

# SILVER CREEK NEWSLETTER

Spring of 2020

## Welcome To The Park!

### 8 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO IMPROVE THE LIFE OF YOUR HORSE

Excerpts from article published online: [ihearthorses.com](http://ihearthorses.com); Author: [ihearthorses](http://ihearthorses.com)

We talk a lot about what horses and riding can do for a person's health and mental well-being. For all that they do for you, here are just 8 things you can do for your equine companion. Think of it as a way of saying "thanks" for all he does for you every day.

**#1 Turn them out more** Horses are healthier if they can be turned out as much as possible every day. Not only is it good for them mentally, but moving around helps keep their joints moving freely and their muscles toned; even better if they have grass to graze.

**#2 Regular Teeth Care** Take care to have your horse's teeth checked routinely to make sure they are living the best life possible. Horses continually wear down their teeth, creating sharp points and misalignments. A horse with a hurting mouth won't eat enough, creating a host of other issues.

**#3 Mental Stimulation** Horses need mental stimulation and you can give it to them in the same way you might a dog! Horse toys are an excellent way to alleviate stall, paddock or even pasture boredom.

**#4 Add a Friend** Don't forget your horse is a herd animal. If possible, your horse should have at least one other horse friend. If another horse isn't possible, try a goat; many horses love goat companions.

**#5 Add a Mirror to Their Stall** If your horse does spend a majority of the day in his stall, try installing an acrylic (unbreakable) mirror to his stall. Research has found it helps curb "stereotypic behaviors" like head nodding and weaving. (note: this is not a replacement for a real horse friend).

**#6 Regular Vet Visits** Be sure to have your horse checked out by a vet at least once a year, even if they seem perfectly healthy. Finding out about a hidden problem before it becomes visible can save your horse some discomfort.

**#7 Feed High Quality Food** Like many things on this list, feeding high quality hay and feeds, as well as making sure you are providing the right supplements, will improve your horse's life and could save you money in vet bills.

**#8 Give 'em a Massage** Your horse's back takes a lot; it can become stiff, tight and even misaligned just like your back. An equine massage therapist can alleviate these aches and pains and help your horse be more comfortable with his work. It's a great way to thank him for carrying you around every day without complaint.



## 2020 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!

*Pre-registration is required at [www.outdoordiscovery.com](http://www.outdoordiscovery.com)*

**May 20** from 10 - 11am **Spring Time Story** located at Bysterveld Park in Dorr - *Bring the little ones & enjoy a story & a stroll and find out who's waking up for spring!*

**June 26** from 6 - 8pm **Family Kayaking** on Dumont Lake at the Dumont Lake Watercraft Launch in Allegan - *Kayaks, paddles & vests are provided while you paddle along the shoreline. Great for beginners!*

**July 22** from 11am - 12pm **Up Close & Wild** at Littlejohn Lake Park in Allegan - *Learn about reptiles, amphibians & birds; live animals will be used and is great for all ages!*

**August 8** 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.*

## 2020 RIDING EVENTS AT SILVER CREEK CAMPGROUND

**Allegan County Pleasure Riders 46th Anniversary Benefit Ride** on April 17 - 19, 2020...follow them on Facebook!

**MiCMO (MI Competitive Mounted Orienteering)** will be the weekend of May 29 - May 31, 2020. Contact Vicki Horsley at 269.244.9913 or email [vickihorsley@yahoo.com](mailto:vickihorsley@yahoo.com) for details

**Oak Leaf Run Endurance Ride** will be on October 9 - 11, 2020. Please contact Barb Kurti by emailing [silverhearts-farm@yahoo.com](mailto:silverhearts-farm@yahoo.com) or call 616.896.6798 for more info

*For camping reservations visit [www.allegancounty.org/parks](http://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.*

## 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

## 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!

**PAVILION:** Is available for use on a first come / first served basis; clean-up area before vacating

## 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](http://www.allegancountyheritage.com). Hope you enjoy your drive and don't forget your camera!



## Allegan County Parks Recreation and Tourism

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Ronda Foreman – Parks Administrative Assistant  
Brandy Gildea – Parks Manager

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](http://www.VisitAlleganCounty.com) or included in promotional material.

Visit our website for more information.

Happy Shooting!

