

# RANDOLPH TRAILS NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024



This has been a busy and exciting Spring on the Randolph Trails. An enthusiastic **Mommy and Me** group championed a new trail called the Randolph Fairy Trail. There was also an informative talk given by the Bear Group of the Animal Protection League of NJ. And finally, the Morris Utilities Authority partnered with the Trails Advisory Committee to help residents learn more about the watersheds in Randolph. These topics and more are presented here.



Strolling through the beautiful trails in Randolph will be even more magical this summer, thanks to a community-wide project organized by members of Randolph Mommy & Me to create the first ever Randolph Fairy Trail!

What is a fairy trail? Miniature houses are being constructed using natural materials that will be placed along a stretch of wooded trail where visitors of all ages can explore, enjoy nature, and experience magic.

With over 100 community members registered to build fairy houses, you can expect to see a wide variety of magical abodes nestled along the trail. Randolph residents, scout troops, businesses, and school groups have volunteered to follow strict guidelines to maintain a natural environment with the structures they create and

submit for approval. After the approval process in May, installation will begin, and the trail will open to the community on June 1st to honor National Trails Day.

This is a great opportunity to get out into nature and collect materials found in Randolph's natural environment and to design and build a house to be enjoyed by the wider community!

Currently, there are over 100 registrants. A general timeline and materials list can be found on the Fairy Trail Facebook page. Acceptable materials include things found in Randolph's natural environment (twigs, moss, etc.) and building materials such as untreated wood, nails, etc.

The trail begins at the Brundage Park Preserve on Carrell Road. ***The Festival and Grand Opening Ceremony is on June 1, National Trails Day, from 1-5 pm.*** For updates and announcements be sure to follow:

FB: Randolph Fairy Trail

IG: @randolphfairytrail



## Earth Day on the Trails

Earth Day is Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. The Trails Advisory Committee in partnership with the Environmental/Landmarks Development

Committee will host a joint Earth Day walk and talk. The talk will be given by the Executive Director of the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority and the walk will be led by the Chairman of the Trails Advisory Committee. The walk is a 2-mile loop that starts and ends at Brundage Park, leading to Freedom Park, and then heads to the highest point in Randolph. The focus will be on the streams, brooks and springs that are found in the trail system which all eventually flow into the Raritan, Lamington and Rockaway Rivers. All these rivers subsequently flow into the Passaic River.



***The Earth Day walk and talk will be held on April 20 starting at 11 am at the Brundage Park Pavilion***

## **Be Bear Smart – Learn the Facts**

Members of the Trails Advisory Committee have spoken with several Township Residents who are reluctant to go on the trails because of fear of bears (and coyotes). The Committee is working to create messaging about how you can enjoy the outdoors in Randolph with a lower risk of a negative experience. This includes recommended walks at Freedom and Brundage park and publishing tips on animal safety on the trails.

Our library hosted a **Bear Smart** information program. The keynote speaker was Angi Metler, the Executive Director of the Animal Protection League and Doreen Frega, Bear Education and

Special Projects Director. They discussed how to be Bear Smart and provided great information about how to enjoy the outdoors safely.

Topics that were covered included,

- . Bear Proofing Tips
- . What to do if you see a bear
- . Controlling garbage at home and on the trail

To learn about becoming Bear Smart, visit [www.bearsmartnj.org](http://www.bearsmartnj.org).



## **The Trails Advisory Committee**

The Trails Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public and are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the Community Center on Calais Road beginning at 7 pm. Contact the chair, Phil Sheehy ([philsheehy@hotmail.com](mailto:philsheehy@hotmail.com)) or the Recreation Department Director, Russ Newman ([rnewman@randolphnj.org](mailto:rnewman@randolphnj.org)) if you are either looking for an idea or have one that you would like to propose. ***Find us on Facebook @ Randolph Trails***

## **Upcoming Events**

Healthy Body Healthy Mind Expo – May 4 at the Community Center

Arts in the Park - May 18 at Veterans Community Park