

Bear Brook State Park

1. The park has incredible trails and a great parking area for trucks and trailers. We are working on a relationship with Mt Bike and Equestrian Officers, which has allowed us to share and coordinate information of what each group has planned in the park.
2. Our concerns are trail use Etiquette. Have Education or Signage on how we can all enjoy the Park together. All trails should be Multi Use unless the natural environment cannot stand that kind of usage that would affect the wildlife. I grew up in Alaska where all Parks were Multiuse trails. Your path may cross with a biker, Hiker, Moose, Black Bear or people walking with dogs or training for the Iditarod. The golden rule was you respected and left all wildlife alone. This meant they got the right-of-way because we are in their living-room. Everyone else would take a few minutes to respectfully pass each other safely and continue back to their adventure.
3. The Outhouse in Hayes Field could use a little sprucing up and a door that locks; Signage indicating where the Pit Toilets are located. Ultimately a flush toilet with a sink would be great. Having access to water for day use in Hayes field would be great for all animals.
4. The Park is moving forward to establish Horse camping. Have Park Rangers out in the park Like Bradley Palmer in Topsfield Ma to ensure users are staying on existing trails.

By creating new trails, you may change the balance of nature within the park.

5. The horse camping that is in progress--- off of Deerfield Road – East of Catamont Pond. I am personally excited to be able to camp in Bear Brook.
6. Existing conflicts occur with a small percentage of users. Typically, between bikers and horses not recognizing all trails are multi use trails with old or new trails that are established. There needs to be more signage at the Kiosks and on trails to identify that trails are for all users. Have etiquette signage that explains the best way to approach a horse. By having bikers / hikers yell out approaching from the back. I personally would need to know if I came across a dog sled team what to do. If they would like my horse and me to move completely off the trail and which side to move off to. I know from living in Alaska a young team can quickly get distracted and tangle in seconds. Do bikers want to pass each other left shoulder to left shoulder?

Lastly find a way to allow gates to be opened for day use by carriage drivers. For those that still have the love of the equestrian sport but can no longer ride their horse.

I appreciate and respect our state parks. I do believe that we should leave the park better than when we arrived. That is why Derry Trail Riders have for over 20 years done Trail Maintenance to improve Bear Brook. This has included three of our club members becoming certified by the State of NH for Chainsaw usage in the park.

Thank You