



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.



October 2017

**DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL
RESOURCES**

ATV EDUCATION

**IOWA
DNR**



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 DNR
rider-based course offerings:
www.iowadnr.gov/OHV & select **ATV Education****

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

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE REFERENCE GUIDE



The 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, Bluff Creek is not signed open to side-by-side use.

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/OHVclosures.

Carrying a Firearm on an ATV

- A person shall not operate or ride an ATV with a firearm in the person's possession unless it is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case, except as otherwise provided by law. However, a nonambulatory person may carry an uncased and unloaded firearm while operating or riding an ATV.
- A person may operate or ride an ATV with a loaded firearm, whether concealed or not, without a permit to carry weapons, if the person operates or rides on land owned or possessed by the person, and the person's conduct is otherwise lawful.
- If a person is operating or riding on an ATV on land that is not owned or possessed by the person, the person may operate or ride the ATV with a loaded pistol or revolver, whether concealed or not, and the person's conduct is otherwise lawful
- A person shall not discharge a firearm while on an ATV, except that a nonambulatory person may discharge a firearm from an ATV while lawfully hunting if the person is not operating or riding a moving ATV.

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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 Section 452A.5.

Department means the Department of Natural Resources established in Iowa Code Section 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 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.

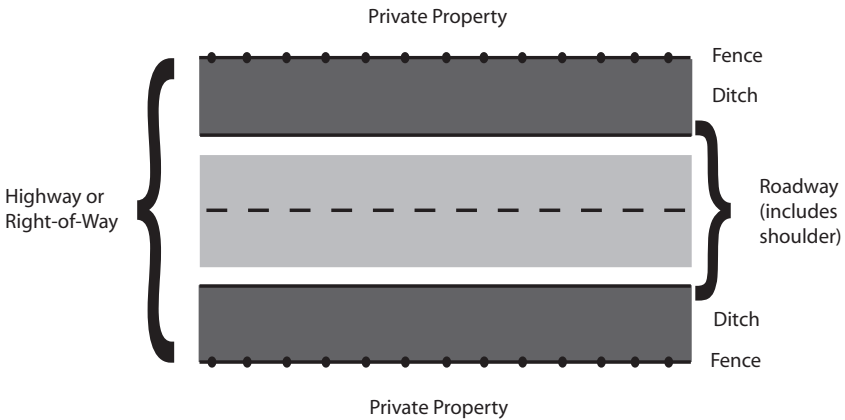
Resident means as defined in Iowa Code Section 483A.1A.

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

Definitions

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

- Each ATV and ORV 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 DNR. A person shall not operate, maintain, or give permission for the operation or maintenance of an ATV or ORV on public land or public ice unless the ATV or ORV 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 ATV or ORV 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 Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 571.
- Registration certificate.
 - An operator of an ATV or ORV shall carry the registration certificate either in the vehicle or on the person of the operator when the ATV or ORV 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 ATV or ORV, or that person's agent.
 - To the owner or operator of another ATV or ORV when the ATV or ORV is involved in a collision or accident of any nature with the ATV or ORV, or that person's agent.

Laws and Regulations

Registration certificate. *Continued from previous page*

- To the owner of personal or real property when the ATV or ORV 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 ATV or ORV 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 ATV or ORV 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 ATV or ORV 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 ATV or ORV 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 ATV or ORV registration certificate and registration decal expires at midnight December 31 of the year issued.

Laws and Regulations

Machines Registered in Another State – DNR Nonresident User Permits

- Any ATV or ORV 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 a DNR 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.
- A DNR Nonresident User Permit will be issued for only one ATV or ORV 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 which will expire December 31 of the year printed on the permit.



Laws and Regulations

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
- ATVs and ORVs used exclusively for agricultural purposes.

Titling Requirements

- The owner of an ATV or ORV 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 ATV or ORV 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 ATV or ORV 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,

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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 ATV or ORV 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 DNR. 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 can be done at any County Recorder's Office; you only need to provide the IA number assigned to your ATV or ORV 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.

Laws and Regulations

DNR Nonresident User Permits

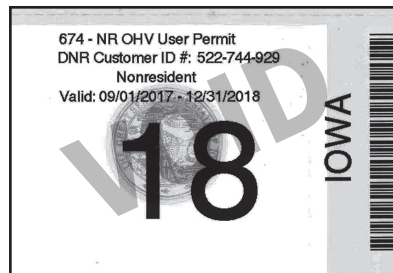
DNR Nonresident User Permits are sold at any general license agent who sells hunting and fishing permits and County Recorder offices. The DNR Nonresident User Permit is printed on license/tag paper. It is not issued to a machine, but rather to the user. The DNR Nonresident User Permit must be displayed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



DNR Nonresident User Permit



Laws and Regulations

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 Section 352.2.

