

Trail Use Etiquette

General Guidelines & Etiquette tips:

- Share the trails- cyclists' yield to all other trail users and pedestrians yield to equestrians.
- Slower traffic should keep to the right of the trail; faster users pass on the left.
- When passing other trail users, provide adequate warning and reduce speed.
- Animals on the trail may act unexpectedly. If you are unsure about approaching someone with a horse or dog, ask the handler for guidance.
- If you choose to wear a stereo/headphone set, make sure that the volume neither prevents you from hearing what is happening around you, nor disturbs the other trail users.

Etiquette for Equestrians:

- Make sure your horse has the temperament and training for riding on public trails. Busy multi-use trails are not the proper place for schooling green horses.
- Advise other trail users of your horse's temperament, e.g., a horse with a tendency to kick should always wear a red ribbon on the tail or a stallion should wear a yellow ribbon. Assume that not everyone will know what these ribbons mean, so be prepared to explain or take the necessary precautions to avoid other trail users.
- Move to the right to allow faster trail users to pass.
- Announce your intentions to pass other trail users and reduce speed in order to pass safely. Pass on the left only.
- Move to the side of the trail if you begin experiencing behavior problems.
- Step off the trail (if possible) if your horse needs to relieve himself or kick the droppings off the trail.

Etiquette for Joggers/Walkers

- Stay to the right of the trail--pass on the left.
- Always yield to equestrians.
- If you wish to approach a horse, ask the rider for guidance.
- Announce yourself when overtaking other trail users.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times.
- Keep a short leash on your dog when passing (or being passed by) horses, cyclists, or other pedestrians. Remember that your dog may frighten other trail users, and they may be unsure how to pass safely.
- Always pick up after your dogs and properly dispose in trash receptacles.

Etiquette for Cyclists

- Approach and pass other trail users with care--you are obligated to yield to all other trail users. When approaching from behind, announce yourself (and the number of other cyclists in your group) well in advance so that you do not startle other trail users. Reduce speed in order to pass safely. Pass horses as far to the left as possible to avoid unintentional contact. Red ribbons on a horse's tail are an indication that it may kick if approached too closely from behind.
- Obey posted speed limits and use common sense in crowded areas.
- Use the appropriate hand signals for turning, stopping, etc.
- Should your approach cause a horse to spook or become frightened, be considerate and stop. Wait for the rider to tell you that it is okay to pass.
- Always wear a helmet.