

SHARING THE TRAIL CONT.

Make Your Intentions Known

Ride in a predictable manner of consistent speed so that other trail users are aware of your intentions. If you need to stop let the people behind you know that you are stopping. Use proper hand signals when turning, stopping, etc. Before passing other trail users politely ask to pass, wait until they acknowledge you before passing.

Be Responsible

Anything you carry in be sure to carry it out with you, do not leave trash, garbage or anything else laying on the trail. You can even go a step further and carry out anything less thoughtful trail users have left behind. Leave only your footprints behind.

RIGHT OF WAY

ORV'S and ATV's yield the right of way to all other trail users.

Bicyclists yield to hikers and equestrians.

Hikers yield to equestrians.

Equestrians keep your equine under control at all times.

While the above is the general rule of right of way for multi-use trails not all trails may observe the same guidelines. Be sure to read any and all rules or regulations pertaining to the specific trail you are using.

Remember, **use of public trails is a privilege**, not a right. Please show that we are responsible enough to deserve that privilege.

MOUNT UP AND STAY SAFE!!



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WV TRAILS

Allegheny Highlands Trail

21-mile multi-use, non-motorized recreational trail running from Elkins, WV to Parsons, WV.

Cranberry/Tri-Rivers Rail Trail

14.5-mile multi-use, non-motorized recreational trail near Summersville, WV in Nicholas County.

Greenbrier River Rail Trail

76-mile multi-use, non-motorized recreational trail running from North Caldwell to one mile south of Cass Scenic Railroad State Park.

Harrison County Bike and Hike Rail Trail

7-mile multi-use, non-motorized recreational trail near Clarksburg, WV in Harrison County.

Hatfield-McCoy Trails

Over 500 miles of multi-use recreational trails located in the mountains of Appalachia in southern WV.

Marion County Rail Trail (MC Trail)

2.5-mile multi-use, non-motorized recreational trail running from northeast Fairmont to Pricketts Fort State Park in Marion County.

North Bend Rail Trail

72-mile multi-use, non-motorized recreational trail running from I-77 near Parkersburg in Wood County to Wolf Summit in Harrison County.

Panhandle Rail Trail

Multi-use, non-motorized recreational trail; it is WV's first interstate trail connecting Weirton, WV to Carnegie, PA near Pittsburgh. The Panhandle Trail also connects to a complex of trails, starting with the Montour Trail that extends to Washington, DC, via the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

Ralph S. LaRue/West Fork River Rail Trail

14.5-mile multi-use, non-motorized recreational trail extending between Fairmont, WV and Shinnston, WV in Harrison and Marion County.

West Fork Rail Trail

26-mile multi-use, non-motorized recreational trail extending from Durbin, WV (Pocahontas County) to Glady, WV (Randolph County). This trail offers access to a remote section of the Greenbrier Watershed and parallels the West Fork of the Greenbrier River almost its entire length.

WV EQUINE ASSOCIATION EDUCATION COMMITTEE



“UNITING & EDUCATING WEST VIRGINIA’S EQUINE COMMUNITY”

www.wvequineassoc.org

Trail Etiquette

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TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Do you and your horse have good manners on the trail? What is good trail etiquette anyway? It's basically common sense and respecting others. With riding season just around the corner most of us will be saddling up and hitting the trails this year, here are a few tips to follow when you are on the trail.

