

# Holly Oaks Park Plan and Standards Manual

## Appendix I. ORV Park Feature Descriptions

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## Introduction

Holly Oaks ORV Park was created from two depleted sand and gravel mines. In order to determine what aspects of the mines should be kept, modified, or replaced, it was important to understand what types of experiences are desired by ORV drivers and their passengers. This understanding was made possible through the generous participation of the diverse group of ORV enthusiasts who comprise the Stakeholder Advisory Team. For a record of the Team's discussions, see Appendix A.

Also important to the design process has been the experience gained from four private events that were held on-site. These events were made possible through special use agreements with the Department of Natural Resources. Although these events were not hosted by OCPD, we were able to collect detailed surveys from participants at the first three of the events. The events and dates were:

- Ironman Invitational – 12/1/2018
- Frozen Mines – 2/23/2019
- Bent Wheels – 5/11/2019
- Detroit 4Fest – 9/14/2019

With the expertise of the Stakeholder Advisory Team and the experience from the private events, the features of the park have been built, tested, modified, and (in some cases) replaced by other features or abandoned entirely. This process resulted in the current design of the ORV Park and the features that exist in the park now. The ORV features are based on the type of ORV driving that can be accommodated at each location. The areas have been shaped according to existing topography, design best practices (to reduce potential user conflict, manage soil erosion, and accommodate drainage), operational/maintenance concerns, and the desire to create opportunities for all vehicle types and driving abilities.

The various features of the park are categorized as follows:

1. ORV Adventure Areas
  - a. Open Access
  - b. Controlled Access
2. Roads, Routes and Trails
  - a. Roads
  - b. ORV Routes
  - c. ORV Challenge Routes
  - d. Trails
    - i. Closed Course
    - ii. Endurance Trail
    - iii. 50" Single-Track
    - iv. 24" Single-Track
3. Parking and Guest Services
4. Maintenance Areas

## ORV Adventure Areas

Adventure Areas are broken down into two general types as follows.

### Open Access

These areas are generally accessible at any point from the adjacent Road or ORV Route and the driver decides how they want to make use of the area and its features and obstacles within the capabilities of their vehicles and own abilities.

- [Base Camp](#)
- [The Big Easy](#)
- [The Bottoms](#)
- [Mt. Magna](#)
- [The Oasis](#)
- [Roxor Ridge](#)
- [Slop Town](#)
- [Trial Run](#)
- [The Troubles](#)

### Controlled Access

Controlled access areas have designated entrance and exit locations. Controlled access adventure areas can accommodate higher speeds on certain ORV features help reduce potential user conflicts. On the attached map, controlled access areas are designated by dotted boundaries. Signage and associated barriers may be needed to ensure controlled access on the site.

- [Badger Head](#)
- [Borderlands Straight Run](#)
- [Darlene's Ridge](#)
- [Flat Top](#)
- [Holly Glen](#)
- [Rim Runner](#)
- [The Sandbox](#)
- [The School Yard](#)
- [VIP Overlook](#)

## Roads, Routes and Trails

Roads, ORV routes and trails are how you get around the park. They are limited by the purpose of the route

### Roads

Roads will be maintained according to guidelines established for remote gravel park roads (depicted on the map as a wide brown line – 24' width to scale). Currently only two named roads have been identified: The Haul Road and the Mt. Holly Entrance Drive. Trailer access is not permitted on The Haul Road (except for licensed towing services permitted by Oakland County Park or those covered under special events use agreements). Motorcycle and ATV access is not permitted on the Mt. Holly Entrance Drive. Speed limits will be signed and enforced on the Roads. (The design specification of a standard park gravel road may be adjusted to accommodate the use of asphalt millings to provide "all-weather" stability and reduce dust/maintenance costs.)

- [Haul Road](#)
- [Mt. Holly Entrance Drive](#)

**ORV Routes**

ORV routes will be managed under the guidelines of MDNR ORV Routes, maintained with an operational tread of 96", bi-directional, open to all vehicle types, with enforced speed limits. Unless otherwise posted, ORV routes have a posted maximum speed. Routes are depicted on the map as solid brown lines 96" to scale. (One existing main Routes have been named at this time. Skyline Drive is the Route that creates access to the northern experience areas.

