

Midtown Greenway Coalition

Trail Watch GUIDELINES

(Subject to change, rev. 12/4/2012)

The purpose of establishing the following guidelines are to assist Trail Watchers and others to clearly understand the responsibilities and objectives of participating in the Midtown Greenway Coalition Trail Watch. The guidelines are intended to protect the safety and liability of program volunteers, therefore observance of these guidelines are crucial to the operation of the Trail Watch .



1. Trail Watch rides are extra eyes and ears for the police, not law enforcement personnel. Trail Watchers must observe and report illegal and suspicious activity and unsafe conditions. Confrontation is strictly prohibited and intervention is discouraged. Intervention to provide a victim assistance once a safe environment is secured, can be attempted if Trail Watch volunteers agree that intervention is safe and necessary.
2. A visible presence on the Greenway after dark, Trail Watch is central to making trail users feel more comfortable and discouraging miscreants from committing crimes. When trail users feel safer on the trail, they are encouraged to use the trail more, and when there are more riders on the Greenway, crime is less likely to occur.
3. Helmets must be worn at all times on Trail Watch rides.
4. All Trail Watchers must ride their bikes in a safe, predictable, and considerate manner when on Trail Watch rides.
5. Headlights must be used after dark while on Trail Watch rides.
6. Trail Watchers must observe activities from a safe distance, which is to be determined by all members of a Trail Watch ride. If the riders are approaching an unsafe or uncomfortable situation, in the opinion of any one trail watcher, this trail watcher must signal the others, in a quick and clear fashion, to stop. The other trail watcher(s) will respect the fellow team member's wishes.
7. All incidences of criminal or suspicious behavior and emergencies must be reported by calling 911.
8. Trail Watchers will not enter buildings while on Trail Watch. Trail Watchers may enter buildings (restaurants, stores, Midtown Greenway Coalition office, their homes, etc.) while on break. Breaks can be taken as often as a team feels necessary.
9. Official Trail Watch garments will be worn only while participating in or representing the Trail Watch, and must only be worn by Trail Watchers.

10. Trail Watchers are encouraged to escort each other to and from the start point, before and after patrols.
11. All volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. They will complete and sign a volunteer application and a "Hold Harmless Waiver" before becoming an official Trail Watch member.
12. Volunteers are asked to commit to a two hour shift per month.
13. Trail Watch ride shifts will be scheduled or cancelled at the discretion of the shift leaders.
14. Trail Watchers are expected to be punctual. If you are unable to attend a scheduled ride, please contact your ride leader. Remember, other Trail Watchers are counting on your presence.
15. Trail Watch rides are to be chemically free. No consumption of alcohol or other intoxicating substances are allowed before or while on Trail Watch rides. Smoking tobacco cigarettes is allowed on Trail Watch rides except at the Midtown Greenway Coalition office where smoking is not permitted. If you do smoke, please be considerate of other Trail Watchers.
16. Trail Watchers are strongly encouraged to attend supplemental training, when offered.
17. Trail Watch rides will always work in teams of three or more. Trail Watchers function as a team; at no time will trail watchers separate while on Trail Watch rides.
18. No weapons are allowed on Trail Watch rides.
19. Trail Watchers will identify areas that need attention or that should be avoided. Trail Watch ride routes will be logged by each team at the conclusion of every shift through e-filing. Trail Watch Leaders will also record the names of the riders, the date, time in and out, observations made, actions taken and actions/follow-up required.
20. The Trail Watch Log will only be accessible to: Trail Watchers, the Safety Coordinator, police officers, and the Midtown Greenway Coalition staff and board members. Specific information will be released to other individuals based upon their need to know (i.e. owners of a specific property, the resident of the specific building, etc.). General information will be given to any person but this information will not single out specific buildings or individuals.
21. Trail Watchers will not ride at degrees colder than 15 Fahrenheit.