

GANARASKA REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
GANARASKA FOREST RULES & GUIDELINES



GANARASKA FOREST OVERVIEW

Come experience southern Ontario's largest, contiguous forest, the Ganaraska Forest. Located within an hour's drive of Toronto, straddling the Municipalities of Northumberland County, Peterborough County, City of Kawartha Lakes and Regional Municipality of Durham, the Ganaraska Forest offers the very best in outdoor recreation and enjoyment.

With hundreds of kilometres of trails, the Ganaraska Forest provides year-round opportunities for a variety of activities: hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and nature appreciation are popular activities throughout the Forest.

Motorized activities, such as off-road motorcycle riding, ATVing and off-roading, are permitted in the West Forest and East Forest only, from May 1st to Nov. 31st.

Day Passes or Forest Memberships are required to use the Forest and can be purchased from the **GRCA Online Store** or from the day-pass-only, kiosk at the **Ganaraska Forest Centre gatehouse**.

Snowmobiling occurs on **Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC)** opened trails only. The Central Forest is maintained as a passive-use area and is where groomed cross-country ski and snowshoe trails are located.

**For Questions or Comments About the Ganaraska Forest,
Please contact the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA):
905.885.8173 | grca.on.ca | store.ganaraskaconservation.ca**

FOREST PARKING

Please Display Your Parking Pass

CENTRAL FOREST PARKING

Ganaraska Forest Centre
10585 Cold Springs Camp Rd.

No horses or motorized vehicles permitted.

*Please access from Ganaraska Road
(County Rd. 9) to Cold Springs Camp Road.*

Horse Trailer Parking Lot

10th Line Hope, Campbellcroft

Horse trailer unloading and parking only.

WEST FOREST PARKING

Parking Lot P2

Boundary Rd., just east of Micro Rd.

*Dirt Bike, ATV, 4x4 Vehicle,
Mountain Bike, Hunting & Hiking*

Parking Lot P6

Corner of Porter Rd. & Sandaraska Rd.
*Horse Trailer, Dirt Bike, ATV, 4x4 Vehicle,
Mountain Bike, Hunting & Hiking*

Parking Lot P7

Carscadden Rd., 1 km north of
Concession Rd. #8
*Horse Trailer, Dirt Bike, ATV, 4x4 Vehicle,
Mountain Bike, Hunting & Hiking*

EAST FOREST PARKING

Parking Lot P5

10th Line Hope, 1.5 km west of Cty. Rd. 10
*Horse Trailer, Dirt Bike, ATV, 4x4 Vehicle,
Mountain Bike, Hunting & Hiking*



GENERAL RULES & GUIDELINES

GANARASKA FOREST ACCESS

- All visitors wishing to enter the Ganaraska Forest trails are required to have a **valid Day Pass or Ganaraska Forest Membership**, which includes the parking portion with you purchase.

Both can be purchased from the **Ganaraska Conservation Online Store** or day passes-only are available from the gatehouse kiosk of the **Ganaraska Forest Centre (GFC)**.

- **Day Passes and Member Cards can be carried on your mobile device.** Parking passes must be printed and displayed on the dashboard of your highway vehicle. (*GFC Kiosk prints parking portion*).
- The Forest is **available during daylight hours only**, from dawn until dusk. Users are asked to leave trails while daylight is still available.
- **Designated parking lots** include Trailhead signage, containing important information about each Forest trailhead.

MULTI-USE RECREATION

The Ganaraska Forest is a multi-use recreational area, made up of three separate sections:

- **Central Forest:** Non-Motorized-use only.
- **West Forest:** Non-Motorized and Motorized-use permitted (*No connection to East Forest*).
- **East Forest:** Motorized and Non-Motorized-use permitted (*No connection to West Forest*).

RESPECT THE FOREST

- Obey all posted signage, gates and barriers.
- Remain on designated trails, indicated open on the Ganaraska Forest Trails Map.
- Do not make new trails or enter restricted areas or environmentally-sensitive areas.
- Do not feed or disturb wildlife.
- All foraging is prohibited.

