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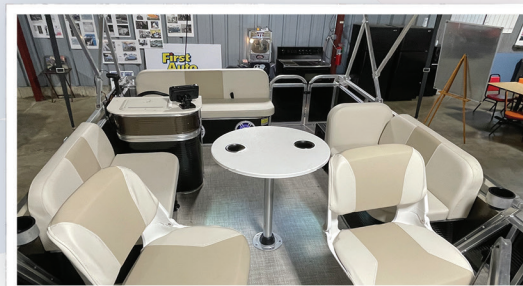
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TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME Boat Buyers

Boating is a rewarding hobby that can be great for people from all walks of life. Many people buy a boat because they already have a passion for fishing and want their own vessel to take out on the water. Others may buy a boat because they like the challenge posed by sailing, a demanding yet rewarding hobby.

According to Grow Boating, a marine industry organization that aims to generate awareness and interest in boating, retail sales of new boats, marine engines and marine accessories in the United States totaled \$20.1 billion in 2017. That marked a 9.5 percent increase from the year prior, highlighting the growing popularity of boating. In fact, Grow Boating notes that 141.6 million Americans went boating in 2016.

The fun of boating compels many people to buy their own boats. For first-timers, buying a boat can be both exciting and confusing. Prospective buyers must decide on everything from the type of vessel they want to the size of the boat to where to store it when they're not out on the water. Such decisions can make the process of buying a boat somewhat intimidating. However, the following tips might facilitate the process of buying a boat for the first time.

• ASSESS YOUR SKILLS.

An honest assessment of your skills will help you determine if the time is right to buy a boat. There's no shame in waiting to buy a boat until you become more comfortable navigating it. Boating schools can be great resources for novices, teaching them the ins and outs of boating. The United States Coast Guard

notes that boating safety courses are offered throughout the country for all types of recreational boaters.

• ASK AROUND.

Boaters tend to be passionate about boating, and many are willing to offer advice to novices about boats that may suit their needs. Local marinas can be great resources for first-time boat buyers. Visit a local marina and seek advice from current boat owners. Some may share their own travails and triumphs from their first boat-buying experience, and those stories can serve as a guide as you begin your own journey to boat ownership.

• BE PATIENT.

Boats are significant investments, so it serves prospective owners well to be patient and exercise due diligence before making a purchase. Do your homework on the type of boat that best suits your needs, skill level and budget.

• DO YOUR HOMEWORK IN REGARD TO FEES.

The cost of owning a boat is more than just the sticker price and the cost of fuel. Much like you would before buying an automobile, get a quote on boating insurance before making a purchase, being as specific as possible in regard to the boat's make, model and age when asking for an estimate. In addition, get quotes on docking and mooring fees. When buying a boat, people envision taking their boats out as much as possible. That's only possible for boat owners who fully grasp the full cost of boat



ownership and how to finance all of the ancillary expenses of owning a boat.

