

Norfolk Insider

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“Using Etiquette on Norfolk’s Trails”

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The Norfolk area is experiencing real growth in its multi-use trail network. From the Cowboy Trail to the Levee Trail to Memorial Crossing Trail, the places to use a trail for safe travel and exercise are expanding.



And people are taking advantage of the trails. It seems at any given time one can see people using every section of the trail. With increased use there can be some congestion, but with a little common sense and courtesy, having more people on the trail with you can be fun and not an inconvenience.

Whether you are bicycling, walking, jogging, or skating, if you follow the same set of rules as everyone else, your trail time will be safer and more enjoyable.

Be Courteous. All trail users, including bicyclists, joggers, walkers, wheelchairs, and skaters, should be respectful of other users.

Be Predictable. Travel in a consistent and predictable manner. Always look behind before changing positions or stopping on the trail.

Don't Block The Trail. When in a group or with your pets, try to use no more than half the trail so as not to block the flow of other users. Stay to the right side of the trail, especially at corners and tunnels.

Keep Animals on a Leash. Even the best-behaved animals can react poorly or expectedly on the trail.

Pass on the Left and Warn Before Passing. Always pass on the left. Announce your intention to pass with an “On your left!” or with a bell. Make sure the person heard you and responds before proceeding. Wearing earbuds or headphones on the trail makes it hard hear a warning, so consider not wearing them or at least turning the music down a little.

Obey All Traffic Signs And Signals. Use extra caution where trails cross streets and driveways. Stop at all signs and yield to crossing traffic.

Be Visible. If the light is poor, wear light-colored or reflective clothing. Consider taking a flashlight at night. Bicycles should have a front and rear light, even a small blinking light is better than none at all.

Clean Up Litter. Do not leave glass, paper, cans, plastic, animal waste, or any other debris on or near a trail. The trail is public but be mindful that property next to it may not be.

Have You Outgrown Trails?

Trails are designed to accommodate the majority of users. If your speed or style endangers other users, maybe a different location is safer and more enjoyable for all concerned.

Always Exercise Due Care And Caution.