

NOTICE OF REVISION/CHANGE

TO

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MEMORANDUM #66

SUBJECT: EQUESTRIAL TRAILS

TO: ALL POLICY & PROCEDURE MEMORANDUM HOLDERS

EFFECTIVE DATE: APRIL 12, 2001

**REVISION DATE: MARCH 5, 2014**

This revision supersedes and replaces all previous information included in PPM #66 originally issued April 12, 2001. The current PPM is to be replaced in its entirety by this revised issue.

  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

This is Revision No. 2 of this PPM with an original effective date of April 12, 2001.

**IMPORTANT:**

Insert this revision notice in the PPM file preceding all other information on this subject in order to maintain a current document file.

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE MEMORANDUM #66**

SUBJECT: EQUESTRIAL TRAILS

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EFFECTIVE DATE: APRIL 12, 2001; Revised: March 5, 2014

**POLICY:**

To establish procedures for equestrian trail use that will protect the natural environment and provide safety measures for visitors.

**BACKGROUND:**

Equestrian trails are back country trails designed specifically for horse-riding. Facilities along these trails may include tie-line posts, hard surface parking, access to drinking water, and rest areas with trash receptacles, tie-line posts and log benches.

**PROCEDURE:**

**A. Trail Users.** A park user must abide by the following provisions to utilize equestrian trails within Louisiana State Parks.

- (1) Prior to departure, the park user must submit to park staff a trip plan, which shall include:
  - (a) Expected route of travel.
  - (b) Number of people in group.
  - (c) Number of horses.
  - (d) Expected departure and return times.
  - (e) Mobile phone number of at least one person in the group.
- (2) Park users must:
  - (a) Produce an Equine Infectious Anemia Laboratory Test showing proof of negative Coggins Test for each horse entering the park.
  - (b) Keep horses on established equestrian trails at all times.
  - (c) Provide their own method of communication (e.g. radio, cell phone) in case of emergency.
  - (d) Be responsible for using appropriate safety equipment, such as headgear and first aid kits.
  - (e) Sign a waiver with the provision that the park user will indemnify and hold the state harmless for any injury caused or personal or property damage that results from use of Louisiana State Park equestrian trails.
  - (f) In the event of an accident, the park user must timely report the matter to the park manager or ranger on duty.
  - (g) Dispose of all litter in trash containers that are located in the main parking lot and at designated points on the trail.
  - (h) Remove/prevent all horse waste and hay from parking lots.
  - (i) Check out with park staff upon exiting park.
  - (j) Fires are not permitted on equine trail systems.
  - (k) Dogs or other pets are not allowed on equine trails.

**B. Site Responsibility. Sites with equestrian trails must provide certain amenities and post specific information for public view:**

- (1) Guide signage posted, at minimum, every 1.5 mile.
- (2) Trail must be well marked and blazed with appropriate markings.
- (3) Ensure that signage at the parking areas are in compliance with La.R.S.9:2795.1 (F).
- (4) Each site will determine a maximum number of horses allowed on the equestrian trail at one time. This will be posted at the trail head.
- (5) Site manager or designee may close the equine trail at any time for safety-related reasons.
- (6) Sites must retain a copy of all Equine Infectious Anemia Laboratory Test showing proof of negative Coggins Test for each horse entering the park.
- (7) Trail maps must be made available to all guests entering the equestrian trail.

**C. Equestrian Trail Specifications. Each site must follow established general guidelines and specifications for trails:**

- (1) Trail layout – may be single direction loops or multiple loops. Provide routes with a variety of scenery and terrain. Wet areas and steep slopes should be avoided. Keep motorized crossings to a minimum. Avoid sharp-angled turns or turns on steep slopes.
- (2) Clearing width must be a minimum of 10' and cleared to a height of 12'.
- (3) Warn riders at least 100 to 200' in advance of all motorized crossings.
- (4) Place "horse crossing" road signs where trails cross over roads.