



# DANE COUNTY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Room 116, City-County Building, Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
Phone (608) 266-4266 Fax (608) 267-1540

TO: Supervisor Danielle Williams  
FROM: Roger Lane, Dane County Zoning Administrator  
SUBJECT: Suggested ordinances regarding recreational racetracks  
CC: Comprehensive Revision to Chapter 10 Subcommittee  
DATE: May 23, 2017

---

As requested, I have reviewed the possibility of creating an ordinance which would set limitations on recreational racetracks. There are two avenues that could be taken to regulate the use. The first avenue is to regulate the land use as a general nuisance. This could be accomplished by amending the current noise ordinance found under Dane County Code of Ordinances Section 34.04 and setting decibel levels for specific areas. Many villages and cities use this approach by setting tolerable noise limits above ambient sound levels. The ordinance would provide a measurable limit for the Sheriff's Department to determine a nuisance. The requirements would be enforced by the Sheriff's Department. This approach may not be the best given the diversity of noise level environments in Dane County.

The second approach would be to set limitations through objective control under the Zoning Ordinance by defining the land use and setting limitations on the location, hours of operation, and maximum noise levels. This could be accomplished by adopting recreational racetrack requirements as part of the comprehensive revision to the zoning ordinance. I have prepared some suggested ordinance language below.

## **Definitions:**

**Racetrack:** Any location hosting a gathering of more than three people for the purpose of repetitive motorized vehicle activity over a fixed course or area, which persists in excess of 30 minutes in any one 24-hour period.

*NOTE: A land use which fits the definition of a "Racetrack" would be considered an outdoor entertainment land use and a conditional use permit would be needed.*

**Recreational Racetrack:** A defined or fixed course for the driving of a motorcycle, automobile, ATV, snowmobile, go-cart, or any other similar motorized craft used for personal use. Recreational racetracks shall be subject to the requirements found under Dane County Code of Ordinances XXXXXX.

**dB(A):** "dB(A)" means the sound pressure level in decibels measured on the "A" scale of a standard sound level meter having characteristics defined by the American National Standards Institute, Publication ANSI S1.4-1971.

XXXXXXX

Regulations for Recreational Racetracks:

Minimum lot size: 5 acres

Minimum setback: 100 feet to property line

Hours of operation: 9am to 8pm

Maximum decibel level at property line: 85dBA

Surfacing: The surface of the racetrack shall be prepared or maintained in such a way to prevent dust from traveling past the property line.