

Tips and Tricks for Park/Trail Safety, Comfort, and Respect

Stay on Trail - Staying on the trail is the safest, easiest, and most considerate way to experience the park. The trail surface most often provides the sturdiest footing and the easiest way to navigate through thick forest vegetation. This practice also concentrates use in one area, thus protecting fragile vegetation from being trampled. Exton Park has specific trails for walking with dogs. The park has a unique wetlands area, please follow the trails, stay on the path, and keep your leashed dog away from the pond and wetlands.

Know the Area – Some familiarity with where you are can do a lot of good. Remember where you parked, where you entered the park, and where you must return to. Be sure and look at the trail map located at the trail head kiosk, Ship and Swedesford Rd, and Potato and Ship Roads.

Bring the Essentials – Water, sunscreen, a snack, etc. are good commodities to bring, especially for prolonged visits.

Be On the Lookout for Irregularities – The Parks Maintenance crew does their best to keep each park in the best shape possible; sometimes, however, weather, wildlife, or other causes can be responsible for holes in the trail, fallen trees, etc. It is important to watch one's step and to be aware.

Be Aware of Wildlife - Remember, when we enter the woods we enter the domain of the wildlife. Encounters with wildlife can be extremely special; and although you may have an interest in the animal, the animal has little interest in you. When you encounter wildlife on the trail, the best thing you can do to remain safe is to give the animal space to go about its business. Consider yourself lucky to have had an encounter and remember that you are in the animal's home.

Leave no Trace, Take your Waste – Please be respectful to the park's wildlife, habitat, and other park goers by leaving only your footprints—and no trash! Leave no trace, take your waste.

