

Based on public comments, the Westford Conservation Commission (WCC) recommends the following use restrictions for Westford's class 4 roads and public trails:

**Class 4 Roads:**

1) Rogers Road - This is a class 4 road and part of the VAST network. Any limits on motorized vehicles are covered under provisions of Class 4 road use.

**Trails:**

1) School Trails - No horses or motorized vehicles allowed.

2) Schulz, Seymour, Goodrich, and Covey Trails – No large vehicles (such as cars or trucks) allowed. The multi-use vision for these trails includes motorized vehicles such as ATVs, snowmobiles and dirt bikes. Motorized vehicles should slow to no more than 5 mph near residences. Motorized vehicles should only operate on these trails from dawn until dusk. NOTE: All trails start or end on public access roads, therefore ATV, snowmobile and dirt bike access to the trails is limited by current regulations regarding road use by these vehicles.

3) Trails are susceptible to environmental damage during wet weather. In order to best preserve the trails, the WCC and its Trail Adopters will work with Public Works to request they post the trails to prohibit trail use at select times of the year.

4) The following trail etiquette applies to all users:

- Respect other users, expect other users. Be friendly and courteous. Respect private property. Respect wildlife.
- Stay on the trail. Creating your own trail or cutting switchbacks creates erosion and damages habitat.
- Share the trail. Ride, walk or run on the right, pass on the left. Anticipate other trail users around corners and blind spots.
- Vehicles, runners, and hikers yield to equestrians. Vehicles yield to runners and hikers. Downhill traffic should yield to uphill traffic.
- Warn people when you are planning to pass. Use your voice to warn equestrians, not bells or horns. Bells or horns may frighten horses.
- Keep all vehicles under control and at a safe speed. Motorized vehicles should slow to no more than 5 mph near residences. Ride within your ability at all times.
- Use caution when using headphones. You may not be able to hear people trying to warn you.
- Leave no trace. Pack out your litter.
- Dogs should be kept on leashes or under voice control.

In drafting these recommendations, the WCC considered not only environmental sensitivity but also safety. In adopting any guidelines for use, the Select Board should be aware that both The American Academy of Pediatrics and The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons have stated that children under 16 years of age should be prohibited from operating either on or off the road vehicles.