

Friends of Dallas-Barnhartvale Nature Park

A group dedicated to the continued well-being of a valued community resource.

JUNE 2013

ISSUE TWO

**SHARE THE TRAIL
HIKE-BIKE-RIDE**



Horses are prey animals with keen hearing and quick reactions. A horse can easily be frightened by sudden sounds and unfamiliar objects and may leap to one side or suddenly run away. A courteous greeting and friendly voice will help calm a horse.



A horse may perceive a loose or running dog as a predator or a threat. If the horse spooks or bolts, it can injure itself or its rider. In addition, a horse can seriously injure or kill a dog with a lightning fast kick or strike. For your dog's sake as well as your own protection, if you see a horse approaching, please ensure that your dog is under control and on a leash.

**HORSE COUNCIL
BRITISH COLUMBIA**
www.hcbc.ca



Well-trained horses & dogs and well-informed people have no difficulty sharing the trails safely.

SHARE THE TRAIL

**The 3 C's of
Trail Etiquette
for Everyone**

**Common Sense
Communication
Courtesy**

Share the Trail — Hike, Bike, Ride!

The Dallas-Barnhartvale Nature Park is the only Natural Area Park in the City of Kamloops that offers equestrian trails.

This means that hikers, dog walkers and cyclists may occasionally encounter riders on horseback. This also means that special rules of etiquette must be developed for this park.

The Friends of Dallas-Barnhartvale Nature Park are in the process of developing protocols for all users of Park Trails.

These protocols will be submitted to the Kamloops Natural Areas Advisory Committee (KNAAC) for approval and forwarded to the Parks and Recreation department for new signage to be erected throughout the Park.

In the meantime we offer the excellent "Share the Trail" guidelines of the **Horse Council of British Columbia**.

For Dog Walkers: When you see a horse approaching, stop, move to the side and have your dog sit beside you. Do not let your dog bark or lunge at the horse. Please allow the horse to pass and then resume your walk.

For Horse Riders: Walk your horse past a dog. Faster gaits may encourage the dog to lunge or run after your horse. If you see the dog is agitated, please wait until the owner has it under control. Speak in a calm voice and ask if it is OK to proceed. Walk past hikers, cyclists and dog walkers single file and on one side of the trail.

For Cyclists and Hikers: Speak up and be seen. Carrying backpacks and pushing strollers can be frightening for a horse. Please let them know you are human and not a mountain lion! Give a verbal warning when approaching a horse from behind and be prepared to stop if a rider asks.

If approaching from the front, stay where the horse can hear you and speak. Stand to the low side or downhill side if

possible. For your safety and theirs, please pass single file.

If you own a horse that is skittish around dogs, or a dog that lunges and barks at horses, think very seriously of training to correct such behaviours before setting out on shared trails. Horse and dog owners should be encouraged to get together to help each other provide training sessions, matching calm horses with dogs-in-training, or introducing nervous horses to dogs that are already socialized to horses.

Like all Natural Area Parks in Kamloops, Dallas-Barnhartvale is an off-leash Park.

But dog owners should be prepared to leash up their dogs and follow guidelines when encountering horses, especially with dogs not used to encountering horses.



NEXT ISSUE
SUMMER
2013

Stay tuned. More
Park news as it
happens.



Find us online
www.parkfriends.ca