- [ORV Route](#)

**ORV Challenge Routes**

Routes designated as "Challenge Routes" are depicted on the map as dashed-brown lines. Challenge routes provide access through and help orient visitors in the adventure areas. Challenge routes are maintained according to guidelines that would make them accessible to most stock ORVs. Drivers are still responsible for determining the capabilities of their vehicles and their own abilities, but the challenge routes may be a good way for visitors to expand their Off-Road experience before truly "picking your off-road adventure". ORV Challenge Routes are located in the followed ORV Adventure Areas:

- [The Bottoms](#)
- [Mt. Magna](#)

**Trails**

Trails will be managed as unidirectional. The general rule of "you can run if you can fit" applies to trails like all other ORV features on this site. Trails are, however, divided into three general categories and depicted on the map as follows:

Closed Course: 24' operational width; completely contained within controlled access areas; single entrance/exit points; access by vehicle type will alternate on an hourly basis and will be managed by locked/sliding gatekeepers (if a driver enters the closed course when the access gate is lock in a configuration that accommodates vehicles larger than the one he/she is operating, that driver demonstrating the intent to pursue the experience of running alongside larger vehicles and accept the risk of doing so). Speed limits are posted. Closed Courses are in the following ORV Adventure Areas:

- [Holly Glen](#)
- [The Sandbox](#)

Endurance: 96" operational width; no controlled access to/from the Endurance Trail (unless otherwise limited by proximity to a Controlled Access Experience Area); speed limits are posted. The Endurance Trail can be accessed from most Open Access ORV Adventure Areas.

50" Single Track: 50" operational width; contained within controlled access experience areas; gatekeepers to restrict access to 50" and under; speed limits are posted. 50" Single Track is in the following ORV Adventure Areas:

- [Rim Runner](#)
- [The School Yard](#)

24" Single Track: 24" operational width; contained within controlled access experience areas; gatekeepers to restrict access to 24" and under; speed limits are posted. 24" Single Track is in the following ORV Adventure Areas:

- [Darlene's Ridge](#)



## ORV Park Feature Descriptions

### BADGER HEAD

**Area Type:** ORV Adventure Area/Controlled Access

**Access:** Entrance/exit from The Pit Stop

**Terrain:** Clay plateau with steep slopes

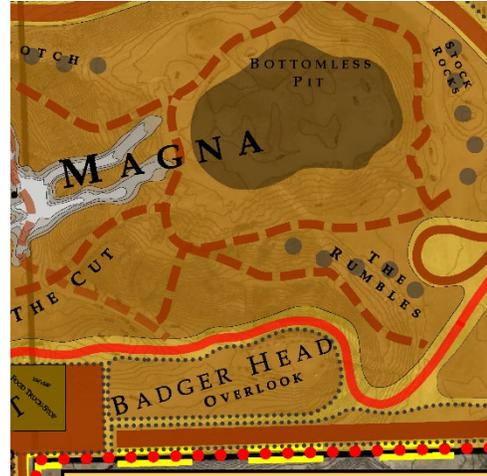
**Users:** Open to all vehicle types

**ORV Features:**

- Overlook with Parking
- Proposed pavilion or tent

**Other Characteristics:**

- Funding Opportunity: Development of overlook and construction of pavilion/tent
- Photo Opportunity: Excellent views of surrounding adventure areas
- Other: Proposed location for partner and sponsor recognition



