

Trails provide a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and your favorite activity — whether that is biking, horseback riding, hiking, etc. However, particularly during nice days, trails can become crowded. The following basic share-the-trail etiquette tips can improve both your activity as well as the trail experience of others.

Remember, when using the trails, you are also an ambassador of the activity in which you are participating.



Illinois Greenways & Trails Council

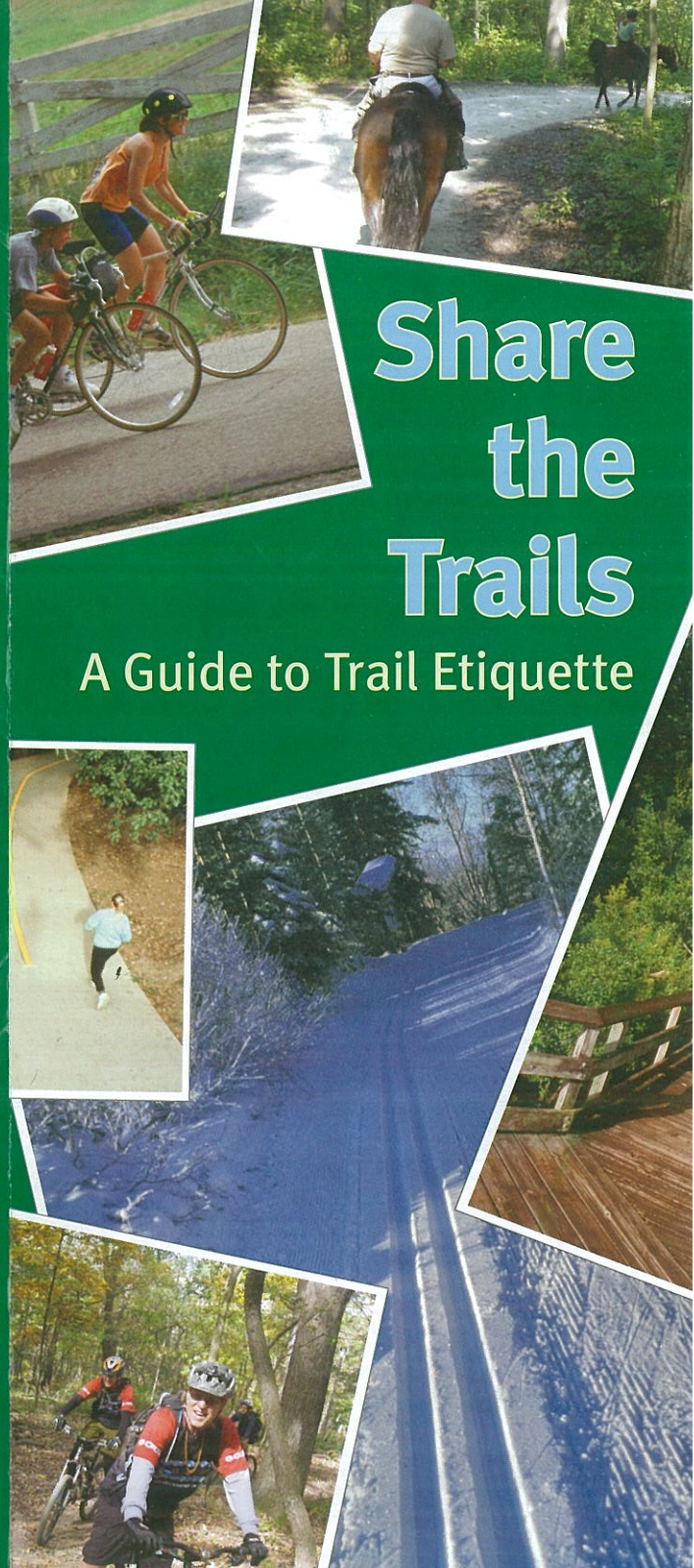
www.dnr.state.il.us/OREP/planning/igtctxt.htm



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

www.dnr.state.il.us

To help make Illinois a trails-friendly state, contact a trail manager today to volunteer.

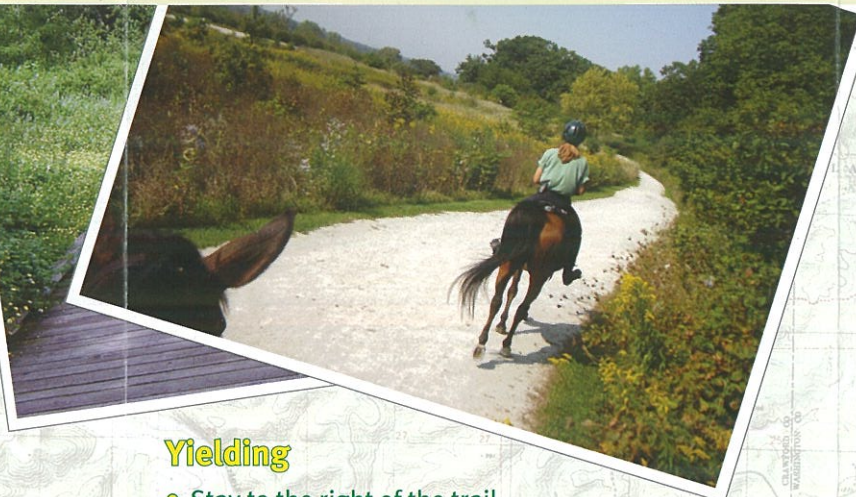


Share the Trails

A Guide to Trail Etiquette

General Courtesy

- Be courteous and aware of other users.
- Be predictable but expect other users – especially children, those wearing headphones or talking on a cell phone – to be unpredictable.
- Equestrians and people walking dogs should make sure their animals have the temperament and/or training to use the trails without becoming spooked or aggressive towards other users. Keep pets on a leash.



Indirect Courtesy

- Use only trails designated for your activity; do not use dirt or soft-surfaced trails when wet and where use would damage them.
- Do not disturb surrounding wildlife or fauna.
- Dispose of all trash properly.
- Clean up all pet waste.



Safety

- Bicyclists, riders of motorized vehicles, inline skaters and equestrians are strongly encouraged to wear a helmet.
- Travel at a reasonable speed and reduce your speed when approaching slower users and areas of reduced visibility, such as corners and intersections.



Yielding

- Stay to the right of the trail, whenever possible.
- Yield to others when entering, crossing or turning onto trails.
- Higher speed users should yield to lower speed users.
- Motorized vehicles should yield, if needed, to slower moving trail users. For example, a snowmobiler would yield to a cross-country skier.
- Whenever possible, bicyclists should yield to equestrians and equestrians should yield to pedestrians.
- Trail users going uphill generally have the right-of-way over users traveling downhill.
- If using a trail with a group, do not block the entire trail. Proceed single-file, when necessary, and announce upcoming hazards to the rest of the group, such as low branches or logs.

Passing

- Pass on the left, when safe to do so.
- Give a clear warning signal before passing, such as "Passing on your left," or "Bike passing," then wait for the person to respond, whenever possible.
- If traveling with a group let the trail user know how many people are in your group.
- Move off the trail if you are stopped or to allow others to pass, if needed.
- Equestrians should let users know if their horse is safe to pass.