Laws and Regulations

Civil Penalty and Restitution

If an 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. 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 DNR. 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 DNR 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.

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Operation on Roadways and Highways

- A person shall not operate an OHV upon roadways or highways except as provided in Iowa Code Section 321.234A and Iowa Code Section 321.10.
- 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.
- An ATV or an ORV may make a direct crossing of a highway provided all of the following occur:
 - The crossing is made at an angle of approximately ninety degrees to the direction of the highway and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing.
 - The ATV or ORV is brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main traveled way of the highway.
 - The driver yields the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic which constitutes an immediate hazard.
 - In crossing a divided highway, the crossing is made only at an intersection of such highway with another public street or highway.
 - The crossing is made from a street, roadway, or highway designated as an ATV trail by a state agency, county, or city to a street, roadway, or highway designated as an ATV trail by a state agency, county, or city.

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.

Laws and Regulations

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 DNR.
- 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. If a machine has a VIN which is not legible, the owner must submit to the DNR an affidavit which describes the machine. 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.

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Carrying a Firearm on an ATV

- A person shall not operate or ride an ATV with a firearm in the person's possession unless it is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case, except as otherwise provided by law. However, a nonambulatory person may carry an uncased and unloaded firearm while operating or riding an ATV.
- A person may operate or ride an ATV with a loaded firearm, whether concealed or not, without a permit to carry weapons, if the person operates or rides on land owned or possessed by the person, and the person's conduct is otherwise lawful.
- If a person is operating or riding on an ATV on land that is not owned or possessed by the person, the person may operate or ride the ATV with a loaded pistol or revolver, whether concealed or not, and the person's conduct is otherwise lawful.
- A person shall not discharge a firearm while on an ATV, except that a nonambulatory person may discharge a firearm from an ATV while lawfully hunting if the person is not operating or riding a moving ATV.

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 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 [571 IAC 98.2(2)] Turkey and [571 IAC 106.7(6)] Deer.

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

Laws and Regulations

Department within 72 hours. A copy of the Operator Incident Report Form can be obtained from a Conservation Officer, calling the DNR at 515-725-8200, or going to <http://www.iowadnr.gov/OHV> and selecting Operator Incident Report.

Proof of Insurance

Iowa Code Section 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 Section 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 Section 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.



Education/Safety/Stewardship

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.

Students can take a hands-on course or an approved online course in order to earn their education certificate.

DNR 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 DNR-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.

Education/Safety/Stewardship

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 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

Top 10 Most Important Things to Know About Off-highway Vehicle Operation

- Avoid paved surfaces. ATVs and side-by-sides are designed to be operated off-highway.
- Never use drugs or alcohol while riding.
- Do not carry more passengers than the vehicle design allows.
 - Most ATVs are designed for a single operator. Even though the seat appears to be long enough to accommodate an additional rider, the longer seat is used by the operator to control the vehicle by shifting weight forward, backward, and to the sides.
 - Do not carry more passengers than the side-by-side design allows. Side-by-sides are manufactured with different passenger capacities, and as such have seatbelts and roll-over protection that corresponds to that number of passengers. Do not operate the side-by-side with people in the back or holding on along the side. Operators and passengers must keep all parts of their bodies inside of the side-by-side at all times.
- Seatbelts must be worn when operating or riding in a side-by-side. This type of vehicle is designed to contain the passenger and

Education/Safety/Stewardship

does not require weight transfer to safely operate it. If an operator has trouble with an ATV, he or she can quickly get away from the machine if needed. Operators and passengers of a side-by-side should remain with the vehicle in case of difficulties during operation.

- Safety gear should always be worn when operating an ATV or a side-by-side. Always wear a helmet, eye protection, long pants, over-the-ankle boots, a long-sleeve shirt, and gloves.
- 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.
- If towing a trailer with an ATV or side-by-side, practice how the weight and load affects the machine on flat surfaces prior to hauling items in areas with a slope.
- Adding extra seating or roll bars to a side-by-side creates a higher center of gravity and will greatly affect the stability and potential rollover of a side-by-side vehicle.
- Read and follow the operator's manual and warning labels.

