



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH**  
**40 SOUTH STREET**  
**FOXBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 02035**  
www.foxboroughma.gov/conservation  
508-543-1251

Dear Foxborough Family:

We are writing to you to ask for your help in eliminating the use of illegal off-road recreational vehicles (ORV, also called ATV) on town-owned properties. Your family lives close to or abuts conservation, water, or other town land, so you may have a particular interest in the stewardship and health of the area.

Foxborough is home to over 1,800 acres of land protected by the Town as Conservation Areas, as well as nearly 1,000 acres of State Forest. These beautiful areas are home to a variety of wildlife, as well as unique geology, water resources, and historical sites.

Foxborough's Bylaw prohibits unauthorized motorized vehicle operation on town properties. ORV use threatens the viability of our forests and trails. The noise and destruction caused by ORVs also diminishes the enjoyment of hikers, bikers, and others who use this land for passive recreation.

The Conservation Commission, in cooperation with the Foxborough Police Department and the State Environmental Police, has implemented a program to monitor conservation trails and gather evidence that will ultimately be used in the identification and prosecution of trespassing ORV operators.



Recent damage to town land from illegal ORV usage.

In accordance with the state laws, several penalties have been introduced to combat the growing problem of illegal ORV usage, according to MGL c. 90B:

- The **first offense** carries a **\$250 fine** minimum.
- The **second offense** carries a **fine up to \$2,500 and forfeiture of vehicle**.
- **Property damage** carries a **fine up to \$1,000**.
- **Reckless use** carries a **fine up to \$1,000**.

Chapter 256, Article I of the Code of the Town of Foxborough imposes additional penalties for illegal ORV usage:

- The **first offense** carries a **\$50 fine**.
- **Subsequent offenses** carry a **\$150 fine**, and/or criminal prosecution **and restitution for damaged town lands**.

If you see ORVs on Conservation Land, please call the Foxborough Police at (508) 543-4343, the State Environmental Police at (800) 632-8075, or the Conservation Commission at (508) 543-1251, with the time, date, and approximate location of the vehicle. This information will be logged and used in guiding or monitoring our efforts.

Please see the back of this document with a brief summary of the laws and requirements for operating ORVs in the Town of Foxborough. If you have any questions or concerns, please visit the Conservation Office in Town Hall at 40 South Street, or contact Conservation Agent Jane Sears Pierce by email (jpierce@foxboroughma.gov) or call the office.

Thank you for your cooperation and good land stewardship.



**Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs)**, also known as **Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs)** are a class of motor vehicle designed for use over unimproved terrain, and include all registered motor vehicles if used for recreation off a public way. This class of motor vehicles includes **All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)**. **Vehicles exceeding 1,000 lbs.**, such as pickup trucks and SUVs, are not considered ORVs and **are prohibited from trails at all times.**

**ORVs are not permitted on any Foxborough-owned properties. In Mass State Forests, they are ONLY allowed in areas that have designated ORV trails marked with trailhead signage and/or orange or yellow trail blazes.** All other state parks, reservations, and forests are closed to ORV use at all times.

### **THE MOST IMPORTANT LAWS REGARDING ORVs**

- ❖ **All ORVs must be currently registered in Massachusetts** under MGL c. 90 (see the [Mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) website for detailed information).
- ❖ **The registration plate must be displayed on the back of each vehicle.**
- ❖ **ORV riding season** (as conditions allow) begins no earlier than **May 1**, ending no later than the last Sunday in **November**, between the hours of **sunrise and sunset**.
- ❖ **ORVs may not be operated on public ways**, including all roads (paved or unpaved) within state forests.
- ❖ **Age Restrictions:**
  - **No one under 12 years of age may operate an ORV on state forest lands under any circumstance.**
  - **No one under 14 years of age, except:**
    - **A 12-13 year old** may operate if **directly supervised by a person who is 18 years of age or older.**
    - **No one under 16½ years of age** shall operate an ORV across a public way.
  - **No one under 18 years of age** may operate an ORV unless s/he has *successfully completed a recreation vehicle safety and responsibility course* approved by the Director of the Office of Law Enforcement.
    - **Proof of course completion must be carried** on the person when operating an ORV.
    - **Note: a parent or legal guardian of an operator of an ORV must participate in at least one session** of the recreational vehicle safety and responsibility course.



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** about the ORV laws, including operation, safety equipment and how to register your vehicle, may be found on the [Mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) website, located at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/state-parks-beaches/outdoor-recreation/ohv/> and on the Foxborough Conservation Commission's website, located at [http://www.foxboroughma.gov/Pages/FoxboroughMA\\_Conservation/ATV](http://www.foxboroughma.gov/Pages/FoxboroughMA_Conservation/ATV)