



## **Signage/publication recommendations for Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park**

### **General suggestions**

1. Utilize the Leave No Trace logo on all signage, brochures, websites, publications, etc. It is a nationally (and internationally) recognized symbol and can, in and of itself, promote environmentally responsible behavior.
2. Consider listing some information as “guidelines”, although this may not be as authoritative as “rules and regulations,” it conveys a friendlier tone.
3. Make all signage as permanent as possible. Generally speaking, more permanent signage has a more authentic, authoritative and legitimate feel.
4. Rules and regulations should be placed more prominently on signage, kiosks, maps, brochures, etc. Currently, the R&R’s are not prominently displayed on printed materials, nor do they stand out. They should be one of the first things visitors see.
5. Make information (prompts) area-specific and relevant.
6. Consider using *Injunctive-Proscriptive* statements, i.e. statements that tell people directly what *not* to do (see enclosed information).
7. Use of social norms can be very powerful for changing/modifying visitor behavior, e.g. “Join your fellow park visitors in helping to protect this park”
8. Proper placement of signs is key. Many land managers put signage at trailheads *and* further down the trail to “hit” visitors with the same message again. Repetition can be a good thing but can backfire if not done properly, i.e. more signs is not always better. A few well placed/well written signs are generally best.
9. Research has shown that using the word “please” in conjunction with any information or prompts (rules/regs) leads to better compliance.
10. To the extent possible, ensure that signage is consistent from brochure to kiosk.

### **Examples of specific language to address KEMO issues**

#### **Pet waste:**

*Pick Up Poop – Phew! Dog poop stinks, is not natural to Kennesaw Mountains and others can step in it. Pack a pick-up bag or grab one at the trailhead and always pick up your dog’s poop—wherever it’s left.*

*Dog poop is a health hazard. It also increases the nitrogen in the soil around the trail, giving the advantage to weeds over the native plants that have naturally evolved in the park. Dog poop can also contribute to water pollution in the unique riparian areas found in throughout Kennesaw Mountain. Thanks for bagging your dog’s poop, but remember,*

*the job's not done until you drop it in the trashcan. Please do your part to keep our park dog poop free.*

**Pet management:**

*Manage Your Dog – Keeping your dog in control keeps people, other dogs and wildlife safe. Others may not appreciate your dog's company; if not sure, ask before allowing your dog to approach them. Please do not let your dog approach others unless invited. Dogs must be on leash at Kennesaw Mountain. Be aware - check signs and follow area regulations.*

*Keep track of your pets while you're recreating at Kennesaw Mountain. A pet under control lessens the chance for harm to your dog from other dogs or wildlife. Please do not let your dog approach or chase wildlife. Chased or harassed wildlife change their feeding patterns and exert more energy, which can result in poor health or even death.*

*Respect adjacent private property by not allowing your dog to wander from designated trails. Remember, pets must be on leash at Kennesaw Mountain. Please do your part to manage your dog.*

**User conflict:**

*Share our Trails – We all enjoy Kennesaw Mountain in different ways. Pay attention, expect to encounter others, slow down and be courteous - offer a friendly greeting. Those traveling faster should slow down for other users. Downhill hikers and riders should always yield to all other users.*

*The best choice when yielding is to stop, then step off the trail onto a durable surface (rock, sand, etc.) and remain until others pass. If you continue to hike or ride off trail when yielding, you trample trailside vegetation and create multiple trails where one is usually best.*

*We all know how great outdoor experiences can be. One discourteous person can ruin an outing. Expect and respect others. Make room for others. Pass with care and let others know you're passing. Be courteous and we'll all have a better time.*

**Litter:**

*Trash Your Trash – Please pick up all trash—yours and others'. Even biodegradable materials, such as orange peels, apple cores and food scraps take years to break down and attract scavengers that can harm native wildlife.*

*Trash is unsightly and ruins everyone's outdoor experience. Studies have shown that trash attracts scavenging birds and animals that drive away or kill native birds. Let's all do our part to take care of Kennesaw Mountain by picking up and properly disposing of all trash.*

