



Equestrian Guidelines

What are the safety requirements for Equestrians on the trail?

- The use of ASTM certified helmets is **required**.
- Riding will be permitted on the trail a half an hour after sunrise and half an hour before sunset.
- At trail heads, park considerately. Secure horses safely when tacking up.
- Be polite, respectful, and considerate of other trail enthusiasts. Many non-equestrians are unfamiliar with horses, and may be intimidated by them, or may be unaware of how to behave near horses. When directing other users on what to do to keep everyone safe, be a courteous ambassador for the equestrian community.
- Travel only at the walk or trot. Cantering and galloping are **prohibited**.
- When meeting or passing other users, do so in single file, at the walk. Greeting other users will encourage them to speak, which will in turn be reassuring to your horse.
- Stay to the right when meeting other users. Pass on the left. Be prepared to politely let other trail enthusiasts know what needs to happen to keep you, the horse, and other users safe when meeting on the trail.
- Do not leave manure on the main trail tread. You may not mind the sight and smell of horse manure, but your fellow trail enthusiasts do. Dismount and kick manure off the tread. If you are unable to safely/easily mount and dismount on the trail, use a manure catcher bag.
- Stay on the trail, and do not trespass onto private property.
- At road crossings, stop and yield to vehicles. You will find barriers in place at road crossings: you may either ride safely through, or dismount and lead your horse. Watch you don't catch a stirrup on the barriers!
- At least one person in the party should carry a cell phone in case of emergency.
- Be alert, and pay attention to your horse. Do not wear earbuds or headphones, which make it difficult to hear and communicate with other users.
- Larger groups are encouraged to disperse into smaller pods of 5 riders or fewer.
- Leave your dog at home. Dogs must be on a leash and you can't hold a leash and ride a horse.
- Do not litter.
- Do not consume alcohol on the trail.
- Do not tie your horse to structures encountered on the trail. Do not leave your horse unattended.
- Never take a loose horse on the trail.
- Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Ponying of young children is not recommended.
- Horse-driven vehicles are not allowed on the Confederation Trail.
- Membership in Island Horse Council or your provincial sporting organization, or the carrying of similar liability insurance is strongly recommended.
- Please note pilot areas will be closed temporarily after severe weather events, to prevent damage on the trail.
- Untrained horses or inexperienced riders will not be permitted on the trail.