

# UNION COUNTY TRAIL AUTHORITY

UNION COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

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Adopted: April 21, 2022

**COPIES OF RULES:** These Rules and Regulations are available for review at the Authority's office at all times during regular business hours and are available for purchase on a per-page fee, based upon the then-existing copying charges as published by the Office of Open Records Fee Schedule in printed form, or for free via electronic copy. These Rules and Regulations will be revised as conditions dictate. Please contact the Authority for latest revisions.

## **SECTION I - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

These Rules and Regulations set forth uniform requirements for users of the Union County Trail Authority (“Authority”) trail system owned and maintained by the Authority (“Trail”).

Except as otherwise provided herein, the Authority shall administer, implement, and enforce the provisions of these Rules and Regulations, in accordance with the purposes, policies, and objectives as set forth herein.

The Authority does hereby reserve the right to alter, amend, and/or repeal these Rules and Regulations as it concerns the Trail, which when altered and amended shall become effectively immediately thereafter, unless otherwise designated by the Authority’s Board.

These Rules and Regulations are adopted by the Authority pursuant to 53 Pa.C.S. 5617, and these Rules and Regulations are not intended to conflict with any local, state or federal legislation and/or regulation. Any provisions that are found to be in direct conflict with such legislation or regulation shall not be applicable.

In the event any provision, section, sentence, clause or part of the Rules and Regulations shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect or impair any remaining provision, section, sentence, clause or part of these Rules and Regulations, it being the intent of the Authority that such remainder shall be and shall remain in full force and effect.

## **SECTION II - REQUIREMENTS**

**2.01** All users of the Trail maintained by the Authority shall adhere to the following:

- a. Bicycles, pedestrians, skates, skateboards, non-motorized scooters, Class 1 electric bikes, and baby strollers are the only permissible uses on the Trail. For purposes of these Rules and Regulations, Class 1 electric bikes is any bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour. No motorized vehicle, whatsoever, will be allowed on the Trail by the Authority’s Board, unless it is otherwise used in accordance with the

Authority's policy on other power-driven mobility device ("OPDMD Policy"). The OPDMD Policy, as it may be amended from time to time, is incorporated herein by reference.

- b. Domestic livestock and horses are prohibited on the Trail.
- c. The ignition of a fire is prohibited at any location and at all times on the Trail.
- d. Dogs on the Trail must be leashed at all times, with a leash length not to exceed six (6) feet in length. All animal waste from a dog must be collected and disposed of by a user of the Trail.
- e. Vandalism, property damage, graffiti, or removal of resources or facilities on the Trail is prohibited. It is unlawful to remove, damage, deface, mutilate, or destroy any structure, poster, sign, marker, fence, gate furniture, vegetation, rock, or other object of scientific or historical value or interest.
- f. All alcohol and smoking-emitting products and/or devices are prohibited in all locations within the Trail at all times. Vapes, vaporizers, vape pens, hookah pens, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes or e-cigs), e-cigars, and e-pipes, cigarettes, cigars, and pipes are prohibited.
- g. The Trail is closed to hunting and hunting from the Trail is specifically prohibited. The discharge of any firearm or projectile from a weapon, such as a bow, crossbow, slingshot, or other device, are also specifically prohibited, regardless of whether the firearm or projectile is discharge from the Trail or onto the Trail.
- h. Disorderly conduct of any kind is prohibited on the Trail. Disorderly conduct includes, but is not limited to, making any coarse, annoying, derisive or obviously offensive utterance, gesture or display which tends to incite an immediate breach of the peace. Also fighting, littering or abandonment of private property, making excessive or amplified noise that would tend to disturb the peace and quiet of adjacent residents or occupants, or any other activity that deliberately infringes on the ability of others to use or enjoy the Trail.

- i. Any disposal, depositing or abandonment of trash, garbage, grass cuttings, brush, tree limbs and branches, yard wastes, litter, waste paper, waste food products, human or animal wastes, toxic materials, oil and other mechanical waste products, animal parts, fire ash or other combustion byproducts, or other waste products on the Trail, other than in designated containers and locations, is prohibited.
- j. Trail users shall stop at all road and driveway crossings, obey traffic control signs, and yield to any motorized traffic.
- k. Motorized vehicles are restricted to parking areas, driveways and other areas specifically posted for motor vehicle occupancy accessing the Trail. The exception to this shall be Authority or other maintenance or construction vehicles specifically authorized for access and emergency vehicles acting in the line of duty.
- l. Wildlife is protected on all Trail areas. Hunting, trapping, chasing, harassing, molesting, harming, removing, feeding, baiting, killing or otherwise disturbing wildlife on the Trail by a user is prohibited at all times and under all circumstances. Removing or destroying, native plants, bird or reptile eggs is prohibited.
- m. Use of the Trail before dawn, and use of the Trail after dusk, is prohibited.
- n. Any user who passes another user on the Trail must do so to the left, and verbally announce to that individual that he or she should stay to the right while they are being passed.
- o. Removal, trimming, or cutting of any crop or vegetation on the Trail is prohibited, unless authorized by the Board of the Authority.
- p. No user of the Trail shall intentionally or negligently provide food, water, or other forms of sustenance or care to alley, stray, feral, free-roaming or homeless cats, dogs, domestic livestock, horses or other stray animals or to allow other persons to engage in such activities on the Trail or otherwise allowing a nuisance to develop relative to such free-roaming or homeless cat, dog, or other stray animal.
- q. Solicitation, peddling, sales, advertisement, and signage is strictly prohibited on the Trail, unless otherwise approved by the Authority Board.

## SECTION III - PENALTIES

- 3.01 CIVIL FINES:** Any user of the Trail who fails to comply with any provisions of the Rules and Regulations shall be fined a fee of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per violation. The penalty shall be issued by the Authority to the User. Any person seeking to appeal the civil fine issued by the Authority may appeal to the Authority's Board, by submitting a written request for review. Thereafter, a user can seek review by the Union County Court of Common Pleas. For each offense, each day of which a violation shall occur or continue under this section shall be deemed a separate and distinct offense. In addition to the penalties provided herein, the Authority Rules and Regulations provide for the recovery of reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, court reporter fees, and other expenses of litigation by appropriate suit at law against the person found to have violated the orders, rules, regulations, and permits issued hereunder.
- 3.02 CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS:** Any user of the Trail who willfully or negligently violates any provision(s) of the Rules and Regulations or any order or permits issued hereunder or any state, federal or local regulation shall be subject to criminal penalties and/or imprisonment to the extent such punitive measures are allowable by law.
- 3.03 FALSIFYING INFORMATION:** Any user of the Trail who knowingly makes any false statements, representations or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed or required to be maintained, or who falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device or other method required under the Rules and Regulations, shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or by imprisonment for not more than one (1) year, or by both. For each offense, each day of which a violation shall occur or continue shall be deemed a separate and distinct offense. In addition to the penalties provided herein, the Authority Rules and Regulations provide for the recovery of reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, court reporter fees, and other expenses of litigation by appropriate suit at law against the person found to have violated the orders, rules, regulations, and permits issued hereunder.

**3.04 ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES:** In addition to any other remedies provided in this section, any violation of the Rules and Regulations deemed to be a nuisance by the Authority may be abated by either seeking appropriate equitable or legal relief from a court of competent jurisdiction.

**3.05 ENFORCEMENT OF RULES:** These Rules and Regulations may be enforced by law enforcement, including but not limited to the Union County Sheriff's Office or District Attorney, as it concerns criminal charges authorized herein or the Authority's Board as it concerns civil sanctions authorized herein.