October 2014

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE REFERENCE GUIDE

This booklet contains rules and regulations most likely needed for motorized recreational use in Iowa. However, it is not a complete list of all regulations or laws, nor is it a legal document. For more information, please reference Iowa Code Chapters 321 and 321I and Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 571.

ATV riders in the state of Iowa who are ages 12 through 17 are required to have taken and passed an ATV education course and have an education certificate in their possession when riding on public land, public ice, and designated riding areas and trails, if these areas are signed open to ATV use. This regulation applies to both resident and nonresident riders.

For a current listing of IDNR rider-based course offerings: www.iowadnr.gov/OHV & select ATV Education

To enroll in the IDNR-approved online course: www.ATVCourse.com

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE REFERENCE GUIDE

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is required to collect social security numbers from all persons obtaining a hunting, fishing, or other recreational license under Iowa Code Section 252J.8 and 42 U.S. Code Section 666(a)(13). Your social security number will serve as your principal identification number to determine your eligibility for licenses. It will be provided to law enforcement agencies and the Iowa Child Support Collection Unit to establish, modify, and enforce child support obligations. It will NOT appear on any printed forms.

Changes and Updates

Dnr-Designated OHV Parks In Iowa

There are 8 riding parks in Iowa which offer a variety of terrain, trails, and features for whatever you ride. From wooded, river-bottom trails to scenic trail riding, Iowa's parks have a lot to offer enthusiasts.

Park Locations

- Bluff Creek OHV Park in Mahaska County*
- Gypsum City OHV Park in Webster County
- Lake View OHV Park in Johnson County
- Nicholson-Ford OHV Park in Marshall County
- Rathbun OHV Park in Appanoose County
- River Valley OHV Park in Pottawattamie County
- Riverview OHV Park in Black Hawk County*
- Tama OHV Park in Tama County

For more information about the parks, go to

www.iowadnr.gov/OHVparks

For more information about Iowa's OHV program, including registration information and regulations, go to

www.iowadnr.gov/OHV

*At time of printing, these two parks are not signed open to side-by-side use. For updated information, please go to **www.iowadnr.gov/OHVparks**

Park Closure Alerts

There are times when construction, weather, and special events impact the use of the parks. The DNR has developed a new Park Closure Alert page to let you know if a park is open or closed. To check on riding availability, go to www.iowadnr.gov/OHVparks and select OHV Park Closures in the left-side navigation pane.

Off-road Utility Vehicles (ORVs)

The definition of an ORV was changed during the 2014 Legislative Session. There are now three types of ORVs:

"Off-road utility vehicle" means a motorized vehicle with not less than four and not more than eight nonhighway tires or rubberized tracks that has a seat that is of bucket or bench design, not intended to be straddled by the operator, and a steering wheel or control levers for control. "Off-road utility vehicle" includes the following vehicles:

- ***"Off-road utility vehicle - type 1"*** means an off-road utility vehicle with a total dry weight of one thousand two hundred pounds or less and a width of fifty inches or less.
- ***"Off-road utility vehicle - type 2"*** means an off-road utility vehicle, other than a type 1 off-road utility vehicle, with a total dry weight of two thousand pounds or less, and a width of sixty-five inches or less.
- ***"Off-road utility vehicle - type 3"*** means an off-road utility vehicle with a total dry weight of more than two thousand pounds or a width of more than sixty-five inches, or both.

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Definitions

All-terrain vehicle (ATV) means a motorized vehicle with not less than three and not more than six nonhighway tires that is limited in engine displacement to less than 1,000 cubic centimeters and in total dry weight to less than 1,200 pounds and that has a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator and handlebars for steering control.

Commission means the Natural Resource Commission established in Iowa Code §452A.5.

Department means the Department of Natural Resources established in Iowa Code §452A.5.

Designated riding area means an OHV riding area on any public land or ice under the jurisdiction of the Department that has been designated by the Commission under Iowa Code Chapter 321I for such use.

Designated riding trail means an OHV riding trail on any public land, private land, or public ice that has been designated by the Department, a political subdivision, or a controlling authority for OHV use.

Direct supervision means to provide supervision of another person while maintaining visual and verbal contact at all times.

Education certificate means an ATV education certificate, approved by the Natural Resource Commission, which is issued to a qualified applicant who is twelve years of age or older. The requirement to have an education certificate does not apply to operators of ORMs or ORVs.

Nonresident means a person who is not a resident of this state.

Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) means all-terrain vehicles, off-road motorcycles, and off-road utility vehicles, either collectively or individually.

Off-road motorcycle (ORM) means a two-wheeled motor vehicle that has a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator and handlebars for steering control and that is intended by the manufacturer for use on natural terrain. Off-road motorcycle includes a motorcycle that was originally issued a certificate of title and registered for highway use under Iowa Code Chapter 321, but which contains design features that enable operation over natural terrain.

Definitions

Off-road utility vehicle (ORV) means a motorized vehicle with not less than four and not more than eight nonhighway tires or rubberized tracks that has a seat that is of bucket or bench design, not intended to be straddled by the operator, and a steering wheel or control levers for control. "Off-road utility vehicle" includes the following vehicles: ***"Off-road utility vehicle - type 1"*** means an off-road utility vehicle with a total dry weight of one thousand two hundred pounds or less and a width of fifty inches or less. ***"Off-road utility vehicle - type 2"*** means an off-road utility vehicle, other than a type 1 off-road utility vehicle, with a total dry weight of two thousand pounds or less, and a width of sixty-five inches or less. ***"Off-road utility vehicle - type 3"*** means an off-road utility vehicle with a total dry weight of more than two thousand pounds or a width of more than sixty-five inches, or both.

Operate means to ride in or on, other than as a passenger, use, or control the operation of an OHV in any manner, whether or not the OHV is moving.

Operator means a person who operates or is in actual physical control of an OHV.

Owner means a person, other than a lienholder, having the property right in or title to an OHV. Owner includes a person entitled to the use or possession of an OHV subject to an interest in another person, reserved or created by agreement and securing payment or performance of an obligation. Owner excludes a lessee under a lease not intended as security.

Public ice means any frozen, navigable waters within the territorial limits of this state and the frozen marginal river areas adjacent to this state, other than farm ponds, that are under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resource Commission.

Public land means land owned by the federal government, the state of Iowa, or a political subdivision of the state and land acquired or developed for public recreation pursuant to Iowa Code §321I.8.

Railroad right-of-way means the full width of property owned, leased, or subject to easement for railroad purposes and is not limited to those areas on which tracks are located.

Resident means as defined in Iowa Code §483A.1A.

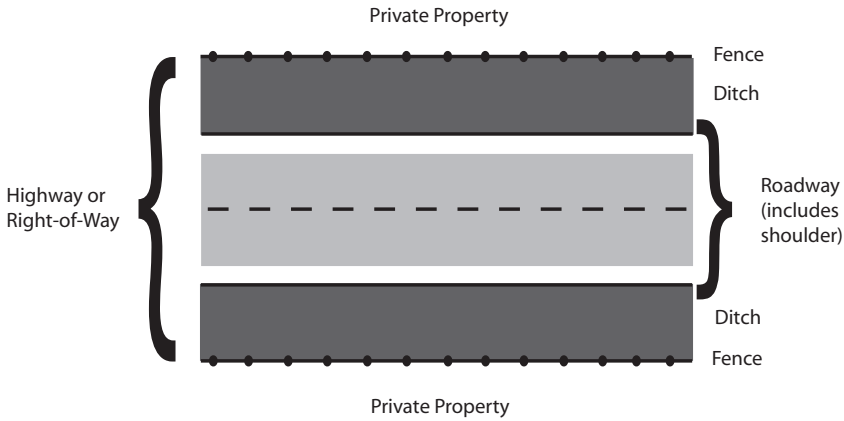
Roadway means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

Special event means an organized race, exhibition, or demonstration of limited duration which is conducted on public land, public ice, or a designated riding trail under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resource Commission according to a prearranged schedule and in which general public interest is manifested.

Definitions

Section - throughout this reference guide you will see this symbol "§" which represents the word section when referring to legal code.

