



# SHARING VERMONT TRAILS RESPONSIBLY



Vermont's trail systems are enjoyed by many different outdoor users. Responsible ATV operation helps keep trails safe, welcoming, and open for everyone. Always ride courteously, control your speed, and respect the needs of other trail users.

## GENERAL TRAIL ETIQUETTE

- Ride at safe, controlled speeds at all times.
- Stay on designated trails and obey posted signs.
- Slow down when approaching any other trail user.
- Yield when appropriate and communicate clearly.
- Avoid excessive noise, spinning tires, or throwing mud or rocks.
- Leave enough space when passing others.
- Remember that not everyone can hear an approaching ATV.



## SHARING TRAILS WITH HIKERS

Hikers may be walking alone, in groups, or with children and pets. Many hikers are unfamiliar with ATV operation and may not hear you coming.



- Slow down well in advance.
- Yield the trail when necessary.
- Pass slowly and give hikers as much room as possible.
- Be patient and courteous.
- Avoid revving your engine or creating dust near hikers.
- Watch carefully for children or dogs that may move unpredictably.

*A friendly wave and respectful behavior help create positive experiences for everyone using the trail.*

## SHARING TRAILS WITH MOUNTAIN BIKERS

Mountain bikers move quickly and quietly and may appear suddenly around corners or hills.



- Reduce your speed immediately.
- Stay to the right side of the trail where possible.
- Allow bikers room to maneuver safely.
- Pass only when it is safe and clearly understood by both parties.
- Avoid accelerating aggressively after passing.
- Use extra caution in narrow or wooded sections of trail with limited visibility.

*Communication and patience are key to avoiding conflicts and maintaining safe shared trails.*

## SHARING TRAILS WITH HORSE RIDERS

Horses are prey animals and can be startled easily by noise, movement, or unfamiliar vehicles. A frightened horse can create a dangerous situation for riders, horses, and ATV operators.



- Pull over completely off the trail if possible.
- Turn off your engine.
- Remove your helmet.
- Remain calm and avoid sudden movements.
- Let the horse rider dictate the interaction and tell you how they would like you to proceed.
- Speak calmly if requested so the horse recognizes you as a person.
- Do not restart your ATV or move until the rider indicates it is safe to do so.

*Always give horses the highest level of caution and respect on shared trails.*



## PROTECTING VERMONT'S TRAIL FUTURE

Positive interactions between trail users help preserve access to Vermont's outdoor recreation network. Every respectful encounter strengthens partnerships between ATV riders, landowners, clubs, and other recreation groups.



**RIDE RESPONSIBLY, RESPECT OTHERS, AND HELP KEEP VERMONT TRAILS OPEN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.**