

Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Use in Lacombe County



Over time the County has been working hard to help keep you informed of areas that are sensitive to environmental degradation. In particular, Gull Lake has a unique topographic profile which allows for a very wide and extensive riparian edge along the lake. In past we have seen numerous issues in the area with residents and visitors accessing the lake through the use of motorized vehicles along unauthorized trails. To assist in managing these areas the County erected numerous signs to provide information to both residents and visitors which direct where no OHV use is permitted, where authorized use of OHV's is permitted, where walking trails are located, and to remind users of the environmentally sensitive area.

Currently there are **two designated trails that allow access to the lake via OHV's for residents and visitors**. These trails are located at the communities of New Saratoga and Wilson's Beach. There is **one designated trail that allows access to the lake only for Gull Lake Centre's use**. The use of this OHV trail is limited to a specific list of registered OHV's, owned and operated by Gull Lake Centre. Please be aware that designated OHV trails

do not restrict pedestrian traffic in the area; only motorized vehicle use is restricted. There are numerous walking path access points, available for anyone to access the lake by means other than motorized vehicles.

After extensive community consultation and monitoring the County has noted degradation of the riparian area is continuing. As such the County will be erecting exclusion perimeter fencing on the north and south ends of the environmental reserve. Further barricades may be place in the winter of 2017 if continued use of illegal trails occurs.

We are inviting any interested persons to attend a community meeting to discuss this matter on **March 8th at 7pm at the Lacombe County Municipal building on Spruceville road**.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Blayne West, Environmental Coordinator, 403-782-6601.

Gull Lake Trails

