

Albany Pine Bush Preserve Rules and Regulations

Keep in mind that the single greatest threat to access is user conflict, when the activity of one person interferes with the experience of someone engaged in a different activity.

1. Bicycle and horse use is permitted on officially established and marked trails only.
2. All public use of unmarked paths and firebreaks is prohibited without a valid permit.
3. Preserve visitors may not collect, deface, injure or remove any plant, animal, sand or other living or non-living feature from the Preserve except as otherwise authorized by the Commission or NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.
4. A pet must be restrained at all times by an adequate collar and leash, or harness and leash, and must be under the direct and complete control of its owner or a responsible person. It is unlawful for any person to allow a pet to menace, threaten or injure another person or another animal. Each pet owner or person having possession, custody or control of a pet must remove from the trail any feces left by the pet on any trail in the Preserve.

This brief summary only reflects a portion of all the rules and regulations governing the use of the Preserve. For complete special use regulations for the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, please see 6NYCRR Part 648 Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission or contact the **Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission** at : 108 Wade Road, Latham, NY 12110 (518) 785-1800 or visit www.albanypinebush.org



OTHER THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Get involved!** If you would like to join the Albany Pine Bush Preserve mountain bike patrol please contact Wendy at 518-785-1800 x211 or wborden@tnc.org.
 - **This is a “pack in- pack out” Preserve.** Please be sure to take all of your trash, snack wrappers, water bottles, etc. home with you for proper disposal.
 - **Puddles** do form at certain times of the year, although the soils are generally sandy and well drained. Please do not try to go around and therefore cause widening of the trails. Ride slowly through the puddle or walk your bicycle through the puddle.
 - **Water Bars** are placed on some trails to slow erosion. Please ride with caution in these areas and do not go around the ends of these “steps”, causing widening of the trails. Walking or carrying your bicycle is suggested as a means of travel in these areas.
 - **Please keep group size down to four or five riders.** Larger groups should divide into smaller groups and go on different trails with prearranged places to meet. Ten, twenty or even six bikes spread along a trail can seem overwhelming to other Preserve users.
- Minimize your visual impact!**

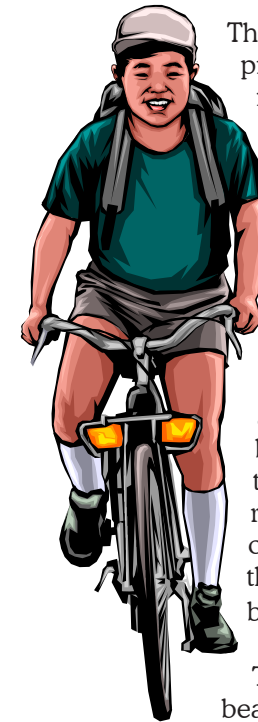
In any emergency: Send someone to a phone and dial 911. Try to have someone stay with the injured party at all times.

Questions? Contact the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission at (518) 785-1800.

Enjoy your ride!

Produced by the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission
November 2001.

