



Comprehensive Rules for Public Use

Section 1: Visiting an ACRES Preserve

ACRES Land Trust offers trails at many preserves for free public use. These privately-owned preserves are made possible by ACRES members and are protected forever.

Visitors are responsible for keeping these habitats, our neighbors and other visitors undisturbed.

VISITOR RULES

- ACRES trails are open to the public for hiking and nature study. Motorized vehicles, bicycles and scooters are not allowed. Strollers and mobility devices are permitted.
- Visitors use the nature preserves at their own risk
- Stay on the designated trails
- Practice "Take Nothing, Leave Nothing"
 - Do not disturb or remove ACRES property or natural objects from a preserve, including, but not limited to plants, mushrooms, wildlife and rocks.
 - Hunting, fishing and trapping are prohibited
 - Do not litter
 - Do not introduce plants or animals (living or deceased)
- Dogs and cats are permitted, always on leash. Remove pet waste
- Horses and other pack animals are not allowed
- All commercial activities, including, but not limited to, photography, are prohibited. If your proposed commercial use aligns with ACRES and promotes preservation, please contact us at acres@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273.
- Activities that disturb other visitors, including, but not limited to, blocking the trail or playing loud music are prohibited
- Other prohibited activities include:
 - Illegal activity
 - Boating, paddling or floating
 - Building fires
 - Geocaching
 - Hanging hammocks
 - Leaving behind painted rocks
 - Metal detecting
 - Operating remote controlled air, water or land toys or devices (drones, remote controlled cars, boats or airplanes)
 - Rock climbing or rappelling
 - Sledding
 - Swimming or wading
 - Using a paintball or airsoft gun

HOURS & PARKING

- Trails are open daily from dawn to dusk
- Park only within the designated lot
- Camping and overnight parking are prohibited

GROUPS & EVENTS

Groups, including, but not limited to, school groups, youth groups and hiking clubs may host their own events at open properties. Groups must follow our comprehensive rules and allow other visitors to access trails and parking during their event.

FIREARMS

Visitors may not openly carry firearms. Concealed carry is allowed. Discharging firearms, bows, explosives, fireworks or any weapons is prohibited.

MEMORIALS

Spreading the ashes of loved ones (including pets) is allowed. Please scatter ashes to the side of the trail. No monument may be left behind. We suggest taking GPS coordinates to return and remember your loved one.

Section 2: Other ACRES Properties

CLOSED PRESERVES

The majority of places protected by ACRES are closed to the public. Some properties are closed to protect sensitive areas or natural features. Others are life estates where a land donor lives and retains land use rights. Trespassing on ACRES properties that are closed to the public is prohibited.

HUNTING

ACRES holds agreements with hunters at some properties that are closed to the public. We do not sell hunting licenses and have no openings for new hunters at this time.

ACRES understands that hunting may take place on neighboring lands. With prior permission, hunters may track and retrieve injured animals from ACRES property. Please contact us at 260-637-2273 for further instruction.

ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

As part of ACRES commitment to protect the land it owns, ACRES prosecutes illegal activities that occur on its properties – when advised to do so by law enforcement. Many activities are remedied by law enforcement through means other than formal prosecution.

These rules apply to the general public, including ACRES members. ACRES Land Trust may grant exceptions for scientific, educational or other purposes. These exceptions must be pre-approved, in writing, by a staff member.