

Simcoe County Forests Recreation Policy Summary



FACT SHEET

Background

The County of Simcoe conducted an extensive review of the recreational use of County Forests in 2006. As a result, County Council adopted a new Recreation Policy, effective January 1, 2007.

Activities Permitted

- Walking and hiking
 - Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing
 - Orienteering and geocaching
 - Nature appreciation and study
 - Dogsledding
 - Horseback riding
 - Dog walking
 - Pets must be under control or on leash
 - Mountain biking
 - No unauthorized trail construction
 - Hunting and fishing
 - As per provincial hunting and fishing regulations**
 - Portable tree stands only
 - Hunters must be members of Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
 - Trapping
 - License and Use Agreement required
 - Harvesting non-wood forest products
 - Personal use only
 - Snowmobiling
 - On designated Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs¹ trails only*
 - Use Agreement and permits are required
 - Other off-road motorized vehicles (ATV's, motorcycles)
 - On designated Ontario Federation of All Terrain Vehicles² or Ontario Federation of Trail Riders³ trails only*
 - Use Agreement and permits are required
 - Maximum vehicle weight 400 kg
- *Exceptions include:
- Use by Ontario Federation of All Terrain Vehicles, Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs or Ontario Federation of Trail Riders members where authorized to facilitate volunteer patrols or stewardship activities
 - To assist disabled or infirm hunters to access the Simcoe County Forests during all hunting seasons
 - To facilitate large game retrieval (deer and bear)
 - To facilitate complete access for hunters to the Simcoe County Forests during the Controlled Deer Hunt only

** Hunting is permitted except on the following tracts due to close proximity to urban areas:

- Dyer (City of Barrie)
- Rippon (Essa Township)
- Blaucham (Town of Innisfil)
- Museum (Springwater Township)
- Thompson (Town of Penetanguishene)
- Tottenham (Town of New Tecumseth)

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Activities Not Permitted:

- Operation of motorized vehicles in excess of 400 kg gross vehicle weight
- Littering, dumping or disposal of any foreign material
- Open fires
- Camping
- Consumption of alcohol
- Target practice; paintball
- Cutting, pruning, digging or gathering of trees, shrubs, groundcover or firewood
- Construction of unauthorized structures; permanent tree stands
- Placement of unauthorized signs

Special Use:

- Organized events are not permitted without a valid Use Agreement in effect. This includes any activity which is advertised or if participants are charged an entry fee, but does not include organized hikes or nature walks

Footnotes:

1 OFSC Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs
www.ofsc.on.ca

ATV and off-road motorcycle enthusiasts are encouraged to contact the following for information on membership requirements and trail development:

2 OFATV Ontario Federation
of All Terrain Vehicle Clubs
www.ofatv.org

3 OFTR Ontario Federation of Trail Riders
www.oftr.ca

