

THE FRIENDS OF MacGREGOR POINT PARK

Be Safe! Huron Fringe Birding Festival 2018

The Festival recognizes that your personal safety may require reasonable precautions during certain activities. We are also aware that everyone has their own comfort and ability level.

Anyone who finds they are in a situation that is beyond their personal abilities is encouraged to let the Event Coordinator know and to withdraw from that activity. Choosing to continue indicates your acknowledgement of the trail or road conditions that may be encountered and your acceptance of any exposure to hazards.

Trails

Trail surfaces vary from prepared stone dust to boulder pavement, exposed bedrock and boardwalk.

- Appropriate footwear should be worn to provide support, traction and protection from the environment.

On foot:

- Be prepared for wet/slippery conditions and share information about the conditions that are encountered on the trail.
- Stay on the trail to avoid hazards such as poison ivy, tangles and thorns or downed branches.
- It may be necessary to travel off trail. Be alert at all times noting surface condition changes.
- Boardwalks can be slippery when wet or damp. Be on the lookout for rotten or missing boards.

On bicycle:

- Cyclists must be familiar with their equipment and familiar with cycling on uneven surfaces where maintaining traction or balance is of importance.
- Bicycle travel should only be on trails designated for shared pedestrian and bicycle traffic or on roadways.
- It is recommended that cyclists use mountain or hybrid bicycles. They offer improved traction, more aggressive tread and increased tire size.
- Bicycle operators are responsible to ensure their bicycles are in proper operating condition and that they wear all safety equipment required by law. The Festival requires that all participants wear properly fitting, approved bicycle helmets.
- Pedestrians have the right-of-way on trails; on roadways, cyclists are required to obey all traffic laws.
- Be aware of changing surface conditions. This will require adjusting speed and notifying fellow participants.
- Bicycles are to be walked when traveling on boardwalks.

Vehicle travel

Road Shoulders:

When events require stopping along the road shoulder and getting out of vehicles, vehicle occupants are asked to use the following procedures:

- Be aware of oncoming or following vehicles.

- Pull off the roadway as far as is practical. Be aware of road stability and ditch construction.
- Pull up to be reasonably close to the vehicle in front of you.
- The sweep vehicle will put on its flashers while stopped on the side of the road.
- Ensure the roadway is free of vehicles, bicycles or pedestrians before opening your doors into the roadway; on the ditch side, ensure you have firm footing.
- As pedestrians, it is important to stay as close as is practical to the shoulder and to move as a group.
- Call out to announce the approach of traffic so that everyone is aware.
- All participants should be on the same side of the travelled portion of the roadway to allow ease of negotiation by the approaching driver. They should move as far as possible to the edge of the roadway and stand still so that the driver knows their intention of remaining out of their way.

Vehicle Convoys:

Traveling in a group with multiple vehicles requires special attention to detail.

- The lead vehicle will establish the route and maintain a speed consistent with the designated speed limit and / or the road conditions.
- The Event Coordinator will travel in the rear vehicle and act as sweep to ensure all vehicles are present and accounted for.
- Maintain as tight a group of vehicles as can be safely done without causing a hindrance or annoyance to others on the road.
- To ensure that the group stays together, a protocol for reformation will be established. Generally, this will be a waiting point beyond a congested area. Often the waiting point is the shoulder of a traveled portion of roadway. Ensure your actions are deliberate and not confusing to other users of the road. Move onto and off of the shoulder in a safe manner.
- Traffic laws dictate how we handle stop lights and stop signs. Obey them. The group will wait for you at the waiting point.
- Parking within 100 metres of a bridge is prohibited by Ontario law.

Walkie-Talkie Use:

The Festival supports the safe and legal use of walkie-talkies which allow each vehicle to keep in touch with the group.

- Walkie-talkies allow the lead vehicle to make last minute route changes, enable the sharing of observations while en route and allow participants to advise of any difficulties they have experienced.
- Walkie-talkies are hand-held devices. Ontario laws related to their use must be observed. Assign a passenger in each vehicle to operate the walkie-talkie or use a hands-free head-set.
- If range becomes an issue, those in the middle of the group should repeat the information for the benefit of those behind them.
- If you depart from the group, advise the Event Coordinator beforehand so the attendance list can be modified.
- Borrowed walkie-talkies are to be returned to the Event Coordinator or registration tent.
- The default channel for the Festival is 11-22.

January 17, 2018