Silver Lake State Park Lake Michigan Shoreline Horseback Riding
ORV Parking Area, 8969 W Fox Road, Mears, MI 49436
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Rules and tips for shoreline rides

- Silver Lake State Park's shoreline horseback riding season will take place November 1–30 annually.
- Reservations open September 1 annually.
- A $10 reservation per horse per day is required in advance and can be made at MiDNRReservations.com. Only vehicles with a reservation for the current day are permitted to enter the ORV lot.
- A valid Recreation Passport required on all vehicles.
- Familiarize yourself with the map and what areas you can ride your horse. Follow the signed route through the dunes to the shoreline. Open riding within the ORV area or pedestrian area is not allowed.
- **You must bring your own horse.**
- Alcohol is prohibited.
- The parking lot gates are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Gates will open every day regardless of conditions and it is the visitor's discretion to enter the dunes.
- **You must clean up manure in the parking lot; however, a designated manure collection trailer is provided. Bring your own fork and muck bucket. No manure to be deposited in any dumpster.**
- **No drinking water is available for people or horses. Please plan accordingly.**
- Vault toilets (or outhouses) are in the parking lot and in the dunes.
- You cannot use tie downs on horses near water.
- Be aware that DNR staff may be working in the area and operating 4-wheel drive trucks and tractors during the first two weeks of November.
- The dunes are open to hunting, but it is not a frequent occurrence.
- There is limited refuse service provided for trash.

The dunes are an everchanging environment. Drifts and freezing conditions can drastically change the landscape overnight.

Dune route manure maintenance will be performed from 3:30p.m. - 5:00p.m. daily or as needed by the Michigan Shoreline Horse Friends volunteer group. Please email mihorsefriends@gmail.com to volunteer and help sustain these opportunities and join the Michigan Shoreline Horse Friends facebook page for more information.
https://www.facebook.com/groups/michiganshorelinehorsefriends/

PRE-RIDE TIPS:

- Practice new experiences with your horse and have good control of your horse before exposing them to the shoreline.
- Condition your horse to be fit enough for at least a 5 to 10-mile trail ride.

RIDE TIPS:

- Be courteous of others. When near other riders and pedestrians, give space and stay at a walk.
- Walking or "shuffling" is best when climbing up the dunes. Try to avoid loping or cantering uphill as these gaits can cause your horse to dig deeper in the sand and be more strenuous. Take breaks as needed.
- Consider riding parallel along the shoreline and not directly into the water.
- Some horses really like the water and may paw at it. If so, encourage horses to move on so they do not roll.

Thank you for following these instructions. Enjoy your shoreline horseback riding experience at Silver Lake State Park!

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Michigan Horse Council
Michigan Shoreline Horse Friends