Riding off highway vehicles is hazardous and can cause severe injury or death. Your use of protective apparel, skill level, vehicle condition, terrain, weather, common sense, and following park rules affect everyone’s safety. **RIDE AT YOUR OWN RISK!**
UPPER WAIĀKEA
ATV & DIRT BIKE PARK
RECREATION GUIDE

Nā Ala Hele Trails & Access Program, Division of Forestry & Wildlife
ATV Riders of Hawai‘i
Open 7 days a week during daylight hours.

WELCOME!
The Upper Waiākea ATV & Dirt Bike Park is located on the slopes of Mauna Loa volcano, approximately 12 miles southwest of Hilo town and within the South Hilo and Puna districts. It is situated along the Stainback Highway and is a portion of the Waiākea Timber Management Area. The Park was established to meet the growing demand for Hawai‘i’s ATV and Dirt Bike recreationalists, while striving to protect and preserve the surrounding natural and cultural resources and foster respect for the environment.

To help you better identify and enjoy the Park, this guide will assist you in locating designated trails and areas for ATV/Dirt Bike recreation as well as give you the rules of the Park to ensure safe and responsible use. We hope you enjoy your visit to the Upper Waiākea ATV & Dirt Bike Park.

REQUIRED TO RIDE

- In order to use the Park, you are required to obtain a permit and complete a waiver agreement which is available at the Division of Forestry and Wildlife in Hilo at 10 E. Kawili St. (974-4221) and in Waimea at 66-1220A Lālāmilo Road (887-6063).

- All off-highway vehicles must be equipped with a spark arrester. Loud bikes and ATVs are causing loss of riding areas nationwide and we support the California OHV sound limit of 96 decibels.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- All visitors to the park must sign in at Check-In Station.
- No riding in the parking area unless to access trail.
- No ATV or dirt bike riding on entrance road.
- Always stay on designated trails.
- All local state and federal laws apply.
- It is unlawful to operate an OHV under the influence of drugs or alcohol or in a manner that endangers the safety of others.

TREAD LIGHTLY

- Please ride responsibly: use it but don’t abuse it.
- Clean your vehicle before and after use.
- Make sure your equipment is legal.
- Educate yourself and others about the rules for riding in this park.
- Stay on designated trails.
- Leave no trace - pack out what you pack in.
- Toilet facilities and garbage cans are located near the parking area only.
- Alcohol and drugs are prohibited.

SAFETY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Use caution — this is a multi-use area that is shared by hikers, hunters, and other outdoor enthusiasts. Please be aware of the following:

- The park is open to hunting daily.
- Hunters are recommended to wear blaze-orange outer garment.
- Hunters may be with dogs.
- Mountain bikes may be sharing the roads.
- Hikers may be on the roads.
- Other ATV and Dirt Bike riders of all levels are on the road.

PRACTICE SAFE ROAD HABITS

- Operate your vehicle with courtesy.
- Be prepared to yield the right of way any time there is doubt and you can safely do so.
- Because there are 2-way directional trails, stay to the right side of trails.
- Approach curves, turns and blind spots with extreme caution. Assume there are vehicles and/or others ahead and slow accordingly.
- Go with a friend. Two heads and two vehicles are better than one.
- Allow extra room and stopping distance when approaching others, especially youngsters who may be less experienced.
- Drive within the limits of your ability.
- Don’t go faster than you can safely handle.
- Do not carry passengers at any time.

RECOMMENDED RIDING PREPAREDNESS

It is strongly recommended for your protection that the following items be worn at all times during the operation of your vehicle:

- DOT and SNELL approved helmet
- Goggles
- Shoulder guards
- Protective clothing (long sleeved shirt /long pants)
- Chest protector
- Gloves
- Knee and Elbow pads
- Boots

Before starting out, tell a responsible person where you will be and when to expect you back. Inform that person to obtain help if you do not return on time.

As part of riding responsibly, you should consider taking and using the following: First Aid Kit, cell phone, drinking water, extra fuel/oil, map of the park and emergency contact information.

IN AN EMERGENCY

LOST PERSON
If a member of your party becomes lost, don’t panic. Make a note of where the person was last seen and at what time. Call 911 immediately.

INJURED PERSON
It is usually best not to transport an injured person away from an accident scene before medical personnel arrive. Moving a victim improperly can make an injury worse, particularly when the injury is to the head, neck or back areas. Call 911 immediately.

TELEPHONES
Emergency—911
Division of Forestry—974-4221
Report Violations to DOCARE—643-3567

NOTE Due to the remote location of the park, cellular phone access may be limited.

HISTORY

The Waiākea Timber Management Area was originally established as a forest resource base which could provide a constant wood supply for Hawai‘i’s forest products industry. From 1956-1960, the Waiākea Arboretum tested adaptability and growth potential of 84 introduced timber species in Hawai‘i. Initial results of these tests provided information for selecting timber species to be planted within the area. Major planting efforts began in 1959 and continued through 1968. Approximately 330 acres of land formerly leased to Puna Sugar Company was also planted in the early 1980s. Some areas were weeded or fertilized in the early years, but the majority were allowed to grow without any timber stand improvement activity.

From 1985-1988, Puna Sugar Company entered into a timber harvest agreement with the State for 2,000 acres of eucalyptus. The harvested trees were converted into wood chips and used to produce power at a local electrical generator plant. This area has subsequently been replanted with eucalyptus. Little to no harvesting of other planted hardwoods has occurred, with the exception of small-scale sales and timber salvage operations. Tree fern harvesting occurred in the early 1970s with approximately 16,000 cubic feet of logs removed and sold for use in the flower and landscape industry. Tree ferns have subsequently grown back vigorously in some of the planted areas.