

HIKERS & RUNNERS



- ◆ **Always yield to equestrians.** If you are running **slow down or stop.** Horses can get spooked when a runner approaches too fast. Talk to the rider, this helps calm a horse.
- ◆ **Be alert.** Always be aware of approaching bikes or horses and pass carefully.
- ◆ **Don't block the trail.** Groups should always allow space on one side of the trail for others to pass. When taking a rest, step off to the side of the trail.
- ◆ **Keep at least one ear open.** For safety and for communicating with others, wear only one ear bud when listening to devices.

For reporting *non-emergency* issues or trail conflicts, please call the appropriate park office or:
 County Dispatch (408) 299-2311



Santa Clara County Park Trails Hotline:
 Dial (408) 355-2200, opt. 7

Select the appropriate park from the menu of options for current trail conditions:

- 1 = Mt. Madonna/Uvas
- 2 = Coyote Lake/Harvey Bear
- 3 = Anderson/South Coyote Creek
- 4 = Hellyer/Santa Teresa/North Coyote Creek
- 5 = Calero/Almaden Quicksilver
- 6 = Joseph D. Grant/Ed Levin/Penitencia Creek
- 7 = Sanborn/Stevens Creek/Upper Stevens Creek
- 8 = Vasona/Lexington/Villa Montalvo
- 9 = Motorcycle Park

SHARING THE TRAILS

Guidelines and Etiquette for Shared-Use Trails



Share the trail,
 respect others,
 communicate clearly,
 be safe
 and have fun!

Scan to connect to the County Parks Website



SANTA CLARA
 COUNTY PARKS

parkhere.org

ALL TRAIL USERS

SHARING THE TRAILS



Multi-use trails are a great way for different types of trail users to have access to a maximum number of miles. If we are considerate of others and follow a few simple guidelines, everyone can have a safe and enjoyable time.

- ◆ **Communicate in advance.** Make your presence known to other trail users, particularly when approaching from behind. Call out “passing on your left.” Horses and slower moving individuals may be startled by dogs, bikes, and/or faster moving trail users and should try to stay to the right.
- ◆ **Protect your park resources.** Venturing off trails damages vegetation and creates volunteer trails. Clean your boots, gear, animals, etc. before arriving to a park. Invasive plants and seeds “hitch-hike” on gear and animals.
- ◆ **Observe park regulations & speed limits.** You are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules and regulations.
- ◆ **Don’t block the trail.** Allow room for other users to pass safely. You may need to form a single file line or in some areas step off to the side of the trail.
- ◆ **Leave no trace.** “Take only pictures, leave only footprints.” Pack out your trash, animal waste, and keep our parks clean and safe for other users.
- ◆ **Stay alert.** Always be on the lookout for other trail users, emergency vehicles, or wildlife. Wear only one ear bud while listening to music for both personal safety and awareness.

BICYCLISTS



- ◆ **Wear a helmet.** You are required to wear an approved helmet on non-paved trails, all trails if under 18 years old.
- ◆ **Control your speed.** Slow down and use caution when approaching other trail users and blind turns. Obey the 15-mph speed limit.
- ◆ **Always YIELD to all other trail users.** Communicate your presence when approaching, talk calmly to equestrians, and slow down when passing. Yield to uphill bicyclists.
- ◆ **Avoid startling horses, dogs, hikers and joggers.** Always slow down, speak calmly and clearly when approaching other trail users to allow for safe positioning when passing.
- ◆ **Communicate, stop and wait.** When passing on narrow trails, move to the side of the trail and wait for equestrians, uphill bicyclists and/or hikers to pass safely.
- ◆ **Ride only on trails designated for bicycle use.** Closed area or off-trail use is prohibited, as is racing and reckless riding.

**BIKERS & DOGS YIELD TO
HIKERS AND HORSES.
HIKERS YIELD TO HORSES.**



EQUESTRIANS



- ◆ **Inform other users of safest way to pass.** Not all trail users are familiar with horses behavior. Some dogs and people can be frightened, communicate your needs clearly.
- ◆ **Be responsible, maintain control of your horse at all times.** If your horse is high-spirited, please alert other trail users.
- ◆ **Desensitize your horse.** Before riding on multi-use trails, be sure to train your horse properly to get them accustomed to other trail users (bicycles, dogs, trekking poles, kid carriers, etc.)
- ◆ **Ride only on trails designated for equestrian use.** Closed area or off-trail use is prohibited.

TRAIL USERS WITH DOGS



- ◆ **Dogs must be on a leash not to exceed 6 feet.** Ideally you would have your dog heel and/or sit while other trail users pass.
- ◆ **Yield to other hikers and equestrians.** Because some dogs are unpredictable, step to one side of the trail with your dog to allow enough room for others to pass. Avoid the “clothes-line effect”.
- ◆ **Pick up dog waste** and take with you or discard in a designated trash receptacle. Do not let dogs eliminate in or near water.
- ◆ **Maintain control of your dog.** Many horses and other trail users are frightened of dogs; communicate with others and train your dog to behave around horses, bikes and hikers.