

# Safety & Trail Etiquette

**Safety for all users on the Lining Farm Heritage Museum's shared use trails is of paramount importance. Remember, the trails are a shared public space - safety and courtesy make for a positive trail experience for everyone. So, please respect your fellow trail users.**

## Safety Tips:

- Stop, look and listen for motor traffic before proceeding across the road! There are locations where the trail crosses roadways with motor traffic.
- Pass others on the left. Just like out on the road, faster trail users should pass slower users on the left. Give an audible warning with a bell, or call out "Passing on your left!"
- Pets on the trail should be under control at all times. **Please remove pet wastes.**
- Don't litter along the trails. Leave only footprints; take only pictures.
- Bicyclists should consider using helmets on the trails.
- You can be quite a distance from your car so be prepared to change a bike tire or to do minor maintenance.

## Speed Guide

It is the nature of these trails that users are moving at different speeds. Parents with children and folks with pets are moving slowly. Nature photographers are practically motionless. Bicyclists are moving faster. With a mix of speeds, there's a need to understand where you fit in, and whom to yield to when out on the trails. The short rule is:

## Wheels Yield to Heels

### Trail Use for Parents with Small Children

- Keep an eye on children on the path. Be mindful that kids (on foot or bike) sometimes veer into the path of oncoming traffic especially cyclists who may not be able to slow down.
- If your child is cycling, be sure they are skilled enough to control the bike, and maneuver as needed to share the trail and safely pass.
- Teach children that they must share the trail.

### Physically challenged Trail Users

- Nearly all portions of the trails are accessible. Physically challenged users could be in a wheelchair, or a "racing chair." Both are about twice as wide as a bicycle and neither is as maneuverable as a bicycle.
- A Physically challenged trail user may not have an obvious handicap. They may have hearing or vision problems. Some may have a problem with their balance.

- Physically challenged trail users may need an extra bit of courtesy when they interact with horses and riders since they cannot ambulate without the vehicle, so they can't yield off the trail.

### *Trail Use for Walkers*

- Walkers are almost the slowest trail user. All of the others are faster and may be coming from behind to pass.
- Walk on the right side of the trail, slowest traffic keep right; pass on left.
- At busy areas on the trail, avoid walking three abreast. Two people walking side by side fills up a lot of trail. When faster traffic comes up from behind switch from walking abreast to in-line to give them room to go by you safely.
- Pay attention to the traffic. Look and listen for oncoming, overtaking and crossing traffic.
- Be sure pets are under control at all times.

### *Trail Use for Runners*

- Runners are faster than the walkers but not as fast as cyclists.
- When approaching slower traffic move to the left side of the trail (pass on left only) and say loudly before you get to the walkers: "On Your Left". This will give them time to clear the way.

### *Trail Use for Bicyclists*

- Bikes are the fastest traffic on the trail. Very fast riding is inappropriate for the trails.
- Warn slower moving traffic that you are passing. Sound your bell or say loudly before you get to the other traffic "On Your Left". The speeds of a bike make it possible to startle other trail users, so don't wait to give your warning until you are right next to the walker or runner. Do give enough time.

### *Trail Use with Equestrians*

- Horseback riding is allowed on trails.
  - Horses are large (1000 pounds or more), skittish and shy creatures. Small things will cause them to shy or buck.
  - They can be startled by a bicycle or runner so make verbal contact with the rider and be sure it is safe to pass.
- (Park horse trailers in designated areas. Do not block roadways. Remove Horse droppings, hay, etc. from parking areas)