Trail Etiquette and Safety Guidelines

Trails for non-motorized use have become very popular. A consequence of their success is congestion. With this, safety becomes a major issue. Whether you cycle, walk, jog or skate, your experience will be safer and more enjoyable if you follow the guidelines listed below.

BE COURTEOUS to other trail users at all times.

BE AWARE of your surroundings at all times, especially of other trail users travelling at a different rate of speed. Be careful when entering the trail, changing direction, or passing.

KEEP TO THE RIGHT, except when passing.

ALWAYS PASS ON THE LEFT and give a clear, audible warning, such as, “Passing on your left,” when passing slower traffic.

SLOW DOWN to a safe and reasonable speed and always yield to pedestrians and slower moving traffic.

CROSS CAREFULLY. Always look both ways and yield to “through” traffic. Pedestrians have the right-of-way and should exercise caution and be aware of the stopping limitations of cyclists and skaters.

AVOID STANDING STILL on the trail to prevent blocking other users and avoid collisions. If necessary, step off to the side of the trail to congregate or wait for others.

CYCLISTS SHOULD ALWAYS RIDE SINGLE-FILE and at a safe speed. Never ride on paths intended exclusively for walking or jogging. Slow down and form a single line in congested conditions and in areas with reduced visibility or where other hazardous conditions exist.

AVOID walking more than two abreast to allow other users to pass safely. Form a single line in congested areas or when other users are trying to pass.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TRAIL ETIQUETTE. Prevent youngsters from being in the path of faster-moving trail traffic, especially cyclists who may not be able to slow down.

ALWAYS LOOK BOTH WAYS and stop before crossing a roadway (it’s the law even when a stop sign is not present). Obey all traffic signs and signals.

DOG WALKERS should keep pets on a short leash on the outside edge of the trail at all times. Remove pet waste from the trail.

KEEP VOLUME LOW on audio/telecommunications equipment such as iPods to increase awareness of approaching traffic. Instead of two, try using one earphone.

WEAR REFLECTIVE CLOTHING and use bicycle lights when using the trail after dark.

CITY ORDINANCES

Helmet Law – City Code Chap. 8, Sec. 9.8 Bicyclists are required to follow traffic laws – City Code Chap. 9

Call Dallas Park and Recreation Department at 214.670.4100 for more information.