



Friends of Dallas-Barnhartvale Nature Park

Rules and Trail Etiquette by Milt Stanley, Park Friends Founder

At present, there are eight officially designated trails in the Park:

Pussy Willow Lane, Benchland Trail, Ranger Bob's Loop, Blackwell Connector, Crow's Nest, Pond Trail, Sandy Ridge, and Hoodoo Trail.

These trails lie to the East of the Barnhartvale Sanitary Landfill (a.k.a. "The Dump") and connect to the *Blackwell Trail Network* at three points: the Bluff Gate, The Bent Gate and Park Gate.

Please Note: The Blackwell Trail Network is NOT part of the Park!

The Blackwell Trails are on Crown Land, managed by the

Barnhartvale Horse & Hiker Trail Preservation Society,

subject to a stewardship agreement with the BC Government.

It is also a cattle lease held by the Blackwell family, and hikers may encounter cows (and occasionally bulls) on the trails.

When hiking these trails:

- please control your dogs
- be sure to close all gates behind you



You can tell which trail system you are on by noting the trail markers

– Dallas-Barnhartvale Nature Park

Blackwell Trails ->



This means that hikers, dog walkers and cyclists may occasionally encounter riders on horseback. Special rules of etiquette apply for trail users in this Park.

For Dog Walkers:



When you see a horse approaching, stop, move to the side and have your dog sit beside you. Hold the dog's collar or leash up. Speak up, as this will signal to the horse that you are not a threat. 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. **Cyclists should dismount** while horses proceed. For your safety and theirs, please pass single file.

Cyclists should refrain from high speeds, especially where sight lines are poor. Be prepared to stop quickly.

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 are 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.