

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 3211 and Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 571.



ATV riders in the state of lowa who are ages 12 through 17 are required to complete an approved ATV Safety Course and carry the lowa ATV Safety Certificate with them while riding on designated riding areas, designated public land, and public ice.

To enroll in the DNR-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.

#### PUBLIC NONDISCRIMINATION

Federal and State law prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, mental and/or physical disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please contact the lowa Civil Rights Commission at 1-800-457-4416 or DNR's Civil Rights Coordinators at <a href="mailto:civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov">civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov</a>.

# Free Language Assistance Asistencia lingüística gratuita

If you speak a non-English language, we offer you language assistance services free of charge. Call (515) 725-8200.

Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita.

Llame al (515) 725-8200.

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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 of the Department.

**Department** means the Department of Natural Resources.

**Designated riding area** means an off-highway vehicle 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 off-highway vehicle 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 off-highway vehicle 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. Dual sport motorcycles are required to be registered with the DNR to be operated at designated riding areas.

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 lowa, or a political subdivision of the state and land acquired or developed for public recreation pursuant to lowa Code Section 321I.8.

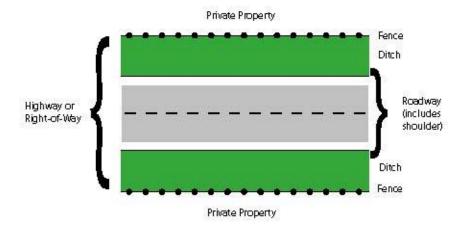
Railroad right-of-way means the full width of property owned, leased, or subject to easement for railroad purposes and is not limited to those areas on which tracks are located.

Resident means as defined in Iowa Code Section 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.

**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.





# Laws and Regulations

# REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

## **Machines Registered in Iowa**

- Every ATV, ORM and ORV in Iowa used on public land or ice, public roadway, designated riding area, or a designated trail of this state must be currently registered with the DNR. 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.
- 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 DNR 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 DNR, the applicant may be required to secure a bond consistent with the requirements of lowa 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.
  - 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 ATV 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 OHV 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 30 days immediately following the purchase without having completed a title transfer.
- 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.
- There is no grace period to operate with expired registration.

Every Iowa OHV registration certificate and registration decal expires at midnight on December 31 of the year issued. Registrations can be renewed beginning September 1 and are valid for the remainder of the current year and for the following year as printed on the sticker.

## **Registration and Renewals**

All newly owned machines or machines which have not been previously registered must be registered through the County Recorder's Office in the owner's county of residence.

To register your vehicle, you will need:

- Bill of Sale
- New Vehicles: Manufacture's Statement of Origin
- Used Vehicles: Vehicle Title and/or Registration
- DNR Application Form for Boats, Snowmobiles, ATVs and ORVs

#### Renewals

Registration renewals for ATVs, ORVs, and ORMs may be completed online at <a href="www.GoOutdoorslowa.com">www.GoOutdoorslowa.com</a>. Registration and decal will be mailed in 5-10 business days. Renewals can also be processed through a County Recorder's Office.

## Machines Registered in Another State- DNR Nonresident User Permits

 Any OHV registered in another state and used on public land or ice, public roadway, 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. The vehicle must also

- be issued and display a DNR Nonresident User Permit.
- A DNR Nonresident User Permit will be issued for only one OHV and is not transferable.
- DNR 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.
- A DNR Nonresident User Permit can be purchased starting
   September 1 and will expire December 31 of the following year.



## **Exemptions**

## 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, or official research and studies:
- OHVs used exclusively as farm implements.

#### **DNR Nonresident User Permits**

DNR Nonresident User Permits are sold at any general license agent who sells hunting and fishing permits, online at www.GoOutdoorslowa.com, and County Recorder offices. The DNR

Nonresident User Permit is printed on license/tag paper. It is not issued to a machine, but rather to the user. The DNR Nonresident User Permit must be displayed on the vehicle as described. It is not transferable. Printing the DNR Nonresident User Permit on the license/tag paper makes them distinct from the registration decals.

