

WINNEBAGO COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT EQUESTRIAN TRAILS

Winnebago County Forest Preserves' horseback trails were developed to afford horseback riders the opportunity to enjoy riding in the scenic beauty of the preserves. There are 26 miles of mowed trails for horseback riding with trailer parking, found in six of the County forest preserves: Roland Olson, Sugar River, Oak Ridge, Deer Run, Rockford Rotary, and Seward Bluffs.

Equestrians are allowed to use the trails when they are marked "Open" in the preserves in which equestrian use is authorized. An equestrian tag is necessary to ride in the preserves and is available at the Forest Preserve Headquarters for a small fee. Equestrians must purchase a bridle tag for the calendar year. Trails must be marked "OPEN". In addition, horse-drawn wagons are allowed on open paved roads within the preserves without a permit. **For your protection, all forest preserves are closed during shotgun hunting season.**

The Winnebago County Forest Preserve District is committed to enabling all to enjoy forest preserves and invites people of all abilities to discover the benefits of recreation at our sites, facilities, and programs. If you need special accommodations in order to access a preserve or facility, please contact the ADA coordinator by calling WCFPD Headquarters 815/877-6100.

GENERAL RIDING TIPS

- Refrain from riding when ground conditions are wet or soft.
- Restrain on blind corners.

TRAIL RULES

Remember, these trails are shared with hikers, so stay alert and slow your horse to a walk when meeting oncoming users. Here are a few rules to follow to ensure everyone's safety.

- Horses are allowed only on designated trails.
- Riders and horses must enter and leave trails at access points only.
- When meeting on trails, riders must slow their horses to a walk and keep to the right.

TAGS

To obtain a tag, please visit the Forest Preserve Headquarters or send for an application form. You will be issued an equestrian tag. **Please be sure to have the bridle tag visible when you ride in the preserves.**

- The fee is **\$20.00** for an annual tag per rider.
- **The fee for a daily bridle tag is \$5.00 per rider and can be purchased at all equestrian parking sites excluding Rockford Rotary.**
- **Equestrian camping at Oak Ridge & Seward Bluffs Forest Preserves only. Fee is \$10.00 per night per unit using the self registration provided.**
- **Roland Olson Arena can be reserved for \$20.00/day with each rider paying \$5.00.**

DEEER RUN FOREST PRESERVE 5691 River Road, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

594 acres of preserve are filled with 9.5 miles of trails that follow the south and north branch of the Kishwaukee River and many other unique natural features. There is ample parking for vehicles and trailers. **Users can utilize a self registration system for a daily riding pass and may apply for annual bridle tags at the site.**

OAK RIDGE FOREST PRESERVE 8322 Blomberg Road, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

This 653 acre preserve has ample parking for vehicles and trailers. Its varied terrain has 7.1 miles of trails. There is a river crossing that takes riders into Deer Run Forest Preserve. **There is equestrian camping at \$10.00 per night per unit. Users can utilize a self registration system for camping and can acquire a daily riding pass. Annual bridle tags may be applied for at the site.**

ROCKFORD ROTARY FOREST PRESERVE, 5390 Rotary Road, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

.7 miles of trail run throughout this 220 acre preserve. Heavily wooded and overlooking the Kishwaukee River, trail rules are critical here as the soil in this preserve is highly erodible. Equestrian access is provided near the preserve's entrance off Rotary Road. **No self registration system at this site.**

ROLAND OLSON FOREST PRESERVE, 9669 Atwood Road, Roscoe, IL 61073

Donated in 1976 by Mr. and Mrs. Roland Olson, this 127 acre preserve was offered specifically to provide a place for horse riding activities within the County. The preserve has a 60' x 120' arena, two hitching posts, and 1.5 miles of bridle trail. Trailer parking is in the preserve near the arena. **Users can utilize a self registration system for a daily riding pass and may apply for annual bridle tags at the site.**

SEWARD BLUFFS FOREST PRESERVE EQUESTRIAN AREA, 17617 Comly Road, Seward, IL 61077

The trails in this 636 acre preserve cover beautiful country which include spring wildflowers, woodlands and dolomite cliffs. The trails loop to the east and west crossing Grove Creek to provide 5.6 miles of trails. **There is equestrian camping at \$10.00 per night per unit. Users can utilize a self registration system for camping and can acquire a daily riding pass. Annual bridle tags may be applied for at the site.**

SUGAR RIVER FOREST PRESERVE 10127 Forest Preserve Road, Durand, IL 61024

Travel to the northern part of the County to take in a double loop trail system in this 529 acre preserve. The 3.6 mile trail goes through oak woodlands, meadows and fields. Much of this preserve is sand prairie, which is a unique and fragile ecosystem that is highly erodible. Therefore, the equestrian trail hugs the east boundary of the preserve, avoiding these natural areas. **Users can utilize a self registration system for a daily riding pass**

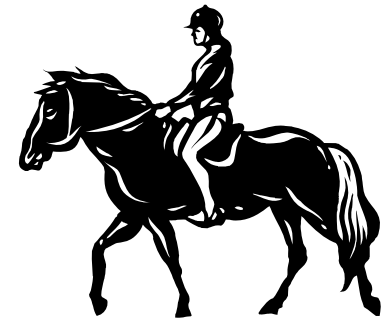
and may apply for annual bridle tags at the site.

For more information on these or any other services, contact the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District Office at (815) 877-6100 or 5500 Northrock Drive, Rockford, Illinois 61103.
www.wcfpd.org

UNLAWFUL ACTS

It is against the law to:

- Treat a horse cruelly or knowingly permit such treatment.
- Ride or lead a horse that is vicious, unmanageable or physically unfit for riding. (Horses that may kick should be marked with a red ribbon on the horse's tail.)
- Ride a horse that is not adequately and safely equipped for riding.
- Ride a horse in such a manner as to injure or endanger the person or property of any other person or property of the Forest Preserve District.
- Race horses except during authorized special events.
- Park a horse trailer or truck for the purpose of loading or unloading a horse in any parking area not designated and posted as an equestrian parking area.
- Utilize equestrian facilities when posted closed to equestrian use.



EQUESTRIAN



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COUNTY
FOREST
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DISTRICT**



**5500 Northrock Drive
Rockford, IL 61103
(815) 877-6100**

www.wcfpd.org

e-mail wcfpd@wcfpd.org

Mission Statement

To assure the public access to permanent natural lands and areas for safe and enjoyable outdoor recreation and education.