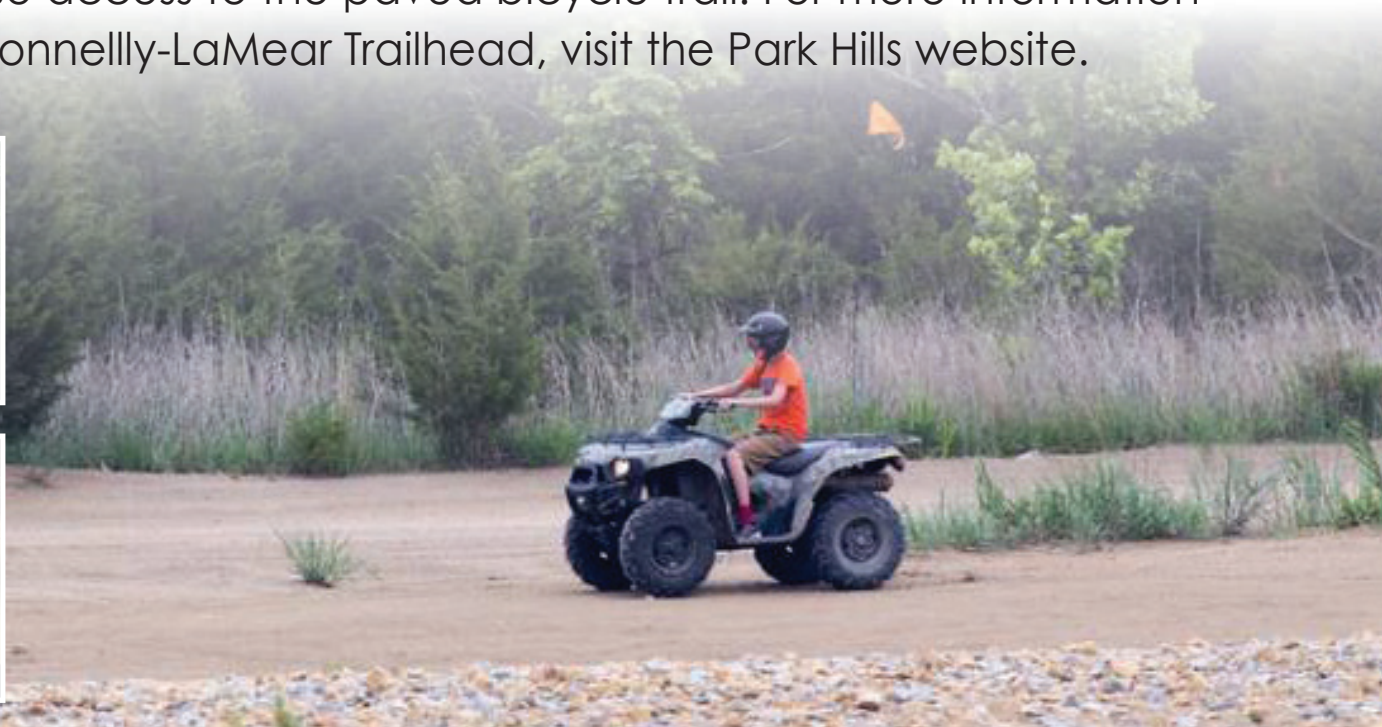
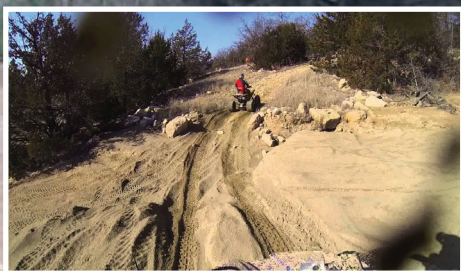
The decision to buy a boat requires careful consideration of a host of factors to ensure boaters find the right boat and get the most of their time on the water.

A PLACE TO PLAY with your big boy toys!

