



ATTENTION DOG OWNERS **LEASH & WASTE CLEAN UP REQUIRED**

Schiff Natural Lands Trust, Inc privately owns and manages 768 acres of preserved land in the Mendhams and Chester, NJ. Schiff Nature Preserve provides a permanent sanctuary for native wildlife and vegetation and the 12 miles of trails for the public to enjoy. Dog related ordinances and Schiff's Visitor Use policies are in place to protect the safety and wellbeing of all residents, property, and deter dog waste littering. We ask that **ALL** dog owners assist us in maintaining a friendly, clean, and safe preserve by following all of Schiff's Visitor Use policies with special care to those pertaining to pet ownership.

Schiff Nature Preserve's Visitor Use Policy states:

- Dog walkers must stay on trail and keep pets **always on leash**.
- Removal, destruction, or disturbance of plants, wildlife, or soils is prohibited. Please leave no trace.
- Littering of trash or pet waste is prohibited. Please carry out all waste.

As a privately owned nature preserve, we maintain the right to enforce these policies.

While available for the public to use, we ask dog owners to be respectful of Schiff's Visitor Use Policies and keep the following points in mind the next time you take your dog for a hike...

Of Concern for Schiff Visitors:

- Not all people like dogs - even friendly ones. Fewer people welcome being approached by an unleashed dog, whether your dog is "friendly" or not. **Please respect the rights of others and do not allow your dog to approach another visitor without permission.**
- These trails are enjoyed by hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, runners, small children, senior citizens, dog-walkers, photographers, bird watchers, and other nature study groups that are on the trails. Many of them are seeking the quiet rejuvenation that walking in nature can provide. **Please be considerate of other visitors and keep your dog always leashed.**
- Equestrians also use our trails, and horses can easily be spooked by a loose dog, which is dangerous to all concerned. **Please help by avoiding this potentially dangerous situation.**

Of Concern for ALL Dog owners:

- Keeping your dog on a leash protects your dog. Schiff is home to wildlife that could kill or injure your dog, such as black bears, coyotes, and skunks.
- Schiff is home to hundreds of species of plants, some of which can be poisonous to your dog if ingested. **Please protect your dog by keeping your dog always leashed.**
- Dogs can transmit poison ivy to you if they brush against it and the oils from the plant attach to their fur. **Please protect yourself by keeping your dog always leashed and stay on the trails.**

- Many responsible dog owners of “unfriendly” dogs maintain their dogs on leash for YOUR safety. Friendly off leash dogs risk being injured while approaching an unfriendly leashed dog. **Please keep your dog always leashed and respect the rights of others and do not allow your dog to approach another visitor without permission.**

Of Concern for Schiff Land:

- Unleashed dogs (and off trail hikers) permitted to roam freely can unknowingly damage or destroy nesting areas, soil, and sensitive wildlife habitat when they run unleashed. Urination by dogs in nesting and sensitive wildlife habitats can make the area undesirable or uninhabitable to some wildlife. **Please help by always staying on the marked trails.**
- Being chased by an unleashed or controlled dog is stressful for wildlife. Animals chased by dogs spend their energy on escaping and that might mean the difference between having and not having the energy to survive. **Please be considerate of wildlife and keep your dog always leashed.**

After counsel from Mendham Township Police Department, Schiff has established a Visitor Use Policy Warning System.

Unleashed dog owners will be issued one friendly reminder and reeducation on the importance of our Dog related Visitor Use policies. Repeated encounters with dog owners who fail to comply with these policies will be asked to vacate the property and will not be welcome to return.

Visitors who share our unleashed dog/waste concerns may contact our Land Steward @ 908-447-9794 with helpful information (date, time, exact location, description of owner and dog, pictures) so that we may attempt to contact those who fail to comply with our Visitor Use Policies. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Local Dog Parks Near Mendham

- Bernards Township Dog Run Park- S Maple Ave, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
- Bedminster Dog Park- 1975-1989 Burnt Mills Rd, Bedminster, NJ 07920
- Central Park County Dog Park- Collins Rd, Morris Plains, NJ 07950
- Dog Park at Turkey Brook Farms- 30 Flanders Rd, Budd Lake, NJ 07828
- Elm Street Dog Park- 37 Elm St, Florham Park, NJ 07932
- Long Valley Dog Park- Route 517 Washington Township, Long Valley, NJ 07853

Local Ordinances for Reference

<i>Mendham Township</i>	<i>Mendham Borough</i>	<i>Chester Township</i>
93-3 Control of animals.	73-8 Seizure and impoundment of dogs at large.	62-14 Dogs at Large Prohibited: exception.
93-7 Dog nuisances.	73-12 Removal of dog or pet feces/solid waste.	62-15 Leashing Requirements.
93-8 Violations and penalties.		62-16 Damage to property by Dogs prohibited.
		62-18 Violations and Penalties.