

To: Thumbnail

From: Harding Twp/Green Village BridlePath Association (HT/GV BPA)
www.bridlepath.org

Re: All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) on the Bridle Trails

Many of you are aware that there is a network of Bridle trails throughout Harding Twp. Many of them are old wagon trails that the farmers used well over 75 years ago. A great number of them are owned by the Land Trust, have formal easements or are listed on homeowner's maps; most are on private property.

You may not see horses and riders very often, as they usually ride alone or in pairs and ride at different times of the day and the week. Our volunteers maintain the trails and clear brush or fallen limbs so that we can continue to have access. For many years we have co existed peacefully with our property owners and added to the rural character of Harding that we all cherish.

Some safety concerns about ATV's (all Terrain Vehicles) have recently arisen. Although it may be a homeowner's right to ride an ATV on their own property, ATV's are not permitted on the bridle trails. Our Association carries insurance to protect homeowners to allow horses and rider's on their property. ATV's are not covered by our policy and are very dangerous to both horses and rider's on the trails. The easements only cover horses and rider's.

A horse may be surprised to see an occasional person walking on the trails that they usually have to themselves. However, encountering an ATV can be a very scary and dangerous thing to a horse that could easily be startled by such a vehicle. Riders could be thrown and horses could injure themselves.

In general, it is important to be aware of the presence of horses on the trails. If you encounter a rider in the road please slow down. If they are crossing the street, please stop and let them pass. Remember they are an animal and are not always as easily controlled as your vehicle.

For more information on the Bridlepath Association or the trails, contact Linda Halsey at 973-425-2299 or email us at bridlepath@att.net