



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

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SILVER LAKE STATE PARK OFF-ROAD VEHICLE AREA

2004 OPERATIONAL UPDATE

There are a number of minor changes in the rules, regulations and operations for the coming season at the Silver Lake State Park Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Area. As in the past, these changes have been introduced in an attempt to best resolve concerns that have been brought to the attention of the State Park administration and to better serve park users effectively, efficiently and safely. Changes this year involve the Parking Lot Voucher System, the new State Park Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) program for 2004, a new MVP/ORV Permit Check Station booth, the new Pedestrian Dune Access Entrance and proposed changes in traffic circulation patterns.

VOUCHER SYSTEM

The ORV Area entry voucher system, born in 2000, continues with only one minor change although for details of the complete system please refer to the Silver Lake State Park web site (www.michigan.gov/dnr). In 2003, the park began issuing Parking Lot Vouchers at 9:00 P.M. the day before they were to be used. That practice will continue this year, however there will be two distinct periods or shifts for those seeking Parking Lot Vouchers to choose from. **In 2004, Parking Lot Vouchers will be issued for arrival times of either 7 A.M. – 8 A.M. or 8 A.M. – 9 A.M. These voucher slips will only be good for the time period they cover.**

The change has been made for a couple reasons: #1 – It has become common practice to see the majority of the Parking Lot Vouchers arrive shortly before 9 A.M. causing unnecessary delays for those waiting with 9 A.M. Dune Ready Vouchers. #2 – By having at least half of the Parking Lot Vouchers scheduled to arrive within the first hour (7 A.M. – 8 A.M.) there will hopefully be less congestion during the last few minutes of the 8 A.M. – 9 A.M. time slot.

STATE PARK MOTOR VEHICLE PERMITS

A new Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) program has been introduced statewide in Michigan for 2004. All fees have increased this year for residents as well as non-residents. Residency will be based on the motor vehicle license plate and fees for unlicensed vehicles (many ORVs) will be based upon the vehicle's plate that brings them into the State Park. Fees for 2004:

Resident Annual MVP	\$24.00	Non-Resident Annual MVP	\$29.00
Resident Daily MVP	\$6.00	Non-Resident Daily MVP	\$8.00

Annual Off-Road Vehicle Registration \$16.25

SOUND LEVEL RULES AND TESTING

Vehicle muffler noise levels will continue to be checked with the static or stationary sound level test performed at a twenty-inch distance from the exhaust pipe at half the vehicle's rated maximum revolutions per minute (RPM) or as detailed in the automotive specifications SAE J1169, March 92 or SAE J1287, June 86, as was introduced in 2002. The maximum noise level permitted under these testing conditions will be 94 dBa which is the current limit set by the Off-Road Recreation Vehicles Act of Part 811 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.811). **All vehicles are required to have a muffler and spark arrester.** Mufflers must contain baffles that meet US Forest Service approval certification.

VARIOUS NEW OPERATIONAL CHANGES

One of the biggest changes this year is the reopening of what was originally (circa 1970) titled the Dune Trail Parking Lot Entrance off of North Shore Drive for use by persons who want to hike and picnic on the dunes or walk over to the shoreline along Silver Lake. This newly opened Dune Access Parking Lot will be strictly for pedestrian activities only. There will no longer be the vehicular access between the smaller paved parking lot and the ORV Area parking lot. ORV Area visitors will also notice the introduction of a MVP/ORV Permit Check Booth in the median between the two entry lanes about half way down the roads towards the Main Entrance Booth and some other changes in traffic circulation patterns.

Among those changes being undertaken is provide a by-pass route for people wanting to make use of the public restroom building or vending machines without having to re-enter the parking lot or pass through the Safety Check Station before going back up into the dunes. This will hopefully reduce some of the congestion associated with repeat sound and safety checks.

Unlicensed drivers are required to possess an ORV Safety Certificate for the type of ATV or motorcycle they are operating, must be at least 12 years old and be under direct supervision of an adult guardian while operating their vehicle. All other vehicle operators must have their valid driver's license in their possession. Persons with suspended operator's licenses may not drive ORVs at Silver Lake State Park.

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