

CAA National Carriage Trails Guide

Phase 1

***Caveat:** Always check on the availability of trails and the conditions for equestrian use as many factors can determine usage – anything from the fury of Mother Nature to the whims of local and federal government agencies! Where possible we have listed phone numbers and web sites. Please contact Pat Kimura with any additions to this list or with any changes: altavoil@yahoo.com.*

This Phase 1 of the CAA National Carriage Trails Guide includes the following states: Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Massachusetts, New York, Maine, and West Virginia. Additional states will be added on a regular basis.

Ohio

Independence Dam State Park

419-237-1503

Independence Dam State Park is located close to Defiance, Ohio, and allows carriages on the road in the park. They don't allow riding horses but welcome carriage drivers. This road has a canal on one side and the Maumee River on the other, but apparently it is not a looped trail, so you probably have to return along the same path. You can't beat the scenery. Be sure to call for carriage trail information.

Malabar Farm State Park

419-892-2784 • www.malabarfarm.org

Nearby, in Lucas, is the Bridge of Dreams, a long, new covered bridge with rubber-matted floors. Drivers and riders may enjoy a spectacular view. The trail is also used by the Amish to bypass regular highway traffic.

Kentucky

Land Between the Lakes Park USDS Recreation Area

270-924-2201 • 800-525-7077 • 270-924-2000 • www.lbl.com

Land Between the Lakes Park located near Golden Pond, Kentucky, has Wranglers Roost Trail and Campground. Over 70 miles of wagon trails, plus an extensive network of old roads, lead through some of the most scenic spots of LBL. For horses there are stalls, hitching posts, water troughs and for people there are restrooms with showers, campsites with picnic tables and fire rings.

Shaker Village

800-734-5611, ext 1555

Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill has 15 miles of Carriage Trails. The village offers full-service overnight boarding for your horses during your stay at The Inn at Shaker Village. Nightly stall boarding fee is \$15.00 per horse (20 stalls with shavings provided). Nightly paddock boarding fee is \$5.00 per horse (5 large paddocks). Amenities include a heated tack room, large parking area for trailers, portable restroom facility. Reservations for overnight boarding are required.

Michigan

Lakelands Trail State Park

Ron Murdock, Hamburg Parks and Recreation • 810-588-9492 • turtlebayron@aol.com

Lakelands Trail located between Stockbridge and Pinckney, Michigan. The trails are wide, well groomed with some stretches suitable for carriage driving. Horse camp (picket?) available at Hell Creek Ranch just down a dirt road from one of the trailheads where they offer a 100-site campground (60 electric hook-ups). The Ranch can be contacted at www.hellcreekranch.org.

Wolcott Mill Metropark

www.wolcotttrails.com

Wolcott Mill Equestrian Trails appear to be suitable for carriages. There are four trails ranging from 2.5 miles to 5 miles. Non equestrian amenities include an historic grist mill and farm as well as golf on this 2,625-acre park, located along the banks of the North Branch of the River in Ray Township in North Central Macomb County.

Grace Grange Lodge and Stable B&B

231-347-5869 • www.gracegrangelodgeandstable.com

Pam Rambow, 8000 Newson Road, Petoskey MI 49770

Stall, paddock and pasture accommodations for a modest group of guest horses. The location is 20 minutes from the tourist mecca of Petoskey/Harbor Springs. There are also a great many county dirt roads, two tracks and old logging trails accessible at the driveway.

Michigan Shore to Shore Trails

517-373-1270 • 517-373-4175

Carriage-accessible trails covering 250 miles; maps of are available from the Michigan DNR Forest Manager Division, Parks and Recreation Division, P.O. Box 30257, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7757. Request specific parks or trails

Florida

Old Sawmill Trail at Pine Log State Forest

850-535-2888

Old Sawmill Trail is located just north of Panama City Beach. There is a 12.5-mile loop trail that follows existing open roads, closed roads, and old fire breaks. The trail weaves through the southeast portion of the Pine Log State Forest.

