

# **Volunteer Opportunities**

## **Readington Trails, Open Space and Natural Areas**

### **February/March 2023 Trail Sessions**

***Three Hours or Less***

It is time to get out and clear some new trails and improve some old ones in the township! If you use and enjoy your neighborhood trails or have interest in the township's natural areas please consider joining a mini-work session or volunteering as a family or group on one of the self-directed tasks listed at the end of this announcement.

**To join a mini-work session, or for questions email directly to the listed crew leader for that particular session.**

If for some reason we need to cancel or change a work session we will notify those who have registered. Let us know if you need directions. You do not need tools to participate, we have some, but please let the crew leader know what you are prepared to bring with you. If you can't get there at the starting time, or if you need to leave early, NO PROBLEM! Any help is appreciated.

### **SATURDAY MORNING SHORT WORK SESSIONS**

**Saturday February 11, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM:** Session Leader: Chris John  
Reply directly to Chris at [readingtontrailblazers@yahoo.com](mailto:readingtontrailblazers@yahoo.com).

**Where:** White Oak Trail, Coddington Road, White House Station.

**What we plan on doing:** Clearing and blazing the loop trail past bridge #2

**Meet at:** The parking area on Coddington Road, just south of the railroad tracks, at the parking area between the tracks and the Minalex Corp Building, 25 Coddington Rd, Whitehouse Station.

**Tools that would be Helpful:** leaf rakes, hand saws, chain saw, clippers, loppers, thicker gloves, lawn mower(s), string trimmer, limb saws, tools for clearing less impeded paths.

**Saturday February 18, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM:** Session Leader: John Klotz  
Reply to [trails@readingtontwp-nj.org](mailto:trails@readingtontwp-nj.org) or leave message at (908) 782-6452.

**Where:** Cushetunk Mtn Trails, adjacent to Pickell Park, Whitehouse Station.

**What we plan on doing:** Remove brush piles remaining from 2022 tree planting project, check on the tree seedlings and straighten the protective tubes, cut back autumn olives and other invasives from the planting area, upgrade trail markers on the pathways, pick up fallen branches on the trails.

**Meet at:** Pickell Park, upper end of the parking lot, Mountain Rd, Whitehouse Sta.

**Tools that would be Helpful:** loppers, pruners, pruning saw, possibly a chainsaw, string trimmer.

**Saturday, February 25, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM:** Session Leader: Chris John  
Reply directly to Chris at [readingtontrailblazers@yahoo.com](mailto:readingtontrailblazers@yahoo.com).

**Where:** The Saums Farm Open Space Parcel

**What we plan on doing:** Cleaning up the existing path and completing the loop. We will be hiking to the creek, completing the clearing and blazing of the old field edge road to the state game land, making a turn into the cedar woods and completing the trail loop.

**Meet at:** Saums Farm Trail parking lot, directly across from 115 Rockafellow's Mill Rd, on the left if coming from the north. If you need directions, contact me.

**Tools that would be Helpful:** loppers, clippers, chain saw, thicker gloves, leaf rakes, string trimmer, small limb saws, tools for clearing paths.

**Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM:** Session Leader: John Klotz  
Reply to [trails@readingtontwp-nj.org](mailto:trails@readingtontwp-nj.org) or leave message at (908) 782-6452

**Where:** Bouman-Stickney Farmstead Trails.

**What we plan on doing:** Cut branches and brambles from the trail corridors, removing debris from the pathways, repairing and replacing trail blaze markers, and improving a wet crossings.

**Meet at:** Trailhead parking area at the intersection of Stanton Rd and Woods Church Rd, Flemington. (Not at the Museum parking lot.)

**Tools that would be Helpful:** pruner, lopper, pruning saw, chain saw, small sledge hammer, leaf rakes, hatchet or ax.

**Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM:**      **Session Leader: Chris John**  
**Reply directly to Chris at [readingtontrailblazers@yahoo.com](mailto:readingtontrailblazers@yahoo.com).**

**Where:** Rocky Road Trail/ Indian Purchase.

**What we plan on doing:** Create an alternative “downhill” path to the rocky road trail. We will be hiking to the bottom of the old road and clearing up to the junction with the white trail and completing any detail work on the lower red trail. The trail work starts about a mile from the parking area.

**Meet at:** The far side of Horseshoe Road, near the intersection with Dreahook Road. If you need directions, contact me.

**Tools that would be Helpful:** chain saw, sledge hammers, thicker gloves, leaf rakes, lawn mower, string trimmer, an ax, small limb saws, tools for clearing paths

**Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM:**      **Session Leader: Chris John**  
**Reply directly to Chris at [readingtontrailblazers@yahoo.com](mailto:readingtontrailblazers@yahoo.com).**

**Where:** Dobozynski Farm Park.

**What we plan on doing:** Clearing and repairing the tree nursery, removing cages from larger trees on the pond trail, trimming back or removing autumn olives along the trail, additional infrastructure maintenance.

**Meet at:** Dobozynski farm park main kiosk (straight down the driveway instead of left towards the house and barn), 44 Woods Church Road, Flemington.

**Tools that would be Helpful:** Heavy gloves, waterproof boots, shovels, wire cutters, clippers, loppers, hand saws, chainsaw (to cut back olive bases).

**NOTE:**

**Please pass this schedule to anyone you think might be interested in helping.**

Thanks!

Chris John, [readingtontrailblazers@yahoo.com](mailto:readingtontrailblazers@yahoo.com)

John Klotz, [trails@readingtontwp-nj.org](mailto:trails@readingtontwp-nj.org)

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board

## **SELF-DIRECTED VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Winter has been hard on the trail system. Before things start to grow there is a need for pre-spring cleaning and trail corridor repairs. These are tasks that can be the focus of a service project for just a couple of hours for the family, church or service group, scout organization, or an individual.

If a Saturday morning work group is not practical, doing a small project on your own time in February and March might instead be good fit for you.

**Contact John Klotz at [trails@readingontwp-nj.org](mailto:trails@readingontwp-nj.org) or leave a voice message at (908) 782-6452 and we can work out a mini-project that works for you and helps our neighbors enjoy our trails and natural areas.**

### **SOME IDEAS:**

Walk a Trail section and perform one or more of the following:

- Pick up tree-branch debris to facilitate walking and enable mowing.
- Trim back shrubbery protruding into the trail corridor with pruners or loppers.
- Carry trash out to the trailhead and call it in.
- Document (photograph) and report problems for attention:
  - Trees/large branches across the trail,
  - muddy spots,
  - broken infrastructure (bridges, benches, kiosks, etc),
  - ATV trespassing, etc.
  - Missing or confusing trail blazes

We need a fresh needs assessment showing the conditions for our trails.

Clear tall grasses and weeds out of the tree cages protecting the young trees planted around various trailhead parking areas.

Checking, clearing out and/or possibly repairing bluebird boxes along the trails and meadow edges.

More ideas are welcome. Please think and suggest!

***Thanks for your consideration!***