Street or highway means the entire width between property lines of every way or place of whatever nature when any part thereof is open to the use of the public, as a matter of right, for purposes of vehicular travel, except in public areas in which the boundary shall be thirty-three feet each side of the center line of the roadway.



Changes and Updates

Continued from Page 2

Registrations
Registration of vehicles only apply for residents of the State of Iowa. Registrations for the 2015 calendar year can be renewed from September 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014, without penalty.

Iowa DNR Nonresident User Permits
Nonresidents must have their vehicles registered in their home state and evidence of registration must be in full force and effect. This requirement is waived for an operator if their home state does not have a registration or numbering system.

All nonresidents must display an IDNR Nonresident User Permit. These are available at County Recorder's Offices and any license agent that sells hunting and fishing licenses.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS
Machines Registered in Iowa

- Each OHV in Iowa used on public land or ice, a designated riding area, or a designated trail of this state must be currently registered with the IDNR. A person shall not operate, maintain, or give permission for the operation or maintenance of an OHV on public land or public ice unless the OHV is registered in accordance with the laws and administrative rules of Iowa or applicable federal laws.

- An operator of an ORV shall not operate the vehicle on a designated riding area or designated riding trail unless signage indicates the riding area or trail is open to the operation of ORVs.

- The owner of each OHV required to be registered shall file an application for registration with the Department through a County Recorder and pay all applicable fees. Vehicle dealers are required to make application and pay all applicable registration and title fees on behalf of a purchaser.

- An application for registration shall be made on the approved IDNR form. Applicants shall provide bill of sale, proof of prior registration, and other proof of ownership of the vehicle as the County Recorder may require. In the event the applicant does not have documentation required by the IDNR, the applicant may be required to secure a bond consistent with the requirements of Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 571.

- Registration certificate.
  - An operator of an OHV shall carry the registration certificate either in the vehicle or on the person of the operator when the OHV is in use.
  - An operator must provide the registration certificate to all of the following:
    - To a peace officer or department personnel upon request.
    - To a person injured in an accident involving the OHV, or that person's agent.
    - To the owner or operator of another OHV when the OHV is involved in a collision or accident of any nature with the OHV, or that person's agent.

- Registration certificate. *Continued from previous page*
  - To the owner of personal or real property when the OHV is involved in a collision or accident of any nature with the property of the other person, or that person's agent.
  - To the property owner or tenant when the OHV is being operated on private property without permission from the property owner or tenant, or that person's agent.
- Registration decal display.
  - All-terrain vehicle. The decal shall be affixed to the rear of the all-terrain vehicle so that the decal is clearly visible.
  - Off-road motorcycle. The decal shall be affixed to the steering yoke in such a manner that the decal does not cover up the vehicle identification number and is clearly visible.
  - Off-road utility vehicle. The decal shall be affixed to the rear of the vehicle so that the decal is clearly visible.
- Operation pending registration.
  - Purchase from dealer. An unregistered OHV sold by a dealer shall bear a "registration applied for" card with the purchase date printed on it. This entitles the purchaser to operate the vehicle for 45 days immediately following the purchase while the application is being processed. The purchaser shall place this card on the rear of the ATV or ORV and the steering yoke of an ORM in a position so as to be clearly visible at all times and maintained in a legible manner. The operator of any vehicle displaying a "registration applied for" card shall carry and provide upon request to any peace officer a valid bill of sale for the vehicle.
  - Private purchase – registered in Iowa. The purchaser of an OHV that is currently registered in Iowa may operate it for 45 days immediately following the purchase without having completed a transfer of registration.
  - Private purchase – not registered in Iowa. An OHV not currently registered in the state of Iowa shall not be operated until it is titled and registered in the purchaser's name. Valid registration in another state does not authorize preregistration operation.
- Registration renewals. Every OHV registration certificate and registration decal expires at midnight December 31 of the year issued.

Machines Registered in Another State –
IDNR Nonresident User Permits

- Any OHV registered in another state and used on public land or ice, a designated riding area, or a designated trail of this state must display registration in accordance with an approved numbering system of that state and the evidence of registration must be in full force and effect. This vehicle must also be issued and display an IDNR Nonresident User Permit.

- An operator of an ORV shall not operate the vehicle on a designated riding area or designated riding trail unless signage indicates the riding area or trail is open to the operation of ORVs.

- An IDNR Nonresident User Permit will be issued for only one OHV and is not transferable.

- IDNR Nonresident User Permit Display.
  - All-terrain vehicle. The permit shall be affixed to the rear of the all-terrain vehicle so that the permit is clearly visible.
  - Off-road motorcycle. The permit shall be affixed to the steering yoke in such a manner that the permit does not cover up the vehicle identification number and is clearly visible.
  - Off-road utility vehicle. The permit shall be affixed to the rear of the vehicle so that the permit is clearly visible.

- An IDNR Nonresident User Permit can be purchased starting September 1 which will expire December 31 of the year printed on the permit.

Exempt Vehicles

Registration is not required for the following OHVs:

- A vehicle owned by the United States, this state, or another state, or by a governmental subdivision of a state and is used for:
  - Enforcement
  - Search and rescue
  - Official research and studies
- OHVs used exclusively for agricultural purposes.

Titling Requirements

- The owner of an OHV acquired on or after January 1, 2000, other than an exempt vehicle or a motorcycle previously issued a title pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 321, must apply to the County Recorder of the county in which the owner resides, or the OHV is registered, for a certificate of title for the vehicle.
- Vehicles that are titled are required to be registered.
- Vehicles that are titled must remain titled, regardless of intended use.
- The owner of a vehicle used exclusively for agricultural purposes may obtain a certificate of title. A person who owns a vehicle that is not required to have a certificate of title may apply for and receive a certificate of title for the vehicle which makes the vehicle subject to the registration requirements of Iowa Code Chapter 321I.
- The owner of an OHV is required to apply to the County Recorder in their county of residence for issuance of a certificate of title within 30 days after acquisition.
- The applicant must provide the date of sale, the gross price of the vehicle or the fair-market value of the machine if no sale immediately preceded the transfer, and any additional information the County Recorder or Department requires.
- If the vehicle was last previously registered or titled in another state or foreign country, the applicant must provide this information and any other information the County Recorder or Department requires.
- If a dealer is transferring ownership of a vehicle, the dealer will assign the title to the new owner. In the case of a new vehicle,

the dealer will assign the certificate of origin. Within 15 days of purchase, the dealer must forward all moneys and applications to the County Recorder.

- Once titled, a person must not sell or transfer ownership of a vehicle without delivering to the purchaser or transferee a certificate of title with an assignment on it showing the title in the purchaser's or transferee's name. A person shall not purchase or otherwise acquire an OHV without obtaining a certificate of title for the vehicle in the purchaser's name.

- A motorcycle that has been issued a certificate of title pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 321 may be issued a title pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 321I upon proper application and surrender of the existing title. The previously issued certificate of title must be returned to the County Recorder who issued it.

RVVRS

The Recreational Vehicle and Vessel Registration System (RVVRS) has been implemented by the IDNR. This web-based system provides added customer convenience by combining registration, title, and lien information for all 99 counties into one system. Additionally, it creates a streamlined renewal process for customers.

All newly owned machines or machines which have not been renewed in RVVRS must be registered through the County Recorder's Office in the owner's county of residence. Renewals for 2015 can be done at any County Recorder's Office; you only need to provide the IA number assigned to your OHV through RVVRS.

If your vehicle record has not been entered into RVVRS, please bring the following information with you when you go to renew your registration:

- The most current registration form for your vehicle.
- Make, model, and model year of your vehicle.
- VIN.
- Color of vehicle.
- Weight and engine displacement (CCs).
- Number of wheels.

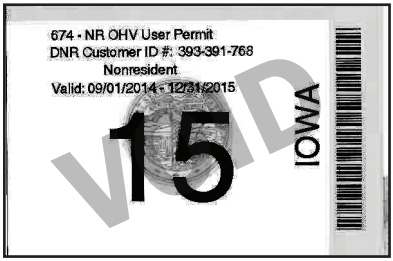
IDNR Nonresident User Permits

IDNR Nonresident User Permits are sold at any general license agent who sells hunting and fishing permits and County Recorder offices. The IDNR Nonresident User Permit is printed on license/tag paper. It is not issued to a machine, but rather to the user. The IDNR Nonresident User Permit must be displayed on the vehicle as noted under Machines Registered in Another State. It is not transferable. Printing the IDNR Nonresident User Permit on the license/tag paper makes them distinct from the registration decals.