Cary State Forest

904-266-5021

Cary State Forest located in Bryceville allows equestrians on all forest roads. Call for carriage trail information.

Highlands Hammock State Park

863-386-6094

Highlands Hammock State Park located in Sebring offers 11 miles of fire-lane trails through remote natural areas.

Lake Talquin State Forest

850-488-1871

Lake Talquin State Forest is located in Tallahassee. Horses are permitted on open roads of Talquin State Forest.

Lake Wales Ridge State Forest

863-635-8589

Lake Wales Ridge State Forest, located in Frostproof, allows horses on all roads and fire breaks.

Goethe Trail, Inc.

352-465-8585 • www.thegoethetrail.com

The Goethe State Forest is located in north central Florida (Levy County) and contains more than 100 miles of trails; most of them are suitable for carriages.

Welaka State Forest

850-488-0863

Welaka State Forest is located 20 miles south of Palaka on the St. John's River. There are air conditioned apartments with hot showers and bunk beds, as well as 72 horse stalls. The trails are wide with sandy footing.

Lake Panasoffkee Project (SWFWMD)

800-423-1476

Lake Panasoffkee Project (SWFWMD) consists of 10,000 acres on along lake shores. There are 8 stalls available free on a first-come, first-served basis. Camping is by permit (also free – reserve at the number listed). There is water available but no electric hookup. Toilets, picnic pavilion and approximately 30 miles of loop trails are available. You will need the gate combination from SWFWMD to get a carriage onto the trail. The trailhead is only 4 miles west of I-75 at the Wildwood Inverness exit in central Florida. Parking is free and the parking area has good shade. Parking is abundant for even the largest rig.

O'leno State Park

386-454-1853

Situated near Gainesville, O'leno State Park has 30 miles of driving trails as well as camping and a barn with 20 stalls and showers.

McCulley Farms

richard@mcculleyfarms.com • www.mcculleyfarms.com

MuCulley Farms is located 10 miles from I-75 and 15 miles from I-10 at Georgia/Florida border. Trails on farm plus adjoining forest suitable for carriage driving. Camping at \$20 per person with water electric, bathrooms with showers. 100 covered stalls. Carriages welcome.

North Carolina

Blowing Rock Equestrian Preserve

828-295-4700 • www.blowingrockequestrian.com

Blowing Rock Equestrian Preserve near the towns of Blowing Rock and Boone has very good carriage trails offered at no charge with camping and stabling available for a fee. There are 25 miles of trails throughout the Moses Cone Memorial Park. There are 17 barns and 45 campsite hookups.

American Tobacco Trail (ATT)

919-387-2117

The American Tobacco Trail (ATT) is located in Wake County. The ATT is a multi-use trail that has a minimum ten-foot-wide surface composed of crushed granite screenings. Three bridges provide safe passage over creeks. The trail also has a tunnel going underneath Highway 64. The tunnel is 10 feet wide and 20 feet high and approximately 100 feet long with a concrete surface. The trail crosses five two-lane roads, three of which are highly traveled. Call for information on access to the carriage trails before you go to this park.

Biltmore Estate

828-225-1454

The Biltmore Estate in Asheville provides some carriage friendly trails, mostly along the river. There is a \$25 fee plus estate entry ticket charged for using the trails. Annual passes are available also. Primitive camping and hot-wire paddocks are available for a fee or you can board your horse in the stable. The famous Biltmore House can be seen from the trails and the mountain scenery is fantastic.

South Carolina

Manchester State Park

Manchester State Park, near Sumter, has carriage trails.

Mullet Hall at Johns Island County Park

843-768-5867 • 843-795-4386

Mullet Hall Equestrian Center at Johns Island County Park on Johns Island near Charleston are tucked within a 738-acre site. There are 20 miles of winding trails through southern pines and moss-draped oaks, alongside open meadows and farm fields. The trails are perfect for single carriages and up to a four-in-hand! The equestrian site has 40 acres of open grassed fields, two 98-stall barns with water and electricity, as well as horse washing stations and ample parking. There are both 30- and 50-amp camping hook-up sites.

