

# RULES & REGULATIONS

## In Michigan State Parks

The following regulations apply to the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources Land Use of Certain Managed State Lands:

- Cannot interfere with department employees and their designees performing official duties
- Cannot interfere with search and rescue operations
- Cannot fly within 100 yards of a cultural or historical site/structure
- Cannot fly over an occupied beach area, equestrian facility, restroom, open changing area or an area subject to an aerial right-of-way
- Cannot fly over campsites

These operations are currently prohibited in Managed State Lands unless use has been pre-authorized through written permission from an authorized representative of the DNR.



According to Act No. 12 Public Acts of 2015, it is against the law to interfere with or harass an individual who is hunting or fishing.

# Be Responsible... Know the Laws... Have Fun

Due to the popularity and increase in numbers of Recreational Drone Operators nationally, state-wide and locally, this brochure has been compiled by the Gerrish Township Police Department and serves as an informational piece only and represents the most current rules and regulations available at the time of publication (May 2021).

Below are websites where more drone references can be found:



[www.faa.gov/uas/recreational\\_fliers](http://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_fliers)

<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr>

<https://www.legislative.mi.gov>

<https://knowbeforeyoufly.org>

CONSIDER A MOBILE APP TO  
ENHANCE YOUR FLIGHT EXPERIENCE:

B4UFLY \* Airmap \*  
Drone Buddy \* Kittyhawk

# DRONES




## A guide to Recreational UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) Use



# What are Drones?

A drone is an aircraft without a human pilot on board. It is remotely controlled by an operator on the ground. All drone operators are responsible for understanding and abiding by the rules implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

## What is Recreational Use?



Recreational use of a drone is the operation of the UAS for personal interests and enjoyment. Using a drone to take photographs as a hobby or for your own personal use would be considered recreational. Using a drone to take photos or videos for compensation or sale would be considered a commercial operation and would require a license. Recreational drone operators would be exempt from a license. For further determination of proper use, check the FAA website at [www.faa.gov/uas](http://www.faa.gov/uas).

## RULES & REGULATIONS

- Fly only for recreational purposes (enjoyment)
- Follow any local ordinances or guidelines of an FAA recognized Community Based Organization (CBO)
- Keep your drone within the visual line of sight at all times or use a visual observer who is physically next to you and in direct communication with you
- Do not fly in No Drone Zones or interfere with manned aircraft
- Do not fly over 400 feet or near airports or military bases
- Have a current drone registration and carry it with you and have the registration number clearly marked on the exterior surface of the drone
- Do not interfere with emergency response or law enforcement activities
- Do not fly in adverse weather conditions (high winds or reduced visibility) or at night
- Do not fly under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Do not harass or invade a person's reasonable expectation of privacy
- Do not use a drone to violate the sex offender registry
- Do not fly over power stations, water treatment facilities, heavily traveled roadways, stadiums or government facilities

## Do I need to Register my Drone?

YES. Any small drone, which the FAA classifies as unmanned aircraft weighing less than 55 pounds and more than 0.55 pounds, are required to be registered with the FAA. The registration fee is \$5.00 and is good for 3 years. The registration number must be clearly displayed on the exterior surface of the drone.

To register a drone, go to <https://faadronezone.faa.gov> and click the link for "Exception for Recreational Flyers"

## Drone Laws in Michigan

To fly as a drone hobbyist in the State of Michigan you are required to follow the FAA's recreational model aircraft rules. You can find these rules at [https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational\\_fliers](https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_fliers).

You must also abide by the State of Michigan "Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act" Act 436 of 2016 and State of Michigan Act No. 12 Public Acts of 2015.

Violation of these laws is a misdemeanor with penalties including fines (up to \$500), imprisonment (up to 90 days) or both.