	Registrations	IDNR Nonresident User Permits
Renewal Requirement	Must be renewed each year	Must be renewed each year
Renewal Period	Starting September 1 each year	Starting September 1 each year
Expiration	December 31 each year	December 31 each year
Late Fee	$5.00, no grace period	Not applicable
Display	Carried either in the machine or on the operator; decal must be affixed to the machine	Permit must be affixed to the machine

Registration Decal

IDNR Nonresident User Permit



Unlawful Operation

A person shall not drive or operate an OHV:

- At a rate of speed greater than reasonable or proper under all existing circumstances.
- In a careless, reckless, or negligent manner so as to endanger the person or property of another or to cause injury or damage thereto.
- While under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotics or habit-forming drugs.
- Without a lighted headlight and taillight from sunset to sunrise and at such other times when conditions provide insufficient lighting to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles at a distance of five hundred feet ahead.
- In any tree nursery or planting in a manner which damages or destroys growing stock.
- On any public land, ice, or snow, in violation of official signs of the Natural Resource Commission prohibiting such operation in the interest of safety for persons, property, or the environment.
- In any park, wildlife area, preserve, refuge, game management area, or any portion of a meandered stream, or any portion of the bed of a nonmeandered stream which has been identified as a navigable stream or river by rule adopted by the Department and which is covered by water, except on designated riding areas and designated riding trails. This requirement does not prohibit the use of ford crossings of public roads or any other ford crossing when used for agricultural purposes; the operation of construction vehicles engaged in lawful construction, repair, or maintenance in a streambed; or the operation of an OHV on ice.
- Upon an operating railroad right-of-way. A vehicle may be driven directly across a railroad right-of-way only at an established crossing and, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, may, if necessary, use the improved portion of the established crossing after yielding to all oncoming traffic.
- A person shall not operate a vehicle with more persons on the vehicle than it was designed to carry. This requirement does not apply to a person who operates a vehicle as part of a farm operation as defined in Iowa Code §352.2.

Civil Penalty and Restitution

If on operator is convicted of the offenses listed on previous page under the heading “Unlawful Operation”, additional penalties and restitution can be added to the criminal charges. See Iowa Code § 321I.15A for more details.

Negligence

The owner and operator of an OHV are liable for any injury or damage occasioned by the negligent operation of the vehicle. The owner of an OHV shall be liable for any such injury or damage only if the owner was the operator of the vehicle at the time the injury or damage occurred or if the operator had the owner’s consent to operate the vehicle at the time the injury or damage occurred.

Officer’s Signal to Stop

A person who has received a visual or audible signal from a peace officer to come to a stop shall not operate an OHV in willful or wanton disregard of the signal, interfere with or endanger the officer or any other person or vehicle, increase speed, or attempt to flee or elude the officer.

Inspections – Warnings – Termination of Use

A peace officer may stop and inspect an OHV operated, parked, or stored on public streets, highways, public lands, or frozen waters of the state to determine if the vehicle is registered, numbered, or equipped as required by the Code of Iowa and the Iowa Administrative Code. The officer shall not inspect an area that is not essential to determine compliance with the requirements. If the officer determines that the vehicle is not in compliance, the officer may issue a warning memorandum to the operator and forward a copy to the IDNR. The warning memorandum shall indicate the items found which are not in compliance and shall direct the owner or operator of the vehicle to correct these items and return a copy of the warning memorandum with the proof of compliance to the IDNR within 14 days. If the proof of compliance is not provided within 14 days, the owner or operator is in violation of Iowa Code Chapter 321I.

A person who receives a warning memorandum for an OHV shall stop using the vehicle as soon as possible and shall not operate it on public streets, highways, public lands, or frozen waters of the state until the vehicle is in compliance.

Operation on Roadways and Highways

- A person shall not operate an OHV upon roadways or highways except as provided in Iowa Code §321.234A and Iowa Code §321I.10.

- A registered OHV may be operated on the designated portions of county highways as determined by the county board of supervisors for such use during a specified period of time. In designating such roadways, the board may authorize vehicles to stop at service stations or convenience stores along a designated roadway.

- Cities may designate streets under the jurisdiction of cities within their respective corporate limits which may be used for the operation of registered OHVs. In designating such streets, the city may authorize vehicles to stop at service stations or convenience stores along a designated street.

- The Iowa Department of Transportation may issue a permit to a state agency, a county, or a city to allow a designated trail to cross a primary highway.

Use on Snowmobile Trails

OHVs are not allowed to be operated on snowmobile trails except where designated by the controlling authority and the primary snowmobile trail sponsor.

Equipment Requirements

- Mufflers. No person shall operate an OHV that is constructed or altered in a manner that noise emitted from the machine exceeds 96 decibels on the A scale when measured in the manner prescribed in the revised 2008-05, Society of Automotive Engineers Standard J1287, titled "Measurement of Exhaust Sound Pressure Levels of Stationary Motorcycles."

- Headlight and taillight. Every OHV must have a lighted headlight and taillight from sunset to sunrise and at such other times when conditions provide insufficient lighting to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles at a distance of five hundred feet ahead.

- Brakes. Every OHV shall be equipped with working brakes.

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)

- Every OHV shall have a vehicle identification number assigned and affixed as required by the IDNR.

- The IDNR may assign a VIN to an OHV when the serial number on the machine is destroyed or obliterated or the machine is homebuilt or rebuilt. If a machine has a VIN which is not legible, the owner must submit to the IDNR an affidavit which describes the machine. In cooperation with the County Recorder, the IDNR shall assign a VIN to the machine.
- The IDNR will issue the owner a decal bearing the new VIN which shall be affixed to the machine by a Conservation Officer as follows:
  - All-terrain vehicle. The VIN shall be affixed to the frame under the seat.
  - Off-road motorcycle. The VIN shall be affixed to the steering yoke.
  - Off-road utility vehicle. The VIN shall be affixed to the frame under the seat.
- The machine shall be registered and titled using the new VIN and not the former serial number.

Age-related Operation Guidelines

The following age restrictions, by vehicle type, apply:

- All-terrain Vehicles.
  - Under 12 years of age – operation must be under the direct supervision of a responsible parent or guardian of at least 18 years of age who is experienced in ATV operation and who possesses a valid driver's license as defined in Iowa Code §321.1, or the operator is taking an ATV education course and is under the direct supervision of a certified instructor. Direct supervision means maintaining visual and verbal contact at all times.
  - Ages 12 through 17 – must have a valid ATV education certificate in their possession. The supervision rule does not apply to these riders.
  - Eighteen and older – operation is only affected if the person's privilege to operate a motor vehicle has been revoked or barred. If operation is on a roadway, then suspension of the person's privilege to operate a motor vehicle also applies.
  - Operating with a passenger in a designated riding area – if operating an ATV which was manufactured to carry a passenger, the operator must possess a valid driver's license as defined in Iowa Code §321.1.

- Off-road Motorcycles.
  - Under 12 years of age – operation must be under the direct supervision of a responsible parent or guardian of at least 18 years of age who is experienced in ORM operation and who possesses a valid driver's license as defined in Iowa Code §321.1.
  - Ages 12 through 17 – education certificate is not required. The supervision rule does not apply to these riders.
  - Eighteen and older – operation is only affected if the person's privilege to operate a motor vehicle has been revoked or barred. If operation is on a roadway, then suspension of the person's privilege to operate a motor vehicle also applies.
  - Operating with a passenger in a designated riding area – if operating an ORM which was manufactured to carry a passenger, the operator must possess a valid driver's license as defined in Iowa Code §321.1.

- Off-road Utility Vehicles. A person shall not operate an ORV in a designated riding area without possession of a valid driver's license as defined in Iowa Code §321.1.