**Bicycling in the Albany
Pine Bush Preserve:
a guide for responsible use
of a rare ecosystem.**



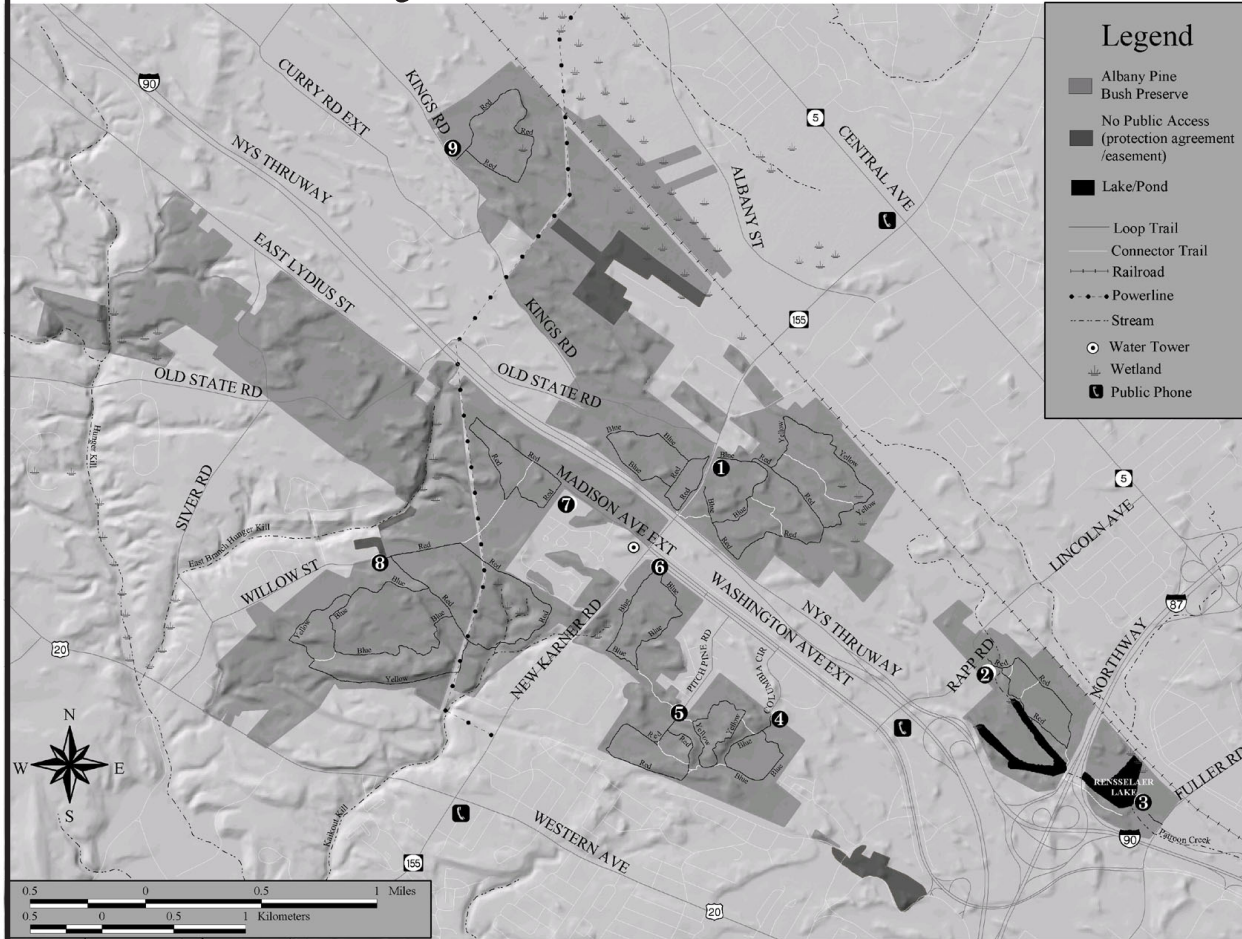
The Albany Pine Bush Preserve provides a special habitat for many plants and animals. It also provides visitors with recreational opportunities including hiking, bicycling, jogging, nature study, and hunting.

Approximately 20 miles of official, multiple use trails wind through the Preserve and provide a variety of biking experiences. Many trails are wide, sandy and relatively straight, while others are narrow and wind through deep woods or open barrens.

The Albany Pine Bush is a beautiful place to ride and we hope you enjoy your visit. The Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission manages the 2750 acres that currently make up the Preserve and would like all users to have a good experience. Therefore, rules exist to protect both the Preserve environment and other users while allowing for “appropriate recreational activities”.



Great places to ride in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve



Bicyclists are only allowed to ride on official, marked trails. Look for trail markers like this one along the trail.

Please see the official Albany Pine Bush Preserve Guide & Trail Map for trail descriptions and additional information. A Preserve Guide & Trail Map can be obtained from any trailhead or by calling 518-785-1800 x100.

IMBA “Rules of the Trail”

Biking guidelines that are widely accepted and were created by the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA).



- **Only Ride on Open, Official Trails:** Preserve trail maps describe almost 20 miles of officially established and officially marked trails that are available for bicycle riding. **Remember, all unmarked paths and firebreaks are closed to all users, including bicyclists.**
- **Leave No Trace:** The Albany Pine Bush Preserve is a special ecosystem. This inland pine barrens is home to many rare and endangered plants and animals as well as 2 rare natural communities. Bicycles must stay on the official trails only. Riding off trail is harmful to the ecosystem (and is illegal in the Pine Bush Preserve!).

Riding off trail harms the Pine Bush by:

- Causing soil erosion and compaction
- Disrupting wildlife
- Damaging vegetation
- Fragmenting the Preserve into smaller and smaller undisturbed areas
- Spreading invasive plants
- **Control Your Bicycle:** The trails in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve can be wide and straight or narrow and winding. All bicyclists must slow down or dismount when passing and let other users know you are coming by speaking in a calm, friendly tone. Also, ride single file, stay right around all turns and do not skid.
- **Always yield trail:** Pedestrians and horses always have the right-of-way.
- **Never spook animals:** Give animals extra room and time to adjust to you. When passing horses use special care and follow directions from the horseback riders.
- **Plan ahead:**
 - Know your equipment and ability and wear a helmet
 - Bring drinking water
 - Bring high carbohydrate snacks or energy bars
 - Know the weather and dress for it

Bring a trail map, for yourself and/or others you meet on the trails.