

Trail Etiquette & tips for your Safety



National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Area Veterinarians & Veterinary Hospitals

ELLINGTON

Ozark Regional Animal Hospital
Hwy. 106
573-663-7131

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Mountain View Animal Clinic
1615 CR2990
417-934-2323

POPLAR BLUFF

Hicks Animal Hospital
1600 Hwy. 53
573-686-1281

HOUSTON

Texas County Veterinary Clinic
8102 N. Hwy 63
417-967-3857

Texas County Veterinary
532 N. Hwy 17
417-932-6925

THOMASVILLE

Eleven Point Equine Clinic
Junction Hwy. 99 & Co. Rd.424
East 1/4 Mile
417-764-3691

As horse riders . . . you have the responsibility of protecting this beautiful landscape for you and your children!

Please heed the following advice:

- *Stay on designated ONSR blazed trails or unpaved roads which are open to motor vehicles.* Trails are marked with color coded plastic blazes. Gracious local landowners have given permission to cross private property, but on the trail only. Please do not cut across switchbacks, ride around water bars or puddles, or alter the route. These features maintain the trail while protecting the land it crosses.
- *Horses are not allowed in campgrounds or other developed areas...unless posted.* Horses are allowed on posted horse trails, at the two park staging areas (Shawnee & Broadfoot).
- *Ride responsibly.* Although you may be an accomplished horseperson, there may be green horses or riders on the trail or at staging areas. Use respect when passing or meeting another group on the trail.
- *Please use hitching posts* which have been placed in areas of high horse use. Tying your horse to a tree is not permitted. If hitching posts are not available, *cross-tie your horses between two trees* to avoid damaging vegetation.
- Some of the trails are steep and rocky. *Know your horse's ability* before heading out on the trail.
- *Always* avoid crossing the rivers during periods of high water. Streams in the Ozarks are prone to flash flooding. And remember, even under normal conditions the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers have very strong currents, and water may be deeper than it appears .
- *Always* undo tie-downs before entering the river, even at normal water levels.

Crossing Streams... you can make a difference!

In An Emergency :

CALL 911

You will be dispatched to the nearest local Sheriff Department.

Park Contact Information :

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Ozark NSR Headquarters 573-323-4236
Round Spring Ranger Station ... 573-858-3297
Alley Spring Ranger Station 573-226-3316
Powder Mill Ranger Station 573-226-5438
Big Spring Ranger Station 573-323-8702

Or Visit Us Online: www.nps.gov/ozar

Pack it in and pack it out. You had room to bring it so you must have room to pack it out. Please leave only tracks!

A few horses may not affect the water quality, but hundreds of horses do! You are not the only riders on the trail.

Recent research . . . shows that during periods when there are hundreds of horses and riders on the trails, the water quality deteriorates and exceeds the *E. coli* standards allowed by the State of Missouri and the U. S Public Health Service for human contact with the water. Heed the following tips and you can help protect the water quality in our Missouri streams.

Stopping your horse at least 100 feet from the stream and allowing it to relax and *eliminate* prior to crossing *will* help to prevent stream water contamination.

Crossing streams only at designated areas, moving quickly to the other side and away from the streams' edge, will help to prevent soil erosion and disturbance to sensitive stream bank environments. Limiting the horse's time in the water minimizes water contamination.

Lingering or riding on gravel bars, or near river edges stirs up the *E. coli* bacteria and moves it from being contained in the sediment to a state where it is suspended in the water column. Once in the water column there is an increased health risk to humans that are in contact with the water.

Bathing or swimming horses in springs, spring branches and rivers is not permitted. These activities contaminate the water and may harm delicate aquatic habitats.

Consideration for other visitors is common sense. Do not linger in river corridors with swimmers and floaters . . . manure causes complaints.

Broadfoot and Shawnee Trailheads have a restroom, hitching posts, and ample parking for large horse trailers.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the America people so that all may experience our heritage.