Trails provide a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and your favorite activity — whether that is biking, horseback riding, hiking, etc. However, particularly during nice days, trails can become crowded. The following basic share-the-trail etiquette tips can improve both your activity as well as the trail experience of others.

To help make Illinois a trails-friendly state, contact a trail manager today to volunteer.
General Courtesy

- Be courteous and aware of other users.
- Be predictable but expect other users - especially children, those wearing headphones or talking on a cell phone - to be unpredictable.
- Equestrians and people walking dogs should make sure their animals have the temperament and/or training to use the trails without becoming spooked or aggressive towards other users. Keep pets on a leash.

Indirect Courtesy

- Use only trails designated for your activity; do not use dirt or soft-surfaced trails when they would damage them.
- Do not disturb surrounding wildlife or fauna.
- Dispose of all trash properly.
- Clean up all pet waste.

Yielding

- Stay to the right of the trail, whenever possible.
- Yield to others when entering, crossing or turning onto trails.
- Higher speed users should yield to lower speed users.
- Motorized vehicles should yield, if needed, to slower moving trail users. For example, a snowmobiler would yield to a cross-country skier.
- Whenever possible, bicyclists should yield to equestrians and equestrians should yield to pedestrians.
- Trail users going uphill generally have the right-of-way over users traveling downhill.
- If using a trail with a group, do not block the entire trail. Proceed single-file, when necessary, and announce upcoming hazards to the rest of the group, such as low branches or logs.

Safety

- Bicyclists, riders of motorized vehicles, Inline skaters and equestrians are strongly encouraged to wear a helmet.
- Travel at a reasonable speed and reduce your speed when approaching slower users and areas of reduced visibility, such as corners and intersections.

Passing

- Pass on the left, when safe to do so.
- Give a clear warning signal before passing, such as “Passing on your left,” or “Bike passing,” then wait for the person to respond, whenever possible.
- If traveling with a group let the trail user know how many people are in your group.
- Move off the trail if you are stopped or to allow others to pass, if needed.
- Equestrians should let users know if their horse is safe to pass.