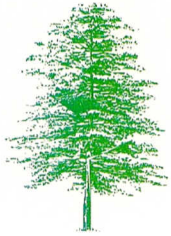


# All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV)



## All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)

ATV numbers have increased rapidly in our area and throughout rural America, and so has ATV-related injuries and deaths.

With professional instruction and certification, safe speeds, protective gear (especially a safety helmet), and adherence to laws and regulations, we can reduce accidents.

Rural America has become swamped with all-terrain vehicles, mostly for recreational use. They also are becoming prevalent in agriculture, business, industry and government. Through adequate training, proper use and common sense, ATVs can be used safely and effectively. However, ATVs have not enjoyed a good safety record. Estimates from the Consumer Products Safety Commission report up to 90,000 ATV-related injuries per year and 120 deaths. Nearly 50 percent of the injuries and fatalities are children under 16 years of age.

## Operation Guide

### Do's

1. Always seek landowner permission before operating an ATV.
2. Respect private property you have permission to operate on and operate your ATV so as not to cause damage to the property.
3. Become a member of a local ATV club.
4. Take an ATV education course and then become a certified instructor so that you can help pass the education along to others.
5. Become involved and help in the creation of trails. Seeking and receiving landowner permission before a trail is developed is a must.
6. **Stay on designated trails at all times.** Straying from the trail can jeopardize landowner permission for the trail in the future.
7. Avoid operating an ATV when conditions are such that excessive damage will be done which in turn may lead to erosion problems.  
(Example: mud season Spring and Fall)



### Don'ts

1. Do not operate an ATV on a private road without landowner permission.
2. Do not operate an ATV on, along or adjacent to a railroad track or within the right of way of a railroad. Abandoned railroad right of ways that have had the tracks removed may be used if the use has been approved by the landowner.

3. Do not operate an ATV within 200 feet of any dwelling, hospital, nursing home, convalescent home or church.
4. Do not operate an ATV on any salt marsh, intertidal zone, marine sand beach, sand dunes, cemetery or burial place, alpine tundra or unfrozen freshwater bog or marsh.
5. Do not operate an ATV on any crop lands, pasture land or tree plantations.
6. Do not operate an ATV on a maintained snowmobile trail any time of the year except when landowner permission has been given or it is also a designated ATV trail.

### Specific to the St. John Valley Heritage Trail:

The speed of ATVs must not exceed 15 mph unless posted otherwise. When passing pedestrians, the speed is reduced to 5 mph.

All motorized vehicles must yield the right of way to all non-motorized trail users.

All trail users must stop at all public road crossings.

All trail users must obey and comply with all properly posted signs along the trail.

No discharge of firearms will be permitted at the right of way. If a gun is being carried on the trail (to and from hunting), the gun shall not be loaded.

(Fort Kent Ordinance: SEC.20-21 St. John Valley Heritage Trail)