

EQUESTRIAN TRAIL ETIQUETTE

When you ride on a public trail, you are an ambassador for the horse community. What non-horse people think of all equestrians depends on your behavior and attitude.

- Stay on the trail. Riding through fields or taking short cuts can destroy vegetation and can result in trails being closed. Do not blaze new trails.
- Be considerate of nature and avoid causing erosion. Always step over water breaks. Never go around them. Tread gently when trails are wet.
- Make sure the fun you have in the outdoors does not interfere with someone else's solitude and peaceful experience with nature.
- When preparing to pass other trail users, announce your intention and pass on the left at a safe speed.
- Move to the right to allow faster trail users to pass on the left. If you ride a horse that kicks, back off the trail to permit passing. A horse that kicks should have a red ribbon tied in its tail. A green horse should have a green ribbon tied in its tail.
- Be sure you clean up all manure, hay, etc. from the parking area and areas used by others. Carry your trash home with you.
- Give back to your trails. Because of the extent of the trail system, it is impossible for park employees to do it. Trail users need to help. Sign up for trail workdays. Do not litter. Carry clippers and clip as you ride. If you come to obstructions on the trail, dismount and remove debris or limbs. Riding around obstructions causes new erosion. If the obstruction is too large to move, report it to park rangers (703-250-9124) or e-mail <CHS9@aol.com>.



Clifton Horse Society
Box 183
Clifton, Virginia 20124

The Clifton Horse Society, CHS, was established in 1976 to serve the needs of those interested in horses in Fairfax County and the surrounding communities. Club membership is open to all who want horses to continue to be part of Northern Virginia. Although founded in Clifton, CHS membership now includes people throughout the Metropolitan area, in other states, and overseas.

CHS provides a variety of activities for horse owners and non-owners of all interests and riding persuasions.

Recreational - Organized trail rides with fast and slow groups are on local trails or those within a short trailer drive of Northern Virginia. Other mounted events throughout the year include horse shows, competitive trail rides, parades and Christmas caroling on horseback and foot.

Social - Activities include picnics, barn dances, cocktail parties and dinners, Knowdowns (a "Trivial Pursuit/Pictionary" type of event) and Christmas caroling. Although this is not a children's riding club, social activities frequently include the whole family.

Educational - CHS sponsors clinics on horse care, training, vetting, safety, trailering, purchasing and maintaining tack, and other aspects of quality horsemanship.

Service - In cooperation with local park authorities and landowners, CHS maintains historical trails and develops new trails. CHS supports riding programs for the handicapped and awards scholarships and grants to encourage those pursuing equine studies.

FOUNTAINHEAD REGIONAL PARK EQUESTRIAN TRAILS

Owned and Operated by
NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK
AUTHORITY



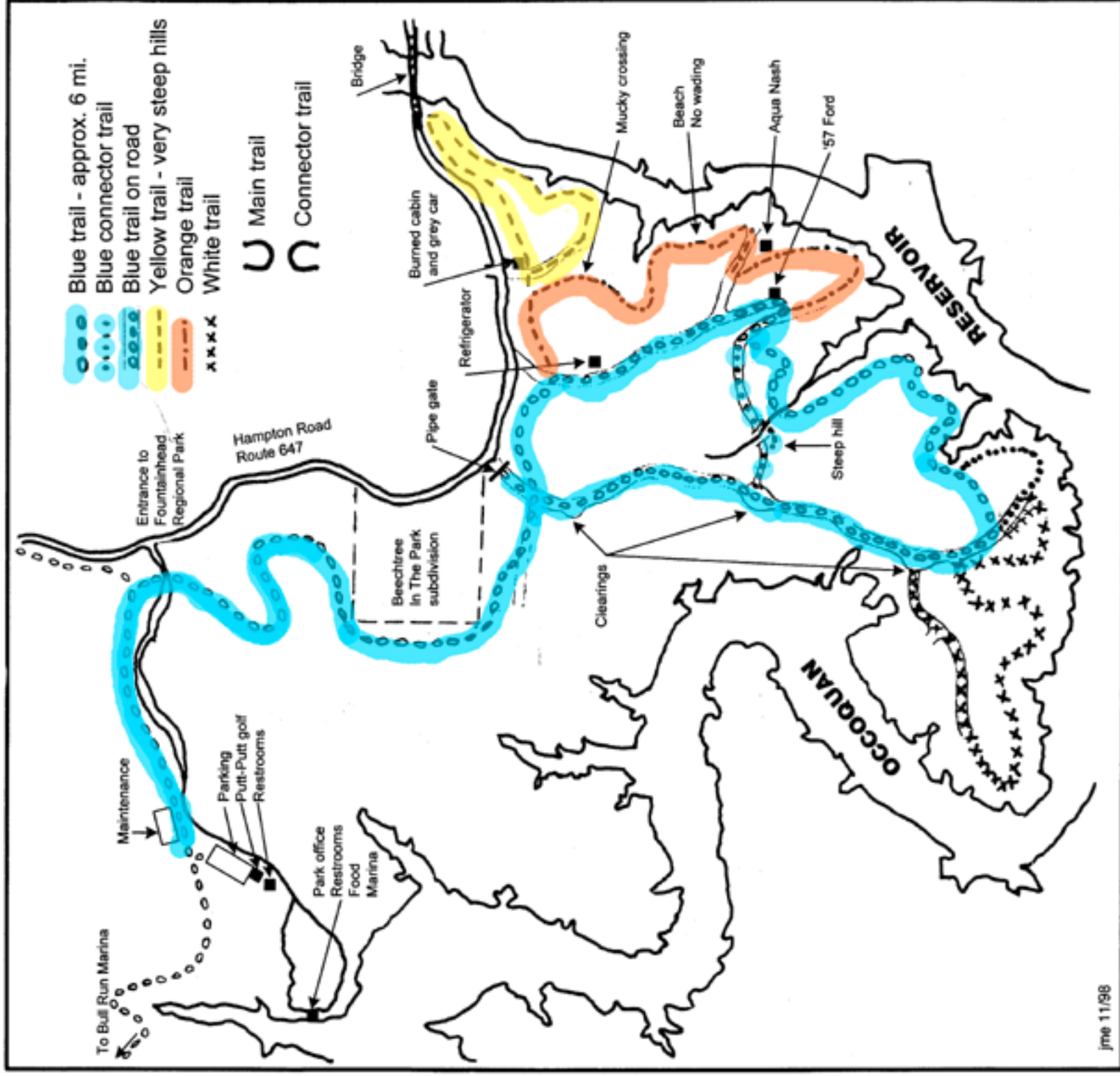
Equestrian trails maintained by
CLIFTON HORSE SOCIETY

HORSE FACTS FOR NON-EQUESTRIANS

- Horses can see both to the front and the rear because their eyes are on the sides of their heads. Still, it is difficult for horses to assess the seriousness of a threat.
- Horses have a highly developed flight instinct to escape perceived threats. When frightened, a horse can panic and flee suddenly.
- Approaching a horse suddenly from the front or back, or making an unexpected noise, can cause a horse to panic and flee, endangering the rider.
- Please stop when approaching horses and yield the trail to them by moving slowly off the trail. Horses, then pedestrians, have the right-of-way unless otherwise posted.
- If passing a horse, alert the rider with a "heads up" well in advance and ask the rider when it is safe to pass.

FOUNTAINHEAD PARK EQUESTRIAN TRAILS

Trails and map courtesy of Clifton Horse Society



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- Take only photos and leave only footprints
- It is against the law to swim in the Ocoquan Reservoir
- All manure and hay must be removed from the parking lot