Tuxbury Horse Trail

843-887-3257

Tuxbury Horse Trail located in the Francis Marion National Forest near Awendaw (north of Charleston) comprises a series of flat connecting trails covering 14 miles. The longest section is an old rail bed, which takes you through a widely varying habitat: from mature longleaf pines to bottomland hardwood drains. Note that some areas may flood after heavy rains and big-game hunting is allowed during the hunting season.

Sugarloaf Mountain Area

843-498-6478

Sugarloaf Mountain Area located in the San Hills State Forest near Patrick have the Pine Barons Wagon Trail, which is 27 miles devoted to horse-drawn wagons and buggies. Occasional creeks along the trails provide water for horses, as well as facilities at trailheads. On this trail it is not necessary for horses to be shod. Insect repellent is highly recommended.

5-Acre Lots Horse Trails

864-646-2717

5-Acre Lots Horse Trails are located at Clemson University and are suitable for carriage driving. This trail is an extension of the Fant's Grove Horse Trails and there are approximately 15 miles of trails on the edge of large corn fields, winding through deep woods and over small streams. The T. Ed Garrison Arena offers 440 permanent 10 x 10 horse stalls, wash racks and manure pits.

Lakeview Plantation

803-584-0689 • www.LakeviewPlantation@Barnwells.com

Lakeview Plantation is located in the South Carolina Low Country near Fairfax. It offers more than 60 miles of well-maintained trails (many of which are carriage accessible) which traverse the 2,600 private acres. They offer primitive camping and an RV park with a bath house, pavilion, and BBQ areas. The trails consist of four sandy, gently rolling loops suitable for carriages. Pets are not allowed on the trail, but kennel facilities are available at the camping area. The length of the trails run from 4.7 to 7.2 miles long. Fees are \$10 per day per person. Reservations are required. Camping is \$20 per night per person.

Hitchcock Woods

803-642-0528 • www.hitchcockwoods.org

Hitchcock Woods Foundation, in Aiken, has 65 miles of sandy riding and carriage trails within 2,100 acres of forestland resources. It is open year round.

Foxbrier Farm

The Burns Family at 864-682-7387 • jburns716@aol.com

Foxbrier is a family farm (2806 Metric Road, Laurens SC 29360) with miles of groomed carriage trails through hundreds of acres of scenic private land. Driving is available by appointment, and accommodations for drivers and horses are available.

Massachusetts

Harold Parker State Forest

978-686-3391

Harold Parker State Forest in North Andover (20 miles north of Boston) has 35 miles of logging roads and trails.

Brimfield State Forest

413-267-9687

Brimfield State Forest in Brimfield offers 20 miles of roads and trails.

Callahan State Park

508-653-9641

Callahan State Park in Framingham offers 7 miles of multi-use trails.

Freetown-Fall River State Forest

508-644-5522

Freetown-Fall River State Forest in Assonet has 50 miles of unpaved roads and trails.

Nashua River Rail Trail

978-597-8802

Nashua River Rail Trail encompasses Ayer/Groton/Pepperell/Dunstable and has five-foot-wide gravel paths for miles of the trail.

New York

Camp Santononi Historic Area, Adirondack Region, NYSDEC

518-623-1200

Camp Santononi, located in the Adirondack Mountains, is one of the most sophisticated and distinguished of the surviving great camps of the Adirondacks. A five-mile-long access road through this historic area may be visited by horse and wagon through reservation only. The gravel carriage road has a gradual slope of 400 feet.

Rockwood Hall Property, adjacent to Rockefeller State Park, NYSDEC

518-402-9405

Rockwood Hall Property consists of 88 upland acres that provide magnificent views down the Hudson River to New York City and up to Bear Mountain. It is located next to the Rockefeller State Park Preserve and is part of the original William Rockefeller estate. The property has several miles of trails and carriage roads leading throughout the estate grounds.

