

# NYSORVA

## New York State Off-Highway Vehicle Association, Inc.

### TRAIL SIGNAGE HANDBOOK



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## ABOUT SIGNING ATV TRAILS

The New York State Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle Association (NYSORVA) has compiled this handbook that provides guidelines for the effective placement of signs of ATV trails. The trail sign process is intended to improve ATV safety and enhance ATV trails in a safe and effective manner.

Posting trail signs will help to safely regulate the flow of ATV traffic, inform riders of particular trail characteristics, and provide information necessary for the enjoyment of the trail experience. This handbook will serve as a valuable resource to ATV club members, particularly those charged with the responsibility for trail signing, as well as those on the trail.

The handbook will promote statewide uniformity of ATV trail signing by providing basic guidelines and techniques for posting standardized trail signs posted uniformly throughout an unfamiliar trail. The signing recommendations and guidelines provided should not be constructed as a minimizing the basis operator's responsibility. Operating an ATV in an observant, reasonable, and prudent manner is the responsibility of all ATV operators. Rather, these recommendations and guidelines will compliment safe riding practices for the betterment of ATV operation.

## SIGNS AND SAFE ATV TRAILS

The purpose of using trail signs is to direct the flow of ATV traffic, inform ATV riders of trail characteristics, and provide information necessary to fully enjoy the trail riding experience. Civil or criminal can result if ATV's operate with willful disregard for such signs, and cause property damage, injury, or death.

The guidance provided to ATV operators by trail signs should not be constructed as reducing the **ATV** operator's responsibility to operate their machine in a safe and prudent manner. ATV operators should also be aware that sign theft is a problem, so they should not assume that every object is properly identified with a sign.

Trail signs and markers are essentially safety tools. Use them with care and caution to make **ATV** in New York State enjoyable and more fulfilling.



## **SIGN POSITIONING**

A critical part of sign mounting is the understanding how a reflective sign works. To maximize nighttime visibility of a sign they should be placed at eye level and perpendicular to the direction of travel of the ATV. This will also allow the rider time to understand the message of the sign and act accordingly.

## **OBJECTIVES, PURPOSES, AND ROLES**

Recognizing the objectives and purposes of signing and the role of the participants will help provide the guidance for a well signed trail.

### **TRAIL SIGNING OBJECTIVE**

It is the goal of NYSORVA to achieve a comprehensive and uniform system of trail signing across the state.

The object of trail signing is to:

- Standardize and promote recreational ATV riding,
- Improve travel within and between trail systems,
- Increase comfort and confidence in navigating the trail system,
- Develop a well maintained trail system,

### **THE PURPOSE OF TRAIL SIGNS**

The purpose of ATV trail signs is to:

- Control the flow and direction of traffic through out the trails,
- Warn ATV riders of trail characteristics and unknown objects,
- Provide necessary information to the enjoyment of riding well maintained trails,



## **ROLES**

The responsibility of NYSORVA is to set a standard for the signing of ATV recreational trails for clubs to follow.

Responsibility for installing, maintaining and removing trail signage rest with the local ATV clubs.

## **TRAIL SIGNING OVERVIEW**

Proper use of signs must be applied to all feeders, connector, main and other moderate to heavy volume trails. It is necessary to properly use regulatory, warning, information, and identification signs, as well as field stakes.