**Protection of riparian areas:**

*Protect Our Water OR Keep Our Water Healthy – Kennesaw Mountain is home to many unique resources including riparian areas – the green vegetated areas on each side of*

*streams and creeks. Both people and animals are drawn to water, especially in forested environments like those found at Kennesaw Mountain.*

*Riparian areas are vital to the health and diversity of plant and animal life at Kennesaw Mountain. These areas are often the sole habitat for many plant and animal species that need wet conditions. Riparian areas supply food and cover for animals; provide a buffer which acts as a filter to help prevent water contamination; reduce the risk of flooding; and help reduce streambank erosion. Do your part to help protect this critical resource by staying on trails, only accessing the water at designated access points, keeping litter, human and pet waste out of the water, and not trampling streamside vegetation. Please help protect our water.*

#### **Off-trail travel:**

*Stick to Trails – Staying on trails protects wildlife and their homes. Shortcutting trails causes erosion and damages trailside plants. Please walk and ride on designated trails only. Contact NPS staff at Kennesaw Mountain for trail information and maps.*

*Studies have shown that when we trample vegetation on the side of the trail, there is a greater chance weeds will replace native plants. In this environment, native plants take years to recover from trampling damage.*

*Avoid areas that are unmarked, closed for revegetation or signed as sensitive. Also, many trails at Kennesaw Mountain pass near private land. We are fortunate that landowners adjacent to Kennesaw Mountain are willing to allow trails near their property. Respect private property by staying on designated trails. We can all have fun at Kennesaw Mountain by sticking to trails.*

#### **Removing natural objects:**

*Leave It As You Find It – Picking flowers, collecting rocks or taking historical items might not seem like a big deal, but it means that others won't have a chance to enjoy them. Taking one or two flowers or plants, even if they seem plentiful, is not OK. We all enjoy flowers and fruit, but picking them reduces seeds, which can mean fewer plants next year. Wildlife depend on these plants for food. Remember, there are a lot of us enjoying Kennesaw Mountain, so we all need to be extra careful—please do your part to protect park resources by leaving them as you find them.*

*\*\*\*This could be further tailored to speak to historical objects/items.*

#### **Other examples from existing Frontcountry sites:**

##### **From Boise, ID**

*Manage Your Dog – Leashes are required by law in the Boise City Reserves. These are the natural open spaces managed by Boise City Parks and Recreation. Check the trailhead sign boards for more information. Elsewhere in the foothills, allowing your dog to approach people uninvited and to run far and wide invites conflicts with other users. Be smart- control your dog at all times.*

Enjoy Off-Leash Trails – Certain trails have been designated for off-leash use, but **only** when a dog is deemed to be under control. This means dogs must be within 30' of owner and return when called; they must **not** approach or harass people, pets or wildlife. Does your dog meet this test? If not, then leashes are still required.

Pick up Poop – Dog waste smells, people can step in it and it can contribute to water pollution. It is easy to pick up waste by bringing a bag or grabbing one at the trailhead. You can help by looking out for #2. Remember, the job's not done 'till the bags in the can.

Leave No Trace – Reduce impacts to the land by keeping your dog on the trail, avoid allowing them to dig for rodents and make sure they do not chase wildlife, especially wintering big game.

Share the Trails – Not everyone loves your dog like you do. Respect other trail enthusiasts and keep control of your dog at all times. Leash up at trailhead parking areas and other congested spots. Yelling for your dog destroys the quiet that many are seeking.

Protect your pet – Stick to Trails – Encounters with predators, rattlesnakes, ticks and cheat grass are more likely off trail. Bring water for you and your dog. Access to creeks can increase erosion.

The back cover (of the brochure)

Enjoying off leash trails is a privilege earned by respectful and responsible use. Your dog, the wildlife, the land and your fellow trail enthusiasts will all benefit from your responsible actions.

This information is provided as part of an ongoing effort to encourage shared use and an enjoyable trail experience.

