

**State of Michigan  
County of Mason  
Township of Summit  
ORV Ordinance #15**

**An ordinance authorizing and regulating the operation of Off Road Vehicles (ORV's) on roads in Summit Township, Mason County, providing penalties for the violation thereof, and for the distribution of public funds resulting from those penalties pursuant to 2009 PA 240.**

**THE TOWNSHIP OF SUMMIT ORDAINS:**

- 1. An individual may operate an ORV only with the flow of traffic on the far right of the maintained portion of the roads and streets within Summit Township.**
  - a. A person shall not operate an ORV at a speed greater than 25 miles per hour, or a lower posted ORV speed limit or in a manner that interferes with traffic on the road or street.**
  - b. ORVs shall travel single file, except when passing or being passed by another ORV.**
  - c. All operators must upon demand present either an ORV safety certificate or drivers license to any legal enforcement authority.**
  - d. No individual may operate an ORV on land on which public hunting is permitted during the regular November firearm deer season from 7 AM to 11 AM and from 2 PM to 5 PM, except during an emergency to get to and from a permanent residence or a hunting camp, and to remove game taken by a valid license.**
- 2. Prohibitions**
  - a. No parent, legal guardian or owner or person in charge of an ORV shall allow the following:**
    - 1. A person under the age of 12 shall not operate an ORV on a road; nor shall a person under the age of 18 operate an ORV on a road unless the person is in possession of a valid driver's license, or is under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian who**

**possesses a valid driver's license, or the person has in his/her possession an ORV Safety Certificate issued by Michigan, another state, or a province of Canada.**

- 2. A child less than 16 years of age to operate a 3-wheeled ATV.**
  - 3. An individual who is incompetent to operate a vehicle because of mental or physical disability to operate an ORV.**
  - 4. A child less than 12 years of age to cross a highway, road or street.**
  - 5. Likewise no child prohibited above is allowed to engage in any of the prohibited activities.**
- b. A person shall not operate an ORV at a rate of speed greater than is reasonable and proper, or in a careless manner having undue regard for conditions.**
  - c. A person shall not operate or ride on an ORV unless they are wearing on their head a helmet and protective eyewear approved by the United States Department of Transportation. This section does not apply if vehicle is equipped with a roof that meets or exceeds standard for a crash helmet and the operator and each passenger is wearing a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt.**
  - d. A person shall not operate an ORV without a braking system.**
  - e. A person shall not operate an ORV during the hours of 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise without a working brake light and head light that is brighter than the taillight.**
  - f. A person shall not operate an ORV on the frozen surface of public waters within 100 feet of a fishing shanty or shelter or an area that is cleared of snow for skating purposes, except at the minimum speed required to maintain controlled forward movement of the vehicle.**
  - g. All ORVs shall conform to the noise emission levels established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under the noise control act of 1972, 42 USC 4901 to 4918.**
  - h. No person shall operate an ORV within 100 feet of a dwelling at a speed greater than the minimum required to**

**maintain controlled forward movement of the vehicle, except on property owned or under the operator's control or on which the operator is an invited guest.**

- i. No person shall transport a bow unless unstrung or encased, or a firearm unless unloaded and securely encased, or equipped with and made imperative by a manufactured key locked trigger housing mechanism.**
- j. No person shall operate an ORV on or across a cemetery or burial ground.**
- k. No person shall operate an ORV on an operating or non abandoned railroad or railroad or public utility right-of-way.**
- l. No person shall operate an ORV in or on the waters of any stream, critical dune, beach, river, bog, wetland, swamp, marsh, or quagmire except over a bridge, culvert, or similar structure.**
- m. No person shall operate an ORV to hunt, pursue, worry, kill or attempt to hunt, pursue, worry or kill an animal whether wild or domesticated.**
- n. No person shall operate an ORV with an opened container of alcohol unless it is in a trunk, separate compartment or is encased or enclosed.**
- o. No person shall transport a passenger on an ORV unless the manufacturing standards for the vehicle make provisions for transportation passengers.**
- p. No person shall operate an ORV on private lands without the written consent of the owner, owner's agent or lessee. The operator of the vehicle is liable for damage to private property, including, but not limited to vegetation and animals. The owner is not required to post or fence private property.**

### **3. Township**

- a. Summit Township has no duty to maintain a road or street within its boundaries in a condition reasonably safe and convenient for the operation of ORVs.**
- b. Summit Township is immune from tort liability for injuries or damages sustained by any person arising in any way out of the operation or use of an ORV on maintained , unmaintained roads, streets, shoulders, and rights-of-way within the township, except in case of**

