The Otter Creek Horse Trail System
Glenfield, New York

The Otter Creek Horse Trail System is a series of interlocking trails comprising about 65 miles. They are located on both the Adirondack Forest Preserve and on State Forests on the western border of the Adirondack Park in Lewis County.

The horse trail system uses old sandy roads and woods trails to traverse a beautiful diverse area. The trails wind their way along spirea flats and wooded areas, access picturesque Adirondack ponds, and follow or cross numerous creeks as well as the Scenic Independence River.

There is an Assembly Area with 3 parking lots and an overflow or day use parking lot. The Assembly Area or trailhead has 100 roofed tie stalls, 2 separate roofed stud stalls, manure pits, and potable water for the horses. There is a bathroom with sink and toilet but no shower and no electrical hook ups. (Please note: Depending on the weather, the water is turned on mid-May and shut off after Columbus Day weekend USA.) The overflow or day use parking lot has a water spigot, manure pit, and if staying overnight, the horses must be tethered to or harbored in their trailers or in a temporary corral.

The Assembly Area is available on a first come first served basis – no reservations. Registration is required at the trailhead register located at the kiosk in parking lot 1. The self-issuing camping permit needs to be completed with the DEC portion placed in the drop box and the camping permit portion displayed on the dashboard of the vehicle.

Otter Creek Horse Trail system has accessible features. At the Assembly Area, the bathroom facilities and mounting platforms are user friendly along with a picnic pavilion with reserve parking. On the trails, 3 accessible mounting platforms are located at scenic overlooks to allow horseback riders to dismount and enjoy the view.

Use of Horses
Please review your route at the kiosk in the Assembly Area lot 1 for any notices about trail conditions. You may use horses almost anywhere on NYS DEC lands except in intensively developed areas (horses are not permitted near Sand Pond.,) on foot trails or when ice and snow covers snowmobile or cross country ski trails. Private in-holders often object to horses on their roads so please stay on marked trails. In the Assembly Area, do not tether horses to trees or run, gallop, or canter horses. In accordance with Agriculture & Markets Rules - Regulations Part 64, horse owners may be required to produce: current or previous calendar year negative Coggins certificate, proof of a current rabies vaccination, and out-of-state horse owners may be required to produce a 30-day health certificate. The physical address that is required for the veterinarian paperwork is: 6498 Chases Lake Road, Glenfield, NY 13343.

Field Notes
The entire Otter Creek Horse Trail system is populated with wildlife. The trails pass through a variety of habitats and you are likely to see deer, bear, coyote, fox, snowshoe hare and wide variety of bird life such as Hummingbirds, grouse and wild turkey. Catspaw Lake and Pitcher Pond are known for their resident and migratory wild fowl.

Lewis County
Our forest and mountain environment offers opportunities for recreational pleasure, appreciation of nature, and a rejuvenating escape from the urban world. Help care for our forest environment and enhance the enjoyment of it for yourself and those that follow. Please do not litter.

Hopefully, you will have a rewarding and safe time on the Otter Creek Horse Trail system. A lot of time, effort and pride has been put into this facility and the surrounding trails. Enjoy them and come back soon.

Important Telephone Numbers
- During regular business hours, contact: DEC Lowville Office 315.376.3521
- Emergencies, evening, weekends, holidays, call:
  - Lewis County Sheriff: 911
  - NY State Police: 315.376.6513
  - NYS Forest Rangers (24-hour dispatch line in Ray Brook): 518.891.0235

Notes:
- The Assembly Area is located at 6498 Chases Lake Road, Glenfield, NY 13343
- If you want veterinarian or vehicle towing services, let the operator know.
- The Eatonville Bridge is very narrow.

Additional Information
- FriendsOfOtterCreekHorseTrails.Com
- LewisCountyChamber.Org
- dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8088.html
- adirondackstughill.com
- lewiscounty.ny.com

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The Otter Creek Horse Trail System is approximately 48 miles north of Utica 7 miles east of Route 12 95 miles north of Syracuse

GPS coordinates for Assembly Area are:
Lat. 43.7458707 Long. -75.3134981

Photo by Mary Misek. Cover Photo by Betsey MacDonald