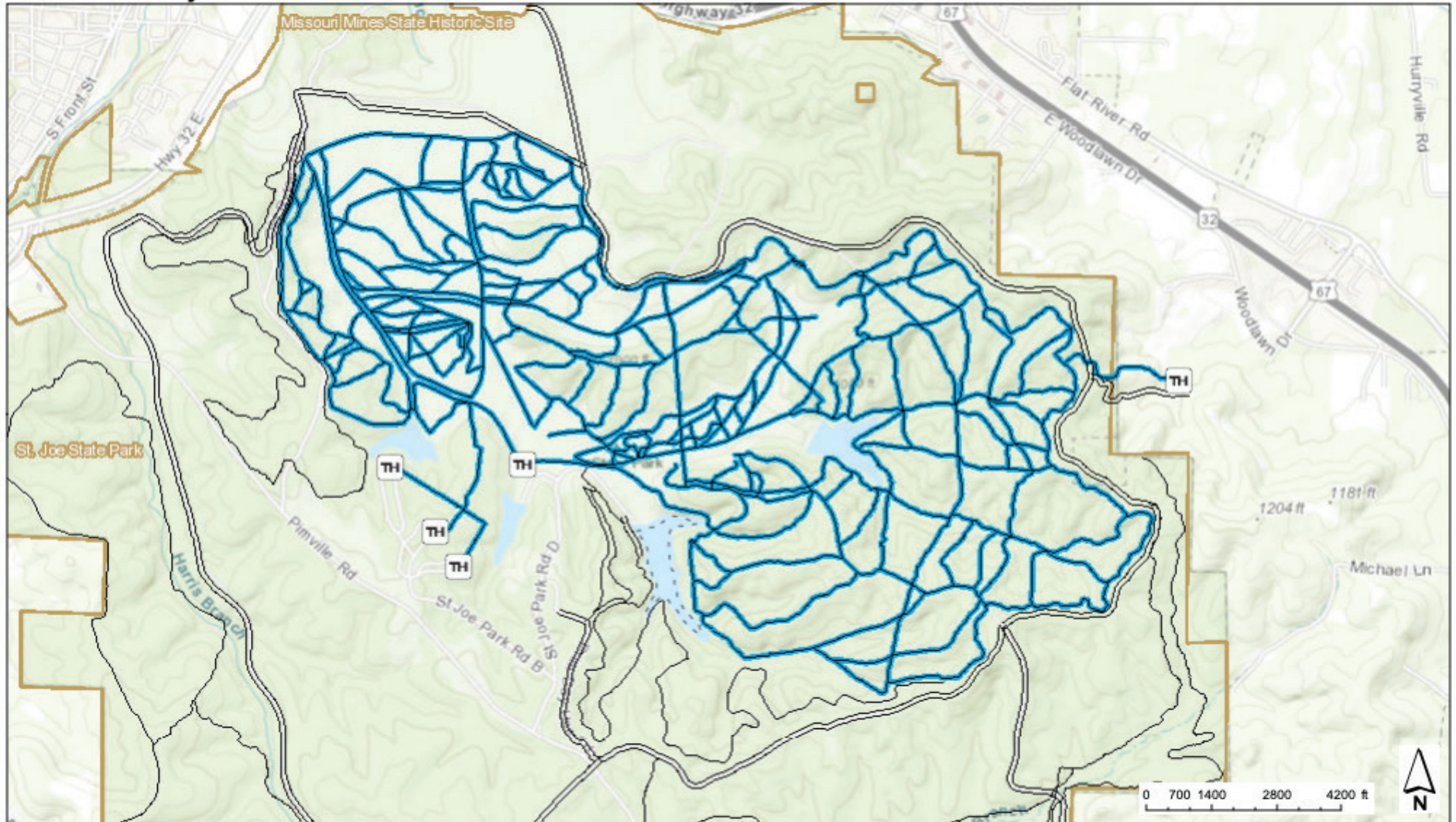
The roar of engines breaks the stillness of the Old Lead Belt at St. Joe State Park, one of two off-road vehicle parks in the state park system. The many trails set aside for off-road vehicle use make the park the premiere off-road vehicle area. The park also features four lakes, two swimming beaches, equestrian trails, a hiking and bicycling trail, a water trail, and picnic sites, as well as two campgrounds capable of accommodating campers with ORV or horse trailers.

The ORV area can also be accessed from the Donnelly-LaMear Trailhead, conveniently located right off Highway 67 at the Fairgrounds Drive exit. It is open Thursday through Sunday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. November through March. The area has ample parking and restrooms.

Online permits are required to use this entrance into the ORV area, but there is also access to the paved bicycle trail. For more information on the Donnelly-LaMear Trailhead, visit the Park Hills website.



ORV Trail System



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri

May 17, 2021 3:28:39 PM CDT

ORV TRAIL SYSTEM

The Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Trail System consists of 54 miles of trail, some of which are a surface of tailings (crushed limestone rock, a sand like substance referred to as the 'sand-flats'). The remaining area is wooded hillsides. Motorcycles, ATVs, side-by-side vehicles (also known as Utility All-Terrain Vehicles - UTVs), dune buggies, four-wheel drive vehicles and snow mobiles are permitted to use the area. Permits can be purchased at the park office. Specific safety gear is required. Please review the complete list of rules and regulations.

