



General Information

The Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR) is 8,600 continuous acres with approximately 50 miles of recreation trails and 15 miles of water trail, the Kickapoo River. Users are encouraged to practice responsible trail etiquette – know what types of use the trail system allows and how to have positive interactions on the trail.

Trail Rules for All Users

- Use of trails, campsites and canoe landings require a parking permit, or display of a camping, annual or daily land/trail permit. Permits are available at the KVR Visitor Center, self-registration stations or online at <https://kvronline.wi.gov/KVRProducts.aspx>.
- Old 131 and Star Valley Trails generally stay open to equestrians and bicyclists in wet weather May-November. Equestrian and bike natural surface trail closures may occur during and after wet conditions. Before riding, check trail status by visiting the KVR website.
- Share the trail! Watch and listen for others. Respect everyone's right to recreate. Treat all users with courtesy regardless of their sport, speed or skill level.
- Protect trails and surrounding areas by staying on designated trails.
- Leave wildlife wild; don't harass, *approach*, or scare wildlife.
- Leave trees and plants for others to enjoy. Do not desecrate the flora of the KVR.
- Leave no trace – pack it in, pack it out. The way you use the trail influences trail management decisions and policies. Use responsibly.
- All dogs must be on leash April 15-July 31 during bird nesting season.
- Report trail issues to the KVR Visitor Center as soon as they are noticed. Fallen trees, river blockages, erosion, or off trail use are all damaging to the trail system.
- The KVR is open to public hunting. Know hunting seasons and wear bright clothing. WI-DNR hunting rules and regulations apply.



Pay it Forward.

All trail, camping and parking permit fees benefit the Reserve: what you pay, stays.

Adopt A Trail/Volunteer

Trail segments are available for adoption including the Kickapoo River (water trail). Adopters are asked to check the adopted section of trail at least three times per season. For more information on this rewarding program, visit the KVR Website and click on Volunteer/Donate.

Become a KVR Friend

Friends of Kickapoo Valley Reserve is a nonprofit organization of people dedicated to assisting the Kickapoo Reserve Management Board in its mission to preserve and protect the lands entrusted to the Reserve by raising funds and public awareness, and by providing volunteers for projects. For more information: www.kickapoofriends.org.



Kickapoo Valley Reserve

S3661 State Hwy 131
La Farge, WI 54639

www.kickapoovalley.wi.gov
608-625-2960
kickapoo.reserve@krm.state.wi.us



Trail Etiquette



*Be an ambassador
for your activity.*



Etiquette for Hikers

The KVR has approximately 50 miles of maintained trails. Most are shared use trails, although some trails are designated for hikers only. Hikers are welcome to hike year-round and hike anywhere on the property they choose.

- When meeting a horse and rider, stop and speak. The rider may have instructions for you to follow to keep you both safe.
- Know your limitations. The KVR has varied terrain and can change elevation quickly. Surfaces may be slippery.
- Make sure you have a map. Some trails cross streams or water without bridges – know where you are on the property. Alternate routes to water fords are available.
- When recreating alone, make sure someone knows your planned route/general location in the event of emergency.



Recreation Safety

Call 911 in the event of an emergency.

- Users are encouraged to sign up for the local Emergency Management Notification System, NIXLE. Text the zip code for La Farge (54639) or Ontario (54651) to 888777. Alerts include hazardous weather, river levels and flood warnings, and missing persons.
- Turning on your cell phone location can expedite emergency response.



Etiquette for Bicyclists

Road Bike

The KVR is a road bike hub. Follow all bicyclist rules for riding on highways through the KVR. Highway 131 from Rockton north through the KVR has a paved shoulder. Old 131 Trail is also paved.

- Control your speed, know your limits.
- Obey traffic signs, signals. Use hand signals to indicate left or right turns, slowing or stopping.
- Use headlight, tail light and reflectors in low light or foggy conditions.

Mountain Bike

The KVR has approximately 34 miles of trails open to mountain bikes. Many are shared use; all are non-motorized trails.

- Yield right of way to other users. Always yield to uphill users.
- When encountering a horse/mule, stop and make verbal contact with the rider. Ask the rider for instructions on safe passage.
- Control your speed, share the trail. Be cautious on blind corners or areas with poor sight lines.
- Stay on designated trails. Ride trails cleanly without sliding around corners or skidding tires.
- Motor assist bikes are not allowed.



Etiquette for Paddlers

The KVR has approximately 15 miles of water trail along the Kickapoo, a gentle, meandering river flowing through diverse vegetation and along sandstone bluffs.

- State Law requires Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) be available for each person. Paddlers younger than 13 must wear a PFD.
- Use caution while swimming due to surprisingly strong currents in some areas, hidden snags, and cold temperatures in deep pools.
- At first signs of severe weather, seek shelter and high ground. Dangerous river conditions can develop rapidly during and after heavy rains. **Do not** attempt to paddle the river during high water. For river flow rates: USGS Kickapoo River gauges at La Farge or Ontario at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>.
- Do not litter: Pack it in, pack it out. **No glass on the river.** Glass containers can become a safety hazard for others. Citations for littering/glass will be issued.
- Bring plenty of drinking water or be prepared to filter or boil water due to naturally occurring bacteria.
- Be courteous to fellow paddlers; keep noise to a minimum.
- Bridges and access points from Ontario to La Farge are numbered. Know your start and end points.

The KVR has approximately 41 miles of trails open to equestrians. Many are shared use; all are non-motorized trails.

- Make sure your mount is prepared for the trails on the KVR. Trails can be rugged and change elevation frequently.
- Be sure your mount is seasoned to meet other trail users safely. Advise those you meet how to proceed past you and your mount. Take necessary precautions to keep everyone safe.
- Equestrians should use gravel/grass side only on Old 131 Trail – no hooves on the pavement.
- Control your speed. Remember others use the trails. Be courteous.
- Keep trail heads and campsites clean for the next user. Dispose of trash and manure properly.
- Avoid tying animals to trees when possible, especially oaks.
- Stay on the designated trail. Off trail riding, including cutting corners, is strictly prohibited.



Etiquette for Equestrians