



Crime Prevention Newsletter

Trent Woods Police Department

Community Watch Initiative

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Emergency

911

FREE GUN LOCKS

are still available

IF YOU

SEE

SOMETHING

SAY

SOMETHING

Bicycling in Trent Woods

Bicycles are a common sight in Trent Woods. Some ride their bikes to school, some ride for exercise, and some ride just for fun. Regardless of activity, there are some things bicyclists and motorists alike need to remember when getting out on the road.

North Carolina law defines a bicycle as a “vehicle,” therefore laws that refer to a “vehicle,” apply to bicycles and their riders. We will cover some of the laws here, but for a complete guide to North Carolina bicycle laws, visit NCDOT.gov.

Traffic Signs and Signals - Bicyclists must obey all traffic signs and signals; they are not exempt because they are operating a non-motorized vehicle. This includes stop signs, yield signs, and traffic lights. (NCGS 20-158)

No Passing on the Right - When passing another vehicle going in the same direction, bicyclists must pass to the left, then return to the right side of the roadway once the vehicle has been passed. (NCGS 20-149)

Riding on the Right - A bicyclist must ride in the same direction as other traffic, in the right-hand lane, and as close as practicable to the right-hand edge of the roadway. (NCGS 20-146)

Helmets - Bicyclists and passengers under the age of 16 must wear approved safety helmets, securely fastened to their head using straps, while riding on public roads, bicycle paths, and other public rights-of-way. (NCGS 20-171.7)

Bicycle Lights - For riding after dark (during the period from sunset to sunrise), every bicycle must be equipped with a lighted front lamp that is visible from a distance of at least 300 feet, and a rear reflex mirror or lamp that is visible from a distance of at least 200 feet. (NCGS 20-129)

Generally, bicyclists must obey all traffic laws, just as if they were driving a car, and can be ticketed as such, if traffic laws are violated. But abiding by the law goes much farther than avoiding a ticket. It helps keep our community and our children safe, and ensures everyone will have a place in which they can enjoy riding in safety.