

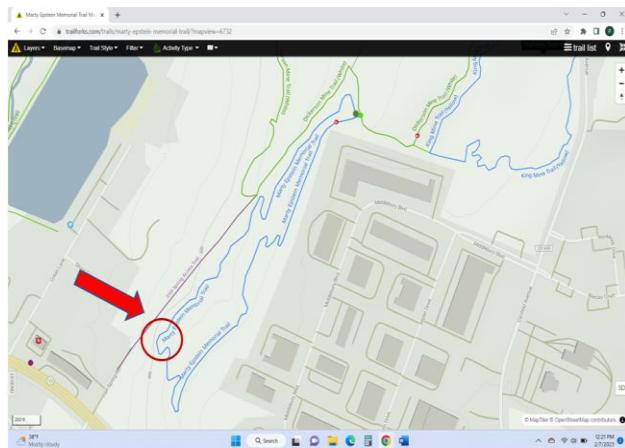
# RANDOLPH TRAILS NEWSLETTER SPRING 2023



It is Spring and the outdoors are calling to us. Hiking trails offer excellent opportunities for hiking, biking, or walking your dog. In this issue, the work being done to clean-up the Marty's Memorial Trail is highlighted. There are also some tips on fox and coyote safety. And finally, there is information regarding the Randolph Trails Advisory Committee with a list of upcoming events.

## Marty's Trail Clean-up

Jesse Epstein, proprietor of Marty's Reliable Cycle, in cooperation with the King Trail Alliance has generously offered to donate machinery and labor to cleanup an old dump site between Irish Spring Road and the Marty Memorial Trail. The cleanup is expected to begin this spring. The Marty Memorial Trail is a great mountain biking and hiking trail adjacent to the Dickerson Mine Preserve trail network in Mine Hill. The Marty Memorial Trail was built by the volunteer efforts of JORBA (Jersey Off Road Mountain Bike Association [www.jorba.org](http://www.jorba.org)) to honor the memory of Marty Epstein for his many philanthropic contributions to the local communities. Come out and mountain bike or hike this gem!



## Fox and Coyote - Keeping safe on the Trails

You may be wondering if it is safe to walk on the trails alone or with your pet because you are afraid of encounters with our local fox and coyote population. Yes, it is safe as long as you stay aware and follow a few simple rules.

Coyote are carnivores and related to both wolves and dogs. While normally fearful of people, they can sometimes be spotted on our trails where they find natural food sources. They are nocturnal, hunting in the early morning or at sunset. However, in the early Spring, when their pups are born, they hunt around the clock.

If you see a coyote on a trail, make sure that pets and children are secure. Most importantly, do not run. Your best bet may be to change your route to avoid conflict with a normally calm animal. If you feel the need to scare away a coyote, you can wave your arms, clap your hands, and shout in a loud voice.

Fox behavior is like that of a coyote. The red fox is the most recognizable and widespread fox species on our planet. Foxes are omnivores, they will eat just about anything.



They have their pups between March and May. And, just like any wild animal, they are more aggressive when they have their babies with them. Foxes are not dangerous and do not attack humans, except when they are rabid, or if they have mange. Mange is a debilitating disease that results in either patchy or entire hair loss. Even then, a fox's natural tendency is to flee rather than fight.



You are as likely to see a fox or coyote on the trails as you would in your own backyard. Staying calm and either moving away slowly or creating a loud noise will enable both you and these wild animals to enjoy our trails in harmony. Please report any unusual animal behavior to Randolph Animal Control or the Police. **Note:** Pets should be kept on a 6-foot leash in accordance with the Township ordinance. This is both for the protection of the pet itself, but also for other trail users.

## Who are the Trails Advisory Committee?

The Randolph Township Trails Advisory Committee serves as an advisory board to the township council on the use, development, and maintenance of the township trail system as well as the implementation of the trails master plan.

One of their important duties is to hear from our local Scouts and residents about projects they would like to do for trail improvement. Many times, the scout projects are done to achieve Eagle Scout or Gold Scout status.

The Trails Advisory Committee has lots of ideas for trail improvement projects. So, if you are a scout, a student, or an interested resident, please contact the

Committee to discuss how we may work together on a project. Our meetings are open to the public and are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the Community Center on Calais Road and begin at 7 pm. If you are either looking for an idea or have one that you would like to propose to the Committee, you can contact the Trails Committee chair, Phil Sheehy ([philsheehy@hotmail.com](mailto:philsheehy@hotmail.com)) or the Township Recreation Department Director, Russ Newman ([rnewman@randolphnj.org](mailto:rnewman@randolphnj.org)).

## Upcoming Events

National Trails Day is celebrated on the first Saturday in June, which is June 3 this year. It is a perfect day to get out and hike. Try a trail you have not taken or spend the summer hiking all the trails.

Randolph's trail system is a 16-mile course traversing five parks, the Clyde Potts Reservoir Watershed and 2,000 acres of open space. The trails connect to Patriots' Path, the Dickerson Mine Preserve, the West Morris Greenway, and the 911 Memorial Trail. Kiosks can be found on the trails that highlight historical locations. More information and a trail map can be found on the Township website, [Township of Randolph: Parks & Recreation: Trail System \(randolphnj.org\)](http://Township of Randolph: Parks & Recreation: Trail System (randolphnj.org))

Other events include:

- Arts in the Park, Veterans Community Park – May 20
- Country Fair, Veterans Community Park September 23 -meet a member of the Trails Committee
- Haunted Trail, Veterans Community Park – October 28



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