

Trail Etiquette

Quick Tips for Enjoying the Trail

- Treat all trail users with respect and courtesy regardless of their sport, speed or skill level.
- Bikers yield to pedestrians and horses. Pedestrians yield to horses.
- Downhill traffic yields to uphill traffic and faster users yield to slower users.
- Share the trail, watch and listen for others. Anything you fit in your ear that significantly impairs your hearing may not be safe.
- Stay to the right and pass on the left. Always look before changing positions on the trail. Anticipate other trail users around corners or in blind spots.
- Travel at a safe and controlled speed. Be careful when visibility is limited.
- Learn to use appropriate hand signals.
- When in doubt about who should yield, or if it doesn't appear that other users will yield, consider that others may not be familiar with trail etiquette and yield to the other users. When in doubt, yield to others.
- When encountering a horse, speak in a calm, pleasant tone so the horse hears a human voice. Do not hide. Expect the rider to advise you, as they know the horse best.
- Do not approach, scare, harass or feed wildlife or livestock.
- Dogs are a potential fright for both people and horses. Dogs must be kept on leashes, less than eight feet in length and under control.
- Practice low-impact trail use. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage. When the trail is soft, consider other options. Travel over obstacles in the trail, not around them. Going around widens the trail.
- Protect our environment. Stay on the trail. Do not cut switchbacks or use shortcuts.
- Respect trail closures. Obey posted signs and travel only on open trails.
- Respect private property and the privacy of people living along the trail.
- Carry out all litter, including all pet waste.
- Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy. Do not pull bark off, cut or otherwise damage live trees.

Winnebago County Parks