RESPECT OTHER USERS

- Share the trail and use trails as designated.
- Ensure dogs are leashed at all times and remove animal waste.
- Stop for horses and follow rider instructions.
- Yield to users travelling uphill or passing.



MAINTENANCE, LOGGING & ENFORCEMENT

- Logging operations are performed annually in the Ganaraska Forest. Please view the **Ganaraska Forest Trails Map**, as well as follow posted signage.
- To ensure safety, all users must stop and wait for instructions from GRCA staff or contractors before proceeding on trails.
- Provincial Offences Officers (POs), Police and MNR Conservation Officers have authority to stop and inspect for compliance on GRCA lands.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- Your Forest Membership Card or valid Day Pass (printed or saved on mobile device)
- Government issued identification
- Proof of ownership / registration for any ORV in your possession; Liability insurance
- License plate affixed to your vehicle in accordance with provincial legislation
- Parking Pass printed and displayed on your highway vehicle's dashboard.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Non-compliance can result in charges under applicable law(s).



**NO OVERNIGHTS,
CAMPING OR RVs**



**NO ALCOHOL
OR CANNABIS**



**NO FORAGING
AT ANY TIME**



**NO CUTTING
TREES / BRUSH**



**NO DUMPING
OR LITTERING**



**NO FIRES / BBQs
OR FIREWORKS**



**DOGS MUST
BE LEASHED**

Please Clean-Up After
Your Pet(s) & Properly
Dispose of Waste

**GANARASKA FOREST OPEN
FROM DAWN UNTIL DUSK**

USER GROUP-SPECIFIC RULES

HIKING / SNOWSHOEING

(NO ACCESS TO SKI TRAILS JAN. 1ST – MAR. 31ST)

- Remain on trails marked open, do not enter closed trails or create new trails. Do not forage / cut / remove vegetation.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

(OPEN MAY 1ST – LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY)

- E-Bikes not permitted in the Central Forest, while they are permitted in the West and East Forests.
- Make other users aware of your presence by calling out or ringing a bell upon approach, especially when passing horses.

HORSEBACK RIDING

(OPEN MAY 1ST – LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY)

- Designated horse trailer parking lots are available in the Central Forest and P6 in the West Forest.
- Horses are not permitted on GFC grounds, please use the corral indicated by signage. Unloading and loading horses is also not permitted on GFC grounds.

NORDIC / CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

(DESIGNATED SKI TRAILS OPEN JAN. 1ST – MAR. 31ST)

- Only skiers are permitted to use groomed ski trails during ski season.
- Skate skiing is prohibited.
- All ski trails one direction, as indicated. Visit grca.on.ca for trail conditions.

HUNTING / USE OF FIREARMS

(OPPORTUNITIES YEAR-ROUND)

- Hunting only permitted in designated areas.
- Hunters are authorized to leave marked trails.
- Discharging firearms is prohibited, except for the purposes of hunting.
- Hunters must comply with the provisions of the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*

and all applicable municipal by-laws.

- 'No Hunting' boundary signage is located throughout Central Forest, as well as indicated on the Ganaraska Forest Trails Map.
- Permanent blinds / tree stands prohibited. Blinds / stands can be installed 7 days prior to season open and removed no more than 7 days after season ends. Hunters must affix name and phone number to stand / blind.

MOTORIZED-USE

(OPEN MAY 1ST – NOVEMBER 30TH)

