



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Rivers, Trails, and  
Conservation Assistance  
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## National Park Service News Release

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**Date:**                   **August 19, 2002**

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ANNOUNCES NEW BROCHURE PROVIDING INFORMATION ON RECREATIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY AND PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

Omaha, NE –The National Park Service Midwest Region’s Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (Rivers & Trails) has announced availability of a new publication “Recreational Use Statutes and The Private Landowner” brochure. It is a customized brochure for each of the 48 states that have legislation on limited liability for landowners who allow recreational use of their property.

The brochure contains a brief description of the conditions and responsibilities of both the landowner and recreational users. Each state has its own legislation, but the common thread is that landowners are not required to maintain their premises safe or to warn people of hazardous conditions. People entering land to recreate enter at their own risk. The brochure also includes each state’s specific law title and contacts for further information.

"Many private landowners are willing to allow people to recreate on their properties, but worry they may make themselves liable if someone is injured on their land." said Equestrian Land Conservation Resource Executive Director Kandee Haertel. "We want people to be more comfortable with the law and have a better understanding of their rights and responsibilities."

American Association for Horsemanship Safety President Jan Dawson said "The availability of this information should result in a safer equestrian community by enabling riding on private lands rather than on dangerous highway rights of way.

Allowing people access to open spaces for recreation supports President Bush’s new Healthier US Initiative designed to promote improved health through the benefits of physical activity and stress reducing experiences.

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Rivers & Trails partners involved with this publication all have additional information available on their websites regarding recreation liability issues. They include:

**American Association for Horsemanship Safety**

<http://www.law.utexas.edu/dawson/recreate/recreate.htm> or 1-512-488-2220

**Equestrian Land Conservation Resource**

<http://www.elcr.org> or 1-815-776-0150

**International Mountain Bicycling Association**

<http://www.imba.com> or 1-888-442-4622

**American Whitewater**

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/>  
or 1-866-BOAT4AW

The information is available in .pdf format, readable on Adobe Acrobat software, on the Internet at [http://www.ncrc.nps.gov/programs/rtca/HelpfulTools/ht\\_publications.html](http://www.ncrc.nps.gov/programs/rtca/HelpfulTools/ht_publications.html) or on compact disk available from Rivers & Trails or one of their partners involved with this publication.