



# Stanley Police Department

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## Parents- Your Child's Safety Starts with You

The Stanley Police Department is asking for assistance in communicating an important safety message to students and parents regarding bicycle use in our community. We are seeing an increase in unsafe and prohibited practices that place juveniles, pedestrians, and motorists at risk.

### **Current Concerns:**

- Juveniles riding on major roadways without helmets.
- Bicycles are being ridden in parking lots, on sidewalks, and at Harper Park, all of which violate town ordinances.
- Sidewalks are being used for bicycles, skateboards, and scooters, creating hazards for pedestrians.

### **Applicable Laws and Ordinances:**

- NC law requires all children under the age of 16 to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle on public roads or rights-of-way.
- Bicycles are considered vehicles under NC law. Cyclists must obey all traffic laws and ride on the right side of the road.
- Stanley ordinances prohibit bicycle use on sidewalks, in parking lots designated for motor vehicles, and in town parks.
- While Stanley does not have a designated bike park, George Poston Park (part of Gaston County Parks and Recreation) has a dedicated bicycle track just a few miles away.

### **Why This Matters:**

Stanley has already experienced several serious crashes involving both pedestrians and cyclists, including one that was tragically fatal. Our sidewalks and limited pedestrian routes are intended for safe foot travel and are not designed to accommodate bicycles or similar wheeled recreation.

The Stanley Police Department fully supports and encourages young people to be active and enjoy the outdoors. However, safety cannot be compromised. We are asking parents to step in, set expectations, and help us prevent accidents before enforcement action becomes necessary.

We respectfully request that this message be shared with your students and their families. Together, we can help keep Stanley safe for everyone.

Wishing you and your students a safe, healthy, and successful school year,

~Stanley Police Department