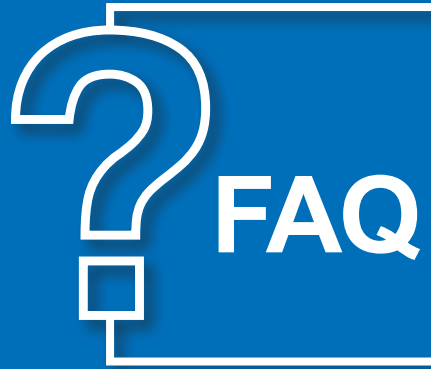




Holly Oaks ORV Park Frequently Asked Questions

October 21, 2022



Why Oakland County?

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) was tasked many years ago with developing an opportunity for legal, public off-road vehicle (ORV) recreation in southeastern Michigan. Oakland County has the highest number of licensed ORVs in the state, and residents purchase the highest number of MDNR ORV stickers, yet there are no legal riding areas in the county. A state-owned, county-operated, ORV park should encourage safe, legal riding and keep people from illegal riding on utility corridors, railways, and private land.

Oakland County also has several depleted sand and gravel mines that are unlikely to be redeveloped for residential or commercial use because of topography and noise created by I-75. The ORV Park site is a perfect complement to both the adjacent freeway and Dixie Highway, as well as the large swaths of nearby state land that are reserved for hunting, fishing, camping and non-motorized use.

How much money is Oakland County investing in this new park?

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund provided all the funding to acquire the 240 acres (nearly \$2 million). The State of Michigan has granted, via the ORV Trail Improvement Fund, more than \$500,000 for the design and development of the park. The park will be operated by Oakland County Parks and Recreation (OCPR).

After two and a half years of operation, Holly Oaks is well on its way toward the goal of becoming self-sustaining. The DNR and Oakland County Parks and Recreation have shared net revenue losses at the park. Any revenues over expense at the park will be held in a restricted account and re-invested back into the park. By the sixth year of operation, there is no anticipated expenditure of OCPR millage or other dollars to fund the operation of the park.

How does this park benefit Oakland County residents?

ORV enjoyment is not limited to one's residence, profession, income bracket, gender or ethnicity. Like state and federal lands, this ORV park is located where the landscape is most conducive to the recreational experience. The site is less than a 40-minute drive for most residents in Oakland County (and less than 90 minutes from most large urban centers in Southeast Michigan). This ORV park will be the closest public riding opportunity for all county residents.

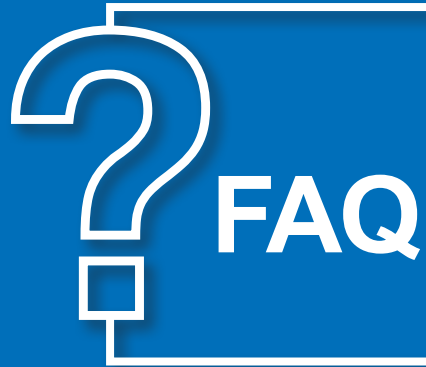
While ORV recreation doesn't appeal to everyone, the same could be said of many of the recreational activities promoted by OCPR including waterparks, horseback riding, nature centers, and golf. There are many forms of ORV recreation. This park has been designed to accommodate all ORV types and ORV rentals are available near the park to provide recreational experiences to those who may be interested in ORV but unable to, or uninterested in, making the investment in purchasing a vehicle.

Why is off-road vehicle recreation a priority for Oakland County Parks and Recreation? How are ORVs associated with health and wellness?

Michigan has had a long history of using motorized vehicles to enjoy its public lands and waters. Vehicles, ranging from pontoons to campers, have been used by residents of all ages and abilities to spend time out-of-doors, visit with family and friends, meet new and different people, and re-create themselves by escaping from the routine of work and our urban/suburban lives. For some, the feel of scaling a ridgeline from the seat of a Jeep is no less a matter of their health and wellness than a night spent in a cabin or relaxing in a tube on a river.

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WHO Can use the park?

Tickets may be purchased by those 18 and older. Children 12 and older with an ORV safety certificate issued by the state of Michigan (or another state) may operate an ATV or motorcycle at the park with direct supervision. Children ages 16-17 with a valid drivers license may operate full-size/street-legal vehicles within the park under adult (18+) supervision.

HOW much does it cost to use the park?

The park will charge a \$30 per vehicle entrance fee (per day). This fee will be transferrable between vehicles for those bringing out a few bikes or ATVs to use at the park, so long as only one is in the park at a time. Vehicles will also be required to have DNR ORV (\$26.25) and ORV Trail (\$10) stickers on their vehicles. Purchase of these stickers supports the DNR's ORV Trail Improvement grant program, for which Holly Oaks ORV Park is eligible to apply for future development funding.

A DNR Recreation Passport and OCPR Vehicle Permit will NOT be required.

When is the park open?

May-Sept.

Fri.: 2-8 p.m.

Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Oct.:

Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Nov.:

Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Dec.-Feb:

1 weekend per month

March-April:

2 weekends per month

Detailed park hours and dates are posted in our yearly calendar available on OaklandCountyParks.com

ORV PARK FACTS

- 240 acres – 170 is currently open for public riding; the remaining 70 acres will be open in phases through 2026
- Acquired by MDNR with a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
- Former sand and gravel mining operations located at I-75 and Grange Hall Road, adjacent to (west and south of) Mt. Holly Ski and Snowboard Resort
- Development funded through MDNR ORV Trail Improvement Fund
- Open to all types of ORVs – full-size, side-by-sides, ATVs/quads, motorcycles/dirt bikes – vehicles must have a muffler and be under 94 dB(A) sound level (at approximately half-throttle)
- Vehicles also require a high visibility flag to be mounted on all ORVs (in accordance with the MDNR requirements for flag size, shape, color, height, and mounting location)
- No MDNR Recreation Passport or OCPR Vehicle Permit required for entry – but MDNR ORV and trail stickers required, the daily vehicle entry fee will be \$30 (a youth rider rate and season pass are available)
- The park opened on September 17, 2020
- Operating agreement between OCPR and MDNR began January 1, 2020 and has a 20-year term and 10-year renewal option
- Holly Oaks ORV Park is the 14th park operated by Oakland County Parks and Recreation
- Expected to be self-sustaining prior to year-six of park operations
- No alcohol is allowed in the park or parking areas
- The park is patrolled by the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Parks Unit as well as DNR Conservation Officers
- Full list of rules can be found on the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Holly Oaks ORV Park Web page
- Holly Oaks ORV Park provides a range of experiences for riders/drivers of all abilities and interests
- The park features a range of surface types, extreme topography, challenge elements, and trails that vary in size, difficulty, and type (bi-directional and one-way)