

Readington Runs – Running Routes

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Hunterdon County is that part of NJ we like to keep secret from all those outside the state who think that NJ is turnpikes, oil refineries, and the Sopranos. Hunterdon County and Readington Township in particular means rolling hills, meandering streams, horse farms, and lots of preserved green space. So we have no shortage of beautiful running routes to choose from throughout the year. Here are just some of the running routes worth exploring in Readington.

Stanton General Store – 10 miles

Start at the Stanton General Store and go north on Stanton Mountain Road. Turn right on Dreahook and take it all the way past the Stanton Ridge golf course until you get to route 523. Cross rte 523 and follow Dreahook/Readington Road until Holland Brook. Turn right on Holland Brook and then Cole Road to Pleasant Run (rte 629). Turn right on Pleasant Run/rte 629 and cross back over rte 523. Follow rte 629 back to Stanton General Store.

Dairy Run – 5.7 miles

Start your run on Old Highway 28 in Whitehouse. Turn right on Mill Road and go past the Readington Farms dairy and then the farm with the Black Angus cattle. Turn right on Cedar and take it up to Tree Top Road. Stay on Tree Top Road as it passes through Fiddler's Elbow Golf Club. Turn left on Meadow and then right on Lamington Road. Go up the rolling hills on Lamington, turning right at the top onto Old Highway 28.

Holland Brook School – 4.3 miles

Exit the school parking lot and cross over Readington Road, taking Roosevelt to Holland Brook. Turn right on Holland Brook; go over the small bridge where Holland Brook meets Cole, but bear right on Holland Brook. Take it all the way to Readington Road, where you make another right-hand turn and continue back to the school.

Mary's Water Stop Loop – 6 miles

Readington resident Mary Badiak sets up a water and hydration stop from Spring to Fall for runners, walkers, and cyclists. She even has a doggie bowl for 4-legged companions. The route is a rectangle encompassing Lazybrook, River Avenue, Rockafellows Mill, Barley Sheaf, and Locust.

Hillcrest Park #1 – 7.4 miles

One option is to exit the park, turn right on Hillcrest and take it all the way to Pleasant Run/rte 629. Turn right on Pleasant Run and follow it to Cole Road. Go right on Cole and take it to the end. Turn right on Holland Brook towards Roosevelt. Turn right again on Roosevelt and then left on Pine Bank. Take Pine Bank to the end – going up Strawberry Hill – and then left on Hillcrest back to the park.

Hillcrest Park #2 – 9.4 miles

A slightly longer option is to exit the park as above, but then take Sunset to Centerville Road. Turn right on Centerville and take it until it meets Old York Road. Turn right on Old York and then another right on Craig Road. Follow Craig to Pleasant Run Road, taking it to Cole Road, and then continue as per option #1.

Deer Path Park – 3.1 miles

The park is located on West Woodschurch between routes 523 and 31. Go past the YMCA complex and park down near the lake. There are port-a-johns available year-round. This park is the site of Fall races for both high school and USATF-NJ cross-country events. There is a standard 5 kilometer route that traverses the park.

Other popular running routes outside of Readington, but still in Hunterdon County, include: the Columbia Trail between High Bridge and Califon; the towpath along the Delaware River between Frenchtown and Lambertville; route 629 that circumnavigates the Round Valley Reservoir; and the Lansdown Trail between Fox Lumber in Clinton and Lansdowne Road in Franklin Township.

Upcoming races in March:

Mar. 3 – E Murray Todd Half-Marathon

Mar. 9 – NYRR Colon Cancer 4M, 15K

Mar. 9 – Newark Distance Classic 5K, 20K

Mar. 9 – Caesar Rodney Half-Marathon

Mar. 15 – Morristown St Paddy's Day 5K

Mar. 16 – Milburn Spring Run 10K

Mar. 29 – D&R Canal Watch 5K

Mar. 29 – National Marathon & Half-Marathon

Mar. 30 – St Paddy's 10-Miler

For further information on running in Readington and Hunterdon County, contact Bruce Marshall at BGMarshall@earthlink.net.