

# SAFETY AND OUTDOOR ETHICS

THE GUIDELINES BELOW DEFINE TRAIL BEHAVIOR TO BE FOLLOWED ON ALL WEATHERFORD MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB (WMBC) MAINTAINED MULTI-USE TRAILS. THE SAFETY AND OUTDOOR ETHICS ARE INTENDED TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE AND COURTEOUS CONDUCT ON SHARED-USE TRAILS. KEEP IN MIND THAT CONVENTIONS FOR YIELDING AND PASSING MAY VARY, DEPENDING ON THE INTENDED USE OF THE TRAIL AND ARE TO BE FOLLOWED AS NOTED BELOW. WMBC MULTI-USE TRAILS ARE INTENDED TO BE USED BY PEOPLE ON FOOT OR BICYCLE ONLY. HORSES AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED ON WMBC DESIGNATED MULTI-USE TRAILS.

1. **CYCLIST MUST WEAR A HELMET AT ALL TIMES.**
2. **DO NOT RIDE, HIKE AND/OR RUN ON MUDDY TRAILS.** BE SENSITIVE TO THE DIRT BENEATH YOU. WET AND MUDDY TRAILS ARE MORE VULNERABLE TO DAMAGE THAN DRY ONES. RIDE, HIKE AND RUN ON EXISTING TRAILS ONLY.
3. MOUNTAIN BIKING, HIKING AND TRAIL RUNNING ARE SPORTS ROOTED IN THE PRINCIPLES AND IDEALS OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND SELF SUFFICIENCY. PLAN AHEAD. KNOW YOUR EQUIPMENT, YOUR ABILITY AND THE AREA IN WHICH YOU ARE RECREATING - AND PREPARE ACCORDINGLY. THE WMBC RECOMMENDS TRAIL USERS TO RECREATE IN GROUPS OF NO LESS THAN 2 INDIVIDUALS. STRIVE TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT. BE SURE SOMEONE KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE BEFORE HEADING OUT, KEEP YOUR EQUIPMENT IN GOOD REPAIR AND CARRY NECESSARY SUPPLIES FOR CHANGES IN WEATHER OR OTHER CONDITIONS. ALL TRAIL USERS SHOULD CARRY PLENTY OF WATER OR OTHER FORMS OF HYDRATION.
4. RIDE, HIKE AND/OR RUN ON OPEN TRAILS ONLY. RESPECT TRAIL CLOSURES. REFER TO THE WMBC FACEBOOK PAGE FOR TRAIL CONDITIONS AND CLOSURES.
5. DO NOT CUT SWITCHBACKS. STAY ON DESIGNATED TRAILS. YOU PUT YOURSELF AND OTHERS AT RISK BY CUTTING SWITCHBACKS AND STRAYING OFF TRAIL.
6. PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN. USED GEL PACKETS, DISCARDED WATER BOTTLES, PUNCTURED TUBES AND THE LIKE ARE NOT PART OF THE TRAIL ENVIRONMENT NOR THE TRAILHEADS.
7. CONTROL YOUR BICYCLE. INATTENTION FOR EVEN A MOMENT COULD PUT YOURSELF AND OTHERS AT RISK. USE PROPER JUDGEMENT AND RIDE WITHIN YOUR LIMITS.
8. YIELD TO OTHERS. DO YOUR UTMOST TO LET YOUR FELLOW TRAIL USERS KNOW YOU'RE COMING -- A FRIENDLY GREETING OR BELL RING ARE GOOD METHODS.

ALWAYS TRY TO ANTICIPATE OTHER TRAIL USERS. **“WMBC YIELD POLICY” IS DEFINED AS FOLLOWS: WALKERS/HIKERS YIELD TO TRAIL RUNNERS. TRAIL RUNNERS YIELD TO BICYCLES.** WMBC YIELD POLICY TAKES THE STANCE THAT IT IS EASIER FOR A PERSON ON FOOT MOVING AT A SLOWER PACE TO YIELD TO OTHER FASTER MOVING PERSONS ON FOOT OR BICYCLE. WITH THAT BEING SAID, ALL TRAIL USERS MUST STRIVE TO MAKE EACH PASS A SAFE AND COURTEOUS ONE.

9. BE RESPECTFUL OF WILDLIFE. WILDLIFE AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS ARE EASILY STARTLED BY AN UNANNOUNCED APPROACH, A SUDDEN MOVEMENT OR A LOUD NOISE. GIVE ANIMALS ENOUGH ROOM AND TIME TO ADJUST TO YOU. BEING RECKLESS AND DISTURBING WILDLIFE ARE SERIOUS OFFENSES.

10. CONTROL AND PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG. ALL DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH NO LONGER THAN SIX FEET (6'-0"). DOG OWNER'S ARE REQUIRED TO CLEAN UP AND CARRY OUT THEIR DOG'S WASTE.

11. NO SMOKING ON WMBC TRAILS OR AT TRAILHEAD FACILITIES.

12. KEEP YOUR EARS OPEN AND YOUR EAR BUDS OUT. LISTEN TO NATURE RATHER THAN AN AUDIO DEVICE, PLEASE.

**13. HORSES AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES ARE NOT PERMITTED ON WMBC TRAILS!**

14. CLASS 1 e-MTB'S ARE ALLOWED. **CLASS 2 AND 3 e-MTB'S, UNCLASSIFIED e-MTB'S, e-MOTOS AND e-SCOOTERS ARE PROHIBITED.**

15. NO HUNTING, USE OF FIREARMS OR FIREWORKS: DIAL 911 IF YOU WITNESS ILLEGAL ACTIVITY.

16. MEDICAL EMERGENCY: DIAL 911.

KEEP TRAILS OPEN BY SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND AND SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE TRAIL USE.