Size of Machine vs. Size of Rider Considerations for ATVs

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.

Education/Safety/Stewardship

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.

T **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.

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

E **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.

A **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.

D **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 Etiquette

- 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.

Iowa 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 www.iowaOHV.org

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 DNR 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.
- 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-related Operation Guidelines

- 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 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.

DNR-Designated OHV Park Rules

- 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 Section 321.1.
 - Ages 12 through 17 – education certificate is not required. The supervision rule does not apply to these riders.
- Off-road Utility Vehicles.
 - Operation of an ORV that has an engine displacement of less than 200 cubic centimeters and a total dry weight of not more than 550 pounds by an operator who is under the age of 12 must be under the direct supervision of a responsible parent or guardian who is experienced in ORV operation.
 - No education certificate is required for operators ages 12 through 17.
 - The supervision rule does not apply to operators over the age of 12.

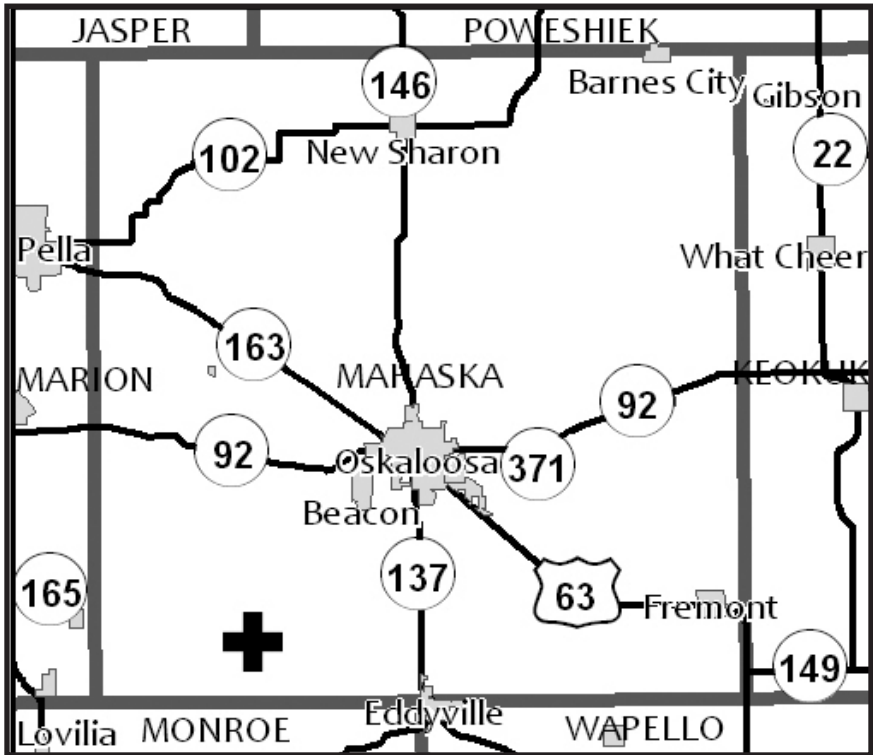
Operation with Passengers

- 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.

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.
- 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.
- 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.

