

Town of Hillsborough OHRV Usage Public Notice

The Town of Hillsborough has received multiple requests for clarification on the Town's current policy regarding usage of Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles (OHRV) on Hillsborough public roads. The purpose of this public notice is to identify the vehicle types and define currently allowed usage for each.

There are two basic types of vehicles which fall under the OHRV category pertaining to this public notice:

All Terrain Vehicle (ATV): Motorized off-highway vehicle having a seat designed to be straddled by the operator with handlebars for steering control, as well as braking and acceleration. Type 1 ATVs are intended for a single rider, Type 2 ATVs are intended for an operator and a passenger on the back.



Utility Task (Terrain) Vehicle (UTV): Also known as a "side-by-side", ROV, or MOV, this is also a motorized off-highway vehicle but designed with standard seats or a bench, uses a steering wheel for steering control, and foot controls for acceleration and braking. Some UTVs can have 2 or 4 seats and a cargo area in the back where other models may have 2 or more seats with no cargo area.



ATV Usage

A. Operating ATVs on any Hillsborough public road including Class V and Class VI roads is **prohibited**.

Exception: The portions of Old Rail Road and Contoocook Falls Road from the Henniker town line to the dirt road that runs along the river that leads to Livingston's Auto. Also the portion of River Road starting from the trail which exits near Kemp Park to the access leading to Tooky Mills Pub. ONLY those portions of these roads which have "ATV Allowed" signs visible are applicable.

B. Travel upon or alongside a Hillsborough public road for any amount of distance "from your house to a trail" is also **prohibited**. The only allowable "to the trail" use is from a "Designated Trailhead Parking, along a Designated Trail Corridor, to a Designated OHRV Trail." You may cross a roadway if you are traveling upon a designated OHRV trail that crosses that roadway. The crossing shall be made at an angle of approximately 90° to the direction of the public way.

UTV Usage

A. As per a Hillsborough Board of Selectmen vote from April of 2016, UTVs (side-by-sides, ROVs, MOVs) shall be allowed on Hillsborough public roads which have a speed limit of 35 mph or less. UTVs are **prohibited** from all State roads, such as Routes 202, 149, and 9. This includes the portion of Route 149 which runs from the intersection of 202 and 149 (by McDonald's) to the center of Town (at the intersection with Bridge St.).

B. UTV's MUST have a current registration with the two registration decals properly affixed on the front and rear of the vehicle in the areas designated by the manufacturer.

C. All UTV operators on Hillsborough public roads must possess a valid driver's license and obey all traffic laws and speed limits.

D. All UTV operators and passengers under the age of 18 (a) must wear a helmet and eye protection regardless of what safety features the UTV is equipped with and (b) are required to be secured in the vehicle by a seatbelt.

E. No person shall operate a UTV while carrying a passenger less than 7 years of age unless such passenger is properly fastened and secured by a restraint system in accordance with the US DOT safety standards. A helmet is required in addition to the child restraint system.

F. In order to be allowed on Hillsborough public roads, including Class V and Class VI roads, UTVs MUST be equipped with the following safety equipment, permanently installed, and in good operating condition.

1. A horn which can be heard from 250 ft.
2. Head Lights
3. Tail Lights
4. Brake Lights
5. Back and front turn signals
6. At least one rear-looking mirror
7. Muffler, original from the manufacturer which still meets manufacturer's noise standards or replacement which meets the same noise standards as the original
8. Windshield
9. Seat belts for all seats and a minimum of two seat belts per bench for vehicles equipped with benches
10. Low pressure tires inflated to the PSI rating listed on the sidewall
11. Must be capable of attaining and maintaining a speed of 35 mph

Other off-road vehicle types

A. Motorcycles designed and/or modified for off-road use, also known as "dirt bikes", which are not street legal and/or not registered, are **prohibited** from all public roads, including Class V and Class VI roads.

B. Jeeps, trucks, and other vehicles modified for off-road use which are not street legal and/or registered are **prohibited** from all public roads, including Class V and Class VI roads.