



Establishment of Controlled Access Areas
New Mexico State University - Las Cruces
Policy approved Dec. 11, 2007 by Administrative Council

Background

The operation of motorized vehicles (electric or combustion engine) in a university setting is always a challenge between providing adequate access to enable the operational needs of the campus to be met versus the pedestrian nature and desired feel of a campus setting. If the rules established are too restrictive then day to day operations of a campus are harmed. If no restrictions are in place then vehicles are daily operated in manner that is not in the best overall interest of the institution.

Legal Basis of Controlled Access

State law establishes the ability for local jurisdictions to place restrictions on the operation of motorized vehicles on controlled access areas. The enforcement of these restrictions, once established, falls to the police department. Violations of these controlled access restrictions will be cited in accordance with state law.

Need for Controlled Access

Operation of motorized vehicles on sidewalks is a direct conflict with their primary intended use for pedestrian traffic. Furthermore it damages the sidewalks resulting in increased cost to maintain this infrastructure in a reasonable condition. Operation of motorized vehicles on turf areas damages turf and trees, thereby harming the investment made in the establishment and maintenance of our landscaped areas of the campus.

Establishment of Controlled Access Areas

Effective January 1, 2008 sidewalks, pedestrian malls and turf areas on the NMSU Las Cruces campus are designated as Controlled Access areas.

Restrictions on Access to Controlled Access Areas

Motorized vehicle access is prohibited from all controlled access areas unless specifically allowed under Valid Reasons for Access. Parking a motor vehicle on turf areas within the drip line of a tree is prohibited.

Valid Reasons for Access

There are valid reasons for operating motorized vehicles within controlled access areas:

- Motorized wheelchairs, personal assistive mobility devices (Segway Human Transporters), or other motorized equipment used to provide disabled access.
- Response to emergencies
Emergencies include any action to protect human life; well being and to prevent potential damage to property or to respond to utility outages

- Deliveries to or transport from specified buildings otherwise inaccessible
It is recognized that several facilities have no delivery access without travel through a controlled access area. These buildings will be designated in the following list and will have defined access routes and access parking zones established and included as appendix to this rule.

*Aggie Memorial Stadium
Academic Research C
Branson Library
Chamisa Village
Computer Center
Engineering Complex I*

*Foreman Hall
Guthrie Hall
Hadley Hall
Health & Social Services
Jett Hall*

- Defined project specific access
Certain activities such as movement of heavy loads, athletic events, special events, projects involving the remodel or construction of campus facilities and infrastructure require, by their very nature, limited entry to controlled access areas of the campus. This access route will be established by the Project Manager as best possible and signed accordingly during the course of the event/project life.

Use of Turf Vehicles

Maintenance of the campus turf areas requires access by specialized turf vehicles. Nothing in this rule is intended to restrict access to turf areas by these vehicles.

Operation of Golf Cart / Low Speed Vehicles

Golf carts are allowed on controlled access areas, parking lots and roadways under the following conditions. Any person who accepts the privilege of operating a golf cart or service vehicle on University premises must have safety training, skill and a EH&S issued permit (as of March 1, 2008) to operate the vehicle safely and shall be fully accountable for their actions and the consequences thereof. Golf carts and service vehicles must be operated with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of pedestrians walking, jogging, inline skating, skate boarding, bicycling or those in wheelchairs or mobility assistance devices. Pedestrians must be afforded the right-of-way at all times. Deans, Directors, Department Heads and Supervisors must assure that each golf cart/service vehicle within their department complies with safe operation and maintenance of safety features. Police shall impound, if necessary, golf cart/service vehicles deemed to be driven carelessly or placing driver, passenger or pedestrians at risk of injury. Low speed service vehicles operated on roadways must be operated in a manner consistent with all applicable motor vehicle statutes, NMSU vehicle use procedures including driver having a NMSU permit to operate, and have working safety equipment (brakes, headlights, taillights, brake lights, turn signals, horn, rear view mirror, and slow moving vehicle emblem).

Non-emergency Access by Police, Fire and Shuttle Vehicles

Access rights are given to Police and Fire response vehicles for training activities and patrol activities when access will increase the safety of campus population and its real property assets. Limited access on approved routes is granted to vehicles providing shuttle service to the NMSU campus.