



Department of Natural Resources SILVER LAKE STATE PARK OFF-ROAD VEHICLE AREA

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Off-roading can be fun and exciting for the whole family. Make it a safe experience for yourself and other park visitors. Please follow the rules that have been made for everyone's safety and security. Sand dunes are subject to rapid topographic changes resulting from wind and erosion. Be alert for steep inclines, changing slopes, natural hazards, and/or sudden drop-offs. Always operate your vehicle at a safe speed and in a safe manner.

GENERAL RULES

There are several general rules that apply to all operators using the Silver Lake Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Area. Specific vehicle regulations and requirements follow the general rules section.

- The Off-Road Vehicle Area is open each year April 1 through October 31
 - April 1 – April 30 and September 16 – October 31, it is open 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 - May 1 – September 15, it is open 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
 - Access to the ORV Area and dunes is stopped ½ hour ahead of closing time every evening.
- Current vehicle permits are required on all vehicles using the area.
 - All motor vehicles entering the Park must display a Michigan Recreation Passport
 - All motor vehicles entering the Sand Dunes must **also** display a Michigan ORV Registration and ORV Trail Permit
- Entry Vouchers are required on summer weekends and holidays.
- No alcoholic beverages are allowed throughout the year in and around the ORV Area
- Operate vehicles only within the dune area marked with orange boundary markers.
- Obey Directional Traffic Zone signage. No north-bound traffic in high dune areas
- Rectangular, safety orange flags reaching 10-foot in height is required on all ORVs.
- Michigan Child Passenger Safety Law in effect in ORV Area
- Emergency strobe, flashing, rotating and/or blinking lights and sirens are prohibited.
- Helmets are required to operate ATVs and motorcycles in parking lot as well as in dunes.
- Special regulations for unlicensed and young operators
- Headlight(s), taillight(s), and brake light(s) required on vehicles ½ hour after sunset.
- Please report accidents, injuries, and/or emergencies to State Park Personnel or 911

Off-road riding and driving can be dangerous

DRIVE SAFELY!!!

VEHICLE REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Specific vehicle equipment regulations and requirements are covered by the current Department of Natural Resources Land Use Order of the Director (LUOD) for Silver Lake State Park. Additionally, no person shall operate a vehicle in violation of any provision of Part 811, Off-Road Recreational Vehicles, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being Section 324.81101 to 324.81150 of the Michigan Compiled Laws. The current LUOD reads in part:

By authority conferred on the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by Section 504 of the Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.504, and in accordance with R 299.921 to R 299.933, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources orders the following:

5.9 Silver Lake state park ORV area, conditions for use, prohibited conduct.

Order 5.9 State lands of Silver Lake SP posted as the ORV area:

- (1) A person shall not do any of the following:
 - (a) Possess or consume an alcoholic beverage at any time in the ORV Area, ORV Voucher Center Area, or any area extending one-quarter of a mile from the boundary of the ORV area.
 - (b) Leave a vehicle, trailer, or other equipment or contrivance unattended in the ORV Voucher Center Area at any time without first obtaining written permission from the Department.
 - (c) Operate a remote-controlled device within the ORV Area.
 - (d) Utilize any color of flashing lights on or attached to a vehicle, except for manufactured installed hazard lights.
 - (e) Utilize a rental vehicle in the ORV area, except for those permitted for use pursuant to Administrative Rule 299.922(dd). This prohibition does not apply to owned, financed or leased personal vehicles.
- (2) A person may do the following, at their own risk, from a half hour before sunrise and until a half hour after sunset:
 - (a) From November 1st until November 30th each year access the ORV area for the use of equestrian riding after securing the required permit from the Department. Normal use of the pedestrian parking lot by motorized vehicles and trailers for parking shall be allowed.
 - (b) From December 15th until March 15th each year access the ORV area for the use of fat tire bikes. Normal use of the pedestrian parking lot by motorized vehicles for parking shall be allowed.
 - (i) The uses identified above do not allow for any of the following:
 - (a) Disturbance of the land beyond normal use of equestrians or tire tread by peddling.
 - (b) Disturbance of any vegetation.
 - (c) Access through or beyond the roped or signed protected areas.
 - (d) Use of a motorized vehicle in the ORV area, except for use by the department or vehicles used by volunteers authorized by the department.

