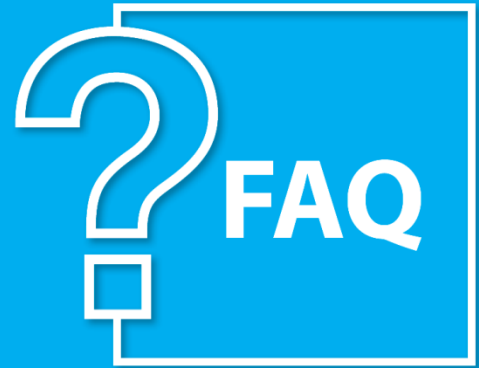


Oakland County ORV Park Frequently Asked Questions

April 2, 2019



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 percent of licensed ORVs in the state, and residents purchase the highest percent of MDNR ORV stickers, yet there are no legal riding areas in the county. A county-operated ORV park will 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 235 acres (nearly \$2 million). The State of Michigan is contributing \$185,000 in 2019 to the design and development of the park, and a grant of \$250,000 is anticipated for development of the park in 2020. The park is intended to be operated by Oakland County Parks and Recreation (OCPR), and has a projected operating budget of \$663,565 for the first year of operation, including \$204,940 from Planned Use of Balance.



The goal of the park, within the first few years, is to be self-sustaining. The MDNR has agreed to annually reimburse OCPR for 50% of any operating 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. Therefore, after the first few years of operation, there is no anticipated expenditure of OCPR millage or other dollars to fund the operation of the park.

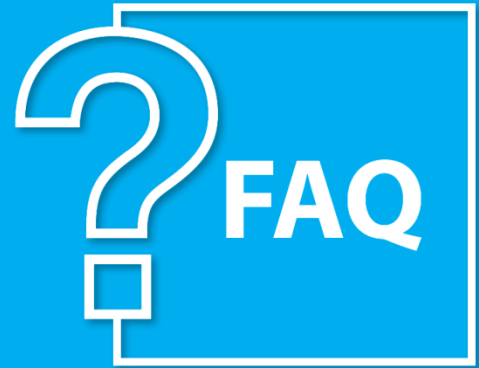
How does this park benefit Oakland County residents?

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 is being designed to accommodate all ORV types and several businesses are in the process of evaluating opportunities for ORV rentals and tours 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.

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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.

ORV PARK FACTS

- 235 acres – 113 open in 2020, remaining open by 2023
- Acquired by MDNR with a \$2.9M 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
- Development funded through MDNR ORV grant program
- Open to all types of ORVs – full-size jeeps and trucks, side-by-sides, ATVs/quads, motorcycles/dirt bikes
- No MDNR Recreation Passport or OCPR Vehicle Permit required for entry – but MDNR ORV stickers required, and daily entry fee will be charged per vehicle (\$15-\$25/vehicle)
- MDNR is contracting with Mt. Holly Ski and Snowboard Resort to utilize its parking lot, ticketing area and restrooms during their off season, saving OCPR and MDNR hundreds of thousands of dollars in capital development
- OCPR and MDNR are working with ROWE Professional Services for park design and phasing plan

- A series of test events will be held in 2019 by MDNR for planning and public engagement
- Construction scheduled for spring 2020; estimated park opening July 2020
- Operating agreement with 20-year term and 10-year renewal, begins January 1, 2020
- Will become the 14th Oakland County Park, operated in partnership with the MDNR
- MDNR will cover 50% of any potential operating losses
- Expected to be self-sustaining after initial launch (by year four)
- Request for Proposals released mid-March to invite the business community to partner with OCPR and/or invest in park development

