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**Susan Gouveia**

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**From:** Lashway, Lisa  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 03, 2014 3:10 PM  
**To:** Canning, Sean; Susan Gouveia  
**Subject:** FW: Christie Administration Announces National Trails Day Across New Jersey This Weekend  
**Attachments:** National Trails Day.pdf  
  
**Categories:** Correspondence

Lisa Lashway  
Mt. Olive Twp. Clerk  
973-691-0900 Ext. 7291  
FAX 973-691-2080  
PO Box 450  
Budd Lake, NJ 07828

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**From:** Randazzo, Cindy [mailto:Cindy.Randazzo@dep.nj.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 03, 2014 3:03 PM  
**To:** Randazzo, Cindy  
**Cc:** Rogers, Joseph  
**Subject:** Christie Administration Announces National Trails Day Across New Jersey This Weekend

**CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES NATIONAL TRAILS DAY ACROSS NEW JERSEY THIS WEEKEND**  
*RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXPLORE THE NATURAL BEAUTY AND WONDERS OF RECREATIONAL TRAILS IN ALL 21 COUNTIES*

**(14/P57) TRENTON** — A series of recreational, educational and stewardship events are scheduled statewide on Saturday, June 7, and Sunday, June 8, as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> annual National Trails Day celebration to take place nationally and across New Jersey.

More than 20 official National Trails Day trail events are planned in North, Central and South Jersey. All residents are encouraged to get outside, even for just a short while, to explore any of the state's 1,500 miles of trails near their homes to help celebrate the event.

“The quality of life in New Jersey cities and towns is enhanced by our broad network of trails, which connect our communities to a vast array of green spaces,” said Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin. “This first Saturday in June is the time to lace up your hiking boots, launch your canoes and kayaks, grab your bikes or saddle your horses, and head out on one of those great trails in some of our magnificent state, county and local parks, and our wealth of natural areas in New Jersey.”

As part of the commitment to New Jersey's extensive trails network, the Christie Administration in April approved 39 applications totaling \$755,054 for recreational trails projects in 15 counties across New Jersey, plus a host of projects that cross many other county and municipal lines.

As an initiative of the American Hiking Society, National Trails Day was first celebrated in the U.S. in 1993 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the National Trails System Act. It is now an annual event designed to recognize and promote the many benefits of recreational trails.

"It's a day to get out on a trail and celebrate our connection to people, places and the outdoors," said State Park Director Mark Texel. "Whether you live in the city, suburb or in the country, there is probably a trail or pathway that has been created close to you. Walking, jogging, cycling, horseback riding, backpacking, skiing, canoeing, kayaking and nature observation are just some of the trail activities that bring us to the outdoors."

The intent of National Trails Day is to develop a public understanding of the importance of recreational trails and the efforts required to establish, preserve and maintain them. Trails provide health and fitness opportunities, outdoor classrooms for nature study, greenways for wildlife conservation, links with our historic past and economic boosts to regional tourism.

There are a variety of activities planned on Saturday for trail enthusiasts and novices throughout New Jersey, including:

- A one-hour narrated hike overlooking Henderson Cove in Lake Hopatcong (Sussex County)
- A two-hour plant walk with botanist Edith Wallace (Bergen County)
- Completion of a new hiking trail at Thompson Park (Middlesex County)
- A trail surveying project at Wharton State Forest (Burlington County)
- A two-mile "Save the Trail Awareness Walk" along the Barnegat Branch Trail (Ocean County)
- Trail stewardship projects at Croft Farm in Cherry Hill (Camden County)

In addition, volunteers are invited to help collect information about the State Park System's 1,000-plus miles of official trails by taking the Trails Tracker Survey. Information gathered in the survey will be used in future informative trail brochures that will accompany newly-designed trail maps. Those interested in obtaining a copy of the Trails Tracker Survey can email their request to [kiethabiggers@gmail.com](mailto:kiethabiggers@gmail.com). Surveys can also be picked up at the park office of participating state parks.

The following is a list of trail activities and events scheduled in celebration of National Trails Day, including several within State Parks and Forests. For additional information see the New Jersey Trails program website: [www.trails.nj.gov](http://www.trails.nj.gov).

## **NATIONAL TRAILS DAY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS IN NEW JERSEY**

### **NORTH JERSEY:**

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**Richard W. DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst.** Sunday, 6/8 – “Richard W. DeKorte Park Plant Walk.” 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Join a free two-hour plant walk with botanist Edith Wallace and Bergen County Audubon Society President Don Torino in search of plants that attract birds and butterflies, and which ones would work in your home gardens.

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### CENTRAL JERSEY

**Gateway National Recreation Area /Sandy Hook Unit, Highlands.** Sunday, 6/8 – “National Trails Day Hikes.” 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is a National Park Service and Stewardship/Trail Project program.

**Cheesequake State Park, Matawan.** Saturday, 6/7 – “Natural Trails Day Hike.” 10 a.m. start. Participate in trail maintenance hike along the Cheesequake trails. Hike starts at trail head parking lot. Park entrance fee per car.

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**Johnson Park, Piscataway.** Saturday, 6/7 – “16th Annual Towpath ‘Training Run.’” 6-11 a.m. A trail run on a National Scenic Trail in Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park organized by Raritan Valley Road Runners. Ranging from 1 to 34.5 miles. RSVP required.

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# NEWS

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

P. O. Box 402, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0402



[www.state.nj.us/dep](http://www.state.nj.us/dep)

Bob Martin, Commissioner

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2014

**Contact:** Lawrence Ragonese (609) 292-2994

Lawrence Hajna (609) 292-1795

Bob Considine (609) 292-1795

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