

**Adopted May 20, 2009**  
**Amended March 17, 2010**  
**Amended February 16, 2011**  
**Amended June 15, 2011**  
**Amended September 24, 2015**

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF CRAWFORD  
ORV ORDINANCE  
No. 052009ORV

An ordinance adopted for the purpose of authorizing and regulating the operation of Off Road Vehicles (ORVs) on roads in Crawford County, and for the purpose of providing penalties for the violation thereof, and for the distribution of public funds resulting from those penalties pursuant to 2008 PA 240, MCL 324.81131.

THE COUNTY OF CRAWFORD ORDAINS:

Sec. 1 As used in this ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:

- a) "County" means the County of Crawford.
- b) "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 257.329, for that individual to operate a vehicle, whether or not conditions are attached to the license or permit.
- c) "Far Right of the Maintained Portion of the Road" means the shoulder of the road which is improved by pavement, tar and chips, concrete, or other similar materials and means the extreme right of the open portion of the right of way when the roadway is not improved by pavement, tar and chips, concrete or other similar materials.
- d) "Highway" means a state trunk line highway or a segment of a state trunk line highway
- e) "Operate" means to ride in or on, and be in actual physical control of the operation of an ORV.
- f) "Operator" means a person who operates or is in actual physical control of the operation of an ORV.
- g) "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, an 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 deriving motive power from a source other than muscle or wind. ORV however does not include a registered snowmobile, a 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.

h) "Road" means a county primary road or county local road as described in section 5 of 1951 PA 51, MCL 247.655.

i) "Road Commission" means the Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of Crawford.

j) "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. To obtain a safety certificate, the operator must take an ORV safety education course and pass the certification exam. Information on courses and scheduling can be obtained by calling the Department of Natural Resources at 517-373-1230 or by visiting the Recreation Safety Classes section of the Michigan DNR website at [www.dnr.state.mi.us/recnsearch/](http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/recnsearch/).

k) "Shoulder" means that portion of a street or highway to the immediate right of the road surface while facing the direction of travel, which is not generally used for vehicular travel.

Sec. 2 An ORV may be operated on the far right of the maintained portion of a road within the county with these exceptions:

a). A person shall not operate an ORV on the roadway, shoulder or right-of-way of any highway, except on specific segments of highway that are posted open and have been authorized by the Michigan Department of Transportation pursuant to 1994 PA 451, as amended, being MCL 324.81101 and 324.81131. This includes but is not limited to M-18, M-72, M-93, or I-75. See attached Appendix A for a list of roads for operation. The City of Grayling has their own ORV Ordinance within the limits of the City of Grayling.

Sec. 3 Except as set forth herein or otherwise provided by law, an ORV meeting all of the following conditions may be operated on a road or street in the county:

- a) at a speed of no more than 25 miles per hour or a lower posted ORV speed limit.
- b) by a person not less than 12 years of age.
- c) with the flow of traffic.
- d) in a manner which does not interfere with traffic on the road or street.
- e) traveling single file except when overtaking and passing another ORV.
- f) when visibility is not substantially reduced due to weather conditions unless displaying a lighted headlight and lighted taillight.
- g) 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 after sunset unless displaying a lighted headlight and lighted taillight.
- h) while displaying a lighted headlight and lighted taillight at all hours beginning January 1, 2010.
- i) while the operator and each passenger is wearing a crash helmet and protective eyewear approved by the United States department of transportation unless the vehicle is equipped with a roof that meets or exceeds standards for a crash helmet and the operator and each passenger is wearing a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt.
- j) with a throttle so designed that when the pressure used to advance the throttle is removed, the engine speed will immediately and automatically return to idle.
- k) while the ORV is equipped with a spark arrester type United States forest service approved muffler in good working order and in constant operation.
- l) pursuant to noise emission standards defined by law.

Sec. 4 A person less than 16 years of age shall not operate an ORV on a road in the county unless the person is in possession of a valid driver's license or under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian and the person has in his or her possession an ORV safety certificate or a comparable ORV Safety Certificate issued under the authority of another state or province of Canada.

Sec. 5 Unless a person possesses a valid drivers license, a person shall not operate an ORV on a road or street in the county if the ORV is registered as a motor vehicle and is either more than 60 inches wide or has three wheels.

