

SILVER CREEK NEWSLETTER

Welcome To The Park!

Summer of 2019

8 WAYS TO BE A GOOD TRAIL-RIDING BUDDY

We all want to be the kind of person other trail riders enjoy being around. Use these eight simple techniques to be a fun and safe riding buddy on the trail.

- 1 Manage expectations by making sure everyone knows how long the ride is, what the terrain is like, and how challenging the trail will be so riders will come prepared
- 2 For safety's sake, tailor your ride to the level of the least experienced rider or horse in the group
- 3 Wait for other riders. Be sure everyone is mounted, has stepped over the log or crossed the creek before you ride away. When you stop to let the horses drink, allow all the horses to have their fill before you continue
- 4 Ask other riders if it's okay before speeding up
- 5 Encourage time-outs and make sure everybody in the group is comfortable calling a time-out

- 6 Share the lead; everyone in the group should get a chance to be in the front, middle, and back. Not only is it good manners but it's also a great way to ensure your horse learns to be comfortable in any pack position
- 7 When you come across low-hanging branches, remember the rider behind you; lift the branch and pass under and alert riders behind you
- 8 Train your horse to be a good buddy, too. Nobody likes a horse that kicks, bites, tailgates, refuses to cross water, or tries to run home. If your horse exhibits antisocial behavior, find a trainer who can help you resolve the issues so your horse can be a good riding buddy too

Be the considerate rider you want others to be and you'll be known as a good riding buddy.

*Excerpts from article posted by Kim McCarrel November 29, 2018
Website: www.thehorse.com*

UPCOMING RIDING EVENTS IN 2019

Oak Leaf Run Endurance Ride will be on October 11 - 13, 2019. Please contact Barb Kurti by emailing silverheartsfarm@yahoo.com or call 616.896.6798 for more info

For camping reservations visit www.allegancounty.org/parks or call the Parks Office at 269-686-9088. If you come across an impassable trail or other trail issues, call the Parks Office at 269-686-9088.

2019 ALLEGAN COUNTY PARKS / ODC PROGRAMS

The Allegan County Parks Department has teamed up with the Outdoor Discovery Center for some **FREE** family programs to enjoy this summer!

July 26 from 11am - 12pm **Up Close & Wild** at Littlejohn Lake Park in Allegan - *Learn about reptiles, amphibians & birds; live animals will be used & is great for all ages!*

August 24 from 9 - 11am **Family Kayaking** on the Kalamazoo River at New Richmond Bridge Park in Fennville - *Kayaks, paddles & vests are provided; the group will launch from the north side of the park.*

*All programs are **free** however participants must register at www.outdoordiscovery.org*



CAMPGROUND UPDATES

Beginning in 2019, campsites are \$17/night. Day riding fees continue to be \$5/horse/day, and annual season passes are \$25 and available to buy from the park ranger, online, or at the Parks Office Monday-Friday. Reservations must be made at least 5 business days prior to your camp date. Campers can now cancel reservations online and must be 10+ business days for a refund minus transaction/service fees; **no refunds if canceling less than 10 days of your camp date.** Reservations can now be made up to one year in advance of your camp date so book early if you have a favorite site! Happy Camping!

BASIC PARK RULES

- Register before setting up camp
- Check-In / Check-Out Time: 3pm
- Make check payable to Allegan County Parks
- All sites are open for equestrian and non-equestrian users
- Camping permits must be properly displayed
- Park quiet hours are 10pm to 7am
- Speed limit is 15mph
- Fireworks are prohibited in County parks
- Use designated fire rings only
- Do not leave fires burning unattended
- All fires must be extinguished with water
- Portable corrals are allowed away from trees
- Tying of horses to trees is NOT PERMITTED
- Horse 'cribbing' or 'chewing' of trees is not allowed
- Pets **MUST BE LEASHED AT ALL TIMES** no greater than 6 feet in length (State Law)
- Pets are not to be left unattended
- Leave campsite cleaner than how you found it by broadcasting manure/hay waste into wooded area away from the site
- All unused hay and straw must be removed when the campsite is vacated
- For complete rules read County Ordinance #1010

BASIC TRAIL RULES

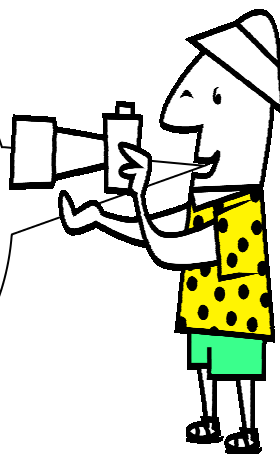
- Day Riding permits must be properly displayed
- Respect all private property
- RIDE ON MARKED TRAILS ONLY
- Do not move or damage trail markers
- Practice "Leave No Trace" ethics
- NO LOOSE DOGS on the trails
- Trails are closed November 15—30 annually for firearm deer season
- Bright colored clothing always recommended when riding in the fall
- Respect other riders
- Leave parking area cleaner than how you found it by putting all droppings, hay, and garbage back onto your trailer

The Allegan County Tourist Council is collecting photos of Allegan County. Photos should encompass the true character of the county and both amateur & professional photographers are welcome to participate.

Photos may be used on the Tourist Council Facebook page, their website at www.VisitAlleganCounty.com or included in promotional material.

Visit our website for more information.

Happy Shooting!



ATTENTION PARK USERS!

MANURE/HAY/STRAW

Broadcast into woods—do not leave in campsite or day ride areas!

FIRE PITS!

Do not burn or leave trash in the fire pits!

FIRES!

Use designated fire rings only and do not leave campfires unattended!

PICNIC TABLES!

Do not move the picnic tables from one site to another!

DOGS!

Must be kept on a 6 foot leash whether in the park or on the trails!

Fall Color Tour

Did you know the Heritage Trail self-guided tour which is a 122-mile route that virtually touches all four corners of the county, also makes a great fall color tour? To make your trip the most enjoyable and informative you'll want the free guidebook available at the Parks & Tourism Office and most county libraries. Free downloads of the guidebook, map and MP3 audios can be found at www.allegancountyheritage.com. Hope you enjoy your drive and don't forget your camera!



Allegan County Parks Recreation and Tourism

3255 - 122nd Avenue, Suite 103
Allegan, Michigan 49010
Phone: 269.686.9088
E-mail: parcs@allegancounty.org
Website: www.allegancounty.org/parcs
Visitor Info: www.visitallegancounty.com
Ronda Foreman – Parks Administrative Assistant
Brandy Gildea – Parks Manager