### BASE CAMP

**Area Type:** ORV Adventure Area/Open Access

**Access:** Open; Access point to 2 single-track trails on Darlene's Ridge and Endurance Trail

**Terrain:** Sand bowl with level base

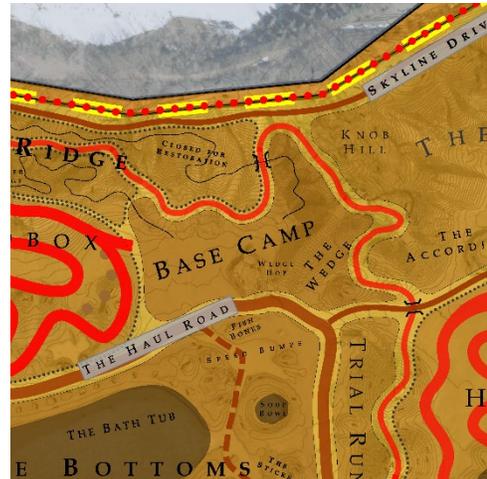
**Users:** Open to all vehicle types

**ORV Features:**

- The Wedge Hill Climb
- Wedge Hop Crawl
- Fire Ring

**Other Characteristics:**

- Funding Opportunity
- Photo Opportunity



### The BIG EASY

**Area Type:** ORV Adventure Area/Open Access

**Access:** Open

**Terrain:** Steep sand/gravel slopes with severe washouts

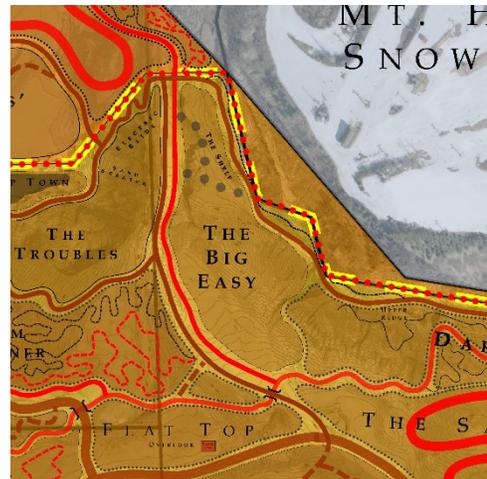
**Users:** Open to all vehicle types

**ORV Features:**

- The Washouts
- Hill Climb
- The Shelf Canyons

**Other Characteristics:**

- Funding Opportunity: Development of The Shelf Canyons
- Photo Opportunity



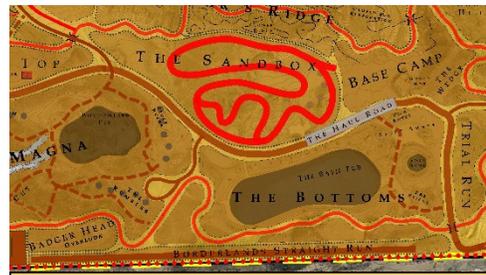
**BORDERLANDS STRAIGHT RUN**

Area Type: ORV Adventure Area/Controlled Access  
Access: Entrance from The Pit Stop, exit onto The Haul Road at Trial Run  
Terrain: Clay loam straight course constructed on rolling hills with fragile vegetation cover  
Users: Open to all vehicle types  
ORV Features:  
 ■ 24' Straight Course with rolling hills and obstacles  
Other Characteristics:  
 Funding Opportunity: Development of straight course  
 Photo Opportunity



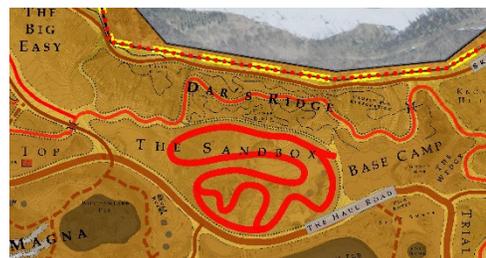
**The BOTTOMS**

Area Type: ORV Adventure Area/Open Access  
 Roads, Routes and Trails/ORV Challenge Route  
Access: Open  
Terrain: Clay/cobble base with permanent water features and seasonally flooded challenge routes  
Users: Open to all vehicle types  
ORV Features:  
 ■ Fish Bones Crawl  
 ■ Bathtub Water Feature  
 ■ Soup Bowl Water Feature  
 ■ Speed Bumps Crawl  
 ■ The Sticks Crawl  
 ■ ORV Challenge Routes (96")  
Other Characteristics:  
 Funding Opportunity  
 Photo Opportunity



**DARLENE'S RIDGE**

Area Type: ORV Adventure Area/Controlled Access  
Access: Gatekeeper access from Base Camp and Endurance Trail  
Terrain: Steep sand/gravel slopes with fragile vegetation and dense tree cover  
Users: Motorcycles only  
ORV Features: Two 24" single-track trails running along the ridge are separated by Endurance Trail and do not intersect; each provides a very different experience from the other  
 ■ Upper Ridge: Tight, windy with dense vegetation  
 ■ Lower Ridge: Extremely steep  
Other Characteristics:  
 Funding Opportunity  
 Photo Opportunity



**DIXIE LEDGE PARKING AREA**

Area Type: Parking and Guest Services

Access: Seasonal access from Mt. Holly Access Road (April through October); winter access from Shields Road

