



## **Ganaraska Forest Rules and Guidelines as of May 1, 2023**

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### **General Rules and Guidelines**

**All users of the Ganaraska Forest are required to purchase and carry a Day Pass or Forest Membership.**

- Day Pass/Forest Membership must be presented to GRCA representative or Enforcement Officer upon request.
- Day Pass/Forest Membership are non-transferrable.
- Ganaraska Forest Parking Pass must be displayed on a parked highway vehicles dash or windshield while parked at the Ganaraska Forest.

**Ganaraska Forest Memberships and Day Passes are available for purchase from <https://store.ganaraskaconservation.ca>.**

**Day Passes** can be purchased from the **Gatehouse Kiosk** at the **Ganaraska Forest Centre**, Located at 10585 Cold Springs Camp Road. Please remember you can not unload at this location.

**The Ganaraska Forest is a multi-use recreational forest.** The Central section is a non-motorized use only area. The West and East sections allow for a variety of activities including motorized activities.

To access the **official Ganaraska Forest Trails Map** please visit:  
<https://www.grca.on.ca/content/ganaraska-forest-recreation-trails>

**Respect the Forest and its plants, animals and environmentally sensitive areas by obeying signage, gates and barriers.**

- Remain on trails
- Do not enter restricted areas displayed on the Trail Map or as signed.
- Do not create new trails.
- Do not feed or disturb the wildlife.
- Do not enter environmentally sensitive areas.

**Respect other users** by sharing the trails and using trails only as designated.

- Stop for GRCA staff and enforcement staff.
- Yield to passing persons or those travelling uphill.

- All Forest users **must stop for horses** and follow the riders' instructions to ensure safe passage.
- Ensure dogs and horses are leashed/haltered/bridled and remove animal waste from the trail.

**Respect private property that borders the Ganaraska Forest.** Red circles and other signage indicate private property and entry is prohibited.

**Prohibited items and activities in the Ganaraska Forest include:**

- Overnight camping, campfires, BBQ's and camping stoves.
- Alcohol and cannabis.
- Littering. Please pack out your litter. Be part of the solution, not the pollution.
- Foraging, cutting, or removing plants and vegetation.

**Reporting Emergencies**

- **Call 911 to report forest fires and other emergencies immediately.**
- Use the nearest Forest reference marker (white letter and number symbols on a green background) to aid in locating the site of an emergency.
- Consider downloading the **What 3 Words** emergency location app, to your phone.

## **User Group Specific Rules**

**MOUNTAIN BIKING**

- Ganaraska Forest is **closed to mountain biking: March 1<sup>st</sup> until May 1<sup>st</sup>.**
- Make other Forest users aware of your presence when approaching by calling out or ringing a bell. This is particularly important when mountain bikers are intending to pass horseback riders.
- E-bikes with or without pedal assist are authorized for use only within the motorized sections of the West and East Forests.
- E-bikes with or without pedal assist are not permitted for use in the Central Forest.

**HORSEBACK RIDING**

- Ganaraska Forest is **closed to horseback riding: March 1<sup>st</sup> until May 1<sup>st</sup>.**
- Unloading and loading of horses is not permitted at the Ganaraska Forest Centre (GFC). Designated horse trailer parking lots are identified on GRCA mapping and signage. These areas include the horse trailer parking lot in the Central Forest and P6 in the West Forest.
- Horses are not permitted on GFC grounds, please use the corral when visiting the GFC. The corral is identified with signage.

**HUNTING / USE OF FIREARMS & FORAGING**

- All hunters must comply with the provisions of the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* and all applicable municipal by-laws.
- The discharge of firearms is prohibited except for the purpose of hunting.

- Hunting is not permitted in a large section of the Central Forest. No-Hunting Zone boundaries signage is posted throughout the Forest and indicated on GRCA mapping.
- Construction of permanent hunting blinds or tree stands is prohibited.
  - Hunting blinds/ tree stands can be installed up to 7 days prior to the opening of hunting season, and must be removed no more than 7 days after hunting season ends.
  - Hunting blinds and tree stands must have hunters name and phone number affixed to stand/blind and visible.
- Hunters are allowed to leave marked open trails.
- Foraging is not permitted on GRCA lands.

### **NORDIC/ CROSS COUNTRY SKIING**

- Ganaraska Forest ski trails **are open exclusively to skiing from January 1 to March 31.**
- Only Nordic/cross country skiing users are allowed on groomed ski trails.
- Skate skiing is prohibited.
- All ski trails are one direction as indicated.
- Visit [www.grca.on.ca](http://www.grca.on.ca) for trail conditions and updates.

### **HIKING/ SNOWSHOEING**

- Remain on marked open trails, do not enter closed trails, do not cut/remove vegetation or create new trails.
- Hiking/snowshoeing and dogs are not permitted on cross-country ski trails during the ski season (January 1 until March 31 annually).

### **MOTORIZED VEHICLE OPERATION**

Operation of motorized vehicles must comply with the provisions of the *Highway Traffic Act* and the *Off-Road Vehicle Act*, and the following rules.

- The Ganaraska Forest is **closed to motorized-use: December 1<sup>st</sup> until May 1<sup>st</sup>.**
- Motorized activities are only permitted in the motorized sections of the West Forest and East Forest. The Central Forest is a non-motorized zone.
- Motorized vehicles including electric vehicles must be:
  - Registered with the Ministry of Transportation and display licence plates as issued by a Motor Vehicle Licence office.
  - Covered by liability insurance.
- Driver of the vehicle must carry proof of insurance and registration for the vehicle.
- E-bikes with pedal assist are authorized for use only within the motorized sections of the West and East Forests.
- The speed limits are as follows: 40 km/hour on trails, 10 km/hour in parking lots. Parking lots are only for loading and unloading.
- No off-road vehicle exhaust system shall be modified in such a manner that would result in increased noise emissions. The maximum is 94 decibels.
- Spark arrestors are required and must be functional and in place.

- When meeting a horseback rider, pull off to the side of the trail, shut your engine off, and let the horse pass. Look and listen for instructions from the rider.
- ORVs and highway vehicles prohibited on single-track trails.
- An adult must directly supervise children under 12 years of age who are operating off-road vehicles at all times.
- While at the Ganaraska Forest Centre, non-highway vehicles are required to park in the designated off-road vehicle parking area.
- Unloading and loading of motorized vehicles is not permitted at the GFC. There are 4 designated vehicle parking lots where unloading is allowed. Parking lots are identified on GRCA mapping and signage.
- To learn more about snowmobiling in the Ganaraska Forest visit [www.OFSC.on.ca](http://www.OFSC.on.ca).