

## **Hiking Tips**

### Good Hiking Principles

1. Obey all signs and stay on the marked and well-work trails. By doing so you won't get lost and you'll avoid damaging sensitive habitats.
2. "Take only pictures; leave only footprints." Leave all flowers, vegetation, wildlife, rocks, and other natural and man-made features undisturbed for others to enjoy.
3. Keep your noise level down. You'll not only show your respect for other hikers, but also increase your chances of seeing wildlife.
4. You can bring your dog to all of the open space areas. If you do, bring a leash, keep your dog under voice control at all times, and clean up after your pet.
5. Carry out any litter that you may have brought with you and think about bringing a small bag so you can help keep the trail clean by picking up any litter that may have been left by others. Do this and you'll accomplish the universal hiking goal of leaving the trail a little better than you find it.
6. Be friendly to everyone you meet on the trail.
7. If you encounter horses, remember that they are often frightened by unfamiliar circumstances. Move and speak appropriately.
8. Respect the rights of the owners of the private properties adjoining the open space areas. Don't walk beyond the bounds of the open space areas and don't cross private property to enter them.
9. Report any dangerous conditions or problems, including any unauthorized uses such as all-terrain vehicles and dirt bikes, to the Conservation Department at (203) 256-3071. If you do encounter an emergency, call the Fairfield Police Department at (203) 254-4800 or 911.