## **SIGN VENDOR**



**1-800-473-0698 - Website: [www.vosssigns.com](http://www.vosssigns.com)**



## GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ATV TRAIL SIGNAGE

- ❖ Before any trail signing obtain written permission from landowner before mounting any signs.
- ❖ Except for informational and guide signs, as set forth in this handbook, trail signs must be reflective.
- ❖ No trail signage should be placed more than 2 feet from the edge of the trail.
- ❖ Avoid overuse of signs, only trail signs meeting standards for shape, color, size, and reflectorization as mentioned in this handbook should be allowed on trails. This avoids clutter and confusion.
- ❖ Mounting signs on live trees is **NOT** recommended. If this the only alternative, use aluminum nails. Ensure all nails are removed when the signs are removed.
- ❖ If more than one sign is used at the same location, they should be placed vertically with the most important sign on top. Stop signs always convey the most important message.
- ❖ The line of sight from the operator to the sign must be clear for the entire distance through which the sign is intended to be viewed.
- ❖ Maintain as much similarity as possible to road signs.
- ❖ Posts are preferred for the proper placement of regulatory, caution, and stop signs. When allowed by the landowner, signs may be attached to trees that are appropriately located and within 3 feet of the maintained trail surface.
- ❖ Signing is often done by persons who are familiar with the trail and who knows where they are and where they are going. When putting up signs, imagine that you have never in this area or on the trail before. Try to picture what signs would be necessary to get you safely to your destination.
- ❖ Place trail signs to the right of the trail to conform to rider's familiarity with the placement of highway signs.
- ❖ Place signs and post carefully with regard to anticipated vehicle speed, brush, and line of sight. The desirable mounting height of sign is approximately 48 inches above the ground surface.






## TRAIL MARKER SIGNS

### SIGN SPECIFICATIONS


The following schedule of standard signs provides guidance as to the format, appearance, and color. It is expected that some variance may exist between manufacturers as to icons used, fonts employed, etc. The interest of the sign is the message that the sign conveys to the rider, not its absolute conformance to these guidelines.

### REGULATORY SIGNS

As the name implies, regulatory signs regulate the movement of ATV's along the trail system in a safe and orderly fashion. Failing to comply with the intent of a regulatory sign could have legal consequences. Examples of these are: speed limit signs, no ATV's, stay on the trail, and trail closed signs.

Typical Design	Name and Use	Usual Characteristics
	<b>STOP</b> Instructs riders to bring Their ATV to a complete STOP before proceeding with Caution.	12"X12" Octagon – Red background with white reflective lettering
	<b>STAY RIGHT</b> Instructs riders to Ride on the right side of the trail	12"X12" Diamond, yellow Background, black lettering (reflective)
	<b>STAY ON TRAIL</b> Instructs riders to stay on designated trails	12"X12" Diamond, yellow Background, black lettering (reflective)






	<p><b>TRAIL CLOSED</b> Instructs riders not to proceed as trail is closed to ATV traffic</p>	<p>12"X12" Diamond, yellow Background, black lettering (reflective)</p>
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	<p><b>OBJECT MARKER</b> Hazard Marker Identifies a fixed object at the side of the trail. Used anytime the fixed object narrows the normal width of the trail such as bridge railings. The stripe slopes down towards the rail.</p>	<p>6" X 12" yellow background, black lettering (reflective)</p>
	<p><b>CAUTION</b> Use this sign to warn of a hazard when no specific sign is available for that purpose.</p>	<p>12"X12" Diamond, yellow background, black lettering (reflective)</p>
	<p><b>STEEP HILL</b> Warn riders that they are approaching a steep hill.</p>	<p>12"X12" Diamond, yellow background, black lettering (reflective)</p>





 <p>A yellow diamond-shaped sign with a black border and the text "HIGHWAY CROSSING AHEAD" in bold black letters.</p>	<p><b>HIGHWAY CROSSING AHEAD</b> Informs riders that they are approaching a highway crossing.</p>	<p>12"X12" Diamond, yellow background, black lettering (reflective)</p>
 <p>A yellow diamond-shaped sign with a black border and the text "CAUTION BRIDGE AHEAD" in bold black letters.</p>	<p><b>CAUTION BRIDGE AHEAD</b> Informs rider that they are approaching a bridge.</p>	<p>12"X12" Diamond, yellow background, black lettering (reflective)</p>

## OBJECT MARKERS



BRIDGE PLACEMENT WITH RAILS

Object markers are a valuable sign when marker trails. They provide the rider with a safe route when out riding designated trails. The black and yellow stripes should point down and away from the object and towards the open trail.

## ATV JUNCTION SIGNING



The trails that must stop must have a Stop sign installed as close to the stopping point as possible but not more than 25 ft before that point.



The trails that must stop must have a Stop Ahead sign that can be located on the same post as the Junction Ahead sign, and would be installed above the Junction Ahead sign.





Each trail approaching the intersection in which the operator will not have to stop must have a Junction Ahead sign.



Posted speed limit



## SIGN VENDOR



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