

**CITY OF KEARNEY PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL USE RULES, REGULATIONS,  
RESPONSIBILITIES, AND ETIQUETTE  
AT COTTONMILL PARK AND MEADOWLARK NORTH PARK**

*Thank you for registering your horse(s) through the City of Kearney Park and Recreation Department. Your registration is good indefinitely, as long as you comply with all rules and regulations, and allows us to communicate with you about trail maintenance, safety reminders, events, and rules. If you wish to add additional horses, please complete a new registration in order to be issued a bridle tag. If you move, or no longer plan to utilize the trails, please return your bridle tags and we will cancel your registration.*

Your adherence to the following rules and regulations is necessary for your own enjoyment and safety as well as other users on these multi-use trails. Failure to follow rules can result in the loss of your riding privileges and/or the loss of riding privileges for all.

**Section X. "Horseback Riding" of the City of Kearney Park & Recreation Department Rules and Regulations:**

1. Horseback riding is not permitted on the concrete hike/bike trails and in City neighborhood parks, except at the Oldfather Prairie and Lorma's Overlook naturals at Cottonmill Park, and at Meadowlark North Park along the natural trails, unless otherwise approved by the Park and Recreation Director.
2. Where permitted, horses shall be thoroughly broken and properly restrained, and ridden with due care, and shall not graze or go unattended, nor shall they be left hitched to any object without supervision.
3. Owners are responsible for moving horse waste at least five feet off the natural trails using a scoop of some sort, or bagging and dumping horse waste in a container of their own. Horse manure catchers/bags are encouraged, but not required.
4. In order to ride a horse at Cottonmill Park or Meadowlark North Park, horse owners are required to register their horse(s) at the City of Kearney Park and Recreation Office. There is not a fee associated with registering. Once registered, bridle tags will be issued for each horse to signify registration. Riders should display the bridle tag when riding on designated trails.
5. Horses must be kept to a minimal/safe speed.
6. If horseback riding is a "programmed service", defined as an instructed class or program for children or adults that occurs on a routine or non-routine basis, then a "Programmed Services Application" needs completed at the Park and Recreation Office. A \$1M certificate of liability insurance may be required in certain instances.

**Horseback Rider Responsibilities & Etiquette on City Designated Trails:**

- Safety needs to always be the first priority. As a rider, you must keep yourself safe, your horse safe and keep the safety of other trail users in mind.
- Do not use the trails when "no trail use" signs are out or the ground is muddy or snow-covered. This causes great damage to the trail and increases erosion. Trail erosion results in trails being closed for repair.
- Stay on the trail. The trails have been designed to minimize destruction of the surrounding vegetation and to prevent erosion.
- Expect to share the trail with other users. It is the responsibility of each rider to arrive to the trail properly prepared in both horse and rider skills to be able to successfully share the trail with safety and respect for all. Politeness increases

the chance of trail cooperation and goodwill. Understand that bikers and hikers, like riders, are individuals. The actions of one do not typify the actions of all.

- Communicate your intended movements. Stay on the right side of the trail. Pass only on the left and announce your intention to pass. Bikers yield to hikers and horses, and hikers yield to horses.
- Uphill traffic has the right-of-way, regardless if it is a hiker, biker or horse rider. However, each situation may warrant a different response. When riding in a large group or meeting a large group, do what is safest in that situation and communicate your intentions clearly to other trail users.
- Remember that other trail users may not be familiar with horses or their reaction to new experiences. Please communicate proactively and politely with fellow trail users with any requests that will help all parties be assured of safety and success in their encounter.
- Do not clean out your trailer in the parking area. Scoop any horse droppings around your trailer and put the waste back in the trailer.
- Keep horses away from bodies of water.
- Adhere to all posted signs.
- Follow the provided map which indicates approved trails for horseback riding in the City of Kearney.
- Remember, you are an ambassador of the trail riding community and adherence to these responsibilities affects the ability to enjoy continued and future use of these lands.

*Violators of park and recreation rules and regulations are subject to fines.*

For questions or more information, please contact the City of Kearney  
Park and Recreation Department at 251-3139 during office hours:  
Mon.-Thurs., 7:30am-5:00pm, and Fri, 7:30am-Noon

