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## Respect the Land & The Environment: Practice “Leave No Trace” Land Ethics

As you journey along the Henderson Trail System, your every decision will affect not only your own enjoyment and safety, but also the safety of others and the environment. By being well prepared and respectful of the lands you travel upon, there is an opportunity for all who visit the trail to preserve the experience of future visitors while minimizing impact on the exceptional landscapes and unique species of Southern Nevada. Henderson Parks and Recreation recommends the “**Leave No Trace**” land ethics including:

•**Stay on Designated Trails** - The backcountry soils and terrain are fragile and air quality is a major concern in Nevada. When dust is unsettled, it can make breathing difficult for all of us. Protect plants, birds, animals and insects by utilizing trails. The trail is the best path and it's best not to take short cuts.

•**Pack up What You Pack in** - Pick up and pack out all of your trash, including cigarette butts and toilet paper. Biodegradable items cannot be left in the backcountry at all. In the desert, trash attracts alien pests and, with the lack of rain, trash does not decompose in this environment.

•**Respect All Wildlife and Take Only Pictures** - Travel quietly. Do not disturb animals or their nests. It's also best not to pick flowers or plants or remove any natural objects such as rocks. Remember desert tortoises and bighorn sheep have the right of way even if they are on the trail or in your way.

•**Develop an Appreciation for Solitude** - Travel and camp quietly and in small groups. Many people come to the outdoors for the peaceful atmosphere and the silence enhances the experience.

•**Be Responsible for Pets or Horses** - It is great fun to have a pet or horse out on the trail; however, you are responsible for your pet's or horse's waste. Remove all pet waste from the trail and pack it out.

•**Give Uphill Hikers a Break** - On the trail, uphill hikers have the right of way. If you're on a trail and another hiker is coming uphill, step aside to allow the uphill hiker to pass. They'll appreciate it and you'll gain a new friend on the way.

•**Be Prepared** - There is no water, shade or bathrooms available on the trail.

Plan your outing accordingly to avoid incident.

-- Henderson Celebrates Our Trails and Open Space  
“Henderson Happenings”  
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River Mountains Trail  
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