

Article XIX
Use of Hiking Trails

Note: Capitalized terms are defined in Appendix A, Definitions and Forms

1. **General.** Connestee Falls has over 20 miles of hiking trails, all regularly maintained by resident volunteers. Many volunteer hours are spent building and maintaining the trails to keep them in good environmental health and enhance and protect the beauty of Connestee Falls' natural environment.
2. **Use.** The use of the Community hiking trails is open to all Connestee Falls Members, Resident Affiliates, Guests/Visitors, and Tenants. Some of the hiking trails have inclines that require the hiker to be in reasonably good physical condition and good health.
3. **Stay on Trails.** Stay on the trails to avoid trailside damage. Preserve the natural habitat at the sides of the trails. Walk single file, or if in a group in open spaces, spread out to minimize impact. Do not shortcut switchbacks.
4. **Hiking Attire.** It is highly recommended that proper hiking attire be worn, especially shoes with soles that prevent slipping on wet and/or steep trail sections.
5. **Tenants and Guests/Visitors.** Tenants and Guests/Visitors of a Member should be informed by the Member of these Rules and Regulations. The rental packet provided to Tenants by Connestee Falls Administration shall include this information.
6. **Information.** Those not familiar with Connestee Falls hiking trails should obtain a trail map. Hiking pamphlets with trail maps are available at the Administration Office and Main Gate. Trail maps are also available on the Member website at Hiking Trails - Connestee Falls.
7. **Parking.** Parking is available near trailheads and along the roadsides. Care should be taken to not block driveways or roads. See Article III, Use of the Roads, for specific parking Rules and Regulations.
8. **Pets.** Dogs must remain physically leashed on all trails to ensure safety to hikers, other pets, and themselves. Pet owners shall pick up after their pets and carry out waste materials.
9. **Wildlife.** The feeding of wild animals is prohibited on the trails, as it is anywhere within the Community. Encouraging the presence of wild animals by feeding could lead to harm to other people, their pets, and/or the animal itself.
10. **Vehicles.** The use of bicycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), or vehicles of any kind is strictly prohibited on all Connestee Falls hiking trails. This is an environmental issue that causes ruts

and uproots natural plants. It is also a safety hazard to hikers and their dogs.

11. **Plants.** The removal of plants from any trail is not permitted unless done by trail volunteers who are doing the required maintenance. Do not remove rocks, plants, or cultural objects so as to preserve the experience for others.
12. **Litter and Waste.** Pick up and carry out any litter brought in or left behind by other hikers. Please help keep our trails clean and beautiful.
13. **Smoking.** Smoking is prohibited while on the trails and is a fire hazard within the forest. Use of e-cigarettes and smokeless tobacco is permitted but discouraged.
14. **Fires.** Open fires are prohibited throughout Connestee Falls, including on the trail system.
15. **Environmental impact.** No debris shall purposely obstruct a trail or litter the green space adjacent to it. Residents who have A&EC approval to remove trees (see Article XXII, Architecture & Environment Committee) must also receive approval from the General Manager if trees will fall onto Connestee Falls Green Space property. Do not dam up any streams or seeps, as these waterways must be kept free flowing.

Clean-up of debris from cut trees falling across or near hiking trails is required. Debris from cut trees must not be visible from hiking trails. Utilize cutting methods that lessen the impact on other trees, bushes, and plants in that area. Follow "Leave no trace" principles (i.e., dispose of waste properly, leave what you find, and respect all wildlife). The decorating of any Connestee Falls trails with personal objects is prohibited.

16. **Violations.** Violations of these Hiking Trail Rules and Regulations should be reported to the General Manager and may result in the offender and/or responsible Member being issued a Violation citation requiring an appearance before the Judicial Committee (Article XXIII) where a fine may be imposed for each Violation.
17. **No Assumption of Liability.** Hiking is a physical activity that entails certain risks and the use of Connestee Falls hiking trails is at the hiker's own and sole risk. Each hiker is expected to know their capabilities before undertaking such an activity. The day-to-day condition and safety of the trails can never be assured, and hikers must exercise vigilance and caution at all times and assume full responsibility for their own safety. The Association, including its agents and employees, assumes no liability and will not be responsible for any harm or damage to any individual or animal that occurs while making use of the hiking trail system. Pet owners are solely responsible for their pets and any harm or damage caused to a person or natural areas by their pets while on the hiking trails.
18. **Emergency Help.** Should a medical emergency occur while hiking, please call 911 as soon as possible. Cellular coverage may not be available on sections of the trails. It is best to hike with

a companion and to let someone not hiking with you know the trails you will be using.