Requirements	Registrations	DNR Nonresident User Permits
Renewal Requirement	Must be renewed	Must be renewed
	each year	each year
Renewal Period	Starting September 1	Starting September 1
	each year	each year
Expiration	December 31 each	December 31 each
	year	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 vehicle	Permit must be affixed to the vehicle

## **Titling Requirements**

- The owner of an OHV acquired on or after January 1, 2000, other than an OHV used exclusively as a farm implement 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 lowa 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 30 days of purchase, the dealer must forward all monies 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 this section may be issued a title pursuant to chapter 321 upon proper application and surrender of the existing title. Upon issuance of a title pursuant to chapter 321, the certificate of title previously issued pursuant to this section shall be returned to the issuing county recorder.

#### **UNLAWFUL OPERATION**

### A person shall not drive or operate an OHV:

- On a designated riding area or designated riding trail unless signage indicates the riding area or trail is open to the operation of that vehicle type.
- At a rate of speed greater than reasonable or permitted by law 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 Section 352.2.
- Without suitable and effective muffling devices and brakes.

#### **CIVIL PENALTY AND RESTITUTION**

If on operator is convicted of the offenses listed under the heading "Unlawful Operation", additional penalties and restitution can be added to the criminal charges. See Iowa Code Section 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.

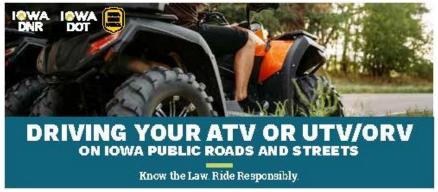
#### OFFICER'S SIGNAL TO STOP

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.

A person who is not in compliance 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.



#### HOW TO DRIVE ON PUBLIC ROADS

- Do not exceed 35 MPH.
- Driver must be age 18 or older with a valid driver's license.
- Do not drive while impaired or with open alcohol container.
- Headlight(s) must be on at all times.

#### What is Required for the Vehicle

- Proof of insurance.
- Registered with Iowa DNR and sticker displayed on rear of vehicle.
- Out-of-state vehicle must have an Iowa DNR nonresident user permit sticker.
- Functioning required equipment, including but not limited to: horn, mirrors, headlight(s), tail lights, and brake lights.
- Display slow-moving vehicle sign.

# ATV vs. UTV/ORV: Key Differences ATV

# (All-Termin Vehicle)



Handlebars. 1-2 riders straddle seat

34, or 6 wheels

#### UTV/ORV (Obliky Task Vehicle) (CMFRoad Utility Vehicle)



Steering wheel

2-6 riders sit inside bench or bucket seat

4 or 6 wheels

#### Exemptions for Ag Use on Public Roads (Implements of Husbandry)

- No DNR registration required.
- No license needed if within
- 2 miles of farm. Class C license required if beyond 2 miles.
- Operation allowed only between sunrise and sunset.

#### Slow-Moving Vehicle Sign



Reflective sign with an orange triangle and

dark red border that must be displayed on rear of vehicle for ag or personal use.

(Iowa Code 321.383)

## When and Where You Can Ride

- Operation allowed day or night.
- Wear a helmet.

Use a safety harness, if available.



Drive sober.

**Prioritize Your Safety** 

- Roadway use allowed (except interstates and four-lane roads).
- Use state two-lane or county highways only on the most direct,

- accessible route to: an ATV/UTV/ORV park or trail, the nearest county road, an authorized city street, or your residence.
- Crossing multi-lane highways allowed only at intersections from authorized roads.

# ATVs/UTVs and Iowa Law ATVs/UTVs are regulated for use on roadways by Iowa code sections 321I and 321.234A.





Always refer to the most current version of the lowa Code for legal guidance.