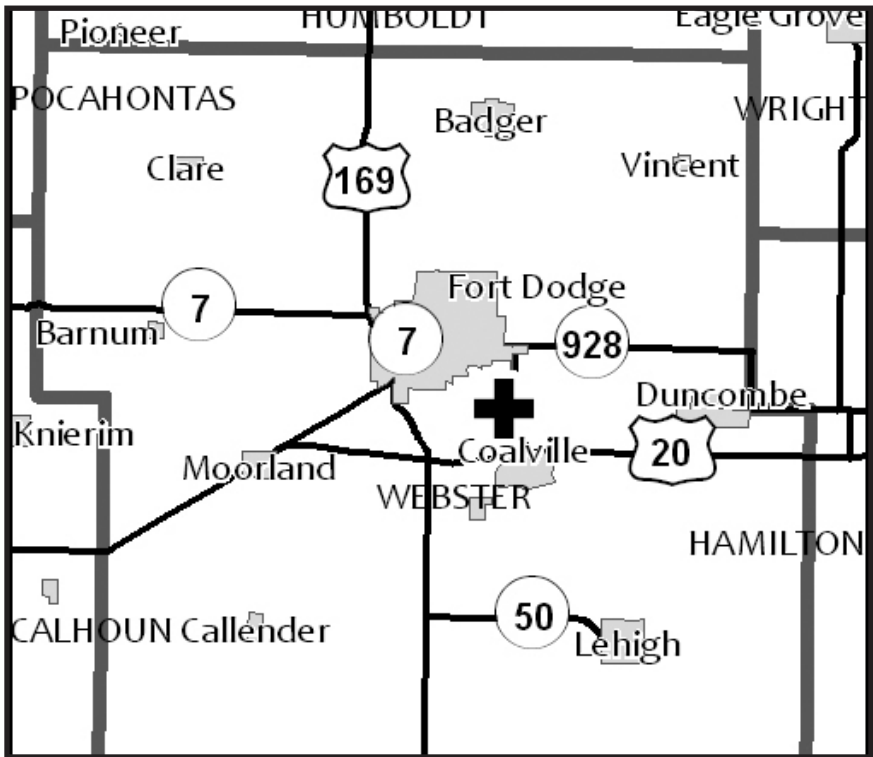
Bluff Creek OHV Park



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 Park Ranger: Christopher Hughes 641-895-2222

Gypsum City OHV Park



The 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, 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. Trail head signs within the park will indicate what machines are allowed on certain trails. Thirty-two camping spots can be reserved by going to www.mycountyparks.com. The campground offers both full hook ups and electric sites. Site amenities include water, electricity, sewer, picnic table, and grill. Modern bathroom and showers are also available. The campground is open April 15 – October 15 annually.

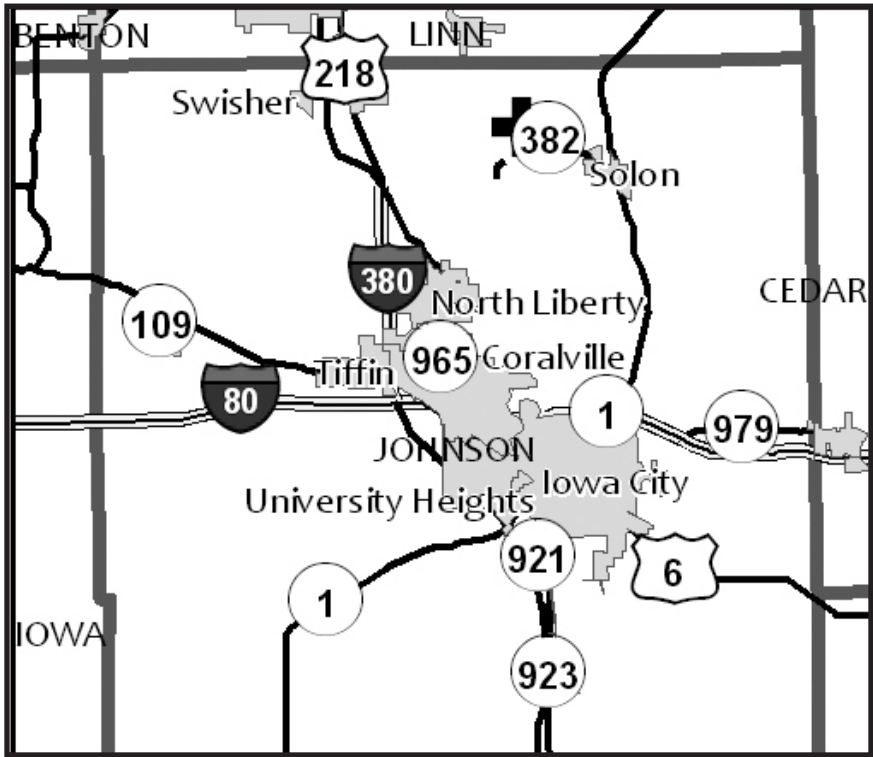
Park Manager: Darren Herzog (515) 576-4258

Web Site: www.fortdodgeiowa.org

Address: 2390 Mill Road, Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501

DNR Park Ranger: Eddie Elkin 515-408-5568

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.

