

St. Lawrence County Multi-Use Trails

Trail Rules, Etiquette & Safety Guidelines Tips for Trail Users



PLEASE NOTE:

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING THE LAWS THAT APPLY TO YOUR USE AND TO THE LOCATION WHERE YOU RECREATE.

THE WAY YOU USE THE TRAIL WILL INFLUENCE TRAIL MANAGEMENT DECISIONS AND POLICIES.

**Trail Use Administered By
St. Lawrence County
Recreational Trails Advisory Board and
Soil and Water Conservation District Call
315-379-1541 For More Information**

Enjoy the outdoors? Have interest or talents you would like to share? Enjoy helping people? Concerned about our county's natural and cultural resources? St. Lawrence County's trails depend on local user groups.

**JOIN A CLUB IN YOUR AREA! Share
the fun and support public trails**

Information on groups in your area are available at trailhead parking areas and local businesses.

Volunteers Make Trails Happen!

RULES OF THE TRAIL

ALL USERS:

STAY ON MARKED TRAIL. Enter and exit the trail system only at trailheads or town connectors.

TRAIL IS OPEN 6:00 AM UNTIL MIDNIGHT, UNLESS SPECIAL PERMISSION IS GRANTED.

OBEY ALL SIGNS, GATES AND BARRIERS.

ALWAYS STOP WHEN SIGNALLED BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT OR SAFETY PATROL OFFICER.

NO CAMPING OR FIRES ARE PERMITTED.

RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT. TRAVEL WITH MINIMUM IMPACT. DO NOT LITTER. CARRY OUT WHAT YOU CARRY IN AND LEAVE NOTHING BEHIND.

ALWAYS CARRY PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION.

WATCH THE WEATHER AND DRESS APPROPRIATELY.

ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED FOR UNDER 18.

NO ALCOHOL MAY BE CONSUMED ON THE TRAIL.

BE PREPARED - CARRY A FIRST AID KIT, TOOLS, SPARE EQUIPMENT AND A CELL PHONE OR TWO-WAY RADIO.

MOTORIZED USERS:

ALL MACHINES MUST BE REGISTERED AND INSURED.

ALL RIDERS MUST WEAR A DOT, SNELL, OR OTHER APPROVED HELMET, PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR AND OVER THE ANKLE FOOTWEAR.

ALL MACHINES MUST HAVE A PROPERLY FUNCTIONING MUFFLER AND USFS APPROVED SPARK ARRESTOR.

CHECK AND TEST YOUR MACHINE BEFORE RIDING.

YIELD TO ALL OTHER USERS. WHILE IN TOWN, KEEP OFF SIDEWALKS AND YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS.

ALL LIGHTS AND BRAKES MUST BE IN GOOD WORKING ORDER. ALWAYS RIDE WITH YOUR LIGHTS ON.

NO PASSENGERS UNLESS THE MACHINE IS MANUFACTURED FOR THE DRIVER AND ONE PASSENGER.

NO DRIVERS THAT DO NOT MEET THE MINIMUM AGE RECOMMENDATION SPECIFIED BY THE MANUFACTURER.

KEEP SPEED TO POSTED LIMITS ON TRAILS AND ROADS. REDUCE SPEED IF FITTING FOR TRAIL CONDITIONS.

ALWAYS RIDE WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

ALWAYS RIDE SINGLE FILE.

KEEP A SAFE RIDING DISTANCE FROM OTHERS.

READ AND PRACTICE THE ETIQUETTE FOR YOUR METHOD OF TRAIL USE!

FOR ANY TRAIL EMERGENCY, DIAL 911.

Etiquette For All Users

1. Treat all trail users with respect & courtesy regardless of their sport or skill level.
2. Protect our environment. Stay on the trail. Do not cut switchbacks or use shortcuts.
3. Stay right and pass on the left. Always look before changing positions on the trail.
4. Share the trail, watch and listen for others.
5. Learn & use appropriate hand signals. Motorized users often can't hear voice signals.
6. Respect trail closures; use only trails posted open. Obey posted signs.
7. Carry out all litter, including pet waste.
8. All users yield to horseback riders and dog teams.
9. When encountering a horse, speak in a calm, pleasant tone so the horse hears a human voice. Do not hide.
10. The rider knows the horse the best. Expect the rider to advise you, not as a lack of courtesy, but rather with knowledge of the horse's temperament.
11. Dog teams cannot stop as quickly as other users. To avoid tangles or injury to dogs, when encountering a team, stop on the side of the trail and wait for the team to pass. Keep tight control of any pets. Obey any directions given by the musher.
11. Downhill traffic yields to uphill traffic and faster users yield to slower users.
12. Do not approach, scare, harass, or feed wildlife or livestock.
13. Respect private property and the privacy of people living along the trail.
14. Pets must be kept on leashes and under control.
15. Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy. Do not pull bark off of, cut or otherwise damage live trees.
16. Practice low-impact trail use. Wet & muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage.
17. Travel at a safe and controlled speed. Be especially careful when visibility is limited.

Etiquette for Mountain Bikers

1. Yield right-of-way to all other users. Yield to uphill users.
2. Never pass a horse from behind. Calmly ask to pass, so the rider can turn the horse around to face your bike.
3. If there is a horse coming towards you, just stop, say hello and allow the horse to pass you.
4. Control your bike; be ready & able to stop. Obey all bicycle speed regulations & recommendations. Riding a corner cleanly, without sliding, preserves the trail.
5. Slow down and use caution when approaching another user. Use your voice to make your presence known well in advance.

Etiquette for Dog Sledders

1. Dog harnesses must have reflective tape attached.
2. Musher must use a head lamp from sunset to sunrise.
3. One lead dog must have an LED lighted dog collar.

Etiquette for Snowmobile & ATV Riders

1. Ride quietly when around houses, campgrounds, and other non-riders. Keep the rpm's and speed low & steady.
2. Always ride with someone else.
3. When approaching an oncoming horseback rider, stop your vehicle. Shut off your engine, take off your helmet & say hello. Avoid any sudden movements. Let the horse pass.
4. When passing a horseback rider, alert the rider to your presence by calmly calling out you wish to pass. The horseback rider should pull the horse over. If the rider has the horse under control, proceed on. If not, allow the rider to move the horse to a safe spot on the trail and then proceed.
5. Avoid riding after heavy rains.
6. Park your machine and walk to sensitive, historic, scenic, and cultural areas.



Etiquette for Equestrians

1. Make sure your horse has the temperament and training for riding on congested trails.
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. Assume that not everyone will know what the ribbon means; be prepared to explain or necessary precautions to avoid trouble.
3. Obey posted speed/gait limits. Avoid cantering or galloping on busy trails.
4. Know your horse's limitations.
5. Leave gates as you find them. Obey gate closures and regulatory signs.
6. Let other trail users know when it is safe to pass you.
7. Announce your intention to pass others. Come to a walk and pass on the left.
8. Always pick up after your horse. Keep the trailhead clear of manure and trash. Try to keep the trail clean of manure.

Safety Tips For All Users

1. Have a pre-planned route; carry maps and a compass. Inform someone of your plans.
2. Be prepared for all kinds of weather. Know the symptoms of heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and hypothermia.
3. Stay within the limits of your ability.
4. Bring plenty of water. Treat stream, river, or lake water before use.
5. Carry first aid kits & insect repellent & know how to use them.