



Several of our officers are certified for using bicycles as part of their patrol duties. When utilized, their focus might be on the various neighborhoods, town parks, schools, the Mohawk Commons area and the bike path. The specially equipped bikes provide an added dimension to our patrol capabilities and give our officers the opportunity to make observations and interact with the public from a vantage point which is unique and different from that of a patrol car.

While you can expect to see the bike patrol officers out on the bike path, it seemed a good time to mention a few bike path safety and courtesy guidelines. Please keep these points in mind when using the bike path:

- Practice proper trail etiquette for the safe and fair use of the path. A little bit of courtesy goes a long way.
- Whether you are a walker, runner, skater or bicyclist, the slowest traffic stays to the right and all faster traffic should pass only on the left.
- You should not use music players or headsets when using the path, crossing parking lot or roadways. You should also avoid stopping on the path to talk with others or to use your cell phone. Step off the path and check for traffic when getting back on.
- Dog walkers should always control their dogs so as not to interfere with other bike path users, and always remember to clean up after their pets.
- All path users should stop at stop signs. While there aren't many of them, there are some

signs that roadway crossings. Be sure to check for all vehicle traffic before proceeding. Users should also use caution at all trail breaks and access points.

- Parents should ensure that small children do not obstruct the path for other users. Teach your children that they must share the path with others.
- Walkers are usually among the slowest trail users. Most other traffic will be faster and coming from behind the walker. Make it easy for them by walking on the right side of the path, and avoid walking three abreast.
- Runners are faster than walkers but not as fast as skaters and bicyclists. When overtaking slower traffic, move to the opposite side of the trail and declare "on your left" in a loud clear voice. This may give pedestrians time to get out of your way.
- In-line skaters, or rollerbladers, are faster than walkers or runners, and should adhere to the "on your left" rule mentioned above.
- Bicyclists are the fastest traffic on the path. Wearing a bike helmet should be part of everyone's standard equipment, as well as reflective clothing and appropriate lighting. Riders should use an extra measure of caution and courtesy, as well as the "on your left" rule.
- Bike paths enjoyed by a number of handicapped users. A wheelchair or racing chair, is often wider than a regular bicycle and less maneuverable. They are bona fide trail users and should be given the same courtesy as all other users.
- Lastly, please help keep the path clean for all users by not littering. Please help to pick up litter that you find, and pack out what you bring in.

Following these suggested guidelines can allow for an enjoyable experience for all bike path users.