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Trail Safety and Courtesy Hike, Bike, and Ride Safely

Chico, CA, 10/19/2011 – Beautiful fall days have brought increased numbers of park users to the trails of Middle and Upper Park. In an effort to minimize potential safety issues and possible conflict between user groups, the Park Division has placed colorful banners at major trailheads to remind visitors to safely share the trail.

Most of Bidwell Park contains shared trails with a variety of uses. Trails must support hikers, bikers, and horse riders; and Park Rangers note that often some simple courtesy and communication makes a big difference for safety and overall enjoyment of the Park.

The banners are intended to highlight some simple tips for trail users. These tips include:

- When passing, trail users should slow their approach, announce their presence, and pass at a safe time and place.
- Slowing your approach will help give the other person time to react and move out of the way.
- When approaching a horse rider, announce your presence and speak to the rider; the sound of your voice will reassure the horse and gives a chance for the rider to anticipate the situation and let you know the best way to pass.
- When passing another trail user, keep in mind the width of the trail, blind corners, and terrain.
- Dog owners should keep a hold of their dogs by leash or collar around horses, as some horses may not be socialized to be around dogs.

The universal trail courtesy sign indicates that cyclists yield to hikers and both yield to equestrians. These simple trail etiquette tips will help visitors in the park have a safe and enjoyable experience.