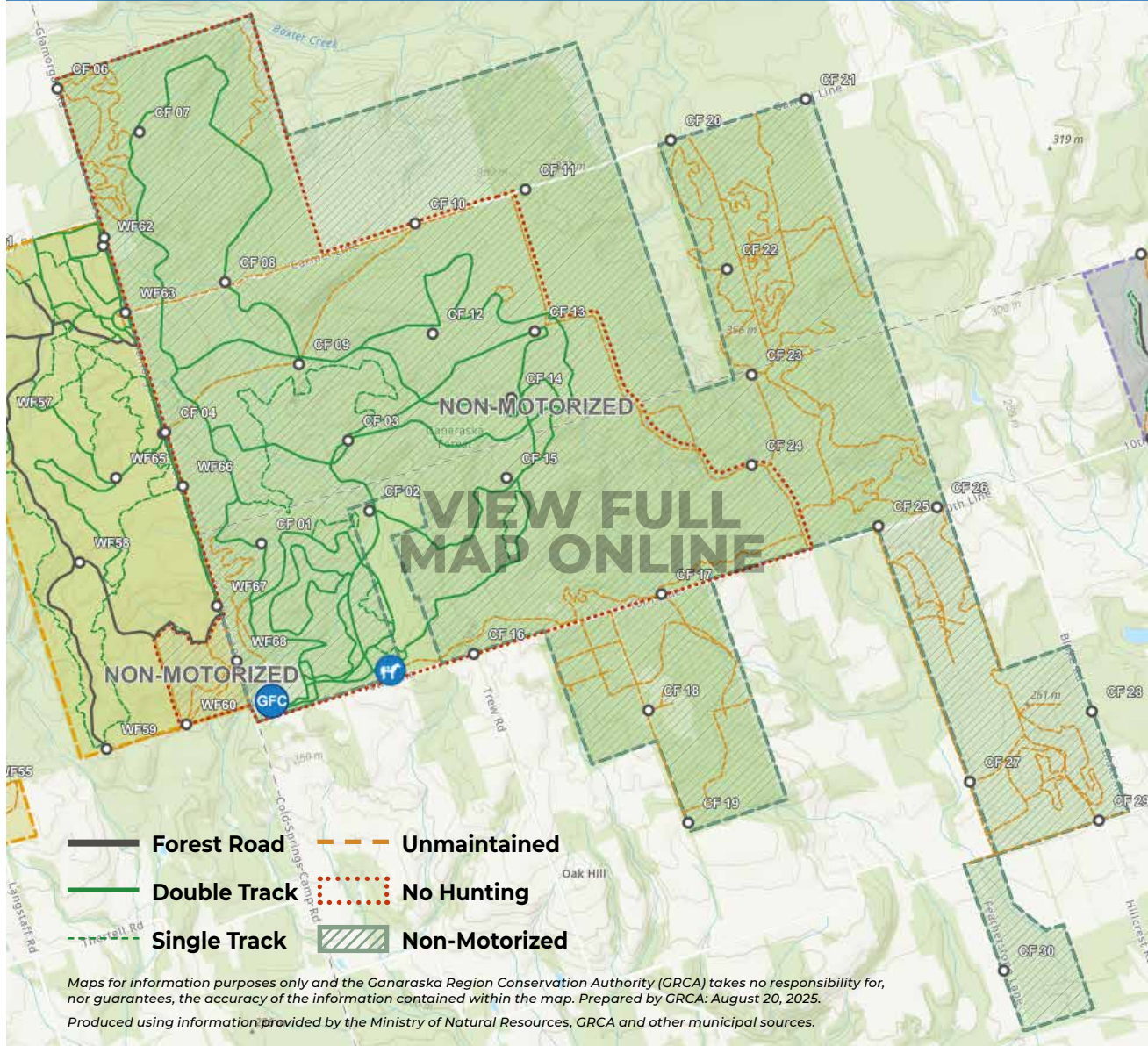
Motorized vehicle operation must comply with the provisions of the *Highway Traffic Act* and the *Off-Road Vehicle Act*, and the following rules.

- Permitted in the motorized sections of the West and East Forests, prohibited in the Central Forest.
- Motorized vehicles, including electric, must be registered with the MTO, display license plates, as issued, and covered by liability insurance.
- Operators must carry proof of insurance and registration for vehicle.
- E-Bikes are authorized for use only in the West and East Forests.
- Vehicle exhaust noise max. is 94 decibels. Installed, functional spark arrestor required.
- ORVs and highway vehicles prohibited on single track trails.
- Parking lots for unloading and loading only. ORV loading not permitted at GFC.
- Adults must directly supervise youth under 12 years of age.
- When meeting a horseback rider, pull off to the side, turn off engine and remove helmet. Await instructions from rider.
- Learn about snowmobiling in the Ganaraska Forest by visiting ofsc.on.ca.

PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

CENTRAL GANARASKA FOREST

(NON-MOTORIZED ONLY)



Maps for information purposes only and the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) takes no responsibility for, nor guarantees, the accuracy of the information contained within the map. Prepared by GRCA: August 20, 2025.
Produced using information provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources, GRCA and other municipal sources.

Install the **Ganaraska Forest Trails Map** On Your Mobile Device:
<https://grca.on.ca/Forest-Trails>

OPPORTUNITIES YEAR-ROUND

NO ACCESS TO SKI TRAILS (JAN. 1ST-MAR. 31ST)



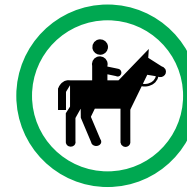
HIKING / WALKING



DOGS ON LEASH

MAY 1ST TO END OF FEBRUARY

NO ACCESS TO SKI TRAILS (JAN. 1ST-MAR. 31ST)



HORSEBACK RIDING



CYCLING

JAN. 1ST TO MAR. 31ST

ON DESIGNATED TRAILS, WHEN CONDITIONS PERMIT



SNOWSHOEING / HIKING

- Permitted on all trails, except on designated ski trails.
- Leashed dogs permitted, stoop & scoop



X-COUNTRY SKIING

- Skiing is the only activity permitted on ski trails from Jan. 1st to Mar. 31st each year.
- Ski trails one-way, direction indicated.

OPPORTUNITIES YEAR-ROUND

NO HUNTING WITHIN THE NO HUNTING ZONE



HUNTING

- Permitted In Designated Areas ONLY. Red, Dashed Area on Central Forest map is No Hunting Zone.
- Central Forest Hunting accessed via Hillcrest or Oak Hill Roads.
- Follow All Provincial Laws & Guidelines.

OPPORTUNITIES YEAR-ROUND
WINTER ACTIVITIES NOT SUPPORTED IN WEST FOREST



HIKING / WALKING



DOGS ON LEASH

MAY 1ST TO END OF FEBRUARY



HORSEBACK RIDING



CYCLING

MAY 1ST TO NOVEMBER 30TH



ATV / UTV / SxS



DIRT BIKING

4X4 / OFFROAD

- Only use trails that can accommodate your vehicle.
- Watch for erosion & other trail hazards, as well as other users.
- Operator / Driver & All Passengers must have a valid Day pass or GF membership.



OPPORTUNITIES YEAR-ROUND
NO HUNTING WITHIN THE NO HUNTING ZONE

HUNTING

- Permitted In Designated Areas ONLY. Red, Dashed Area on Central Forest map is No Hunting Zone.
- Central Forest Hunting accessed via Hillcrest or Oak Hill Roads.
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PERMITTED ACTIVITIES
WEST GANARASKA FOREST
(NON-MOTORIZED & MOTORIZED-USE PERMITTED)

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TRAIL
MAXIMUM
40
km/h
10
MAXIMUM
PARKING LOT



- Forest Road
- Double Track
- - - Single Track
- - - - - Unmaintained
- ⋯ No Hunting
- ▨ Do Not Enter