Connetquot River State Park Preserve

631-581-1005 (main gate)

Connetquot River State Park Preserve is a 3,400 acre state park located on Long Island in Oakdale. There are about 25 miles of trails suitable for carriages with sandy footing and a few hills. The trails

wind through virgin pines, and there is an arboretum of the west side of the park that contains a mature hardwood forest (also accessible with a carriage).

Oakhill Farm Bed, Breakfast and Barn

John Mahlendorf • www.OakhillFarmNY.com

Oakhill Farm Bed and Breakfast and Barn is located at 8983 Oakland Road in Nunda. This farm is set up for carriage driving with more than 6 miles of groomed trails with half of them through woods. There is also a carriage obstacle course, an indoor arena, and a 40 x 100-meter outdoor arena.

Mohonk Mountain House

800-772-6646

Mohonk Mountain House is located in New Platz, two hours north of NYC and two hours south of Albany. Located on top of the Swangunk Mountains with 45 miles of improved driving roads. Dining and overnight accommodations are available at the Mountain House. Turn-of-the-century stable for horses. There is a museum, swimming, tennis, golf, fishing, etc. Driver comments: "The trails are to die for but some of the trails are not for the faint of heart, and you need dependable horses. Monhonk Mountain House is fabulous, and the five-story barn with courtyard paddock on level three is amazing." "Magnificent views from stone dust roads/trails that traverse a wonderful forest preserve." "Very civilized and quite beautiful."

Rockefeller State Park in Tarrytown

www.friendsrock.org/equestrian.html

The carriage roads are well maintained; there is a place for parking trailers and a hose to cool off the horses when you're done. As is the case at Acadia Park in Maine, the carriage roads continue off the park into the Rockefellers' private property, but you are allowed to drive your horse there as well. See the website for the park's equestrian/carriage rules.

Brookfield Horse Trails System

607-674-4017 • www.dec.ny.gov/lands/8225.html

The Brookfield Horse Trails System is located 20 miles south of Utica and has 130 miles of marked trails, many of which are good for driving. There are seasonal dirt roads that wind their way through this area. Some are quite hilly, so you do want to have your horse in good shape. It's best to stick to the one-lane unpaved truck trails with a carriage, and there are plenty of miles of truck trails. A lot of the riding trails may start off large enough for a carriage but then get too small or have snowmobile bridges that may not be wide enough to accommodate a carriage. One of the truck trails has a locked gate, at the intersection of Truck Trails 7 and 14, that a carriage cannot fit around. There are two distinct sections to the Brookfield Horse Trails System. The section in the Charles E. Baker State Forest is a good place to begin; there is an assembly area on Moscow Hill. The assembly area has lots of standing stalls, a couple of box stalls, a well with a hand pump, a nice covered picnic pavilion, and an outhouse. There's minimal trailer parking right at the assembly area, but there is a public campground adjacent to it. The trail going from the assembly area to the truck trail system is not a road, but is marked for carriage use and is plenty wide for any carriage. For non-campers, there is a terrific Bed and Breakfast (www.endlesstrailsguesthouse.com) with nice stalls about a mile from the assembly area. The assembly area usually has good maps available. Open to horses from May 1 through October 31.

Otter Creek

607-674-4017 • www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8088.html

Otter Creek is one of the nicest state horse camps you could imagine. It is about 40 miles north of Utica. There are many miles of sandy trails wide enough to drive. There are standing covered stalls, water, campsites with tables and fire pits, maps of the extremely well marked trails, and manure pits. They are free of charge, and on a first come, first served basis. The assembly area usually has good maps available. Open to horses from May 1 through October 31.

Maine

Acadia National Park

207-288-8800 • www.nps.gov

Acadia National Park has excellent hilly scenic driving roads (57 miles of carriage trails!) with much interesting stonework on bridges, etc., as well as wonderful views from hill tops. Stables offer horse boarding.

West Virginia

Rails to Trails

www.wvrtc.org

WV Rail to Trail Council lists locations that permit horses, includes a rating of trails by difficulty and other qualities. Check first regarding carriage restrictions and check on ATV traffic, etc.