Trail Safety and Resource Protection

Protect the Nature Preserve.

You are enjoying a Nature Preserve with delicate habitat and wildlife. Tread lightly and help protect nature.

Stay on designated trails.

Check out the trail map for the reserve you are visiting. Only use trails marked with signs or listed on the map.

Using unauthorized paths and short-cuts damages sensitive plants, erodes soil, compacts soil, fragments wildlife habitat and sets a bad example for others.

Protect habitat by staying within the trail margin, even when stopped.

Travel single file on narrow trails.

Don't use wet trails.

If you are leaving deep prints (hoof, tire, or boot), the trail is too wet to use. Going off trail or "skirting" trails widens existing trails and impacts habitat.

Respect.

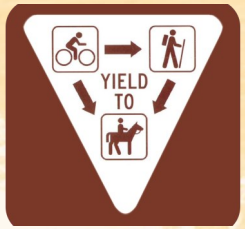
It's a simple concept: if you offer respect, you are more likely to receive it. Education with friendly respect will diminish negative encounters on the trail for all.

Don't block trail.

When taking a break, move to the side of the trail (but not off the trail).

What does "yield" mean?

1. Yielding means slow down, establish communication, be prepared to stop if necessary, and pass in a safe and friendly manner.
2. Allow faster users to pass when safe, and complete all passes within the existing trail bed.



Thank you for helping us protect the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. We hope you have a great experience on the trails!

Contacts:

MRCA Ranger Hotline
Report Preserve violations
310-491-5775

Lomita Sheriff Station
Report crime and matters of public safety
310-539-1661

City of Rancho Palos Verdes
Preserve information, maps,
interpretive programming.
310-544-5260
www.rpvca.gov parks@rpvca.gov

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
Detailed maps,
volunteer opportunities,
Citizen Science Projects.
310-541-7613
www.pvplc.org info@pvplc.org

Palos Verdes Nature Preserve

- Abalone Cove Reserve
- Agua Amarga Reserve
- Alta Vicente Reserve
- Filiorum Reserve
- Forrestal Reserve
- Ocean Trails Reserve
- Portuguese Bend Reserve
- San Ramon Reserve
- Three Sisters Reserve
- Vicente Bluffs Reserve
- Vista Del Norte Reserve

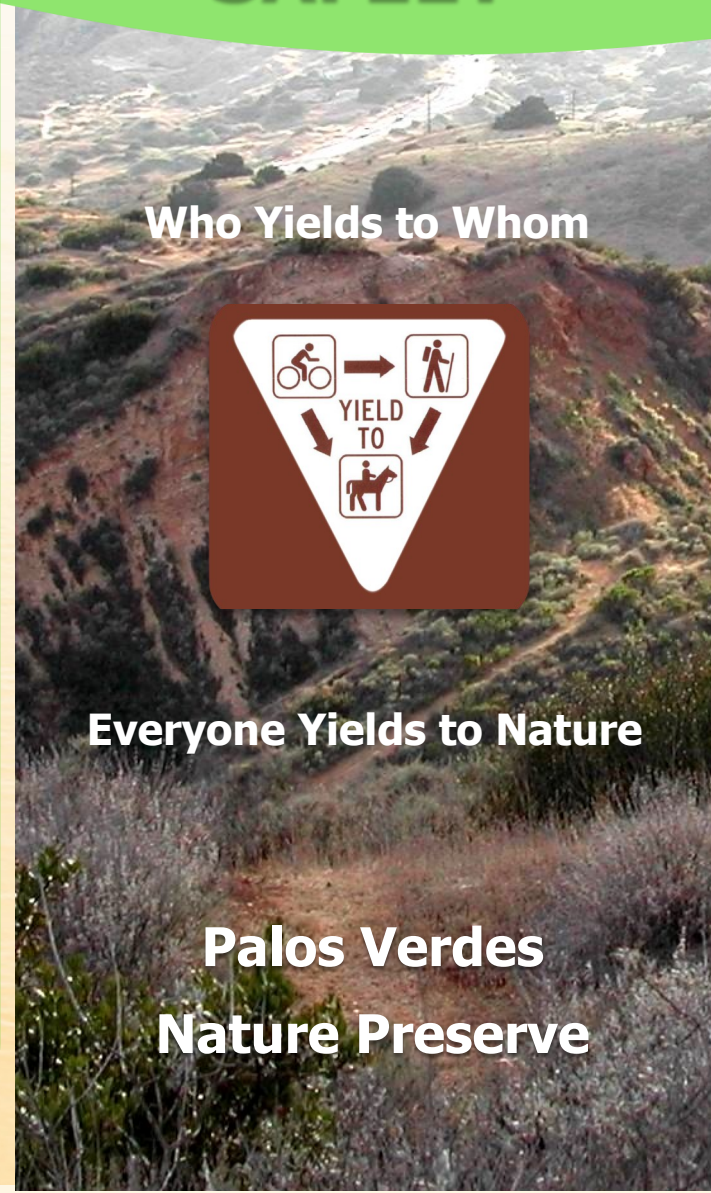
Consider sharing this brochure with a fellow trail user or recycling it by placing it back in the brochure rack at the end of your Preserve visit!