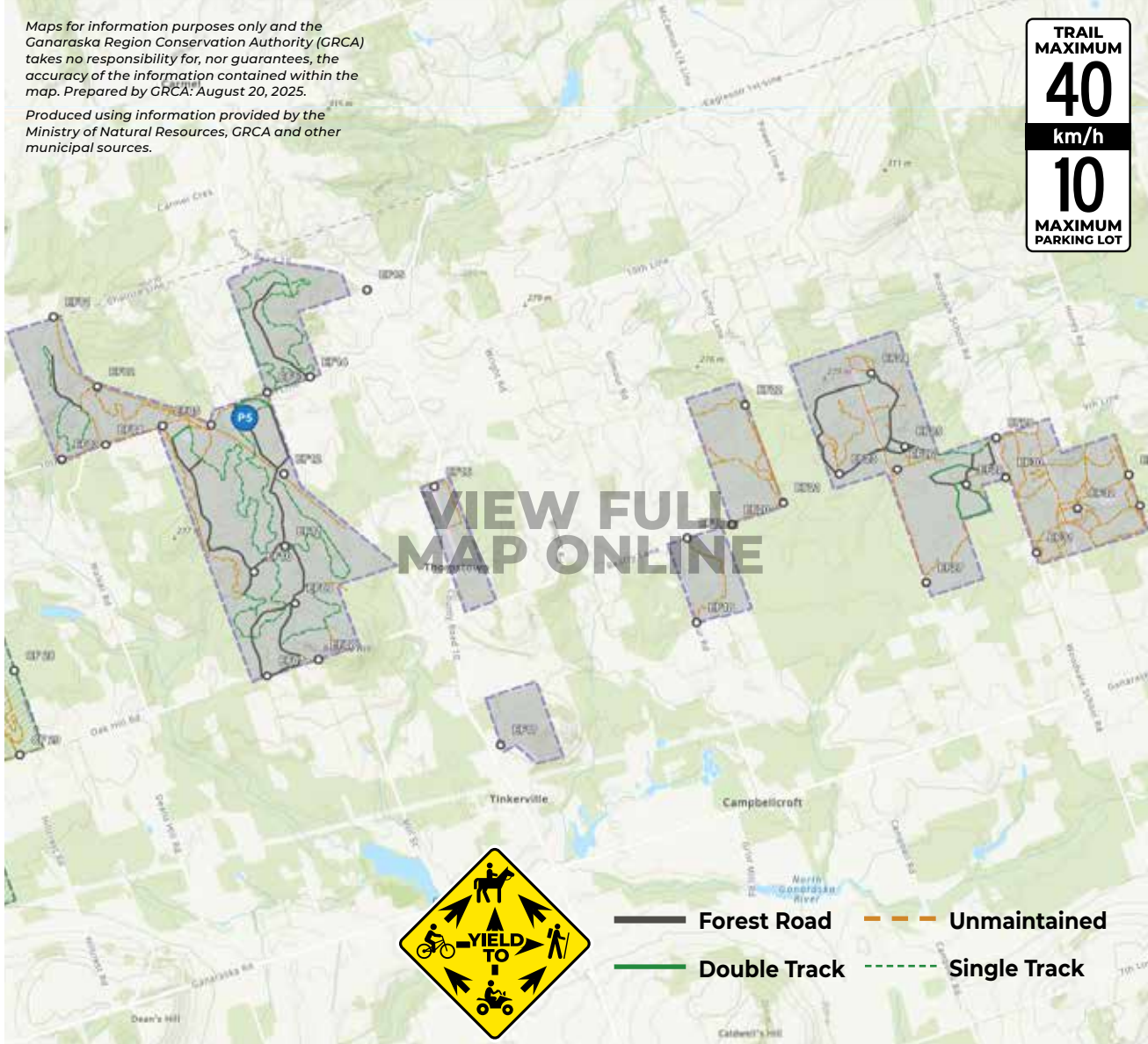
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PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

EAST GANARASKA FOREST (NON-MOTORIZED & MOTORIZED-USE PERMITTED)

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OPPORTUNITIES YEAR-ROUND WINTER ACTIVITIES NOT SUPPORTED IN EAST FOREST



HIKING / WALKING



DOGS ON LEASH

MAY 1ST TO END OF FEBRUARY



HORSEBACK RIDING



CYCLING

MAY 1ST TO NOVEMBER 30TH



ATV / UTV / SxS



DIRT BIKING

4X4 / OFFROAD



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HUNTING



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**GANARASKA REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

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**GANARASKA
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