You are responsible for knowing park rules and regulations. All provisions of the California Vehicle Code are enforced. A copy may be found at www.dnr.ca.gov/parks/hills/hr.htm. If you have questions, please contact park staff at (831) 637-3674.

The term OHV means off-highway vehicle. Any motor vehicle operated off-highways is an OHV. A highway licensed vehicle is an OHV when operated off the highway. Vehicles having green and red stickers are OHVs.

ALCOHOL: Open container and OHV laws apply off-highway just as they do on highways. Don't drink and drive.

DOGS: Dog must be kept on a leash at all times. Please pick up after your dog.

RIGHT OF WAY: Off-highway vehicles shall yield the right of way to any vehicle which has the right of way, or which is on-road.

NOISE EMISSIONS: The noise limits noise emissions from all OHVs. Noise emissions for most OHVs are limited to not more than 70 dB when measured at a distance of 20 meters using standard test procedures. For more specific information, go to www.dnr.ca.gov/parks/ohv/emissions.

REACH AND OPERATE ALL CONTROLS: All operations of all highway vehicles must be done while sitting on the seat and look ahead.

DESCRIPTION: All operations of all highway vehicles must be done while sitting on the seat and looking ahead.

SPEED: Please follow posted speed limits throughout the park. In drivable areas, keep speeds to 15 mph or less. Never drive faster than is safe for conditions.

BROADEN OR REVOKED LICENSE: Anyone whose driving privileges have been suspended or revoked is prohibited from operating any motor vehicle, on- or off-highway.

VEGETATION: It is never legal to drive or ride over vegetation. Always stay on established trails.

Locations in park are representative. Actual locations of some features may vary over time as a result of weather, maintenance, and other factors. Observe all signage, and use appropriate caution when traveling through the park.
Welcome to Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area (OHV) – California State Parks’ (CSP) OHV Area. Located just an hour’s drive from San Jose, this unique OHV area features over 8,000 acres of scenic and varied terrain. Visitors are drawn to the natural beauty of the park’s oak woodlands, rolling hills, lush canyons, seasonal creeks, and the many miles of OHV trails for all vehicle types and skill levels. The area is open year-round and offers day-use and overnight camping opportunities. OHV recreation is permitted from sunset to sunrise. This map focuses on the Upper Ranch and the Hudson Ranch of Hollister Hills SVRA, which are set aside for off-road vehicles with the exception of ATVs. A separate map is available for the Lower Ranch and the Rincon Ranch, where opportunities are provided for motorcycle and ATV use.

Recreational Opportunities

OHV

The 800+ acre Upper Ranch offers fun on a network of trails and three specialized areas that provide a range of challenges and obstacles. On occasion, the Upper Ranch may be partially or entirely closed due to special events and conditions. Please check www.ca.gov/cp/ OHV to verify the current status of events. The area is open year-round and offers day-use and overnight camping opportunities. On occasion, the Upper Ranch may be partially or entirely closed due to special events and conditions. Please check www.ca.gov/cp/OHV to verify the current status of events.

Education

Hollister Hills SVRA offers many opportunities for volunteers. For more information about volunteering, please call the District Office at 831-637-6390.

Volunteering

Cooperating Association: Hollister Hills OHV Association (HHOHA) is a non-profit organization that supports the operation of the Park. The HHOHA is a member of the Environmentally Sustainable OHV recreation. HHOHA is dedicated to enhancing and promoting the recreational opportunities available at the Park. Over 100,000 visitors have volunteered to help with a wide variety of activities, from organizing roadside clean-up to holding family-oriented special events for club members. To get involved or find out more, please visit www.hhoha.org.

Facilities

Day Use/Camping

Day use and camping at Hollister Hills SVRA are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Fees are collected at the entrance to the Park. Additional information can be found at www.ca.gov/cp/OHV.

Special Events

There are areas within the Park that can be reserved for special events – everything from family weddings, weddings, poker runs, and trail rides to group camping and club outings. For more information, or to book a special event, please call Hollister Hills Events at 831-638-3390.

Group Campground “Area #5”

This area is a large group campground available for groups and special events. Accommodations include picnic tables, shade canopies, fire rings, flush toilets, showers, a large berm area, a water point, electricity and parking. For more information, or to book a group or special event, please call 831-638-3390.

Lower Ranch: Visitors to the Upper Ranch may camp in the Lower Ranch. Some campsites have flush toilets and showers.

Air Pressure: Air for tire inflation is available at the entrance to the Park. Additional information can be found at www.ca.gov/cp/OHV.

Air Conditioning: Air for tire inflation is available at the entrance to the Park. Additional information can be found at www.ca.gov/cp/OHV.

Fire/Wildfire Restrictions: Firewood may be purchased at the park store in the Lower Ranch. Collection of firewood within the park is not allowed. No ground fires are allowed.

Hector Heights: This is the highest elevation in the park that can be reached by a vehicle. It offers sweeping views of the park and the town of Hollister, as well as the Gallopin Mountain Range and surrounding areas. The peak at Hector Heights has a notable view of the Pacific Ocean.

Vineyard

Schoolhouse: Located near the entrance to the Upper Ranch is the historic Vineyard Schoolhouse. The school was established in 1913 and operated as a county schoolhouse until 1953. It is a classic example of a one-room schoolhouse reflecting local traditional architecture. Hollister, the last private owner of the ranch, attended school here.

Rider Responsibilities

Be Prepared

OHV recreation is a great way to connect to the outdoors. To ensure you have an enjoyable experience, be prepared for the unexpected. The park is not exclusively used by OHV recreationists but is shared by others, including many species of wildlife. Showing courtesy to all makes the park experience most enjoyable.

Take a training course: All operators of an OHV should take the appropriate safety training course.

Drive and ride within your limits: Minimize the chance of injury and make your fun by exercising common sense. Take time to evaluate the situation and consider options. Do not attempt to exceed your abilities. Operate your vehicle safely and treat others with courtesy.

ROV Laws

In California, there are laws specific to operating a Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle (ROV), which are commonly referred to as a side-by-side, recreational utility vehicle, or a utility terrain vehicle.

Operation: A person operating an ROV must be at least 16 years old. It is strictly prohibited to wear or use a cellular telephone while driving an ROV. The transport of passengers is prohibited.

Harvest: All occupants are required to wear a seatbelt and shoulder belt or safety harness that is properly fastened when the vehicle is in motion.

Seat position: A passenger must be able to look up at the driver and vice versa.

Accessibility

The State of California parks supports equal access. Visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the District Office at 831-637-6381 or 711 TTY relay service prior to arrival. The website can be viewed in alternative formats by contacting the DHCR Division or dhcrinfo@dhcr.ca.gov.

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Wren

Howard Hatch was the founder of the town of what is now known as Hollister, CA. Howard’s great-grandson, Jesse Whitfill, was a captain in the 6th Confederate Artillery that defended the town in 1861. After the war, Jesse Whitfill returned to the area and successfully purchased 600 acres for $10 per acre. The land was passed down through the family and passed to Howard in 1905. Howard became the first private owner of the property. In the following years, Howard purchased more of the surrounding properties and built many of the park’s trails and roads. He used the land for a number of activities including mining, farming, ranching, hunting, scientific studies, and OHV recreation.

Walnut Orchard: Remnants of a walnut orchard planted by Howard Whitfill can be seen on the left side of the road near the park’s main entrance. This orchard is an excellent example of one of California’s earliest and most successful experimental orchards. It was pioneered by Howard and were originally cultivated but resulted in significantly low yields and were adopted as the industry standard.