



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF PARKS AND FORESTRY
STATE PARK SERVICE



POLICY

NUMBER: 2.35

DATE: April 1, 2013

SUBJECT: Organized Competitive and Recreational Motorized Vehicle Events and Activities

OBJECTIVE: To establish policy guidelines and procedures that will ensure that recreational motorized vehicle events and activities conducted on lands administered by the State Park Service will be managed so as to protect the natural and cultural resources; to promote the safety of all visitors; and to minimize conflicts among the various uses of those lands.

SCOPE: Organized competitive and recreational motorized vehicle events and activities include, but are not limited to, motorcycle enduros, dual-sport rides, jeep jamborees, etc. that traverse road and off-road routes.

AUTHORITY: N.J.S.A. Title 13:1L-23 et set. and N.J.A.C. 7:2 et seq.

DEFINITIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY:

Improved Roads -

Roads designated by governmental entities (e.g. townships, counties, N.J.D.O.T. or the State Park Service) maintained for the conveyance of highway vehicle traffic. Primary roads are those constructed with asphalt, concrete or other hard surfacing materials. Secondary roads are those having an aggregate surface (e.g. gravel, stone, millings or soil). Improved roads are monitored and maintained for sustainable vehicle traffic.

Unimproved Roads -

Roads designated by the State Park Service that provide for occasional off-highway vehicle use. These may receive periodic maintenance such as clearing of obstructions and surface grading. Secondary unimproved roads are typically narrow, lacking shoulders and typically do not receive winter snow removal services.

Plowed Lines -

Linear paths created by the removal of forest vegetation and displacement of surface soils by the New Jersey Forest Fire Service in preparation for prescribed burning activities or as a result of woodland fire suppression operations.

Non-Motorized Trails -

Access paths that have been mapped and designated by the State Park Service as part of a Park or Forest network having single or multiple uses including hiking, bicycling, interpretive, mountain biking, canoe/kayak (water trails), equestrian and other traditional forms of travel.

Motorized Trails -

Access paths that have been mapped and designated as part of the approved trails system on Belleplains State Forest.

Special Use Permit -

Written authorization granted by the State Park Service for an activity during a specific time period that is issued upon review of an application, payment of fee, proof of insurance and agreement to terms and conditions.

APPLICABILITY : State owned lands administered by Bass River State Forest, Belleplains State Forest, Brendan T. Byrne State Forest, Penn State Forest, Warren Grove Recreational Area and Wharton State Forest.

POLICY: Organized competitive and recreational motorized vehicle events and activities shall be conducted pursuant to terms and conditions as approved by the Assistant Director of the State Park Service or the Southern Regional Superintendent (designee).

Such events and activities shall be limited in scope, short-term duration and must be conducted on State Park Service approved routes or locations. Routes may be permitted where no irreversible, negative impacts will occur to lands having natural, cultural, historical, scenic or aesthetic value and with consideration given to their existing recreational uses.

Routes shall be confined to improved roads, unimproved roads, plowed lines and/or motorized trails (Belleplains). Deviation from the final approved route is prohibited. Failure to stay on course may result in enforcement action, financial penalties, resource mitigation and/or forfeiture of future permit consideration.

The creation or use of single-track trails for motorized use is prohibited.

Motor vehicles used in conjunction with special events and activities must be registered and insured in the State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. Title 39: et seq.

Use of all-terrain vehicles (as defined by N.J. Motor Vehicle Law) is strictly prohibited on all lands administered by the State Park Service except designated and approved off-road parks. Registered snowmobiles may be used at designated locations and trails when weather conditions permit.

IMPLEMENTATION: All permanent State Park Service employees shall be given a copy of this policy and a copy shall be maintained in each area State Park Service Policy Manual.

Area Superintendents shall be responsible for ensuring that:

1. Individuals seeking to conduct motorized vehicle events and activities are provided special use permit application materials;
2. Applications received within established time frames are evaluated by programs within the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Natural and Historic Resources via the Land Management/Activity Review process;

3. Applications are reviewed by State Park Police Director or his designee;
4. Event routes do not cause irreversible damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, wildlife or other resources on State Park Service administered properties;
5. Event routes do not traverse officially designated State Natural Areas except on designated improved or unimproved roads;
6. Event routes and participant activities are in compliance with the New Jersey State Park Service Rules and Regulations (N.J.A.C. 7:2 et seq.);
7. Event routes are on existing, established and designated roads (improved or unimproved), plowed lines, gravel pits, or motorized trails (Belleplaine) and State Park Service parking areas and facilities that can accommodate the activity;
8. Event routes are approved by the Pinelands Commission and appropriate documentation is provided and the Permittee possesses a valid State Police Racing Commission Certificate (if required for the activity);
9. Event proposals forwarded for approval meet all policy provisions, insurance and other administrative requirements.

The Regional Superintendent shall be responsible for:

10. Providing guidance and direction to Area Superintendents regarding events and activities subject to this policy;
11. Approving special use permits that fully meet program requirements.

This policy is effective immediately.


Mark Texel, Director
State Park Service

Distribution:

Director, State Park Police
Assistant Director, State Park Service
Trenton State Park Service Staff
Regional Superintendents
Area Superintendents