



What can you expect?

Faster trail users. Cyclist, runners, and equestrians approaching from behind will often say, "On your left." This means you should stay to your right.

Cyclists yield to hikers. It is the responsibility of cyclists to pass at a safe speed. Offer friendly communication to let the rider know when it's safe to pass: give a verbal acknowledgement, step to the side of the trail or wave the rider by on wider trail.

What is your responsibility?

Share the trail. When hiking in a group, hike single file or take no more than half a wide trail. Please stay to the right and allow other users to pass to the left.

Don't tune out. If you wear headphones, keep the volume down or only wear one earpiece so other trail users don't startle you.

Yield to horses.

1. Stay downhill. Spooked horses go uphill.
2. Greet the rider.
3. If hiking with a child, hold their hand when passing.



What can you expect?

Inexperienced trail users. While all trail users yield to horses, many users are intimidated by large horses, or they just don't know what to do.

What is your responsibility?

Manage your animals. Don't bring green horses into HCA conservation areas. Familiarize horses with expected trail encounters (cyclists, dogs, strollers, backpack-wearing hikers, etc.)

Negotiate safe passes.

1. Greet users early. Hikers and Cyclists yield to horses, but many novice trail-users are intimidated by horses or don't know what to do.
2. Keep to the right of the trail. When passing other users, always pass them in single file at a walk.
3. Expect the unexpected. Small children, animals and the elderly can be unpredictable or easily frightened by horses.

Galloping on HCA trails is NOT permitted.

Stay on trail. Riders should stay on trails at all times. Do not ride on mowed fields, into creeks and streams or off the designated trails.

Kick or otherwise remove manure off the trail.

Where to go? Horses are permitted at Christie Lake, Dundas Valley and Westfield Heritage Village.



What can you expect?

Surprised trail users. Fast moving users can startle others, especially when approaching from behind. Always ride under control, anticipate users around blind corners, and be friendly and communicative.

What is your responsibility?

Cyclists should stay on trails at all times.

Cyclists yield to hikers, horses and uphill traffic.

Cycling is NOT permitted on the Bruce Trail.

Passing Hikers:

1. Greet hikers early.
2. Slow down to about the same speed as the hiker.
3. Pass slowly and be prepared to stop if necessary.
4. Expect the unexpected. Humans and animals can be unpredictable or easily spooked by cyclists.

Passing cyclists:

1. Announce your intention to pass with a friendly "On your left."

Passing horses:

1. Stop at least 30 feet from the horse.
2. Greet the equestrian and the horse to demonstrate that you are a human, and not a predator.
3. Ask for instruction on how to pass safely. Offer to get off your bike.
4. Pass slowly and steadily, but only after the equestrian gives you the go-ahead. Sudden movements can spook a horse.



What can you expect?

Faster trail users. Cyclist, runners, and equestrians approaching from behind will often say, "On your left." This means you and your dog should stay to the right.

Cyclists yield to dog walkers. It is the responsibility of cyclists to pass at a safe speed. Offer friendly communication to let the rider know when it's safe to pass: give a verbal acknowledgement, step with your dog to the side of the trail or wave the rider by on wider trail.

What is your responsibility?

Keep your dog on a leash and under control at all times.

Dog walkers should yield to horses. You should also be aware that some people and horses may fear dogs. Please keep your dog on a tight leash when passing and give horses and dog-less hikers the right of way.

Clean up after your dog. Do not leave pet waste bags on the ground or worse yet, hanging in a tree.

Do not allow your dog to disturb plants or wildlife.

Keep your dog on the trail at all times.

Some text and images provided by Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance, bouldermountainbike.org



Trail Hazards:

Poison ivy can be found in some of our areas. Stay on the trail to avoid contact with poison ivy.

Do not enter any water courses (streams, creeks or ponds) at any time.

Ticks and other insects may be present in any natural area. Use insect repellent and check your children and pets for ticks.

Be aware of your surroundings and supervise your children. Natural hazards exist in all conservation areas.

Consider wearing sunscreen or protective clothing. Stay hydrated when doing physical activity, especially on hot days.



What does "yield" mean?

Yielding means slow down, establish communication, be prepared to stop if necessary, and pass in a safe and friendly manner.



General Trail Rules:

- We ask that all visitors to conservation areas respect the rules, stay on marked trail and do not climb or otherwise bypass fencing, for their own safety and the environmental health of the areas.
- Stay on marked trail routes. There are many rare and sensitive plants and small animals that could be easily damaged or hurt if you leave the trails.
- Share the trails with other users.
- Respect neighbouring landowners by staying off private property and avoiding excessive noise.
- Keep well back from edges of gorge and escarpment areas, at least a body length. Adults should keep children and pets well away from these areas.
- Creek crossings on trails are by bridge. DO NOT walk through the water or allow horses or dogs in the water.
- No motorized vehicles are permitted on trails.
- Watch for vehicular traffic on trails that cross roadways.
- Park only in designated parking areas.
- Alcohol is not permitted at any time.
- Pack out what you pack in. Please leave our natural areas clean.
- Protect and avoid disturbing local wildlife.
- Hamilton Conservation Areas and trail systems close at sunset.
- Trails can be closed at certain times of the year depending on conditions such as ice or mud. Check our website at www.conservationhamilton.ca for updates.

Take nothing but photos, leave nothing but footprints.



For more information:

Hamilton Conservation Authority
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www.conservationhamilton.ca

For the latest event listings, outdoor guides and more, visit our website at: www.conservationhamilton.ca

Purchase a Hamilton Conservation Authority **Membership Pass**; the pass is good for 12 consecutive months and entitles entry into HCA Conservation Areas.



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