



TRAIL RULES

HOURS OF OPERATION

- Rail Trail is open from dawn until dusk.

SAFETY

- Speed limit is 15 miles per hour.
- Any child under the age of 16 riding a bicycle shall wear a helmet as required by NCGS 20-171.
- Stop at all street crossings.

PETS

- Pets other than dogs and cats are prohibited. Dogs and cats must be on leash no longer than 6 ft.
- Pet owners shall be responsible for bagging and removing any pet waste.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

- Hunting is prohibited.
- Firearms and other weapons are prohibited except that those with a proper permit may possess a concealed handgun under the requirements of North Carolina G.S. 14-415.11.
- No horses or other animals are allowed excepted as provided herein.
- No motorized vehicles allowed except for motorized wheelchairs, electric, pedal- assisted bikes that meet the provisions of federal electric bicycle law HR727, electric scooters, and other small recreational devices. A motorized vehicle shall be defined as every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, excepting devices moved by human power. Examples of items which shall not be allowed on the trail include, but are not limited to, the following: all- terrain vehicles (ATVs), four-wheelers, three-wheelers, utility task vehicles (UTVs), side- by-sides (SxS), golf carts, tractors, lawnmowers, motorcycles, cars, trucks, farm equipment, grading equipment, landscaping equipment, or any other device or vehicle which could pose a danger to the safety of other lawful users of the trail. (This subsection shall not apply to any Trail Partner vehicle which is being used or operated upon the Thermal Belt Rail Trail for the purpose of maintenance or construction, nor shall it apply to any independent contractor in the course and scope of a contract on behalf of any Trail Partner pertaining to the maintenance and construction of the Thermal Belt Rail Trail).
- No loitering shall be allowed. Loitering is defined as remaining on the trail for a protracted period of time for non-recreational purposes.
- The posting of commercial or political signs within the trail corridor is prohibited without express permission of the Trail Partners.



SAFETY

- Call or Text **911** for emergencies
- Respect nature. Please do not collect, remove or disturb a natural or cultural object.
- Trail surfaces are slippery when wet
- Travel on right, pass on left; Give audible warning before passing
- For your safety please walk with a friend
- All bicyclist, roller skaters, etc. are encouraged to wear a helmet and protective gear.
- Trail users should refrain from leaving the paved portion of the trail.
- Stop, look and listen at road crossings. Use caution when proceeding into any intersection even when using a marked crosswalk.
- Minors under the age of 16 are recommended to be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Reckless use of wheeled recreational vehicles, including but not limited to bicycles, skates, skateboards, or roller blades is prohibited.
- Please be courteous to your fellow walkers and riders and refrain from smoking or vaping.

Attention Trail Users

Users of the Thermal Belt Rail Trail do so at their own risk. The Towns of Ruth, Rutherfordton, Spindale, Forest City, the County of Rutherford, and Rutherford Railroad Development Corporation are not liable for any injuries or accidents occurring during use of the trail. By using the trail, users release and waive said entities from any liability whatsoever that may arise during use of the trail.