**gross negligence. "Gross negligence" means conduct so reckless as to demonstrate a substantial lack of concern for whether an injury results.**

**4. Enforcement**

- a. In a court action in this state, if competent evidence demonstrates that a vehicle that is permitted to operate on a road or street pursuant to the code was in a collision with an ORV required to be operated on the far right of the maintained portion of a road or street pursuant to this ordinance the operator of the ORV shall be considered prima facie negligent.**
- b. A violation of this ordinance is a civil infraction, and a guilty person shall pay a fine of not more than \$500.00. In addition a court may order the defendant to pay the cost of repairing any damage to the environment, a road or street, or public property damaged as a result of the violation.**
- c. The Summit Township Treasurer shall deposit fines and fees collected under this ordinance into a fund designated as the "ORV Fund".**
- d. The Summit Township Board shall appropriate revenue in the ORV fund as follows:
  - 1. Fifty percent to the Summit Township Enforcement Fund responsible for ORV enforcement and training.**
  - 2. Fifty percent to the Mason County Road Commission for repairing damage to roads or streets and the environment that may have been caused by ORVs and for posting signs indicating ORV speed limits or indicating whether roads or street are open or closed to the operation of ORVs under this ordinance, within Summit Township.****
- e. Upon conviction of a person for violation a court may order the ORV and any personal property on the ORV seized as a result of the violation.**

**Effective Date:** This ordinance shall be effective immediately after publication of notice of its adoption. The ordinance will be reviewed 30 days prior to one year after its effective date to determine its continuation. A public hearing shall be held not more than thirty days nor less than 10 days prior to the expiration of this ordinance. The hearing location, date and time shall be posted on the Township's web site and with all local news organizations at least 10 days prior to the hearing. Such hearing shall gather comments from the public in order to inform the Summit Township Board of Trustees of public sentiment and issues occurring from allowing ORV use on public roads. The Summit Township Board of Trustees shall vote to extend, or not to extend, this ordinance at the scheduled public hearing.

This ordinance is adopted by action of the Summit Township Board this 7th day of July , 2014.

Upon a roll call vote the following voted  
Aye: Estola, Samuels, Bedker, Woirol and Cooper.  
Nay: None

The Supervisor declared the ordinance adopted.

Mary Samuels Clerk

**Certificate**

I, Mary Samuels, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Summit Township, hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the Township Board of said Township at the regular meeting of said Board held on July 7, 2014, at which meeting a quorum was present, by a roll call vote said members as hereinbefore set forth; that said ordinance was ordered to take effect immediately after publication of notice of its adoption.

  
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Mary Samuels

Summit Township Clerk

**ORV Ordinance  
Addendum A  
Definitions**

1. **"Township"** means Township of Summit, Mason County
2. **"Driver License"** means an operator's or chauffeur's license or permit issued to an individual by the Secretary of State under Chapter III of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.301 to 247.329, for that individual to operate a vehicle, whether or not conditions are attached to the license or permit.
3. **"Operate"** means to ride in or on, and be in actual physical control of the operation of an ORV.
4. **"Operator"** means a person who operates or is in actual physical control of the operation of an ORV.
5. **"ORV"** means a motor driven off road recreation vehicle capable of cross-country travel without benefit of a road or trail, on or immediately over land, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain. ORV or vehicle includes, but is not limited to, a multitrack or multiwheel drive vehicle, and ATV, a motorcycle or related 2-wheel, 3-wheel, or 4-wheel vehicle, an amphibious machine, a ground effect air cushion vehicle, or other means of transportation driving motive power from a source other than muscle or wind. ORV or vehicle does not include a registered snowmobile, farm vehicle being used for farming, a vehicle used for military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement purposes, a vehicle owned and operated by a utility company or an oil or gas company when performing maintenance on its facilities or on property over which it has an easement, a construction or logging vehicle used in performance of its common function, or a registered aircraft.
6. **"Road"** means a county primary road or county local road as described in section 5 of 1951 PA 51, MCL 247.655.
7. **"Road Commission"** means the Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of Mason.
8. **"Safety Certificate"** means a certificate issued pursuant to 1994 PA 451 as amended, MCL 324.81129, or a comparable ORV safety certificate issued under the authority of another state or a province of Canada.
9. **"Visual Supervision"** means direct observation of the operator with the unaided or normally corrected eye, where the observer is able to come to the immediate aid of the operator.