

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

regarding the Newaygo County ORV ordinance or to find an ORV class or a location to purchase a registration sticker, please visit the Newaygo County website: [www.countyofnewaygo.com](http://www.countyofnewaygo.com).

*This website also hosts the current Newaygo County Trails Map.*



# NEWAYGO COUNTY



## ORV ORDINANCE

**COMMONLY  
ASKED  
QUESTIONS**



# ORV Ordinance Commonly Asked Questions

## On what roads can I ride?

The Newaygo County ORV ordinance allows for an ORV to operate on the far right of the maintained portion of a road within the county. The maintained portion is any portion that is graded or paved.

## On what roads can't I ride?

ORVs are prohibited from riding on any state highway such as M-37, M-82, M-120, or M-20 and on any seasonal county road that is closed by the Road Commission. ORVs are also prohibited from riding on any Forest Service road or two tracks and from operating in any city or village in Newaygo County. ORVs cannot be driven on any power line, gas line, or railroad right of way.

The Newaygo County Road Commission or townships within the county may, at their discretion, close currently open roads if they determine it is in the public's interest to do so. It is the responsibility of the ORV operator to ensure they know what roads are open or closed. Updates to road closures will be posted on the Newaygo County website at [www.countyofnewaygo.com](http://www.countyofnewaygo.com).

## What if the road doesn't have a shoulder?

ORVs may be operated on the far right maintained portion of a roadway in Newaygo County. If the road does not have a gravel shoulder, the ORV may be operated on the far right paved portion of the road.

## Can I cross a state highway such as M-37?

Operators of ORVs may cross any state highway at a 90-degree angle in order to travel from one approved riding location to another. (Example – If you are riding on an approved road that crosses M-37, you may continue on that approved road after you have crossed M-37.)

## Can I drive into town?

This ordinance does not apply to any streets within the Cities of Fremont, Grant, Newaygo, or White Cloud or the Village of Hesperia. Please contact your city or village office for information about ORV usage within their limits.

## Can I ride on any trails in Newaygo County?

ORVs are prohibited from operating on any state or federal property other than the motorized vehicle trail which begins at 1 Mile Road (M-20) approximately 4 miles west of M-37 on the north side of the road. There are no other public trails in Newaygo County which allow the operation of ORVs.

## Is there anywhere else I can ride my ORV off road in Newaygo County?

ORVs are prohibited on all Federal, State, and County property. ORVs may be operated on private property with permission of the owner.

## Can I ride at night?

ORVs can be operated at night under this ordinance. Operators of ORVs must display a lighted headlight and lighted taillight regardless of whether it is daytime or nighttime.

## Do I need to have a driver's license?

ORV operators must have a valid driver's license if they are over 18 years old. Individuals 12-16 years old may operate an ORV if they have an ORV safety certificate in their immediate possession and are in direct visual supervision of a parent or guardian. Individuals 16-18 years old must either have a valid driver's license or have a safety certificate in their immediate possession while under the direct visual supervision of a parent or guardian. ORV operators whose driving privileges have been denied, revoked, or suspended cannot operate an ORV on the roadway.

## Do I need to have an ORV registration sticker?

ORVs operated under this ordinance must have a registration sticker. Registration stickers can be purchased at most places that sell hunting licenses.

## Do I need to have insurance on the ORV?

Insurance on an ORV is not required by state law or this ordinance. However, operators of ORVs involved in an accident are considered at fault under this ordinance until proven otherwise.

## Is a golf cart or a gator considered an ORV?

A golf cart, gator, mule, quad, 4-wheeler, and dirt bike are considered ORVs; however, they must be equipped with a lighted headlight and lighted taillight when being operated. They must also be equipped with a windshield and a roof or roll bar that meets or exceeds standards for crash helmets as determined by the National Department of Transportation unless the operator and passengers are wearing a helmet and eye protection. If the ORV meets the criteria for not wearing a helmet, the operator and passengers must wear a seatbelt.

## Do I have to wear a helmet?

Operators of ORVs under this ordinance must wear an approved DOT helmet unless the vehicle is equipped with a roof that meets or exceeds standards for crash helmets and the operator and passengers are wearing seatbelts.

## Is there a speed limit for ORVs?

The speed limit for ORVs is 25 mph.

## Can I have open alcohol while operating or riding an ORV?

Open alcoholic containers are prohibited while operating or riding an ORV. Operating an ORV while impaired or intoxicated is also prohibited under state law.