3211

321.234A

#### **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.

#### **VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN)**

- Every OHV shall have a vehicle identification number assigned and affixed as required by the DNR.
- The customer should contact the Conservation Officer assigned to their county to review and complete the application. The DNR 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.
- In cooperation with the County Recorder, the DNR shall assign a VIN to the machine.
- The DNR 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.

#### CARRYING A FIREARM ON AN OHV

 A person shall not discharge a firearm while on an OHV, except that a nonambulatory person may discharge a firearm from a stationary OHV while lawfully hunting if the person is not operating or riding a moving OHV.

#### **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 deer, turkey, and migratory game birds.
- It is illegal to operate an OHV on DNR wildlife management areas.
- Physically handicapped persons may apply for a permit to operate a vehicle on DNR 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.
- For hunting rules related to a nonambulatory person, see IAC 571-106.11(5).

#### **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 Department Law Enforcement Officer calling the DNR at 515-725-8200, or going to www.iowadnr.gov/things-do/highway-vehicles.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

The Department may authorize the holding of organized special events at the designated OHV parks as defined in Iowa Code Chapter 321I. 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. Endurance races, head-to-head competition, and nonmotorized events will not be permitted. A special event shall not be conducted at a designated riding event without written authorization of the Department.

# **Education/Safety/Stewardship**

#### **EDUCATION SAFETY CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENT**

ATV riders in the state of Iowa who are ages 12 through 17 are required to complete an approved ATV Safety Course and carry the Iowa ATV Safety Certificate with them while riding on designated riding areas, designated public land, and public ice.

#### ATVCOURSE.COM

The DNR has collaborated with Fresh Air Educators to make an online certification offering available for the DNR ATV Education Program. 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 DNR education certificate fee. Students must pass a final exam with 80% accuracy to earn their certificate. There is no riding component for this course.

Students must be 12 or older to earn their ATV education certificate through <a href="https://www.ATVCourse.com">www.ATVCourse.com</a>.

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**

- Never drive or ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Always wear a helmet and other protective gear.
- Do not carry more passengers than the vehicle design allows.
- Utilize seatbelts and safety harnesses, when equipped.
- Safety equipment installed by the manufacturer should not be

- removed or altered.
- Drive only in designated areas, at a safe speed, and use care when turning and crossing slopes.
- Read and follow the operator's manual and warning labels.
- Choose the right ATV, ORV, or ORM based on the operator's size and experience.
- Take a safety course.
- Prepare for the unexpected by packing emergency items.



#### SIZE CONSIDERATIONS

## (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.

**WEIGHT** - a rider should have enough body weight to be able to affect the operation of the machine by shifting his or her weight. This is a key element in being an active rider.

**Right-fit Principle for an ORV** - The operator should be able to place both feet flat on the floor while seated upright with their back resting firmly against the seat back.

#### 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 designated roads, trails or areas.

**Respect** the rights of others. Learn the basics of trail etiquette.

**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, lakeshores and streams. Stay on designated areas and trails.

Do your part by leaving the area better than you found it.

Tread Lightly! is a nonprofit organization with a mission to promote responsible outdoor recreation through ethics education and stewardship. For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.treadlightly.org">www.treadlightly.org</a>.

#### TRAIL ETIQUETTE

- Respect all regulations and restrictions and use only trails and areas authorized for use.
- Be considerate of other riders on the trail.
- Ride on the right side of the trail.
- Slow down when sight lines are poor.
- Keep speeds low around other riders.
- Keep noise and dust to a minimum.
- Keep your ears open no earbuds or headphones. Riders need to be able to hear and communicate with other riders and

- recreationalists.
- Yield the right-of-way to those passing you from behind or traveling uphill.
- Report all illegal riding.
- Carry out what you carry in.
- Before and after a trip, wash your vehicle to minimize the spread of invasive species.



# **lowa OHV Association**

The Iowa OHV Association (IOHVA) is the recognized state association for Iowa advocating for off-highway vehicle recreation opportunities and rider concerns.

IOHVA works closely with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the clubs that manage the current 8 designated riding areas in the state. IOHVA strives to be the leader in strategic planning efforts and inclusion of interested parties in the state, including legislators, vehicle

dealers, and industry representatives.

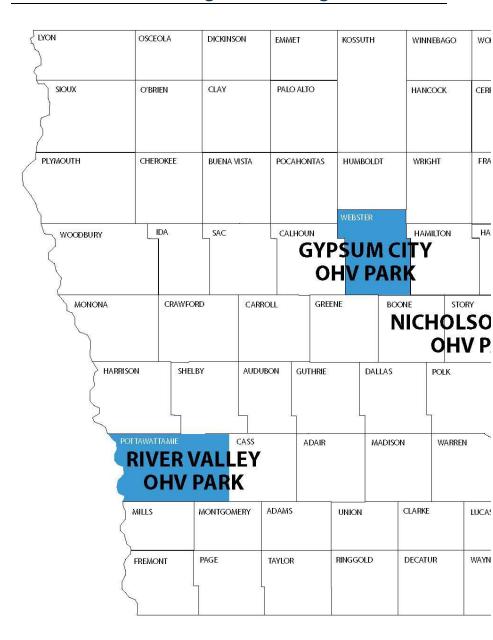
In addition to supporting the sport, IOHVA also promotes safety, education, and awareness to the enthusiasts that ride in Iowa. IOHVA holds events at the parks during the peak riding season to serve as a resource for education requirements, regulations, safety, rider responsibility, opportunities, and general information of interest to the riding community.

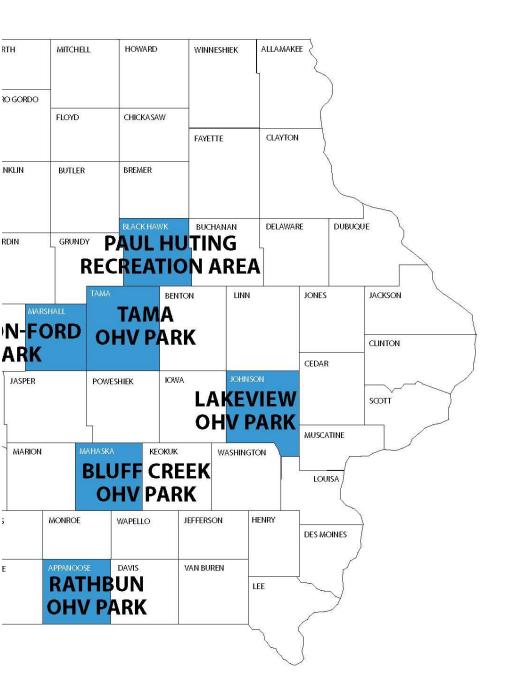
During the year IOHVA holds several rides at the parks which promote awareness of safety and health campaigns of interest to its members, rides for disabled individuals to make them aware of other mobility devices available to them, a veterans ride to express appreciation for their service, as well as rides for elected officials to make them aware of recreational opportunities in Iowa as well as highlight economic development opportunities in Iowa.

IOHVA holds quarterly meetings and rides for its members and has an annual meeting in January. To learn more about the association, the parks, the clubs, and how to get more involved, go to <a href="https://www.lowaOHV.org">www.lowaOHV.org</a>.



# **Iowa DNR-Designated Riding Areas**





# **DNR-Designated OHV Park Rules**

#### PARK CLOSURES AND ALERTS:

https://programs.iowadnr.gov/parkforms/pages/ViewOHVAlerts

#### **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 proof of valid registration and DNR Nonresident user permit affixed to the machine.
- Helmets are required for all operators and passengers on all designated riding areas including 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.
- All machines must have working brakes.
- All OHVs operated between sunset and sunrise shall display a lighted headlight and taillight.
- 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 is prohibited in the designated riding areas, loading areas, and parking lots.
- Pets are not allowed in designated riding areas. They are permitted in parking areas.