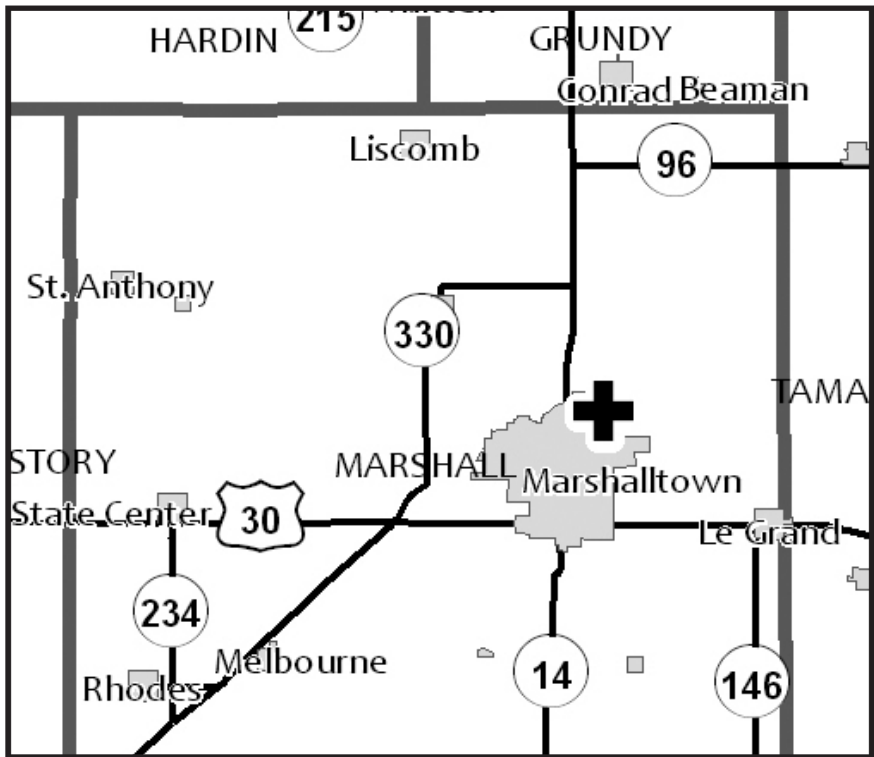
Club: Lakeview Off Road Riders

Web Site: www.lakeviewohv.com

Address: 3877 - 140th Street NE, Solon, Iowa 52333

DNR Park Ranger: Nick Rocca 319-330-9116

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.