Firearms on OHVs

A person shall not operate or ride an OHV with a firearm in the person's possession unless it is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case. However, a nonambulatory person may carry an uncased and unloaded firearm while operating or riding a regulated vehicle. See [571 IAC 98.2(2)] Turkey and [571 IAC 106.7(6)] Deer.

Hunting and OHVs

The following regulations apply when using OHVs for hunting purposes:

- It is illegal to chase or use a machine to assist in the taking of any game animal.
- It is illegal to operate an OHV on IDNR wildlife management areas.
- Physically handicapped persons may apply for a permit to operate a vehicle on IDNR lands. Issuance of the permit is required prior to accessing the land by a motorized device.
- You must obtain permission from a landowner to operate an OHV on private land.
- Guns being transported must be unloaded and in a case at all times.

Accidents

Whenever an OHV is involved in an accident resulting in injury or death to any person or property damage amounting to $1,500 or more, the operator of the vehicle or a person acting for the operator shall immediately notify the county sheriff or another law enforcement agency in the state.

If the accident occurred on public land or ice, a designated riding area, or a designated riding trail under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resource Commission, the operator shall file a report of the accident with the Department within 72 hours. A copy of the Operator Incident Report Form can be obtained from a Conservation Officer, calling IDNR at 515-281-5918, or going to http://www.iowadnr.gov/OHV and selecting Operator Incident Report.

Proof of Insurance

Iowa Code §321.20B provides that a person shall not drive a motor vehicle on the highways of this state unless financial liability coverage, as defined in Iowa Code §321.1(24B), is in effect for the motor vehicle and unless the driver has in the motor vehicle the proof of financial liability coverage card issued for the motor vehicle. The exception for OHVs was rescinded effective July 1, 2012. Please see Iowa Code §321.20B for more details.

Special Events

The Department may authorize the holding of organized special events as defined in Iowa Code Chapter 321I within this state. The Department shall issue permits which address the conduct of special events and shall designate the equipment and facilities necessary for the safe operation of OHVs and for the safety of operators, participants, and observers in the special events. At least thirty days before the scheduled date of a special event in this state, an application shall be filed with the Department for authorization to conduct the special event. The application shall set forth the date, time, and location of the proposed special event and any other information the Department requires. The special event shall not be conducted without written authorization of the Department. For more information about special events, go to www.iowadnr.gov.

Education

ATV riders in the state of Iowa who are ages 12 through 17 are required to have taken and passed an ATV education course and have an education certificate in their possession when riding on public land, public ice, and designated riding areas and trails, if these areas are signed open to ATV use.

There are three ways that residents can earn an education certificate:

- Take the IDNR ATV Education Program Skills Course
- Take an ATV Safety Institute (ASI) Course
- Take the IDNR-approved online Course

IDNR ATV Education Program Skills Course

This is a rider-based course and is approximately 4-6 hours in length. It is designed to be completed in one day, usually on a weekend. It is a program designed to teach ATV riders the principles and behaviors of safe and responsible ATV riding. Students are taught about risk awareness and risk mitigation, trail etiquette, and principles of being a good environmental steward. The riding portion of the course provides students with hands-on practice in the areas of steering, braking, swerving, and maneuvering over obstacles, and how to react to and ride safely with other riders on the trails.

Students must provide their own properly-sized ATV with proper muffling equipment, a helmet, eye protection, over-the-ankle boots, long pants, a long-sleeve shirt, water, a snack, and rain gear as classes are held rain or shine.

Students must be able to safely demonstrate all of the skills taught in the class in order to earn their education certificate. A written exam is not part of this course.

Classes are taught by IDNR-certified volunteer ATV education instructors. The cost of the class is $25.00. Students will receive a temporary education certificate at the end of the course which will allow them to legally ride in Iowa for 60 days or until their permanent card is received.

Education certificates will only be issued to students who are 12 or older and pass the course. Students who are 11 may take the course and earn a certificate, but it will not be effective until he or she turns 12.

Classes are offered late April until the end of August.

ATV Safety Institute (ASI) Course

This is a rider-based course offered by ASI-certified instructors. ASI is a nonprofit operating division of the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA), which was formed in 1988 to implement an expanded national program of ATV safety education and awareness. The primary goal of ASI mirrors the IDNR's goal to promote the safe and responsible use of ATVs, thereby reducing accidents and injuries that may result from the improper operation of ATVs. The primary difference between the two programs is the age and machine size restrictions enforced by ASI.

ATVCourse.com

The IDNR has collaborated with Fresh Air Educators to make an online certification offering available for the IDNR ATV Education Program. The curriculum underwent a thorough review with industry leaders as well as representatives from numerous state agencies responsible for ATV safety education. State-specific information regarding riding opportunities, laws, and regulations is a component of the course.

This is a managed course which features interactive exercises for students as well as narrated content to assist with different learning styles. The course fee is $34.95, which includes the $5 IDNR education certificate fee. Students must pass a final exam with 80% accuracy to earn their certificate. There is no riding component for this course.

Topics covered by the course include, but are not limited to, parts of the machine and how they work, riding positions and when to use them, safety gear, personal responsibility, and conservation principles.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to print a temporary, paper certificate which will allow them to legally ride in Iowa for 60 days or until their permanent card is received. Students must be 12 or older to earn their ATV education certificate through ATVCourse.com.

An education certificate issued by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is recognized by most states. Please call ahead to your destination state to check their requirements.

Safety

Size of Machine vs. Size of Rider Considerations

LEG LENGTH — there should be a minimum of three inches of clearance between the seat and the top inseam of the pants. This is needed to maintain balance on the footrests when turning and riding over hills and rough terrain. While seated, the thigh should be roughly parallel to the ground.

FOOT LENGTH — a rider should be able to reach the brake by rotating the foot on the footrest.

ARM LENGTH — a rider's arms should be long enough to turn the handlebars and maintain a firm grip, operate the throttle comfortably when the handle is extended fully in a turn, and operate the brake lever.

STRENGTH — in addition to reaching the controls, a rider must have the strength to operate the controls.

Risk Awareness

- ATVs have wide, low-pressure, knobby tires and are not designed to be driven on paved surfaces.
- Powerful drive trains make ATVs capable of speeds that may be too fast for inexperienced riders.
- High ground clearance and a short, narrow wheelbase make rider size and ability to control the vehicle very important.
- The seat on top of the machine offers no protection for the rider in a crash or a rollover.
- Always stay on marked and defined trails.

Risk Mitigation

- Know your riding skills and capabilities. **Do not try to ride beyond your skill level.**
- Do not ride machines that are too large for you or that you cannot control.
- Your ATV is a powerful machine, but with proper supervision, training, and experience, riding an ATV can be a safe and enjoyable recreational experience.
- Recognize hazardous riding conditions and make good decisions based upon this information.

- **ALWAYS** wear protective riding gear. At a minimum you should wear helmet/goggles, over-the-ankle boots, long pants, long-sleeve shirts, and gloves.
- Recognize and ignore negative peer pressure. **Stay safe.**
- Practice safe decision making.
- **NEVER** use drugs or alcohol while riding.

Stewardship

Tread Lightly!

By practicing the Tread Lightly! principles you not only protect the outdoors, you also protect access to recreation opportunities for years to come.

Travel Responsibly on trails or in permitted areas. Don't blaze a new trail or cut across switchbacks. Respect closed gates and regulatory signs. Stay out of designated wilderness areas. Drive over and not around obstacles to avoid widening the trail.

Respect the rights of others, including private property owners, to allow them to enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.

Educate yourself by obtaining maps and regulations from public agencies, planning for your trip, taking recreational skills classes, and knowing how to use and operate your equipment safely.

Avoid sensitive areas such as meadows, wetlands, and streams, unless on designated routes. This protects wildlife habitat and sensitive soils from damage. Prevent fires by equipping your ATV with a spark arrestor. Keep engine noise to a minimum. Avoid riparian areas, the green strips of vegetation along rivers and lakes. Cross soft or muddy areas slowly to avoid spinning your wheels.

Do your part by leaving the area better than you found it. Dispose of waste properly — pack out what you pack in. Stay off soft, wet trails that are easily damaged by vehicles. Avoid creating dust. Cross streams only at designated crossings.

Tread Lightly! is a nonprofit organization with a mission to promote responsible outdoor recreation through ethics education and stewardship.

For more information, please visit www.treadlightly.org.

Education/Safety/Stewardship

Trail Ettiquette

- Respect all trail restrictions and use only trails open to OHV use.
- Be considerate of other riders on the trail.
- Ride on the right side of the trail.
- Slow down when passing.
- Slow down when sight lines are poor.
- Keep speeds low around other riders.
- Keep noise and dust down.
- Keep your ears open – no ear buds for an IPod or MP3 player.
- Listening to headphones or ear buds can make it difficult to hear and communicate with other riders and recreationists.
- Yield the right-of-way to those passing you from behind or traveling uphill.
- Report all illegal riding.
- Carry out what you carry in.

DNR-Designated OHV Park Rules

General Rules

- Machines registered in Iowa must have an Iowa registration decal affixed to the machine and the registration certificate must be carried on the operator or machine.
- Machines registered in another state must have their valid registration decal and IDNR Nonresident user permit affixed to the machine.
- Helmets are required for all operators and passengers on riding areas and parking and loading areas.
- Passengers are only allowed on machines which are designed by the manufacturer to carry a passenger. Riding double on all other machines is prohibited.
- Users of the park must comply with all posted signs.
- Hours of operation are sunrise to sunset, unless posted differently.

General Rules *Continued from previous page*

- All machines must have working brakes, headlight, and taillights.
- All vehicles and trailers must be parked in designated parking areas and may not be left unattended in any park drive access.
- Unauthorized vehicles and hauling equipment may be towed at owner's expense.
- Operation in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner or at excessive speeds is prohibited.
- Operation of a machine while under the influence of alcohol or narcotics is prohibited.
- Sound-level limits are enforced. Aftermarket products may exceed acceptable levels (96 decibels).
- Consumption or possession of alcohol in the designated riding area is prohibited.
- Pets are not allowed in designated riding areas. They are permitted in parking areas.

Age Considerations for ATV Riders

- Operators age 12 through 17 must carry a valid education certificate.
- Operators under the age of 12 must be under direct supervision of an adult with a valid driver's license.

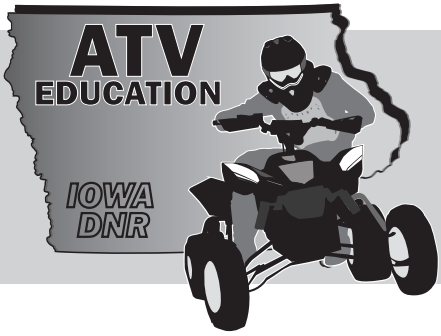
Operation with Passengers

- Number of passengers cannot exceed manufacturer's recommended capacity.
- For an ATV or motorcycle, the passenger must be seated behind the operator and have the ability to securely hold on to the passenger handles or operator.
- For an ORV, a passenger must be able to place both feet flat on the floorboards with their back resting against the seat back.
- A valid driver's license is required to operate an ATV or motorcycle when operated with a passenger.

DNR-Designated OHV Park Rules

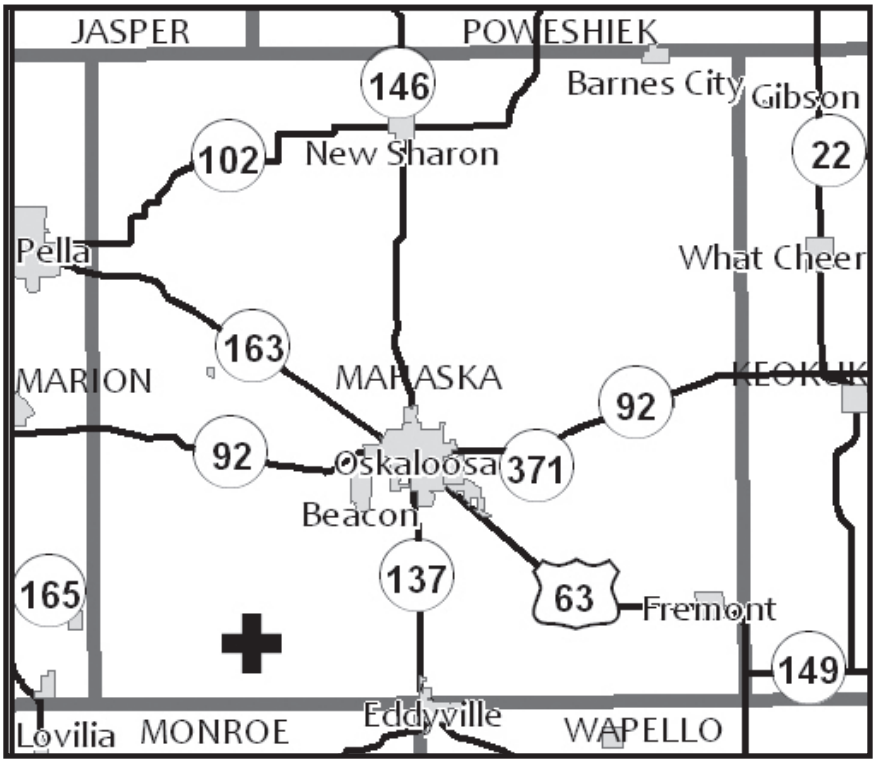
Off-road Utility Vehicles (ORVs) Requirements

- Operator must possess a valid driver's license.
- The vehicle must be equipped with a roll-over protection system (ROPS) installed by the manufacturer.
- The vehicle must be equipped with manufacturer seat belts or equivalent that are in good working order.
- Passengers must wear seat belts at all times and must keep feet and hands inside of the vehicle while the vehicle is in motion.
- Vehicles cannot be home built or substantially modified from the manufacturer's specifications.
- The vehicles cannot be wider than 62 inches.



For a current listing of IDNR rider-based course offerings: http://www.iowadnr.gov/OHV and select ATV Eductaion

Bluff Creek OHV Park



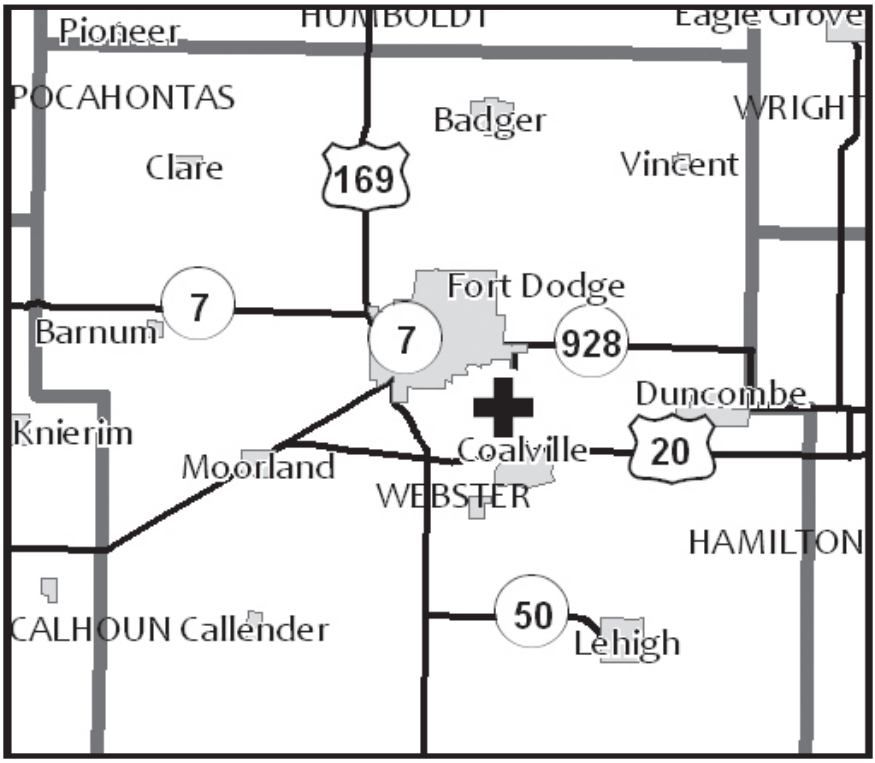
This is a 350-acre park located in Mahaska County, with most of the area available for riding. This park has some of the most aggressive riding areas in the state and was developed on the site of an abandoned coal mine. Primitive camping is available.

Iowa OHV Club: Iowa Partners of NOHVCC
Address: 1625 - 325th Street, Eddyville, Iowa, 52553
DNR Conservation Officer: Mike Ryan (641) 660-0741

Scan here for more information about Bluff Creek OHV Park

Scan here for Park Closure Alerts

Gypsum City OHV Park



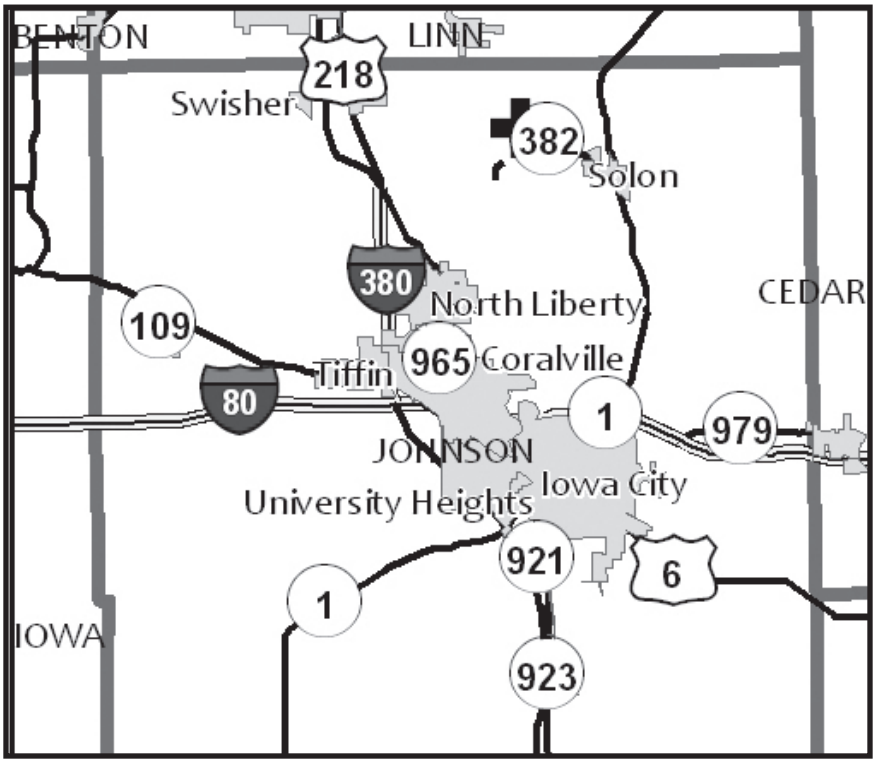
This is a 300-acre park located in Webster County with 15 miles of rolling hill trails and perimeter trails. The park also includes a 15-acre, 1.5-mile motorcross track, a .4-mile kids' track, and a beginner/safety training area.

Park Manager: Darren Herzog (515) 576-4258
Web Site: www.fortdodgeiowa.org
Address: 2390 Mill Road, Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501
DNR Conservation Officer: Dakota Drisch (515) 571-0127

Scan here for more information about Gypsum City OHV Park

Scan here for Park Closure Alerts

Lake View OHV Park



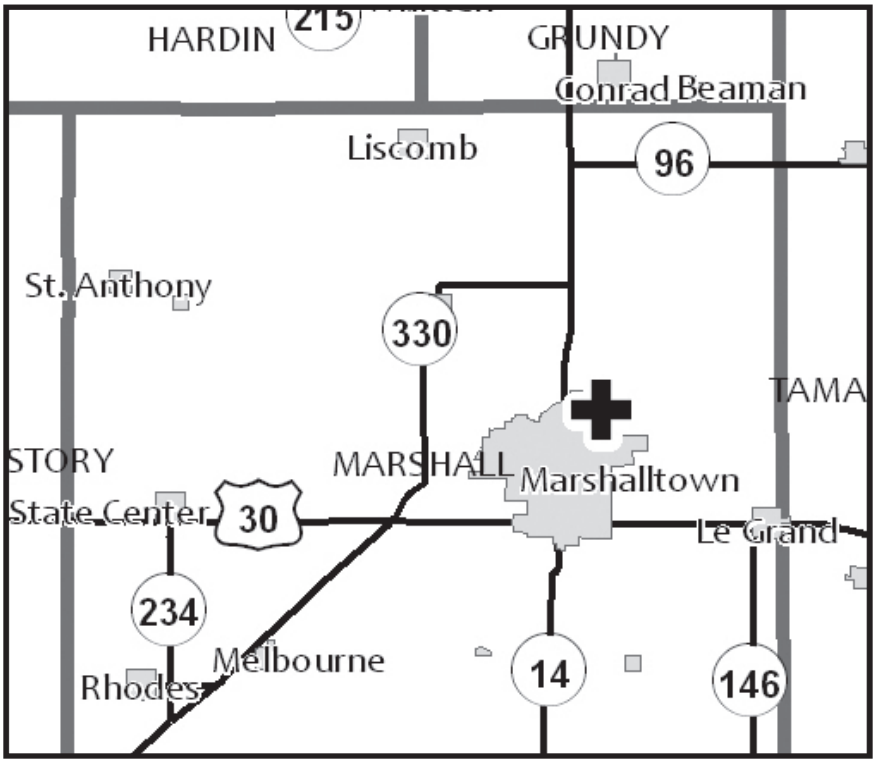
This is a 147-acre park located in Johnson County with lots of dirt and sand trails and many hills. There are two motorcross tracks, one designed for younger riders. This park is signed open for ORV use.

Club: Lakeview Off Road Riders
Contact: John Stratton (319) 361-1982
Web Site: www.lakeviewohv.com
Address: 3877 - 140th Street NE, Solon, Iowa 52333
DNR Conservation Officer: Erika Billerbeck (319) 330-9710

Scan here for more information about Lake View OHV Park

Scan here for Park Closure Alerts

Nicholson-Ford OHV Park



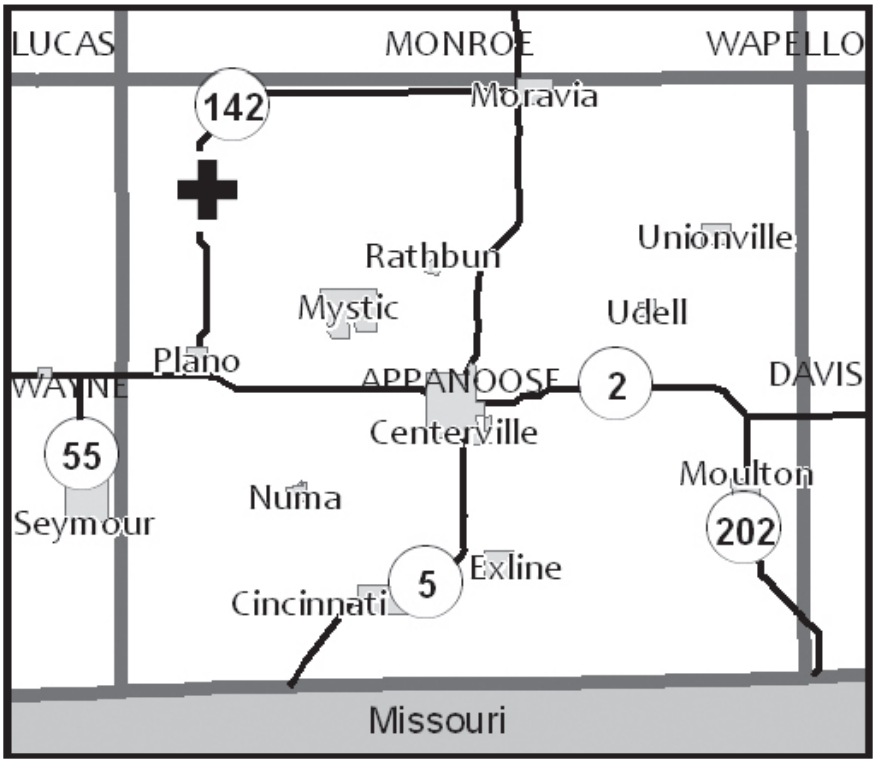
This is a 120-acre park located in Marshall County with approximately 20 miles of tight, river-bottom, wooded trails. This park is signed open for ORV use.

