

# OUTDOOR RECREATION

## Trail Ethics

### PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

Trail conditions determine where to hike and what to bring. Check [trailfinder.info](https://www.vermont.gov/recreation/outdoor-recreation-ethics) or with your local trail group to know which trails are open and how to get there. Bring first aid, food, water and wear the right footwear and clothing. Avoid peak hours: between 10am and 2pm on weekends and holidays. Go early. Go during the week.

### TREAD LIGHTLY

Trail conditions are subject to change at any time. If you encounter muddy trails or other conditions, please turn around and let the trail manager know! Consider volunteering with your local trail organization.

### LEAVE NO TRACE

Take all your garbage with you. Don't damage trees or remove anything like rocks. Respect wildlife and other users.

### TAKE IT EASY

Help can be difficult to summon and there may be significant delay in receiving emergency assistance. Please plan your trip responsibly, and do not take unnecessary risks. Your cellphone may not work in the woods, so let people know your plans.

### SHOW APPRECIATION FOR LANDOWNERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Trails rely on the generosity and care of public and private landowners: respect signage and be aware of your surroundings. Trailheads are often busy places located in communities where people live: drive slowly and don't block driveways or roadways. Buy local and keep our small businesses strong.

### ADHERE TO COVID-19 GUIDELINES

As Vermont continues its work to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State will provide guidance based on the Governor's Executive Order. COVID-19 guidelines may change but will still apply. For the latest information, please visit: [fpr.vermont.gov/recreation/outdoor-recreation-and-covid-19](https://fpr.vermont.gov/recreation/outdoor-recreation-and-covid-19)

### STAY ON MARKED TRAILS

By staying on the trail, you keep your impact minimal. You also show respect to landowners who often have other uses besides the trail on their property.

### RESPECT EACH OTHER AND BUILD AN INCLUSIVE OUTDOORS

We all love to play outdoors: make sure everyone's experience is enjoyable and available for the next time. Give people space and keep your dog on a leash. Be an active part of making the outdoors welcoming and inclusive of all abilities and identities.

For more information visit

[fpr.vermont.gov/recreation/vermont-outdoor-recreation-ethics](https://fpr.vermont.gov/recreation/vermont-outdoor-recreation-ethics)