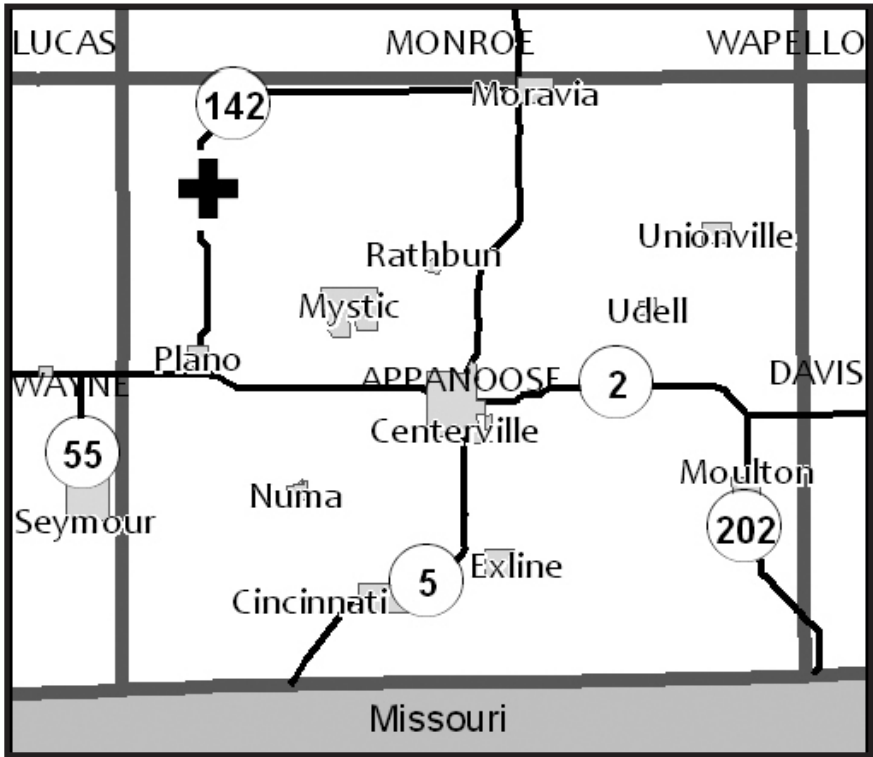
Iowa OHV Club: Iowa River OHV Club

Club Web Site: www.iowariverohvclub.com

Address: 2002 Marion Street, Marshalltown, Iowa 50158

DNR Park Manager: Roger Thompson 641-751-1268

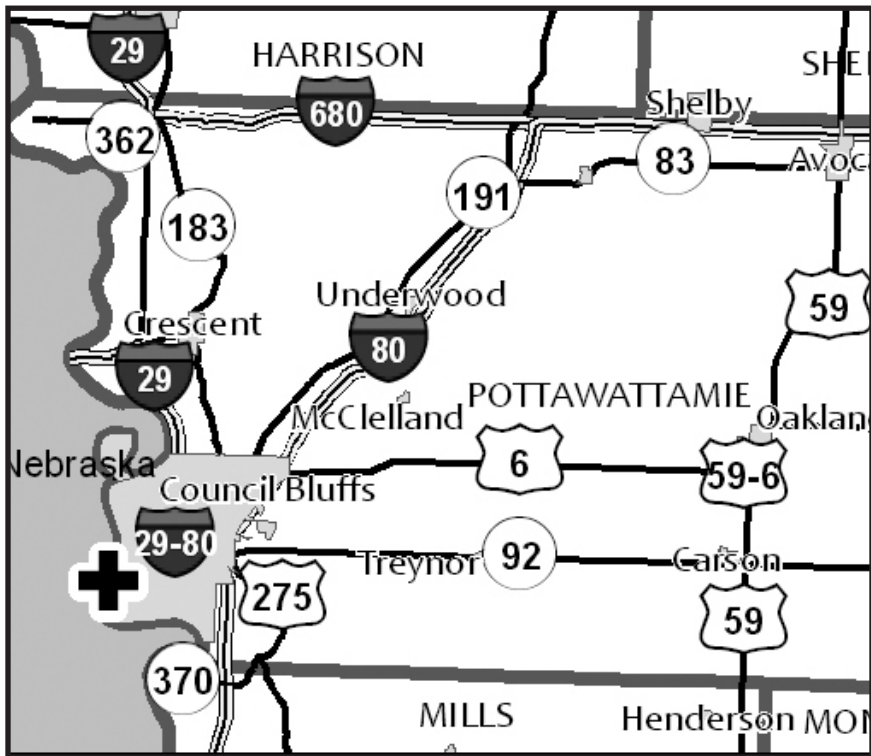
Rathbun OHV Park



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 Park Ranger: Christopher Hughes 641-895-2222

River Valley OHV Park



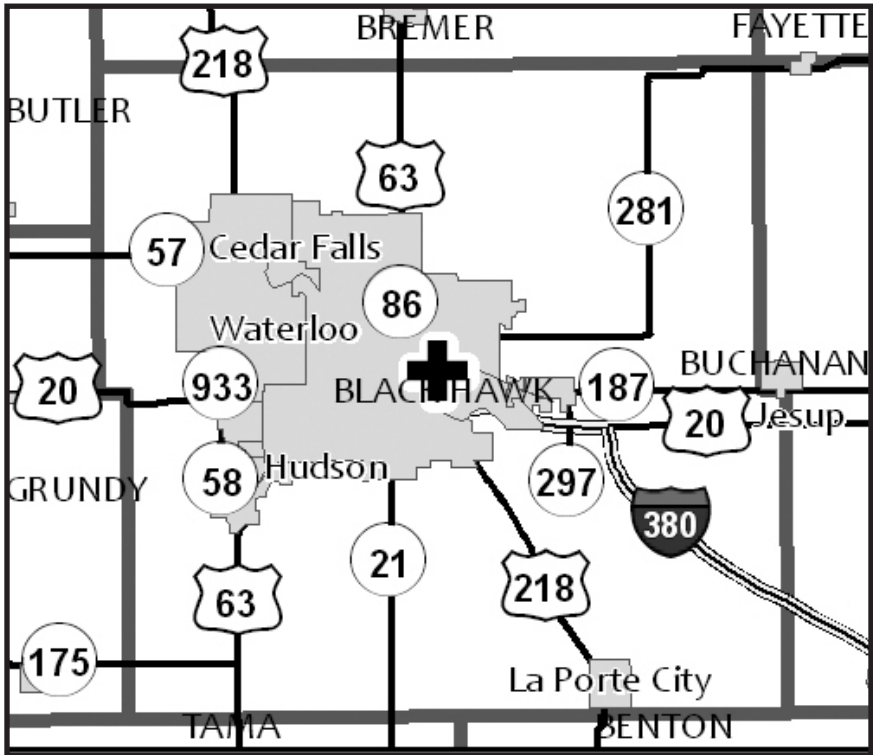
This is a 350-acre park located in Pottawattamie County along the Missouri River in Council Bluffs. The park features 23 miles of trail and a motorcross track.

Iowa OHV Club: River Valley Trail Riders

Club Web Site: <http://rvtr.org/>

DNR Park Ranger: Aaron Johnson 712-242-8131

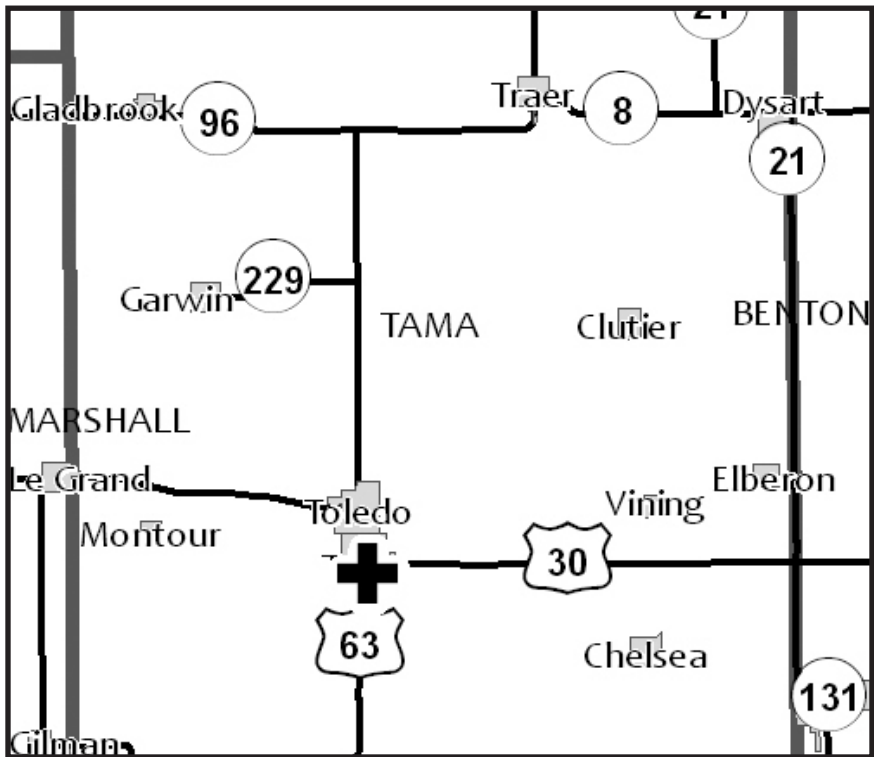
Riverview OHV Park



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 Park Ranger: Gary Dusenberry 313-269-5723

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 Park Manager: Roger Thompson 641-751-1268

Conservation Officer List

County	Officer	Phone
Adair	Grant Gelly	712-250-0303
Adams	Andrea Bevington	712-520-0508
Allamakee	Burt Walters	563-380-0801
Appanoose	Jacob Fulk	641-777-2164
	Dallas Davis	641-777-2163
Audubon	Jeremy King	641-891-2004
Benton	Ron Lane	319-350-2871
	Brett Reece	641-751-0931
Black Hawk	Mike Bonser	319-240-5034
	Dakota Drisch	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	Dakota Drisch	563-920-0566
Buena Vista	Brent Koppie	712-260-1010
Butler	Jordon Hansen	319-240-8033
Calhoun	Nathan Hauptert	712-330-8462
Carroll	Dan Pauley	515-370-0422
Cass	Grant Gelly	712-250-0303
Cedar	Eric Wright	319-530-6121
Cerro Gordo	Matt Washburn	641-425-0822
	Ben Bergman	641-425-0822
Cherokee	Brent Koppie	712-260-1010
	Chad Morrow	712-260-1023
Chickasaw	Marc Waterlander	319-240-6662
Clarke	Michael Miller	641-414-2174
Clay	Joe Yarkowski	712-260-1004
Clayton	Jerry Farmer	563-880-0422
Clinton	Lucas Webinger	563-357-1078
Crawford	Gary Sisco	712-420-1486
Dallas	Craig Lonneman	515-238-5005
	Dustin Eighmy	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