Terrain: Broad plateau with asphalt millings

Users: Priority parking for ATV and motorcycle hauling and unloading. Used for all vehicle types in winter (when Mt. Holly Parking Area is not in use)

ORV Features: NA

Other Characteristics:

- Funding Opportunity: Contact station, automatic gates, utility connections
- Photo Opportunity: Views of Holly Glenn and The Oasis
- Other: Portable toilets, contact station (with point-of-sale and vehicle check station), ORV riding area entrance and ORV rental parking area



**FLAT TOP**

Area Type: ORV Adventure Area/Controlled Access

Access: Access from The Haul Road and The Endurance Trail

Terrain: Level plateau with steep erodible sides

Users: Open to all vehicle types

ORV Features:

- Overlook with parking and pavilion/tent

Other Characteristics:

- Funding Opportunity: Pavilion/tent
- Photo Opportunity: 360° views of ORV riding area



**The HAUL ROAD**

Area Type: Roads, Routes and Trails/Road

Access: Connects to The Funnel; access to adventure areas varies on whether the area is Pick Your Own Adventure or Controlled Access Adventure

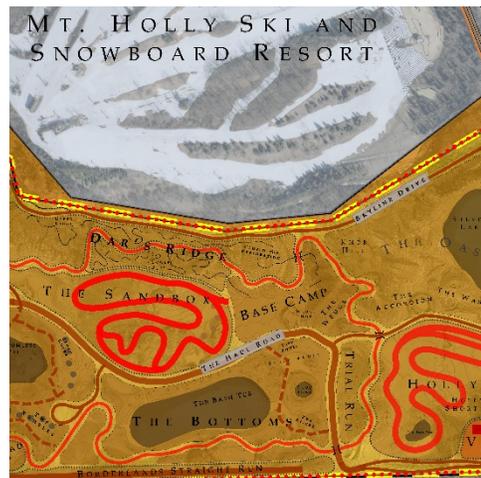
Terrain: Slope is less than 10%; consistent surface of road gravel

Users: Open to all vehicle types

ORV Features: NA

Other Characteristics:

- Funding Opportunity
- Photo Opportunity



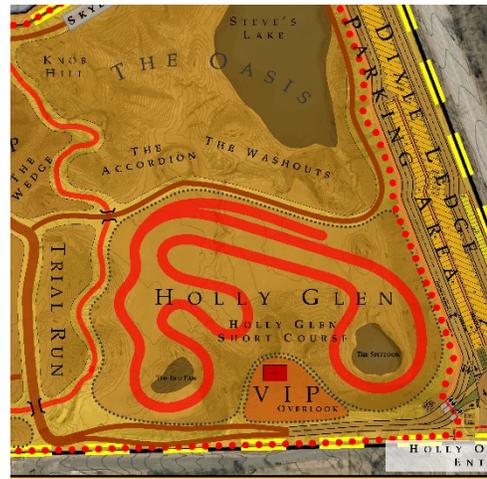
**HOLLY GLEN**

**Area Type:** ORV Adventure Area/Controlled Access  
**Access:** Entrance/exit from single point below Dixie Ledge Parking  
**Terrain:** Clay loam short course constructed on rolling hills with fragile vegetation cover  
**Users:** Open to all vehicle types; Short course may have time slots for different vehicle types  
**ORV Features:**

- 24' Short Course
- The Bed Pan Drainage Pond – no ORV access
- The Spittoon Drainage Pond – no ORV access

**Other Characteristics:**

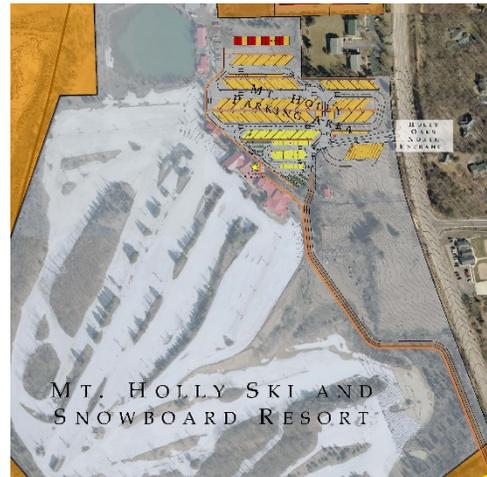
Funding Opportunity  
 Photo Opportunity: Views of jumps and Talladega Turn within Short Course



**MT. HOLLY ENTRANCE DRIVE**

**Area Type:** Roads, Routes and Trails/Road  
**Access:** Provides controlled access into ORV Park; Will be open in summer and shoulder seasons, whenever parking is provided at Mt. Holly  
**Users:** Open to all vehicle types  
**Terrain:** NA  
**ORV Features:** NA  
**Other Characteristics:**

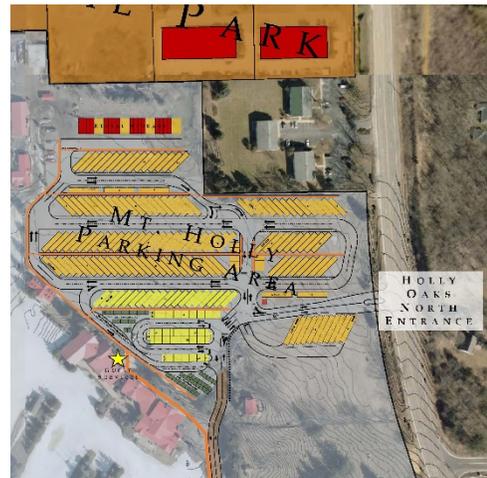
Funding Opportunity  
 Photo Opportunity  
 Other: Pedestrian access between Mt. Holly and Dixie Ledge parking areas



**MT. HOLLY PARKING AREA**

**Area Type:** Parking and Guest Services  
**Access:** Accessed from Dixie; used when Mt. Holly Ski Area is closed (April-October)  
**Users:** Open to street-legal full-size and side by side units and/or ORV trailers (no use or unloading of motorcycles and ATVs allowed).  
**Terrain:** Asphalt parking lot and grass parking areas (overflow)  
**ORV Features:** NA  
**Other Characteristics:**

Funding Opportunity  
 Photo Opportunity  
 Other: Access to Guest Services in Mt. Holly Lodge, includes point-of-sale and flush toilets



**MT. MAGNA**

Area Type: ORV Adventure Area/Open Access

Access: Accessed via The Haul Road and ORV Route

Terrain: Heavy clay with steep vegetated slopes and ponded water

Users: Open to all vehicle types

ORV Features:

- Bottomless Pit Water Feature
- Magna Peak Shotcrete Overlook and Crawl
- Stock Rocks and Tire Crawl
- The Cut Canyon
- The Notch Crawl
- The Rumbles Crawl
- ORV Challenge Routes (96")

Other Characteristics:

- Funding Opportunity: Development of Magna Peak and The Cut
- Photo Opportunity: Views from Magna Peak



**The OASIS**

Area Type: ORV Adventure Area/Open Access

Access: Access by Skyline Drive ORV Route and the Endurance Trail

Terrain: Steep erodible sand/gravel slopes surrounding permanent water feature; irregular washouts with cobbles

Users: Open to all vehicle types

ORV Features:

- Steve's Lake Water Feature – no ORV access
- Knob Hill Woodlot
- Horsepower Hill Climb
- Sand Wedge Hill Climb
- The Washouts

Other Characteristics:

- Funding Opportunity
- Photo Opportunity



**ORV Route**

Area Type: Roads, Routes and Trails/ORV Route

Access: Accessible via The Haul Road and runs throughout the ORV Park providing access to the adventure areas

Users: Open to all vehicle types

ORV Features: 96" wide bi-directional; suitable for all vehicle types; speed limits enforced

- Skyline Drive on north side of property
- Other named routes may be identified

Other Characteristics:

- Funding Opportunity
- Photo Opportunity



**PIT STOP**

Area Type: Parking and Guest Services

Access: Accessed from The Haul Road and Endurance Trail

Terrain: Level plateau with road gravel surface

Users: Open to all vehicle types

ORV Features:

- Food Truck Stop
- Shanty Town Rental and Retail Area

Other Characteristics:

- Funding Opportunity: Opportunity for vendor
- Photo Opportunity
- Other: Also provides access to park maintenance area and corporate rental area



**RIM RUNNER**

Area Type: ORV Adventure Area/Controlled Access

Access: Accessed via ORV Routes and Endurance Trail

Terrain: Heavy clay with low grassland vegetation

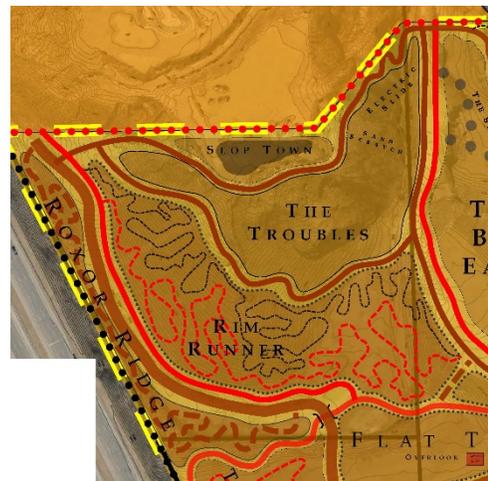
Users: Open to motorcycles and ATVs only

ORV Features:

- 24" single track for motorcycles only
- 50" single track for motorcycles and ATVs

Other Characteristics:

- Funding Opportunity
- Photo Opportunity



**ROXOR RIDGE**

Area Type: ORV Adventure Area/Open Access

Access: Accessed via The Haul Road

Terrain: Heavy clay, steep slopes and mature tree line

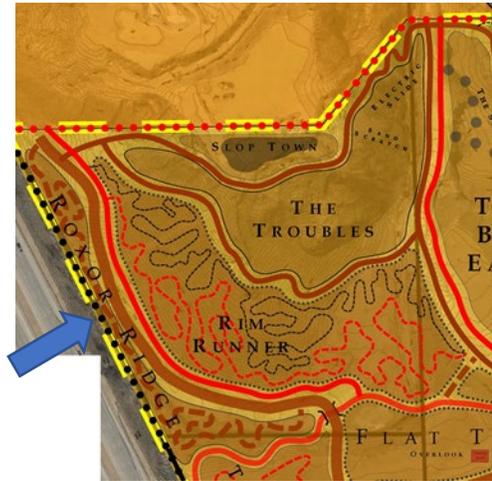
Users: Open to all vehicle types

ORV Features:

- 96" ORV Challenge Route
- Proposed shotcrete feature

Other Characteristics:

- Funding Opportunity: Development of shotcrete feature
- Photo Opportunity



**The SANDBOX**

Area Type: ORV Adventure Area/Controlled Access

Access: Accessed via Base Camp

Terrain: Sand/gravel and rolling hills, lightly vegetated

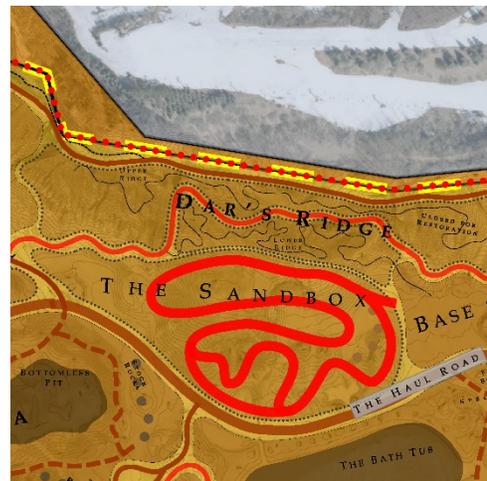
Users: Open to all vehicle types; Short course may have time slots for different vehicle types

ORV Features:

- Short course

Other Characteristics:

- Funding Opportunity
- Photo Opportunity



**The SCHOOL YARD**

Area Type: ORV Adventure Area/Controlled Access

Access: Entrance/exit off The Haul Road

Terrain: Heavy clay, level, sparsely vegetated

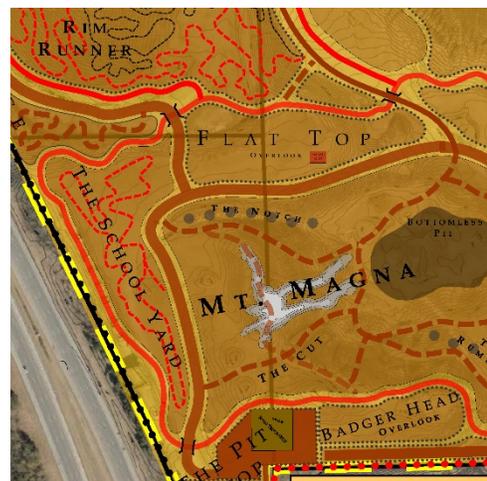
Users: Open to motorcycles and ATVs (youth riders) only