#### **Age-related Operation Guidelines**

- All-terrain Vehicles.
  - O 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 Section 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.
- 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 lowa Code Section 321.1.
  - Ages 12 through 17-education certificate is not required.

## **Operation with Passengers**

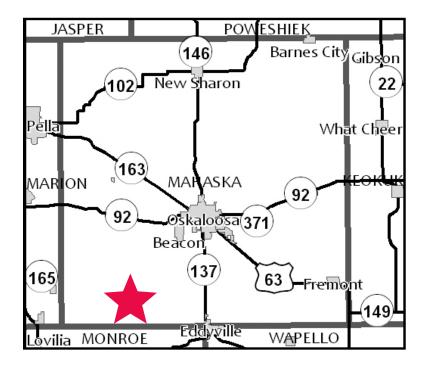
- Anyone operating an OHV with a passenger must possess a valid driver's license as defined in Iowa Code Section 321.1.
- Number of passengers cannot exceed manufacturer's recommended capacity and passengers shall not ride on vehicles that have been modified from the manufacturer's original design to carry a passenger.
- 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.

## Off-road Utility Vehicles (ORVs) Requirements

- 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.

- Operator and 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.
- Anyone operating an ORV must possess a valid driver's license as defined in Iowa Code Section 321.1.

## **Bluff Creek OHV Park**



This is a 350-acre park with most of the area accessible for riding. The area is an abandoned coal mine that has been developed into a riding area. There are approximately 20 miles of trails, steep hill climbs, deep pits, and four motocross tracks. One track is dedicated to novice and beginner riders. One track is extremely challenging and is often called the "gravity cavity". The park is not currently signed open to ORV, or side-by-side, use.

The park is open year-round, but is closed when weather or trail conditions do not permit riding. Thirteen primitive camping sites are available, with flush toilets, shower stalls, and water spigots.

#### **BLUFF CREEK OHV PARK**

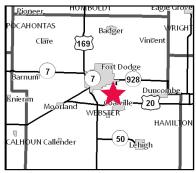
1625 325th St; Eddyville, IA/Mahaska County

Managed by: Iowa Partners of NOHVCC

**Contact Information:** 

DNR Law Enforcement: Chad Malone 641-660-5552

# **Gypsum City OHV Park**



Gypsum City OHV Park is located on the southeast corner of Fort Dodge. The park is approximately 800 acres in size and includes 60 miles of trails for use by ATVs, side-by-sides, and off-road motorcycles. The park also includes a 1.5-mile motocross track, an amateur supercross track, a skills development course, a .4 mile kids' track, and a beginner circle track. Trails within the park range from open prairie for novice riders to heavily timbered areas for more advanced riders and include water crossings and mudding areas. Trailhead signs within the park will indicate what machines are allowed on certain trails.

Park amenities include an open shelter with picnic tables and grill, men's and women's restrooms, a play area and fishing ponds. There is also a campground with 30 campsites that can be reserved, and 2 tiny homes that sit on existing sites (which can also be reserved), that offers both full hook up and electric sites. Site amenities include water, electricity, sewer, picnic table, and grill. A men's and women's shower/restroom is also available. The campground will be open April 15—October 15 annually. To reserve a campsite, go to www.mycountyparks.com.

Tremendous effort has been invested in developing this riding area. Please stay on marked trails and follow all posted signs.