9.19 Off-road vehicles, Silver Lake State Park ORV Area, conditions for use, prohibited conduct.

Order 9.19 A person shall not do any of the following on all state lands of Silver Lake State Park posted as the ORV Area, Oceana county:

- (1) Operate an ORV from November 1 through March 31.
- (2) Operate an ORV from April 1 through April 30 between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.
- (3) Operate an ORV from May 1 through September 15 between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.
- (4) Operate an ORV from September 16 through October 31 between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.
- (5) Operate any motor vehicle with four or more wheels that does not contain a seat and individual seat belt for

each occupant of that vehicle. Those vehicles with automotive-type seating and fewer than four wheels shall be equipped with a seat belt for each occupant. Vehicle operators shall comply with the provisions of the Michigan child passenger safety law, MCL 257.710d, and all of the following provisions:

- (a) Seat belts shall be in use by all occupants while the vehicle is in operation.
 - (b) An approved automotive manufactured restraining device, such as a lap belt or three- or four- point harness, is an acceptable seat belt.
 - (c) Seat belts and restraining devices, other than factory installed, shall be secured by bolting to the vehicle floor, frame, or roll bar.
 - (d) Any vehicle on which the operator straddles the seat, such as a motorcycle or an all-terrain vehicle (ATV), will be limited to the operator only as the sole occupant and no seat belt will be required.
- (6) Operate a vehicle requiring seat belts where an occupant in the rear seat is not protected by a roll bar located immediately behind the occupant's seat as described in subsection (8) unless the rear seat occupants are wearing a safety approved for automotive use (A.N.S.I. or equal) helmet. The operator or occupant of a vehicle not required to meet seat belt specifications shall wear a safety helmet approved for automotive use (A.N.S.I. or equal) and protective eyewear.
- (7) Operate a vehicle requiring seat belts without a warning flag mounted and extending over the front- most portion of the vehicle. Vehicles not requiring seat belts shall mount the warning flag on the rear of the vehicle. Vehicle operators shall comply with all of the following requirements:
- (a) The warning flag shall be mounted on a staff that is securely bolted, welded, or secured to the vehicle. The warning flag shall maintain a minimum 10-foot height at standstill and a minimum 8-foot height under motion.
 - (b) The warning flag shall be mounted on the top-most end of the staff. The flag shall be rectangular, international orange in color, solid material, with a minimum length on the supporting side of five inches and a minimum length on the base side of 10 inches.
- (8) Operate a vehicle requiring seat belts that is not equipped with an integral steel roof, or roll bar located immediately behind the operator, or roll cage, capable of supporting the weight of the vehicle. The operator and occupants of a vehicle without a full front windshield shall wear protective eyewear. The operator of a vehicle equipped with a roll bar shall comply with all the following requirements:
- (a) The roll bar shall be welded or bolted to the floor or frame of the vehicle.
 - (b) The roll bar shall be braced in such a manner as to prevent collapse.
 - (c) The roll bar shall have clearance above, behind, and outside each seated occupant in the vehicle.
- (9) Fail to submit to any of the following tests, or operate any vehicle that does not comply with all of the following:
- (a) Vehicles shall be equipped with a muffler and spark arrester containing baffles, shall meet the muffler and spark arrester requirements specified in subsection (g) of section 81133 of Part 811, Off-Road Recreational Vehicles, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.81133(g), and shall successfully pass a muffler and spark arrester baffle test.
 - (b) A maximum noise level of 94 dB(A), or the current EPA emissions limit, shall be met. The testing provisions of current SAE J 1287, June 93 standard for ATV and motorcycle vehicles and SAE J 1169, March 93 for all other vehicles shall be followed and all vehicles shall pass a stationary sound level test. The stationary sound level test shall be administered from a 0.5- meter (19.69 inches) distance at one-half the engine's maximum rated RPM and as further described by current testing provisions for the particular vehicle.
- (10) Operate any vehicle at any time without possessing a valid unrestricted operator's or chauffeur's license, except as follows:
- (a) A person at least 12 years of age with an ORV safety certificate issued by this state or another state or a province of Canada may operate either an ATV or motorcycle with direct visual supervision by an adult. The direct supervision shall not be impaired by distance and must allow the adult the ability to direct the youth's actions by verbal communications. Electronic amplification of verbal communications shall not

be used.