ORV Features:

- Youth Motorcycle/ATV Course

Other Characteristics:

- Funding Opportunity: Development of course
- Photo Opportunity



**SLOP TOWN**

Area Type: ORV Adventure Area/Open Access

Access: Accessed via ORV Route

Terrain: Imported organic soils with seasonal ponding

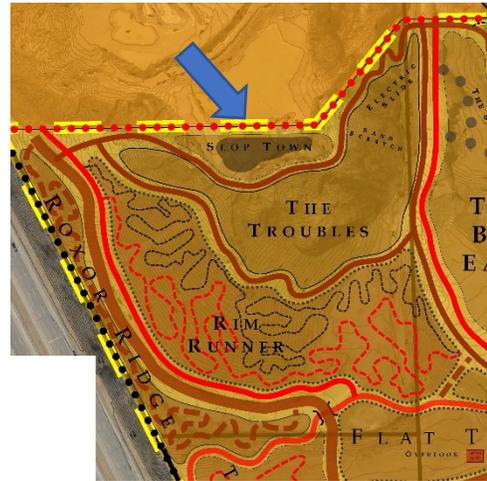
Users: Open to all vehicle types

ORV Features:

- Mud bog

Other Characteristics:

- Funding Opportunity
- Photo Opportunity



**TRIAL RUN**

Area Type: ORV Adventure Area/Open Access

Access: Accessed via The Haul Road

Terrain: Silt piles, sparsely vegetated

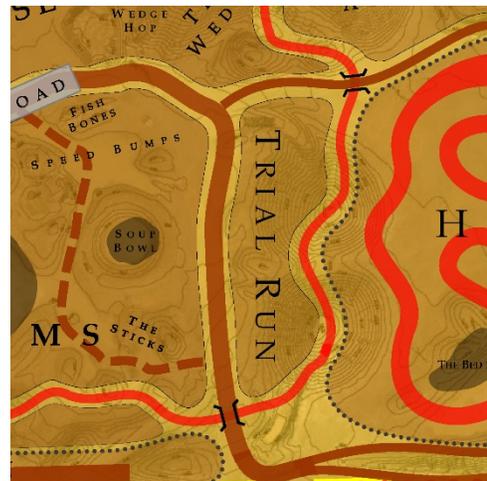
Users: Open to all vehicle types; ideal for trials bike and rock crawlers

ORV Features:

- Trial Run Crawl

Other Characteristics:

- Funding Opportunity
- Photo Opportunity



**The TROUBLES**

Area Type: ORV Adventure Area/Open Access

Access: Accessed via ORV Route

Terrain: Heavy clay, steep slopes, ponded water, sparsely vegetated

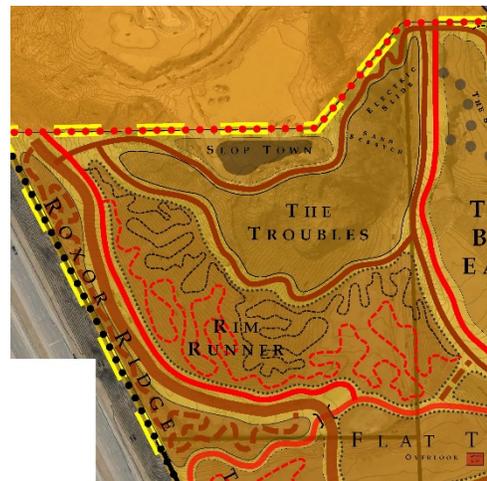
Users: Open to all vehicle types; ideal for technical crawling on steep slopes

ORV Features:

- Open area with steep slopes, sloughs and washouts

Other Characteristics:

- Funding Opportunity
- Photo Opportunity



VIP OVERLOOK

Area Type: ORV Adventure Area/Controlled Access

Access: Access from The Haul Road

Terrain: Level plateau with steep erodible sides

Users: Open to all vehicle types

ORV Features:

- Overlook with parking and pavilion or tent

Other Characteristics:

- Funding Opportunity: Pavilion or tent
- Photo Opportunity: 360° views of ORV riding area