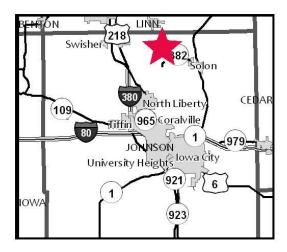
#### **GYPSUM CITY OHV PARK**

2390 Mill Road; Fort Dodge, IA/Webster County **Managed by:** Webster County Conservation Board

Contact Information: 515-576-4258, www.mycountyparks.com

DNR Law Enforcement: Eddie Elkin 515-408-5568 & Matt Petersen 712-260-9059

## Lakeview OHV Park



Lakeview OHV park has 160 acres of varying terrain. The park features an "A" level motocross practice track, a "B" level motocross practice track, an off-road utility vehicle practice track, a pit bike track, and two kiddie tracks. The tracks are designed to be used by both motorcycles and ATVs. There is also a very extensive trail network consisting of sand trails, mud trails, hard pack trails, some hill climbs, and single-track trails. There are restrooms on site. No camping is permitted. There are multiple state and federal campsites within a five-mile radius of the park.

The park is open year-round, with the exception of when weather and trail conditions do not permit riding.

The Lakeview OHV park offers something for everyone. From the beginning rider to the advanced rider, there is enough variety to keep things interesting for all skill levels. The park is maintained throughout the year to keep the riding area as safe as possible.

#### LAKEVIEW OHV PARK

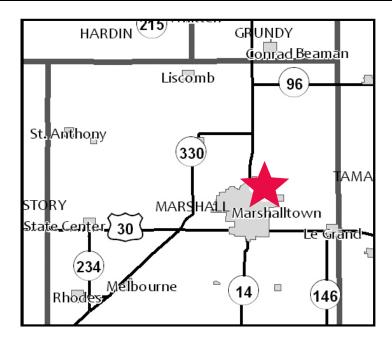
3877 140<sup>th</sup> St NE; Solon, IA/Johnson County **Managed by:** Lakeview Off Road Riders

Contact Information: 319-361-1982, On Facebook at "Lakeview OHV

Park"

**DNR Law Enforcement:** Jason Dykstra 319-330-9116

# **Nicholson-Ford OHV Park**



Nicholson-Ford is a 120-acre off-highway vehicle park open to off-road motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and off-road utility vehicles. There are approximately 20 miles of tight, river-bottom, wooded trails for your enjoyment. More trail information can be found here: www.onxmaps.com/offroad/parks/nicholson-ford.

#### NICHOLSON FORD OHV PARK

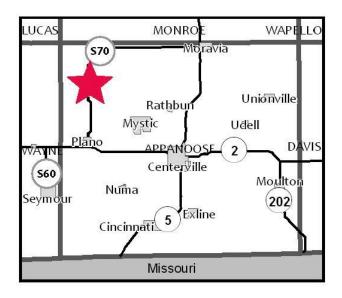
2002 Marion St; Marshalltown, IA/Marshall County

Managed by: Iowa River OHV Club

Contact Information: On Facebook at "Iowa River OHV Club"

DNR Law Enforcement: Austin Dollen 641-751-5246

## Rathbun OHV Park



The 125-acre Rathbun Off-Highway Vehicle Area (ROHVA) is located in the northwest corner of Appanoose County. Established in an abandoned rock quarry in 1993, the park provides riders of registered ATVs, UTVs, and dirt bikes an impeccable riding experience for novice and seasoned riders alike. Trails, consisting of dirt and rock, follow the lay of the land meandering around trees, rocks, hills, and along the lakeshore. Most are wide enough to accommodate off-road utility vehicles. Trails for leisurely cruising or testing the skills of advanced riders await visitors to the park. ROHVA also features a practice track and a tot lot, which is fenced as a separate area for safety and can be monitored by parents. There are two shelters with picnic tables available as well as water hydrants and a vault toilet.

The park is open year-round except for closure due to weather or trail conditions that do not permit riding.

