

# WHAT YOU CAN DO TO "SAVE THE TRAILS"

The Connecticut Horse Council is a volunteer organization that functions with its membership of individuals and organizations.

The Trails Committee looks forward to the Council's membership to volunteer its service to help it achieve its goals.

We must keep positive when facing the loss of public trails and remain proactive in land use decisions. Some ways this can be done are listed below:

- Join the CT Horse Council and become unified in the horse industry.
- Volunteer any time, your "expertise" or monetary contributions to help us to achieve our goals.
- Volunteer to help work on trails.
- We must continue to be good partners with public owned land managers, such as the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP), facilities that allow equestrian use, and town owned public lands, by offering our time and financial support for trails maintenance and development.
- Invest in the places you ride! Joining a Friends Group of a state forest or park, federal land, land trust, or town trail committee is something we should all consider to keep equestrian use in the foreground of any planning or permitted uses.
- We need to pay attention to issues that come before our local planning and zoning committees and boards. We need to have local equestrian representation on them.
- We need to continue to discuss our interest with our senators, delegates and congressmen and let them know that we want more funding directed towards trail development in our public facilities.
- Have your local organization support the CT Horse Council through club membership
- Have your local organization support the National Organization: Equestrian Land Conservation Resource: [www.ELCR.org](http://www.ELCR.org)

Most of all, we need to become better stewards of the land and recognize that we do have a physical impact on our trails, and help minimize this impact through smarter use patterns, and better design. Water quality is a big environmental issue these days and it is one that may very well affect our trail access if we are not careful about how we treat our streambeds and banks. What we leave behind is seen by others in a negative way. Practice trail etiquette. Curb your horse and/or move manure off to the side on well used Greenways and trails. Clean up at trail heads – bring your manure back with you if inappropriate to leave.

**Invest in the future of our trails!**

**Become a Trails Advocate Every day!**