



Muddy-Trail Etiquette

Improper use of trails when they are muddy widens and erodes the trails. This can harm fragile plants along the trail and turns lovely small meandering turns into wide, straight roads. Trail erosion can cost a lot of time and money to repair.

Help prevent trail damage during mud season:

1. **AVOID** — If it's muddy, consider staying off the trails. This is the best way to keep the trails in good shape for the rest of the year.
2. **GO THROUGH, NOT AROUND** —If you still want to hike, bike, or run, go through the mud. Never go around muddy spots on the trail as it widens and erodes the trail.
3. **GO SLOW** — Running or biking quickly through mud can widen trails too. Just don't splash.
4. **TURN BACK** — If the mud continues beyond isolated patches, turn around and find a different trail. Conditions are probably going to become worse, not better!
5. **EMBRACE THE COLD** — Take advantage of when we get a hard freeze by hiking, biking, or running when the mud is frozen. Wait until it warms up and it will only get sloppy again.

Thank you for helping keep our trails in great shape!

Concord New Hampshire Trails Subcommittee
www.concordnh.gov/trails