#### **RATHBUN OHV PARK**

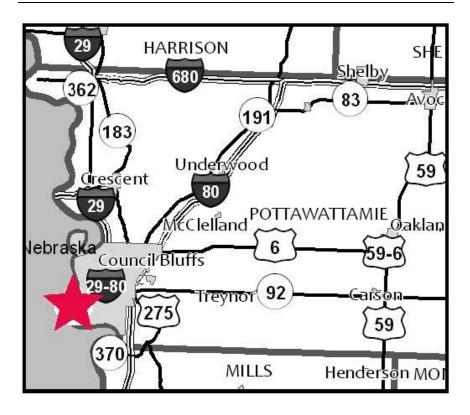
14230 Highway S70; Plano, IA/Appanoose County

Managed by: South Central Dirt Riders

Contact Information: scdrrohva@gmail.com

DNR Law Enforcement: CJ Hughes 641-895-2222

# **River Valley OHV Park**



River Valley OHV Park is closed until further notice. The park has signage posted and all use of the park is currently restricted. For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.iowadnr.gov/things-do/highway-vehicles">www.iowadnr.gov/things-do/highway-vehicles</a>.

#### **RIVER VALLEY OHV PARK**

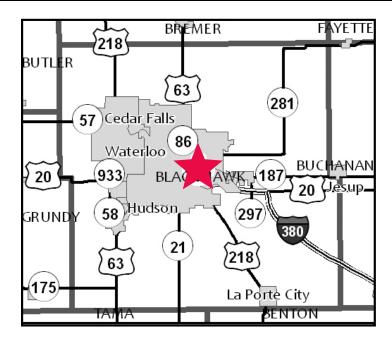
Veterans Memorial Hwy; Council Bluffs, IA/Pottawattamie County

Managed by:

**Contact Information:** 

**DNR Law Enforcement:** 

# **Paul Huting Recreation Area**



The Paul Huting Recreation Area (formally known as Riverview) is 180-acre park is located in Black Hawk County along the Cedar River, which allows for scenic riverside trails. The park has two motocross tracks, a four-mile perimeter track, and a pee wee track. ATVs, ORMs, and side-by-sides no wider than 65" are allowed to operate at the park. There is a picnic shelter and pit toilet available.

Park is open year-round except when weather or trail conditions do not permit riding.

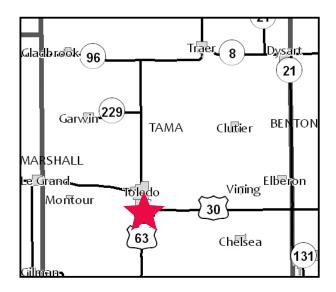
#### PAUL HUTING RECREATION AREA

2531 Kenyon; Waterloo, IA/Blackhawk County

Managed by: Trailblazers Off-Road Club

Contact Information: <a href="https://www.trailblazersoffroadclub.com">www.trailblazersoffroadclub.com</a>
DNR Law Enforcement: Chase Burtness 515-336-3300

## Tama OHV Park



This 300-acre park is located in Tama County and features tight, wooded trails with some hills, a 15-mile perimeter trail, a kids' track, and a motocross track. Camping features 10 electric campsites and 13 primitive campsites. This park is open to off-road motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle, and off-road utility vehicle use.

Park is open year round, except when weather or trail conditions do not permit riding.

#### **TAMA OHV PARK**

226 S State St; Tama, IA/Tama County

Managed by: Club S.P.O.R.T.

Contact Information: <a href="https://www.clubsporttama.com">www.clubsporttama.com</a>
DNR Law Enforcement: Kory Kinnick 641-236-3722

# **Trail Signs**



Stop Ahead



Yield Ahead



Intersection Ahead



Trail Marker



















# Bridge Markers







Trail Closures

AREA CLOSED USE OTHER TRAILS TRAIL CLOSED TRAIL TEMPORARILY CLOSED



# **Websites**

# Iowa Department of Natural Resources

www.iowadnr.gov 515-725-8200

# **Online Education Course Offering**

www.ATVCourse.com

OHV Information www.iowadnr.gov/Things-To-Do/Off-Highway-Vehicles





