Authorized Vehicles: Designated campus service vehicles, vehicles operated by authorized maintenance, construction contractors, and vendors, and vehicles authorized for emergency or specific service purposes.

Campus Grounds (or Lawn): Refers to all turf, grass, landscaped areas, and unpaved natural spaces on University property. This includes areas specifically designated for recreational use, as well as general green spaces surrounding buildings and pathways.

Motor Vehicles: Any motorized transportation vehicle, including but not limited to cars, trucks, service vehicles, construction equipment, and low-speed vehicles.

Pedestrian Thoroughfares: Campus areas designated primarily for pedestrian traffic, including paths, walkways, fire lanes, and patios.

Program

Pedestrian Priority

Pedestrians and non-motorized vehicle users have absolute right-of-way.

Authorized Vehicle Access

Authorized vehicles include designated campus service vehicles and vehicles operated by authorized maintenance, construction contractors, and vendors.

Motor vehicle operation must be confined to established roadways and service roads whenever feasible.

Building access for deliveries and services must primarily utilize loading docks and service entrances.

Access to interior campus pedestrian areas, including, walkways and patios, is restricted to essential situations, specifically:

- Emergency or life-threatening situations.
- Actions to protect the safety of individuals or property.
- Delivery or removal of heavy or oversized items.
- Performance of services requiring immediate proximity to a building.

Access Control and Authorization Process

Regulated Access: Campus interior access is controlled via bollards and other physical barriers.

Authorization Process: All vehicles, including campus service vehicles that do not have pre-existing authorization for regular access to interior campus pedestrian areas, and private vehicles requiring access to interior campus pedestrian areas, must obtain prior authorization from Public Safety and Environmental Health and Safety (EHS).

Operational Guidelines

Speed Limitations: The maximum speed limit for vehicles operating on sidewalks and fire lanes is 5 mph.

Driving Precautions: Extreme caution must be exercised at all times when operating vehicles on sidewalks and fire lanes.

Parking Regulations:

- Parking is prohibited on sidewalks.

- Parallel parking is permitted on designated fire lanes (20 feet wide) only when essential and provided it does not obstruct pedestrian or emergency vehicle traffic.
- When multiple vehicles are required, all vehicles must be parked on the same side of the lane.
- Vehicles must be parked in designated service vehicle parking spaces or marked vehicle spaces in parking lots whenever possible.

Building Access Procedures

- Buildings accessible via exterior roads must be accessed through those roads for routine deliveries.
- Building entrances must not be obstructed during loading or unloading operations.
- Vehicles must be moved to an approved parking location immediately after unloading.

Bollard Management

All bollards at entrances to interior sidewalks must remain in place, except when specifically authorized by Public Safety and EHS.

Removal and Replacement Responsibility: The driver of an authorized vehicle requiring access is responsible for the removal and replacement of bollards.

Authorization and Process:

For frequent trips required for work purposes, the bollard may remain removed during the immediate period of need. However, the bollard must be restored to its original position immediately upon completion of the necessary work.

For projects or events that need bollards removed for an extended duration, a formal, documented request and authorization process must be followed. This process requires the submission of a detailed request to EHS, outlining the time, location, purpose of the removal, and the anticipated restoration timeline. EHS, in coordination with Public Safety, will review and authorize the removal, maintaining a record of the approved request and any associated safety measures. This coordinated review ensures both safety and security considerations are addressed.

Upon project completion, the bollards must be restored, and EHS and Public Safety notified, to ensure proper documentation and site safety.

Exceptions:

Exceptions to this program are limited to pre-scheduled events (e.g., residence hall move-in) and other events authorized by the Department of Public Safety and EHS.

Public Safety Monitoring: Public Safety will monitor bollard locations and will restore barriers as needed, particularly during nighttime hours, to ensure campus security and pedestrian safety.

Off-Hours Preference

Projects or services requiring vehicle operation on sidewalks or fire lanes should be scheduled during off-peak hours whenever possible.

Scheduling should prioritize the avoidance of lunch hours and breaks to minimize pedestrian traffic disruption.

Lawn Driving

Operation of vehicles on turf/grass is prohibited, except for the following authorized vehicles:

- Vehicles designed for lawn care (e.g., lawn mowers, gang mowers).
- Vehicles for landscape/site work (e.g., trackers, backhoes, loaders).

Vehicles designed to drive on turf/grass (e.g., club cars with turf tires).