



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Further Information Contact:

Cyndy Chanaca  
(860) 424-4100

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## P R E S S     R E L E A S E

### **Connecticut DEP Recreational Trail Use Information**

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) wants to remind trail users of rules and trail etiquette now that warmer weather is here and many people will be spending time outdoors in Connecticut's state parks and forests. To make your outdoor experience as safe and enjoyable as possible, the DEP recommends following the tips below to ensure your experience will be a positive one.

State park and forest recreation areas operation hours - daily between sunrise and sunset.

What you can and cannot do on the trails:

- Trails and service, logging and other roads are open to non-motorized, multiple use activities (foot travel, mountain biking, equestrian) unless posted closed.
- Connecticut Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails and the National Park Service Appalachian Trail are limited to hiking except where they overlap a multiple use trail.
- Public roadways in state parks and forests are open to registered motor vehicles (includes registered dirt bikes) and non-motorized multiple uses unless posted closed.
- Effective January 1, 2006, riding an ATV on state or municipal property may result in charges of criminal trespass. (Public Act 05-234) At the current time, Connecticut does NOT have any public areas open to quads.
- Registered dirt bikes can ride on the motorized trail at Pachaug State Forest or at the Thomaston Dam (visit <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreati/tmd/tmdhome.htm> ).
- Trail building and maintenance is illegal unless authorized. To request permission to put in a new trail contact DEP's Trails Coordinator at 860-424-3578. For permission to perform trail maintenance contact the Park Supervisor.
- After it rains, please be aware of fragile areas that should be avoided such as wetlands and steep slopes. For your safety and to prevent erosion and disruption of habitats always avoid travel through streams that have no bridges or stepping stones.

If you see an illegal activities please call the State Environmental Conservation Police (EnCon) at: 860 424-3333.

Essential for Safe Trail Use:

- Always let others know where you are and when you expect to return.

- Be aware where hunting is allowed and if hunting season is open. Wear bright orange for extra protection.
- Remain on trails that are blazed.
- Cyclists and motorized users yield to pedestrians and equestrians. Pedestrians yield to equestrians.
- Park in designated areas only.
- Keep your dogs on a leash.
- Respect private property - when you are leaving State Land you may no longer have permission to recreate.
- Plan your route! Trail maps are often found trail heads and always found on the DEP Website: <http://www.ct.gov/dep/parkmaps>