Iowa OHV Club: Iowa River OHV Club
Club Web Site: www.iowariverohvclub.com
Address: 2002 Marion Street, Marshalltown, Iowa 50158
DNR Conservation Officer: Vacant (641) 751-5246

Scan here for more information about Nicholson-Ford OHV Park

Scan here for Park Closure Alerts

Rathbun OHV Park



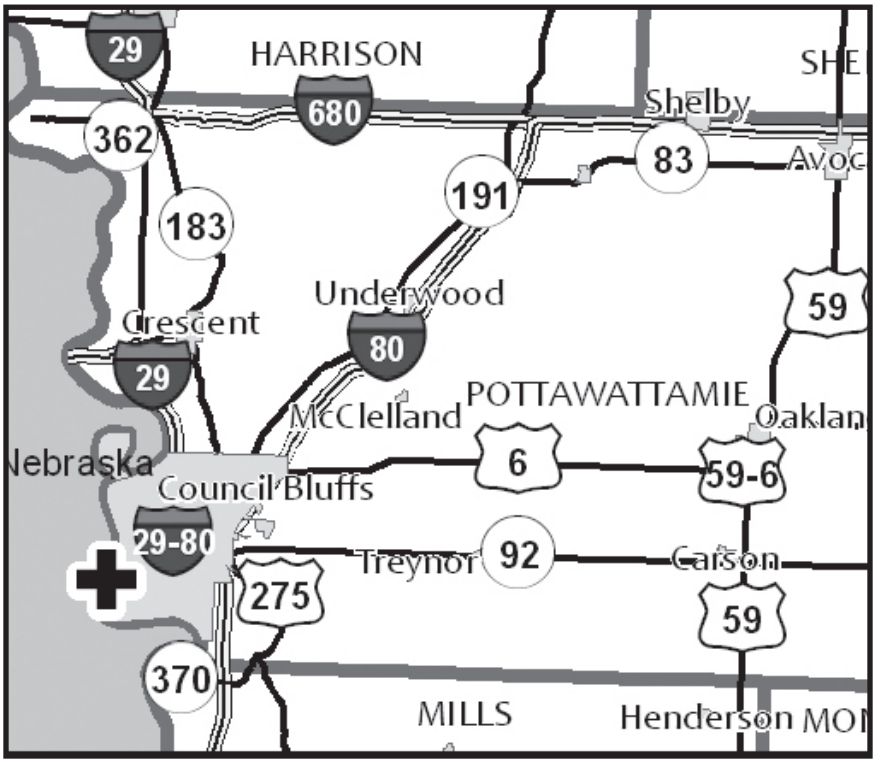
This is a 125-acre park located in Appanoose County on the southwest area of Lake Rathbun off of Highway 142. The park features trails with a variety of difficulty levels and a tot lot. This park is signed open for ORV use.

Iowa OHV Club: South Central Dirt Riders
Club Contact: scdrrohva@gmail.com
Address: 14230 Highway S70, Plano, Iowa 52581
DNR Conservation Officer: Jacob Fulk (641) 777-2164

Scan here for more information about Rathbun OHV Park

Scan here for Park Closure Alerts

River Valley OHV Park



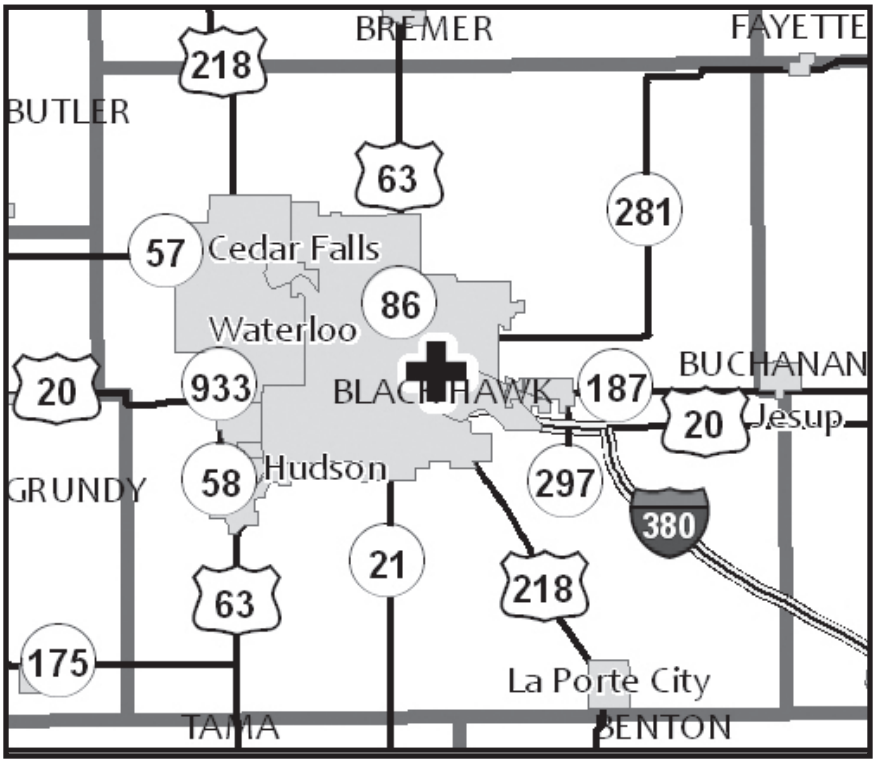
This is a 350-acre park located in Pottawattamie County along the Missouri River in Council Bluffs. The park features 23 miles of trail and a motorcross track.

Iowa OHV Club: River Valley Trail Riders
Club Web Site: http://rvtr.org/
Park Hotline: (402) 478-8701
DNR Conservation Officer: Richard Price (712) 520-5570

Scan here for more information about River Valley OHV Park

Scan here for Park Closure Alerts

Riverview OHV Park



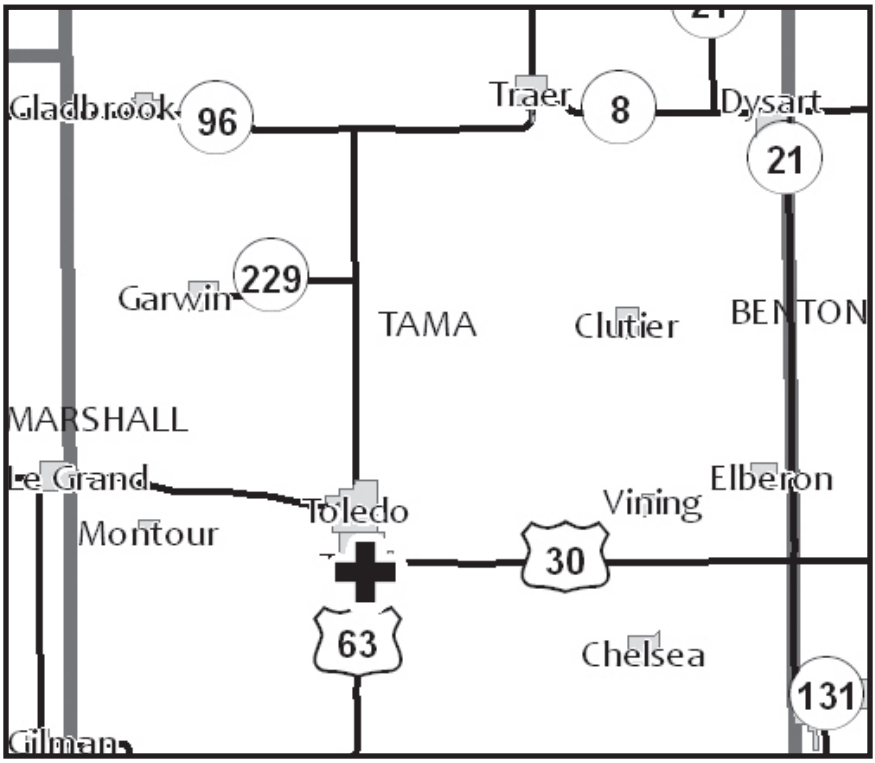
This is a 180-acre park located in Black Hawk County along the Cedar River, which allows for scenic riverside trails. The park has two motorcross tracks, a four-mile perimeter track, and a pee wee track.

