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Trail Walker Guidelines

1. Walk your trail once a month. Then fill out a report to let us know the condition of the trail you have walked. You can do this on our web site at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/walker.html. Please let us know if there is trail work we should do such as replacing markers, clearing away large trees across the trail, or repairing washouts or persistent wet areas in the trail.
2. Do not feel that you must report on plant or animal sightings. If that is something that you enjoy doing on your walks and if you spot something of interest, by all means, please include that information on your report. Such sightings help us document sanctuary habitat. If you are a birder, we encourage you to use ebird.org to report sanctuary bird sightings.
3. It is especially helpful to know if you saw other visitors in the sanctuary during your walk.
4. If you see visitors that are violating sanctuary rules against motor vehicles or hunting, please do NOT confront them directly unless you know the individuals. DO let the Audubon office know as soon as possible by telephone message when you return home. If possible, you might also note down vehicle license numbers if known. Please be reassured that illegal hunting very rarely occurs on Audubon property and all reported cases have been during established seasons.
5. If you see people walking their dogs off leash, please assess whether or not you want to advise them to leash their dog. Talking points: ask for their help to improve wildlife habitat; loose dogs are seen as predators by wildlife; wildlife will not stay in areas where dogs regularly run loose; wildlife habitat quality is reduced where dogs run loose. Loose dogs are also at risk for interactions with coyotes and other wildlife in our sanctuaries. (Dog owners are at risk for expensive vet bills as a result.) If you talk with a dog owner and receive a negative response, let us know a description of the owner and dog especially if they are repeat visitors.
6. Do you notice any vandalism, tracks from bikes or ATVs or other problems? Please report any unusual or destructive activity by email or phone to our office as soon as possible.
7. Please kick aside or move any small branches that have fallen in your trail but do not feel obligated to clear away large branches, fallen trees, or tangles. Just note them down on your next report. You may wish to bring small clippers to cut small branches that interfere with walking.
8. Please bring a trash bag with you to pick up cans, bottles or other trash.
9. Watch out for ticks. Wear light colored clothing, tuck your pants into your socks, and check yourself when you get home.

Basically we want the trails to be in good condition to be enjoyed by all hikers. You are our eyes and ears and can let us know if any trail work is needed. You are helping to preserve our environment in general and our sanctuaries in particular for all to enjoy. **Thank you for making a difference for wildlife habitat!**