Rancho Palos Verdes

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Hike Horse Bike

SHARING TRAILS SAFELY



Who Yields to Whom

Everyone Yields to Nature

Palos Verdes Nature Preserve

YIELD TO HORSES & HIKERS

What can you expect?

Surprised trail users. Faster moving users can startle others, especially when approaching from behind. Don't assume others will anticipate your approach and will be able to move out of the way. Always ride slow enough to be under control. Anticipate users around blind corners, and be friendly and communicative.

What is your responsibility?

Mountain bikers yield to hikers and horses. Manage your bicycle safely and responsibly. Habitat can be damaged if bikes go too fast or go off the trail.

Passing Hikers:

1. Try not to startle hikers.
2. Slow down to about the same speed as the hiker.
3. Ask in a friendly voice if it's okay to pass. Pass slowly and be prepared to stop if necessary.

Passing cyclists:

1. Generally, uphill cyclists have the right-of-way on narrow trails. Ask if it's okay to pass anyway.
2. Always be prepared to stop.

Passing horses (from the front and behind):

1. Horses can be easily spooked by quick movement or noises, especially from behind.
2. Stay at least 30 feet from the horse. Ask in a friendly voice if it's okay to pass.
3. Follow the equestrian's instructions. Stop on the downhill side of the trail if necessary.
4. Pass slowly and steadily, but only after the equestrian gives you the go-ahead. A friendly human voice can help calm a horse.

HIKERS & BIKERS YIELD TO HORSES

What can you expect?

Inexperienced trail users. While all trail users yield to horses, many users are intimidated by large horses, or they just don't know what to do.

What is your responsibility?

Manage your animals. Don't train green horses on high-traffic or shared-use trails. Familiarize horses with expected trail encounters (cyclists, dogs, backpack-wearing hikers, etc.).

Negotiate safe passes. Help protect people & habitat.

1. Greet users early.
2. Guide trail users to move to the downhill side of the trail.
3. Continue communication until the pass is complete.

Expect the unexpected. Small children and animals can be unpredictable or easily frightened by horses.

Rules For All Preserve Users

Dogs on leash: Keep your dog on a short leash when passing or being passed. Other trail users may be frightened by dogs.

Pass cautiously: Don't pass if too narrow. Don't pass by going off trail. Don't expect others to go off trail for you to pass. Use a wider trail segment even if you need to go backwards.

Communication: Talk to other Preserve users, especially when passing.

Don't Tune Out: If you wear headphones, keep the volume down or only wear one earpiece.

Single File: Hike, ride, or bike single file on narrow trails. This is safer and will limit trail widening and habitat impact.

YIELD TO HORSES

What can you expect?

Faster trail users. You can expect to see bikes & horses and other users on the trail. Although yield rules exist, be prepared to offer friendly communication to allow for safe passage to protect people and habitat.

What is your responsibility?

Share the trail. Make sure everyone in your group understands what actions to take when encountering horses, bikers, and other hikers.

Yield to horses.

1. It is important to understand that horses can be easily spooked by quick movement (including runners) or noises, especially from behind.
2. Stay on downhill side of trail. Spooked horses go uphill.
3. Greet the rider. Your voice establishes your humanity.
4. Ask how to proceed. If hiking with a child, hold their hand when passing.

Cactus Wren (Protected Species)