Sec 6. Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center is a military training base owned and operated by the Michigan National Guard. Many of the counties primary and local roads run through the military reservation. Frequently the military will close county roads to facilitate range live fire activities. When this occurs the road networks in the areas involved are closed by range gates. This is done for the safety of both civilian and military personnel. Under no circumstances are you allowed to go around these range gates. A road closed by a range gate is to be considered closed to ORV traffic inasmuch as any other road closed to ORV traffic. Violators are putting themselves in great danger of immediate bodily harm by munitions fired by the military. In addition to the danger involved in entering a live fire range area, Crawford County will impose any and all fines and costs allowed by law in addition to the fines and costs contained in this ordinance. Camp Grayling routinely publish a range firing schedule in the Crawford County Avalanche. Additional information on Range Firing activities and restricted range areas may be obtained by calling Camp Grayling Range Control at 989-344-6163.

Sec. 7 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 state law was in a collision with an ORV required to be operated on the far right of the maintained portion of the road or street pursuant to this ordinance, the operator of the ORV shall be considered prima facie negligent.

Sec. 8 Any person who violates this ordinance is guilty of a municipal civil infraction and may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$500.00 by a court of law. In addition, the court shall 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.

Sec. 9 The County Treasurer shall deposit all fines and damages collected under this ordinance into a fund to be designated as the ORV Fund. The County of Board of Commissioners shall appropriate revenue in the ORV Fund as follows:

- a) Fifty percent to the Crawford County Road Commission or, in the case of a city or village, to the department responsible for street maintenance in the city or village, for repairing damage to roads or streets and the environment that may have been caused by ORV's, and or for posting sign's indicating ORV speed limits, or indicating whether roads are open or closed to the operation of ORVs.
- b) Fifty percent to the County Sheriff for ORV enforcement and training.

Sec 10. The County shall maintain a master map of all roads under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission upon which shall be indicated those roads and parts or sections thereof upon which the operation of ORV's is permitted and prohibited pursuant to this Ordinance. The County shall make such master map available for interested groups or organizations to make copies for distribution to the general public, but shall have no obligation to make, or to assume any expense associated with the making of such copies.

Sec. 11 This ordinance becomes effective upon publication in the local newspaper the Crawford County Avalanche.

This Ordinance is adopted by action of the Crawford County Board of Commissioners this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

Commissioners voting "Aye": - five (5)

Commissioners voting "Nay": - one (1)

Commissioners Absent: - one (1)

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David. Stephenson, Chairman  
Crawford County Board of Commissioners

Certification

I, Sandra A. Moore, Clerk of the County of Crawford, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the Ordinance duly adopted by the Crawford County Board of Commissioners on the 20th day of May, 2009.

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Sandra Moore, County Clerk/Register of Deeds  
Crawford County

Appendix "A"  
ORV Roads in Crawford County

**MAJOR ROADS CLOSED IN CRAWFORD COUNTY**

- M-18
- M-72
- Huron Street
- M-93
- Hartwick Pines Road from Bobcat Trail South to N. Old 27
- I-75
- W. Federal Hwy from Ivy Road to Billman Road
- US 127

**BEAVER CREEK TOWNSHIP**

All County Roads Are **Open** within the Township

**CITY OF GRAYLING**

See City Ordinance

**FREDERIC TOWNSHIP**

All County Roads Are **Open** within the Township

**GRAYLING TOWNSHIP**

All County Roads are **Open** within the Township

**Note:** Hartwick Pines Road is only open from Maple Forest to Bobcat Trail  
W. North Down River closed within City limits

**LOVELLS TOWNSHIP**

The following roads are **Open** within the Township

- Bald Hill Road
- Cherry Creek Road from Township Line to Morley Road
- Chiefs Trail
- County Line Trail
- E County Road 612
- E Townline Road
- E Jones Lake Road
- E North Down River Road
- Lovells Road
- McMaster's Bridge Road from N. Down River Rd to South Branch Township line
- Morley Road
- N. Lincoln Lodge Road
- N. Wakeley Bridge Road
- N Stephan Bridge Road
- North Big Creek Road
- Sawmill Trail
- Thunder Mug Road
- Twin Bridge Road
- Walsh Road

## **MAPLE FOREST**

All County Roads Are **Open** within the Township

## **SOUTH BRANCH TOWNSHIP**

Roads **Closed** within Township

- Bell Top Lodge Road
- Haymarsh Creek Trail from Bell Top Lodge Road through Section 5
- Canoe Harbor Road
- Chase Bridge from Hickey Creek North To Grayling Township
- Curly's Drive
- Durant Castle Road
- E M-72
- Mason Tract Trail
- M-18/S. McMasters to M-72
- River Lake Road
- S. Forester Road from Hunter Lake Road to River Lake Road
- South Branch Road
- Willows Road in Section 14