1. Make sure your horse has the temperament and training for riding on congested public trails. Busy multi-use trails are not the proper place for schooling green horses.
2. Advise other trail users of your horse's temperament, e.g. a horse with a tendency to kick should always wear a red ribbon in the tail and 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 trouble.
3. Keep some distance between your horse and others, at least one horse length (approx. 10ft). Don't let your horse sniff at or rub its head on other horses or riders.
4. Don't leave another rider alone so you can trot or gallop ahead. Their horse might get upset and race after you. If someone has to dismount for any reason, stand still until they are back in the saddle. This also applies if someone drops a rein or has to stop for any reason, stay with them.
5. Obey posted speed/gait limits, and use common sense in crowded areas (cantering/galloping on crowded trails endangers everyone.)
6. Never go faster than the most inexperienced horse or rider is comfortable with.
7. Move to the right to allow faster trail users to pass.
8. Never trot or canter up behind other riders. Slow to a walk and ask to pass.
9. If you would like to pass other trail users, announce your intention to pass by simply asking, "Trail, Please?" and reduce speed and wait until they acknowledge you in order to pass safely. Make sure to give them plenty of room and pass on the left only.
10. Remove your horse from the trail if you begin experiencing behavior problems.
11. Don't be a trail hog. If you're riding next to a friend, drop back to single file and let others pass. Don't force them off the trail. When riding on narrow winding trails, listen for approaching riders and call to them, then look for a wider place to pass.

12. If you decide to pony or lead another horse, keep them on a short lead, especially when other horses pass. Don't let them swing their rump around or block the trail. When exercising a youngster, don't let it run loose. Just because your horse doesn't mind a cute youngster running around kicking at them, it doesn't mean other horses, especially mares, will like it. Keep youngsters on a lead and under control. This applies to dogs also as not all horses like dogs.

13. When you come upon an obstacle on the trail, give the rider ahead plenty of time to get through it. When crossing water or a bridge, depending on the width of the crossing, wait until the horse ahead of you is at least halfway through before you start across. If going uphill allow 2 horse lengths between you and the horse in front of you, if going downhill allow 3 horse lengths between you and the horse in front of you. Don't run up on their rump. If the horse ahead of you is leery of crossing, ask the rider first if they want your help. Don't just charge in.

14. Don't stop after crossing a tight or uneven spot on the trail, keep going. Just because you are clear or on level ground doesn't mean the riders behind you are. Make sure everyone is on safe ground before stopping.

15. Be aware of your environment. Don't chat with your friends and forget your riding. Many accidents happen at the walk because the rider wasn't paying attention to where his horse was going or what he was seeing.

16. Public trail rides are not the place for "horseplay" or drinking alcohol.

17. Stay on equestrian-approved trails. Read the signs. Don't ride on trails where horses are prohibited unless it is a true emergency. Likewise, respect posted signs.

18. As a courtesy to others in your group, use appropriate hand signals for turning, slowing, etc., and give verbal warnings for dangers on the trail (e.g. holes, low branches).

19. Remember that other trail users may not be familiar with horses or their reactions to new experiences. Your horse may be another trail user's introduction to horses; what you do is a reflection of the local horse community. Cheerfully answer questions about your horse. You are an ambassador for the entire equestrian community.

20. If you trailer to a location, do not clean out your trailer in the parking area.

21. On multiple-use trails step off the trail (if

possible) if your horse needs to relieve himself, or kick the droppings off the trail.

22. Be a responsible trail user. What you carry in, carry out, don't leave trash on the trails.

23. Remember, riding on public trails is a privilege, not a right. Please show that we in the trail riding community are responsible enough to deserve that privilege.

Trail riding is a fun and challenging equestrian activity, it can also be a very dangerous one. If you just follow a few simple rules and exercise good judgment, you and your fellow trail riders will have a much safer and happier riding season.

SHARING THE TRAIL

It is possible for all trail users to have a pleasant and enjoyable experience if we all exercise common sense and courtesy.

Be Courteous and Polite

All trail users need to be respectful of other users regardless of their speed and skill level. Always be polite even if other users are impolite to you.

Share the trail

Motorized vehicles yield to all other trail users, cyclists yield to hikers and equestrians, and hikers yield to equestrians. Equestrians keep your equine under control.

Don't block the trail

Always stay to the right side of the trail so as not to block the trail to other users. If you have to stop, move as far off the right side of the trail as possible to allow other users to pass.

Be Informed

Read all posted signs on the trail and obey the rules and guidelines for the specific trail you are using.

Be Aware

Always be aware of your surroundings at all times. Public trails are not the place for goofing off or drinking alcohol.