

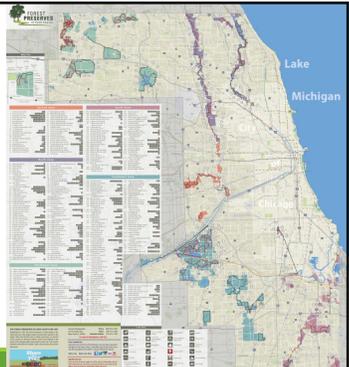


# Share the Trails

THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY'S TRAIL ETIQUETTE CAMPAIGN

## The Forest Preserves of Cook County

- Established in 1914, the Forest Preserves of Cook County is the oldest and one of the largest forest preserve systems in the nation.
- Nearly 70,000 acres of public open land, equal to 11 percent of the county with population of 5 million.
- Mission: preserve diverse natural ecosystems in the heart of the Chicago region and provide a place for Cook County residents and visitors to explore, learn, play, exercise and restore their spirit.
- Each year, millions enjoy and study nature, bicycle, hike, fish, picnic, canoe or simply relax here.



### About The Forest Preserves of Cook County's Trail System

**300 mile system...**

- consists of more than 100 miles of paved trail and 200 miles of multi-use trail
- features 12 trail systems that range from 3 mile loops to 20 miles stretches
- links communities contributing to greater livability
- contributes to regional mobility and alternatives to car travel
- allows for a variety of heart healthy activities including hiking, biking, horseback riding, and skiing
- introduces people to the diverse nature and topography that can be found in Cook County
- partner with others on a number of bike events—CAMBr Meltdown; Trails for Illinois CityUp, Cyclocross events, Busse Night Bike Ride



### Why Share The Trails

- Accidents
- User conflicts
- Needed process of engaging trail users
- Desire to add a Trail Watch component to Volunteer Opportunity



### Share the Trail Campaign

One message -- Many Ways

- Signs
- Brochure




**Nature Center Trails**  
Nature center trails are special. They link and connect...  
**Etiquette for All**  
Don't leave your trash...  
**Trail Watch Program**  
We need your help!  
**Share the Trail**  
Walk/Run, Hike, Horse, Bike

**Walkers/Runners/Hikers**

Walkers, runners and hikers regularly use the more than 300 miles of paved and unpaved trails in the Forest Preserves for recreation and exercise. To walk their dogs, and as a way to get their Point to Point B.

**Equestrians**

Horses may use any of our stone and natural surface trails. Most equestrian activity takes place in the northwood and southwest areas of the County. Off trail riding is prohibited, and horse riders must have Forest Preserve permits.

**Mountain Bikers**

Approximately 50 miles of stone and natural surface trails wind through the 15,000 acres of wilderness in the Forest Preserves in southwest Cook County. This is the area's premiere destination for mountain bikers of all skill levels. Off trail riding is prohibited.

**Bicyclists on Paved Trails**

The Forest Preserves offers 147 miles of paved trails that are frequented by a variety of users traveling at different speeds, from walkers and joggers, to families with young children and bicycle commuters.

**What can you expect?**

Respectful trail users. Trail users can startle others, especially when approaching from behind. Always ride under control, anticipate others and announce yourself around blind corners, in general, to friendly, communication and aware of your surroundings. If you wear headphones, keep the volume down to only your own playlist.

**What is your responsibility?**

Headsets makes it hard to hear, horses and equestrians. Planning ahead: 1. Check the weather. 2. Don't drink alcohol. 3. Plan ahead and be prepared to stop if necessary. 4. Expect the unexpected. Horses and animals can be unpredictable and easily spooked by cyclists. Planning etiquette: 1. Announce your intention to pass with a friendly "On your left." 2. Yield to equestrians and slower riders. 3. Give them at least the same amount of room as you would expect. 4. Expect the unexpected. Horses and animals can be unpredictable and easily spooked by cyclists. Planning etiquette: 1. Announce your intention to pass with a friendly "On your left."

## Share the Trail Campaign continued

- Web Animation <http://fpdcc.com/sharethetrail/>
- Trail Presence
- Trail Watch

Staff and Volunteers on Trails  
Pros and Cons

## What We Learned

- Partners willing to help out
- Good interactions with users
- Giveaways
- Water

## Sustainability

- Share the Trails part of all events
- Connecting with National Trails Day
- Share the Trails 2017: A yearlong campaign

## Contact information

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