

OHV Road Trail Access FAQ's

Effective August 11, 2026, the Town of Oxford enacted the Road Trails Designation Bylaw, Bylaw No. 06-2026 for a **One-Year Trial Period**. OHVs will be permitted to operate on all town Streets, subject to applicable provincial laws, municipal bylaws, and safety requirements.

Background:

Spring of 2023, the province passed Bill 273, the “Road Trails Act” which gives towns like Oxford the power to enact their own bylaws allowing OHVs (Off-Highway Vehicles), that meet requirements, to legally access designated streets.



on trail



end of trail

The following is a series of FAQs developed to answer questions about the bylaw, and OHV access to the designated streets in Oxford.

DEFINITIONS:

OHV designates an “off-highway vehicle”, and also dirtbike, or other Off-Highway Vehicle that meet requirements (also known as “ATVs”)

“Road trail” means the shoulder and travelled portion of a highway designated under this Bylaw.

APPLICABLE LEGISLATIONS:

- [BILL NO. 273, Road Trails Act, Province of Nova Scotia](#)
- [Motor Vehicle Act](#)
- [Off-highway Vehicles Act](#)
- [Road Trails Designation By-law, By-law No. 06-2026](#)

PLEASE NOTE: Driver and passenger assume the risks of using a road trail. The Town of Oxford is not liable for injury, damage, or death from operating on a road trail.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: On which streets in Oxford are OHVs allowed to travel?

A: All Town Streets – effective August 11, 2026

Q: Are streets accessible to all OHVs?

A: NOT NECESSARILY. A driver can operate an OHV, dirtbike, or other Off-Highway Vehicle on a Road Trail if they meet the requirements listed in Bill 273.

Q: What are the key requirements to operate an OHV on a designated street?

A: A rider must have a valid driver's license (not learners) and third-party liability insurance. All riders must also have their OHV legally registered and inspected where applicable. Licence plates must be clearly visible, the same as on motor vehicles. Police can stop any OHV or motor vehicle to check for valid registration, insurance, and driver's licence.

Q: What are the key safety requirements?

A: Helmets and seatbelts* must be worn (*if OHV was equipped) and OHVs must have a headlight (on), red rear light, and left side mirror.

Q: Which system of signals to indicate turning or stop will be used?

A: Most OHVs are already equipped with brake lights, and some brands even have signal lights. If not, riders must use their left hand with the arm to the left to indicate a left turn, the left hand pointing in the air for the right turn and the hand down pointing to the ground to indicate a stop or slowing down.

Q: What if I am in an accident while operating an OHV on Water Street?

A: If in an accident, stop, give information and help. If there is damage to an unattended vehicle, try to identify the owner, and otherwise inform police. If a collision/damage occurs involving any OHVs and another OHV, or motor vehicle, it needs to be reported regardless of the amount of damage. Failure to do so, and if the rider(s) drives off, can result in a charge of failing to remain at the scene of an accident. The Registrar will receive and manage reports of accidents damages >\$2000 or injury or death of a person.

Q: Are there any restrictions around children as passengers?

A: Yes, children under 9 years old are not permitted as passengers while accessing Town Streets.

Q: Is there a speed limit set for OHVs using the designated streets?

A: Yes, OHVs are **not permitted** to exceed 25 KPH while using Town streets.

Q: Is there a restriction on the noise made by OHVs?

A: Yes, noise may not exceed Original Manufacturer Specification.

Q: Are there any restrictions on the hours when OHVs can travel on the Designated Route?

A: Yes, **no operation** 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise.

Q: Are OHVs permitted to go up any side streets?

A: Yes. Access is now permitted on all Town streets.

Q: What amenities are available on designated streets, or nearby?

A: (Not limited to) There are restaurants, grocery store, convenience stores, retail stores, pharmacy, bank, gas station, coffee shop, parks, and other amenities available.

Q: Where can OHV riders park?

A: OHV may use the street parking along the Town streets.

Q: Where can I get full details and information about the Provincial Road Trails Act?

A: The full act can be found on the Nova Scotia Legislature website at [Nova Scotia Legislature](#)

Q: What else is important to remember when operating an OHV on Designated Route?

A: Do not operate an OHV while impaired. Driving while impaired by drugs or alcohol on an OHV carries the exact same penalties as driving a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

NOTE: if the above information referencing requirements is different from what is stated in the various Provincial Acts; then the Acts prevail. It is the responsibility of the OHV riders to consult the Acts and understand what is required while using an off-highway vehicle on designated road trail.

Please ride safely!

Town of Oxford

Effective, August 11, 2026

OHVs are permitted to operate on all town streets

TransCanada Highway #104