Only motorcycles, ATVs and the UTVs are permitted to use the trails in the woods. The other larger vehicles, due to their size, are restricted to the sand-flats, which have a vegetated desert like appearance. Trails are identified with a three digit numbering system. The '100' trail, which circumvents the entire riding area, is identified with blue blazes.

The wooded trails vary in difficulty from relatively flat earth-en type surface to very steep, rocky, eroded slopes. Distance from Trailhead 1: 54.0 Miles

TRAILHEAD & GPS LOCATION:

- 1) 37.81140, -90.51353
- 2) 37.81451, -90.51624
- 3) 37.81462, -90.50840
- 4) 37.80966, -90.51220

YOU MAY EXPERIENCE:

- 2) Natural Surface-dirt/mud/gravel, shifting rock, slippery surface, etc.
- 3) Rocks, roots and/or downed vegetation on trail
- 4) Low-hanging vegetation
- 5) Physically challenging obstacles
- 7) Steep grades and inclines more than 10%
- 8) Bluffs or drop-offs next to trail
- 10) Water/stream crossings without bridges
- 11) Occasional water over trail



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5 MUDDING SAFETY TIPS to Stay Secure on the Trails

by Stephanie Weaver
with ridenow.com

Whether you prefer lakeshores or lakebeds, an afternoon spent mudding means you and your ATV are bound to get dirty. But while you can't avoid mud, dirt, and water when out on the trail, you can steer clear of danger.

Follow these five mudding safety tips to stay protected while you're navigating backwoods trails.

• PROPERLY PREPARE

Well before you get down and dirty, it's essential to properly prepare for your mudding adventure. It's important to invest in the right vehicle, the right gear, the right tires, and ride with the right people.

While nobody is going to take the family sedan mudding, it is a smart idea to buy an ATV that accommodates your size, riding style, and experience level.

You also need to outfit your vehicle with the proper tires. Always opt for tires with aggressive treads and wide grooves. They'll be able to claw and grip through all types of terrain.

It's crucial to wear the proper safety equipment. Wear a helmet, goggles, reflective clothing, and stash a winch in your ride.

Lastly, always go mudding with people you know and trust. Be sure to use the buddy system to avoid getting stuck out in the middle of nowhere by yourself.

• GET YOUR TIRES READY

Now that you have the right tires, you need to get them ready for the action. Check your tire pressure to ensure it's at



the proper levels. Nothing can kill your fun faster than a blowout. Also, closely inspect your tires for any abnormal wear and tear. If you notice anything out of the ordinary, replace the tire before tackling the trails.

• GETTING YOURSELF UNSTUCK

Getting stuck in the mud is never fun. To quickly get moving again, try turning the steering wheel or handle bars back and forth to gain some grip. You can also "rock" your vehicle by alternating between forward and reverse to get some momentum. If your rig is truly stuck, use your winch or have a buddy pull you out.

Never quickly spin your tires if you're stuck. This is dangerous and can even cause your tires to explode.

• SCOPE OUT YOUR SURROUNDINGS

It's always a smart idea to scope out the trail before you do some mudding. Familiarize yourself with the twists and turns of the trail, where rocks and water are, and hazards you might run into. While the mystery of the trail might seem

exciting, running over an unexpected boulder never is.

• MIND YOUR MUD

All mud is not created equal. It's important to know what types of mud you'll be dealing with on the trail.

Clay mud is sticky and will stubbornly cling to your tires. If you plan on driving in clay mud, spray your tires down with WD40 or cooking spray to keep them slippery.

Watery mud can hide deep ditches and debris you wouldn't suspect of being there. Always take it slow and steady through watery mud.

Similar to clay mud, dirt mud will stick to your tires. Spray your tires down with WD40 to make them mud-repellant.

THE BOTTOM LINE: STAY SAFE WHILE GETTING DIRTY

To make the most of your mudding adventure, it's always best to play it safe. Ride the right vehicle, buy the right tires, and always hit the trails with dependable people to avoid potential hazards.

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