

OFATV Trail Etiquette & Environmental Guidelines

Premises

The Ontario Federation of All Terrain Vehicle Clubs (OFATV) is an organization of clubs that believes riding on designated trails protects the environment.

The OFATV promotes safe and responsible riding on trails. It believes that education and awareness programs will further protect the natural environment. At the same time, the utilization of a trail network provides for a unique opportunity to experience nature. ATV's provide and allow for an increased mobility for a variety of users.

The environmental guidelines address the biotic (living organisms) and abiotic (non-living) components of all ecosystems, and are directed to all trail users, including ATV riders.

The OFATV believes the future of utilizing a trail in the outdoors is directly related to how clubs and its members use it today.

- Remove your helmet when talking to other trail users
- Always yield the right-of-way to other trail users who are approaching or passing
- Ride on designated trails. Do not utilize CLOSED trails. 'If you don't know, don't go!'
- Avoid sudden stops and starts and quick directional changes with acceleration
- Avoid sensitive and restricted areas at all times, especially wetlands, lakeshores, steep stream banks and hills
- Cross at designated crossings and utilize bridges when available. Cross watercourses at 90-degree angles and drive carefully and slowly
- Do not venture out on new, non-ATV designated trails without consulting appropriate stakeholders
- Comply with all applicable legislation and/or municipal bylaws
- Keeps in mind the following OTC statement: 'Shared use trail - expect/respect other users.'
- Signal when approaching from behind. In particular, be certain to communicate with the riders of horses and those walking pets
- Avoid running over young trees and shrubs, particularly in the spring and the growing season of the summer
- Do not trespass on private property and do not utilize single-purpose trails designated for other (non-ATV) activities
- Promote parking and dismounting from your ATV to walk to sensitive, scenic, historic and cultural areas
- Enjoy wildlife viewing opportunities, avoid stressing any species particularly during the rearing stages
- Respect and be courteous to other users who are also using shared use trails
- Avoid riding after heavy rains
- Adjust riding behavior according to season and location
- The planning and staging of rodeos and safety courses should be within areas such as pits, gravel parking lots and controlled areas
- Take a rider safety course and ride within your abilities
- Do not cut switchbacks or take shortcuts
- Keep your speed and engine rpm low and steady when approaching other riders, homes, etc.
- What you pack in, pack out - do not litter
- The ATV designated trail season begins and ends with the advent of winter and the appearance of snowmobile groomers



Note: Guidelines will be altered as required. The OFATV invites any comments related to its guidelines (info@ofatv.org)