Conservation Officer List

County	Officer	Phone
Dubuque	Andrew Keil.....	563-590-1945
	Nate Johnson	563-590-1944
Emmet	Chris Subbert	712-260-1009
Fayette	Chris Jones	319-939-4448
Floyd	Eric Johnston.....	319-240-9174
Franklin	Jordon Hansen.....	319-240-8033
Fremont	Marlow Wilson	712-520-0506
Greene	Dan Pauley	515-370-0422
Grundy	Tyson Brown	641-751-5246
Guthrie	Jeremy King.....	712-250-0061
Hamilton	Joli Vollers	515-238-2047
Hancock	Ken Lonneman.....	641-425-0823
Hardin	Joli Vollers	515-238-2047
Harrison	Dave Tierney.....	712-249-2015
Henry	Dan Henderson.....	319-653-1636
Howard	Marc Waterlander.....	319-240-6662
Humboldt	Bill Spece	515-571-0127
Ida	Kirby Bragg.....	712-661-9237
Iowa	Brad Baker	319-430-1630
Jackson	Andrew Keil.....	563-590-1945
Jasper	Deb Vitko	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
Keokuk	Wesley Gould.....	641-660-3441
Kossuth	Virginia Schulte.....	712-260-1003
Lee	Ben Schlader	319-470-0788
Linn	Ron Lane.....	319-350-2871
Louisa	Lucas Dever.....	563-260-1225
Lucas	Kyle Jensen	641-414-2175
Lyon	Tait Anderson.....	712-260-1006
Madison	Craig Lonneman.....	515-238-5005
Mahaska	John Steinbach	641-660-0741
Marion	Eric Hoffman.....	641-891-2004
	Ken Kenyon	641-891-1246
Marshall	Tyson Brown	641-751-5246
Mills	Richard Price	712-520-0121
Mitchell	Eric Johnston.....	319-240-9174
Monona	Gary Sisco.....	712-420-1486

Conservation Officer List

County	Officer	Phone
Monroe	Jacob Fulk	641-777-2164
	Dallas Davis	641-777-2163
Montgomery	Adam Arnold	712-520-0507
Muscataine	Joe Fourdyce.....	563-260-1223
O'Brien	John Sells	712-260-1019
	Joe Yarkowski	712-260-1004
Osceola	Tait Anderson.....	712-260-1006
Page	Adam Arnold	712-520-0507
Palo Alto	Chris Subbert	712-260-1009
Plymouth	Chad Marrow	712-260-1023
Pocahontas	Nathan Haupert	712-330-8462
Polk	Dustin Eighmy.....	515-238-5006
	Nate Anderson.....	515-238-4849
Pottawattamie	Adam Gacke	712-520-5570
Poweshiek	John Steinbach	641-660-0741
Ringgold	Corey Carlton.....	641-414-2173
Sac	Kirby Bragg	712-661-9237
Scott	Jeff Harrison	563-349-9418
Shelby	Dave Tierney.....	712-249-2015
Sioux	John Sells	712-260-1019
	Brandon Bergquist	515-290-0177
Story	Matt Bruner	515-290-0527
	Brett Reece	641-751-0931
Tama	Andrea Bevington	712-520-0508
Taylor	Corey Carlton.....	641-414-2173
Union	Chris Flynn.....	641-919-9115
Van Buren	Bob Stuchel.....	641-777-2169
	Matt Rush	641-777-7805
Warren	Nate Anderson.....	515-238-4849
	Craig Cuts	515-238-4847
Washington	Wesley Gould.....	641-660-3441
Wayne	Kyle Jensen	641-414-2175
Webster	Bill Spece.....	515-571-0127
Winnebago	Vacant.....	641-425-0821
Winneshiek	Brian Roffman.....	563-380-0496
	Stacey Bragg	712-301-6735
Woodbury	Steven Griebel	712-301-4009
	Vacant.....	641-425-0821
Worth	Ken Lonneman.....	641-425-0823

Trail Signs



Stop
Ahead



Yield
Ahead



Intersection
Ahead



Trail
Marker



Bridge Markers



Trail Closures





Websites

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

www.iowadnr.gov

515-725-8200

Education Course Listings

www.iowadnr.gov/OHV
and Select ATV Education

Online Education Course Offering

www.ATVCourse.com

General OHV Information

www.iowadnr.gov/OHV

OHV Park Information

www.iowadnr.gov/OHVParks