Iowa OHV Club: Trailblazers Off Road Club
Club Web Site: www.trailblazersoffroadclub.com
Address: 2531 Kenyon, Waterloo, Iowa 50702
DNR Conservation Officer: Mike Bonser (319) 240-5034

Scan here for more information about Riverview OHV Park

Scan here for Park Closure Alerts

Tama OHV Park



This is a 300-acre park located in Tama County which features tight wooded trails with some hills, a 15-mile perimeter trail, and a kids track. Camping is available (23 campsites, 10 with electric). This park is signed open for ORV use.

Iowa OHV Club: Club S.P.O.R.T.
Club Web Site: www.clubsporttama.com
Address: 226 S. State Street, Tama, Iowa 52339
DNR Conservation Officer: Brett Reece (641) 751-0931

Scan here for more information about Tama OHV Park

Scan here for Park Closure Alerts

Conservation Officer List

County	Officer	Phone
Adair	Eric Sansgaard	712-250-0303
Adams	Andrea Bevington	712-520-0508
Allamakee	Bill Collins	563-380-0801
Appanoose	Jacob Fulk	641-777-2164
	Dallas Davis	641-777-2163
Audubon	Jeremy King	712-250-0061
Benton	Ron Lane	319-350-2871
	Brett Reece	641-751-0931
Black Hawk	Mike Bonser	319-240-5034
	Scott Kinseth	563-920-0566
Boone	Matt Bruner	515-290-0527
	Brandon Bergquist	515-290-0177
Bremer	Mike Bonser	319-240-5034
	Chris Jones	319-939-4448
Buchanan	Scott Kinseth	563-920-0566
Buena Vista	Brent Koppie	712-260-1010
Butler	Vacant	319-240-8033
Calhoun	Nathan Haupert	712-330-8462
Carroll	Dan Pauley	515-370-0422
Cass	Eric Sansgaard	712-250-0303
Cedar	Eric Wright	319-530-6121
Cerro Gordo	Matt Washburn	641-425-0822
	Ben Bergman	641-425-0828
Cherokee	Brent Koppie	712-260-1010
	Chad Morrow	712-260-1023
Chickasaw	Vacant	319-240-6662
Clarke	Michael Miller	641-414-2174
Clay	Chris Subbert	712-260-1004
Clayton	Burt Walters	563-880-0108
	Jerry Farmer	563-880-0422
Clinton	Lucas Webinger	563-357-1078
Crawford	Gary Sisco	712-420-1486
Dallas	Craig Lonneman	515-238-5005
	John Steinbach	515-238-5006
Davis	Bob Stuchel	641-777-2169
	Matt Rush	641-777-7805
Decatur	Michael Miller	641-414-2174
Delaware	Jared Landt	563-920-5764
Des Moines	Paul Kay	319-759-0751
Dickinson	Jeff Morrison	712-260-1017
	Steve Reighard	712-260-1018
Dubuque	Andrew Keil	563-590-1945

Conservation Officer List

County	Officer	Phone
Dubuque	Nate Johnson	563-590-1944
Emmet	Gary Koppie	712-260-1009
Fayette	Chris Jones	319-939-4448
Floyd	Eric Johnston	319-240-9174
Franklin	Vacant	319-240-8033
Fremont	Brian Smith	712-520-0121
Greene	Dan Pauley	515-370-0422
Grundy	Vacant	641-751-5246
Guthrie	Jeremy King	712-250-0061
Hamilton	Vacant	515-571-7060
Hancock	Ken Lonneman	641-425-0823
Hardin	Vacant	515-571-7060
Harrison	Dave Tierney	712-249-2015
Henry	Dan Henderson	319-653-1636
Howard	Vacant	319-240-6662
Humboldt	Dakota Drish	515-571-0127
Ida	Dan Mork	712-661-9237
Iowa	Brad Baker	319-430-1630
Jackson	Mike Macke	319-480-0397
	Andrew Keil	563-590-1945
Jasper	Kirby Bragg	641-521-2003
Jefferson	Chris Flynn	641-919-9115
	Dan Henderson	319-653-1636
Johnson	Erika Billerbeck	319-330-9710
	Brad Baker	319-430-1630
Jones	Jared Landt	563-920-5764
	Mike Macke	319-480-0397
Keokuk	Wesley Gould	641-660-3441
Kossuth	Virginia Schulte	712-260-1003
Lee	Ben Schlader	319-470-0788
Linn	Aric Sloterdyk	319-350-2863
	Ron Lane	319-350-2871
Louisa	Lucas Dever	563-260-1225
Lucas	Kyle Jensen	641-414-2175
Lyon	Greg Harson	712-260-1006
Madison	Craig Lonneman	515-238-5005
Mahaska	Mike Ryan	641-660-0741
Marion	Eric Hoffman	641-891-2004
	Ken Kenyon	641-891-1246
Marshall	Vacant	641-751-5246
Mills	Brian Smith	712-520-0121
Mitchell	Eric Johnston	319-240-9174

Conservation Officer List

County	Officer	Phone
Monona	Gary Sisco	712-420-1486
Monroe	Jacob Fulk	641-777-2164
	Dallas Davis	641-777-2163
Montgomery	Deb Howe	712-520-0507
Muscatine	Joe Fourdyce	563-260-1223
O'Brien	John Sells	712-260-1019
	Chris Subbert	712-260-1004
Osceola	Greg Harson	712-260-1006
Page	Deb Howe	712-520-0507
Palo Alto	Gary Koppie	712-260-1009
Plymouth	Chad Marrow	712-260-1023
Pocahontas	Nathan Haupert	712-330-8462
Polk	John Steinbach	515-238-5006
	Nate Anderson	515-238-4849
Pottawattamie	Richard Price	712-520-5570
Poweshiek	Mike Ryan	641-660-0741
Ringgold	Corey Carlton	641-414-2173
Sac	Dan Mork	712-661-9237
Scott	Ed Kocal	563-349-8953
	Jeff Harrison	563-349-9418
Shelby	Dave Tierney	712-249-2015
Sioux	John Sells	712-260-1019
Story	Brandon Bergquist	515-290-0177
	Matt Bruner	515-290-0527
Tama	Brett Reece	641-751-0931
Taylor	Andrea Bevington	712-520-0508
Union	Corey Carlton	641-414-2173
Van Buren	Chris Flynn	641-919-9115
Wapello	Bob Stuchel	641-777-2169
	Matt Rush	641-777-7805
Warren	Nate Anderson	515-238-4849
	Craig Cutts	515-238-4847
Washington	Wesley Gould	641-660-3441
Wayne	Kyle Jensen	641-414-2175
Webster	Dakota Drish	515-571-0127
Winnebago	Vacant	641-425-0821
Winneshiek	Brian Roffman	563-380-0496
Woodbury	Steven Griebel	712-301-4009
	Stacey Beightol	712-301-6735
Worth	Vacant	641-425-0821
Wright	Ken Lonneman	641-425-0823

Trail Signs

Trail Marker - identifies trails or areas where ATVs are allowed.

Restricted Area Sign - identifies trails or areas where ATVs are not allowed.

Stay on Trail Sign - reminds riders of the importance of staying on the designated trail.

Trail Blazer/Directional Blazer - informs riders that they are on a trail. Arrow indicates changes in direction ahead.

Chevron/Turn Ahead - additional guidance to the rider in a sharp turn.

Intersection ahead - warns riders that they are approaching an intersection.

Bridge ahead - warn riders that there is a bridge ahead.

Directional Arrow - indicates trail direction.

Stop Sign - instructs riders to bring their machine to a complete stop before proceeding.

Easy Moderate Difficult

Trail Difficulty Signs

Websites

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
www.iowadnr.gov
515-281-5918

Education Course Listings
www.iowadnr.gov/OHV
and Select ATV Education

Online Education Course Offering
www.ATVCourse.com

General OHV Information
www.iowadnr.gov/OHVparks