### **Natural Lands Trust, PA**

*Pick Up Poop – Phew! Dog poop stinks, is not natural to NLT preserves and others can step in it. Pack a pick-up bag or grab one at the trailhead and always pick up your dog's poop—wherever it's left.*

*Dog poop is a health hazard. It also increases the nitrogen in the soil around the trail, giving the advantage to weeds over the native plants that have naturally evolved in the Foothills. Dog poop can also contribute to water pollution in the unique riparian areas found throughout NLT preserves. Thanks for bagging your dog's poop, but remember, the job's not done until you drop it in the trashcan. Please do your part to keep NLT preserves dog poop free.*

*Manage Your Dog – Keeping your dog in control keeps people, other dogs, livestock and wildlife safe. Others may not appreciate your dog's company; if not sure, ask before allowing your dog to approach them. Please do not let your dog approach others unless invited. Dogs must be on leash on NLT preserves unless you're in an off-leash area. In areas where leashes aren't required keep your dog nearby and under control. Be aware - check signs and follow area regulations.*

*Keep track of your pets while you're recreating on NLT preserves. A pet under control lessens the chance for harm to your dog from other dogs or wildlife. Please do not let your dog approach or chase wildlife. Chased or harassed wildlife change their feeding patterns and exert more energy, which can result in poor health or even death.*

*Respect adjacent private property by not allowing your dog to wander from designated trails or off-leash areas. Remember, unless you're in an off-leash area, pets must be on leash on NLT preserves. Please do your part to manage your dog.*

*Share our Trails – We all enjoy NLT preserves in different ways. Pay attention, expect to encounter others, slow down and be courteous - offer a friendly greeting. Those traveling faster should slow down for other users. Downhill riders should always yield to all other users.*

*Bikers, because of their mobility, should always yield to hikers and horseback riders. The best choice when yielding is to stop, then step off the trail onto a durable surface (rock, sand, etc.) and remain until others pass. If you continue to hike or ride off trail when yielding, you trample trailside vegetation and create multiple trails where one is usually best.*

*We all know how great outdoor experiences can be. One discourteous person can ruin an outing. Expect and respect others. Make room for others. Control your speed. Pass with care and let others know you're passing. Be courteous and we'll all have a better time.*

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*Trash is unsightly and ruins everyone's outdoor experience. Studies have shown that trash attracts scavenging birds and animals that drive away or kill native birds. Let's all do our part to take care NLT preserves by picking up all trash.*

*Protect Our Water OR Keep Our Water Healthy – This NLT preserve is home to many unique resources including riparian areas – the green vegetated areas on each side of streams and creeks. Both people and animals are drawn to water, especially in forested environments like those found on NLT preserves.*

*Riparian areas are vital to the health and diversity of plant and animal life on NLT preserves. These areas are often the sole habitat for many plant and animal species that need wet conditions. Riparian areas supply food and cover for animals; provide a buffer which acts as a filter to help prevent water contamination; reduce the risk of flooding; and help reduce streambank erosion. Do your part to help protect this critical resource by staying on trails, only accessing the water at designated access points, keeping litter, human and pet waste out of the water, and not trampling streamside vegetation. Please help protect our water.*

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*Avoid areas that are unmarked, closed for revegetation or signed as sensitive. Also, most NLT trails pass near, and in some cases through, private land. We are fortunate that landowners adjacent to NLT preserves are willing to allow trails near/on their property. Respect private property by staying on designated trails. We can all have fun on NLT preserves by sticking to trails.*

*Leave It As You Find It – Picking flowers, collecting rocks or taking arrowheads might not seem like a big deal, but it means that others won't have a chance to enjoy them. Taking one or two flowers or plants, even if they seem plentiful, is not OK. We all enjoy flowers and fruit, but picking them reduces seeds, which can mean fewer plants next year. Wildlife depend on these plants for food. Remember, there are a lot of us enjoying NLT preserves, so we all need to be extra careful—please do your part to protect NLT preserve resources by leaving them as you find them.*

The recommendations and language in this report were developed by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. For more information on Leave No Trace or the Leave No Trace Frontcountry program, please visit [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org) or call 1.800.332.4100