

Great Allegheny Passage

Allegheny County Government
701 Kelly Road, Cumberland, MD 21502-2882
<https://www.alleghanygov.org/gaptrail>

Rules and Guidelines

The Allegheny County Commissioners hereby establish the rules and guidelines for the safe and peaceful enjoyment of the section of the Great Allegheny Passage (i.e., trail) in Allegheny County, Maryland for citizens of and visitors to our community.

The 22-mile section of the Great Allegheny Passage is complete through Allegheny County, Maryland and stretches from Cumberland, Maryland to the Pennsylvania state line.

Allegheny County is responsible for all law enforcement and emergency response as well as maintenance of this recreational right of way (ROW). Trail Rangers patrol the trail. These law enforcement personnel wear uniforms and carry County issued photo identification.

- **Dawn to Dusk Usage**

The Great Allegheny Passage in Allegheny County, Maryland, from Cumberland, Maryland to the Pennsylvania line is intended to provide year-round recreational opportunities. Access to, and usage of, the trail is permitted only between the hours of dawn until dusk.

- **Public Safety Assistance**

Call 911 for emergencies requiring immediate response by law enforcement or medical personnel. Contact Chapin Jewell (Office 301-729-4132, Cell 301-268-2318) or Jim Bone (Office 301-729-4132, Cell 301-268-2319) to report all other trail related issues or problem.

- **Motor Vehicles**

Motorized vehicles are prohibited on the trail except for emergency response vehicles or those authorized by the County. The use of motorized vehicles by members of the Big Savage Sportsmen's Club and the Piney Mountain Sportsmen's Association, with recognized stickers, is authorized during Maryland Regulated Hunting Season. Low powered electric chairs for individuals with restricted mobility are permitted. All other motorized vehicles are prohibited without written authorization from the County.

- **Trail Direction Use**

Trail users are to travel on the right and pass on the left side of the trail. Trail users are to give warning when approaching others on the trail and when passing.

- **Speed Limit**

Trail users are to obey a 15 mph speed limit in the ROW.

- **Wildlife and Livestock**

Trail users are encouraged not to disturb wildlife and livestock.

- **Trash Removal**

Trail users shall carry out their own trash.

- **Helmet Use / Audible Warning Device**

Bicyclists and equestrians should wear a helmet. Maryland requires all persons under the age of 16 who are operating a bicycle or are passengers on a bicycle to wear an approved helmet. Bicycles must have an audible warning device.

- **Pets**

Pets shall be on a leash at all times. Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets, including horses.

- **Brush and Borden Tunnels**

Only pedestrian traffic is permitted in the Brush and Borden Tunnels. Bicyclists must walk their bikes through both tunnels. Brush Tunnel is west of Cumberland, Maryland (Cash Valley). Borden Tunnel is west of Frostburg, Maryland. Brush Tunnel, the longer of the two, has electric lights. Flashlight use, however, is recommended.

The ROW between Cumberland, Maryland and Frostburg, Maryland is designed to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian traffic, as well as the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad (WMSR). Trail users are encouraged to check the WMSR operating schedule prior before any trail usage: www.wmsr.com, 240-920-6273. Pedestrians are prohibited in the Brush Tunnel during WMSR use.

- **Western Maryland Scenic Railroad ROW**

All trail users are advised to stay on the trail surface and away from the WMSR ROW as the train approaches and passes. Do not enter the train track area except at designated crossings. The train will signal at all trail crossings. Train maintenance equipment and personnel may be in the trail ROW at any time. Trail users are urged to use caution as railroad ballast, rock, and gravel may be on the trail surface.

- **Fires**

Fires are prohibited in the ROW.

- **Hunting**

Hunting is prohibited in the ROW. The transport of loaded firearms or any loaded device designed to harvest game animals is prohibited in the ROW. The trail is only open for hunting access during the Maryland Regulated Hunting Season or by written authorization from the County.

- **Chains and Farm Gates**

Chain and farm gates used by the hunting clubs for access shall be opened and closed after entering onto or exiting from the trail at all times.

- **Trail Alterations**

No agency, club, organization, individual and/or property owner may alter the trail or any appurtenance without written authorization from the County.

- **Permit Use for Property Owners, Clubs, etc.**

Any agency, club, organization, individual and/or property owner desiring to cross or use the ROW is required to complete the County's license permit application, receive an executed license agreement from the County, and reimburse the County according to the current fee schedule.

- **Camping**

Camping is permitted in area adjacent to the trail on privately owned property authorized to provide overnight accommodations. Camping is prohibited in the ROW.

- **Horseback Riding**

Horseback riding is permitted only from Frostburg, Maryland to the Pennsylvania state line. The improved surface of the trail is designed exclusively for bicycle and pedestrian use. Horseback riding is permitted only in the ROW in the grass area adjacent to the improved trail surface.

- **Alcohol Consumption / Tobacco Use**

The consumption of alcohol and use of tobacco products are prohibited in the ROW.

- **Special Use – Special Use Permit Application**

Special use activities with 15 or more participants, i.e., races for runners, fund raisers, organized group rides designed for trail use by specified users, require written authorization from the County. Special use activities shall be conducted in such a fashion so as not to exclusively limit the use of the trail during these activities. Special Use Permit Applications are available on the County's web site, <https://www.alleganygov.org/gaptrail>. They may also be obtained from the Trail Rangers and local bicycle shops. No activity or recreational usage along the trail shall impede the peaceful enjoyment for all trail participants. As a courtesy, trail users who stop along the trail are asked to leave the improved surface of the ROW to allow for the safe and unimpeded travel of other trail users.

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Special Use Permit Application

Directions: Print. All information is required. Attach additional sheets, if necessary, to provide the required information.

Process: Allow at least 7 business days for application processing. You will be notified of the disposition of the application. Your permit may require proof of liability insurance naming The Board of County Commissioners of Allegheny County (MD) as an additional insured.

- This Special Use Permit Application is being submitted on behalf of:

Organization Information

Name: _____
Federal Tax ID Number: _____
Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: ____ - ____ - ____
Fax: ____ - ____ - ____
E-Mail: _____@_____

- This Special Use Permit Application is being submitted by:

Applicant Information

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____

Telephone/Home: ____ - ____ - ____
Telephone/Cell: ____ - ____ - ____
Fax: ____ - ____ - ____
E-Mail: _____@_____

Describe Proposed Activity in detail. Attach diagram and any other supporting documents. _____

Requested Location, town/city, trail mile markers: _____

Event Site Set Up Begins: _____
Month Day Year Time

Event Begins: _____
Month Day Year Time

Event Ends: _____
Month Day Year Time

Event Site Removal Completed: _____
Month Day Year Time

Maximum Number of Participants, best estimate: _____

List All Support Equipment: _____

List All Support Personnel, contractors, etc.:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: ____ - ____ - ____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: ____ - ____ - ____

Submit the Application

- By Mail/Delivery Service/In Person Chapin Jewell or Jim Bone, Alternative Sentencing Division, 30 Rear Washington Street, Cumberland, Maryland 21502
- By E-Mail/Fax to Chapin Jewell (cjewell@alleganygov.org) or Jim Bone (jbone@alleganygov.org). Fax 301-729-2496
- Questions? Call Chapin Jewell (Office 301-729-4132, Cell 301-268-2318) or Jim Bone (Office 301-729-4132, Cell 301-268-2319).

THIS IS THE END OF THE SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION

Permit Decision:

Approved Denied

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comments: _____

Permit Decision: Allegany County Administrator

Approved Denied

Date: _____