(b) An adult shall not allow an unlicensed youth to operate an ORV.

(c) An ORV operator licensed under a level two graduated driver's license shall only operate under the provisions of that license.

(11) Operate any type of vehicle and fail to present an operator's or chauffeur's license or ORV safety training certificate upon the demand of any law enforcement officer or state park personnel.

(12) Enter or use the ORV area without complying with all posted regulatory, zoning, or directional signs, or operate a vehicle except in the directional pattern established and marked within the ORV area.

(13) Enter or use the ORV Area without obtaining and displaying a valid ORV area parking lot voucher or dune ready voucher at any time when such requirement is posted.

(14) Operate any vehicle while towing a contrivance other than a disabled vehicle or trailer or tow a vehicle or trailer on other than the designated parking lot or paved entrance road without first obtaining proper written permission from the department. Passengers shall not occupy any trailer or disabled vehicle while it is being towed.

(15) Drive or operate any motor driven vehicle at speeds exceeding posted speed limits or perform exhibition-type driving within the parking area or entrance road/ramp to the ORV area, or the defined speed zone along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Exhibition-type driving means performing wheelies, spinning tires, cutting circles, jump starts, or other erratic or irresponsible or careless driving.

(16) Operate an ORV that is not titled.

VEHICLE TOWING OUTSIDE THE STATE PARK

The Michigan Motor Vehicle Code and the Michigan Compiled Laws state that:

1. Vehicles may only be towed using a ridged towing bar that includes safety chains – MCL 257.721(3)
2. Tow only one vehicle or trailer at any time – MCL 257.721(5)
3. Vehicle operators must have the proper operator's or chauffeur's license – MCL 257.301(1)
4. In some cases, reflectors or stop light are required on the towed trailer or vehicle – MCL 257.688(1)(f)

These rules apply to all Oceana County and State of Michigan roadways and are in effect inside the State Park until one passes the main entrance/fee collection booth.

For additional details, please contact:

Michigan State Police – Hart Post: 231-873-2171

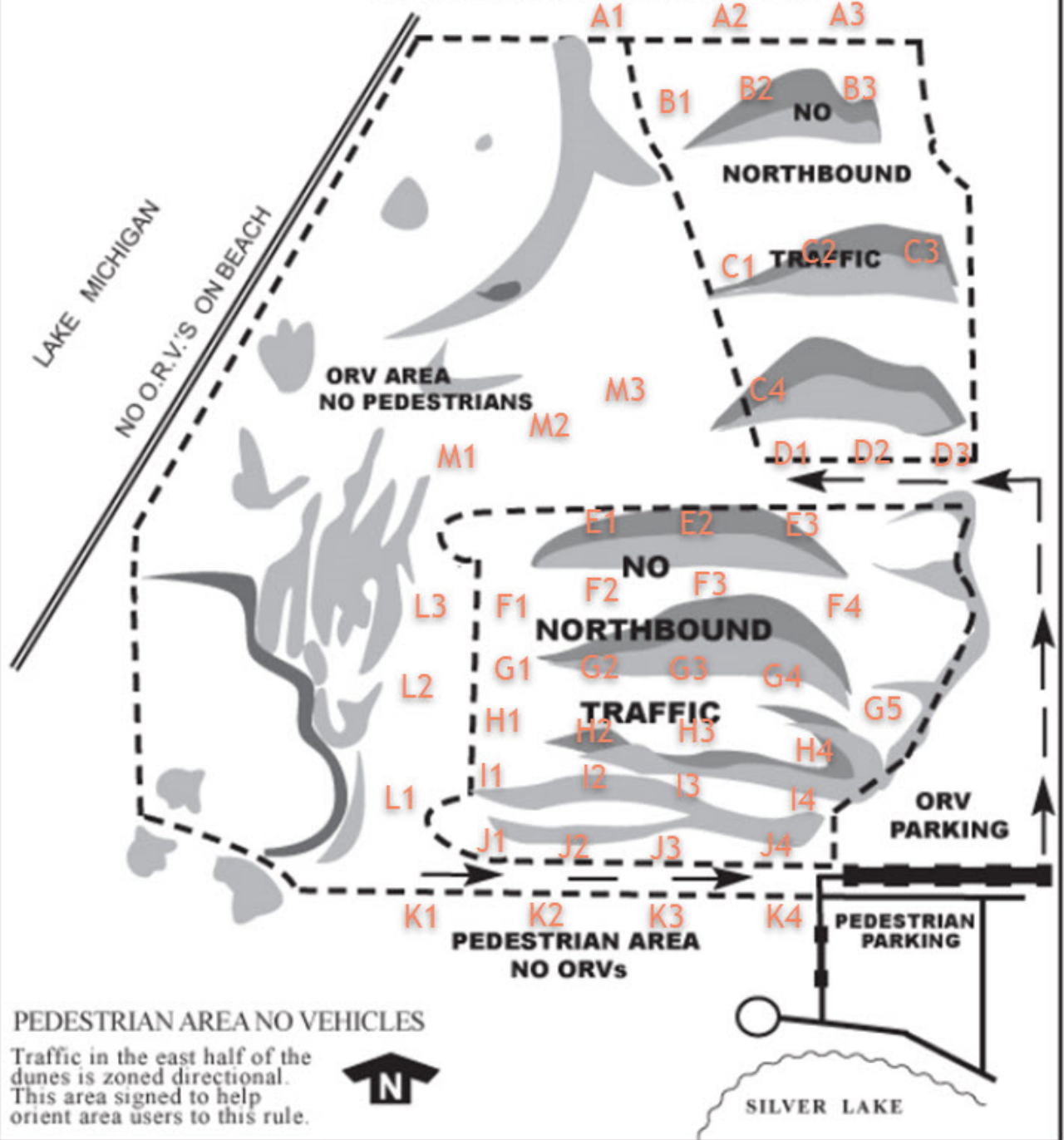
or

Oceana County Sheriff's Office – Hart, Michigan: 231-873-2121



Department of Natural Resources
Parks and Recreation Division
Silver Lake State Park Off-Road Vehicle Area
9679 W. State Park Rd.
Mears, MI 49436

**WATCH FOR SIGNS POSTING DIRECTIONAL TRAFFIC ZONE
STAY WITHIN POSTED BOUNDARY AT ALL TIMES
POSTED APRIL 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 31**



Map of directional traffic zones at Silver Lake State Park ORV Area.

DRIVER AND/OR RIDER TIPS

There are several other considerations each vehicle operator should be aware of and keep in mind while enjoying the dunes:

- Be prepared to stop at any time. There may be a stalled or parked vehicle or a natural hazard such as a tree or stump on the other side of the hill that you are cresting.
- Drive defensively, be careful, stay alert and in control of your vehicle.
- No passing on the entrance ramp.
- Must be 16 years of age or older to operate a 3-wheeled ATV.
- ATV and motorcycle riders need to consider wearing protective clothing and gear.
- No side awnings on vehicles or trailers in the parking lot/staging area on Voucher days
- Consider doubling up in the parking spaces if you have the extra room. It will maximize parking opportunities for others.
- Parking spaces are designed to be 12 feet x 60 feet. Vehicles and equipment extending beyond the 60 feet in length will need to unhook and park the tow vehicle in a nearby space.
- Be on time for your Voucher period. Make sure to have a Park Ranger validate your Voucher slip with a distinctive hole-punch upon arriving at the ORV Area Entrance Gate. The hole-punch will be required if re-entry is requested later in the day.
- Rule violations may subject operator to court citation, eviction and/or vehicle(s) impoundment. Please follow the posted rules for everyone's benefit and safety.
- Driver's license or ORV Safety Training Certificate must be in operator's possession at all times. Persons may not operate any vehicles if license is suspended or revoked.

If you have specific questions or concerns, please contact Silver Lake State Park. Additional ORV information can be found at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources website: www.michigan.gov/dnr

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PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY