



## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

**PLEASE help make the Race Track Nature Preserve healthy and more pleasant for all residents – keep your dog on leash and pick up and properly dispose of pet waste!**

The Race Track Nature Preserve is not only an environmental treasure, it is also a historic site.

By **staying on the mowed path** and keeping your dog on a leash, you will minimize contact with ticks (but always check for ticks afterwards), and you will not risk hazardous encounter with a historical, but now collapsed French drain and other unexpected depressions. Efforts are made continually to cover any exposed drains found and grade the uneven terrain, but for everyone's safety, whether two- or four-legged, staying on the trail is essential.

**Keeping your dog on leash** protects it from injury. A leashed dog also protects the flora and fauna of the Nature Preserve. Planting and extensive seeding will soon begin, and dogs running across open areas will disturb young plants and new natural growth. The Race Track is also an important habitat for resident and migratory wildlife, including birds, salamanders, frogs, and foxes. Dogs splashing into pools of water would destroy frog and salamander eggs. Unleashed dogs are tempted to hunt and chase wildlife, threatening what we are working hard to preserve and promote.

Dogs on leash on the path are welcome at the Race Track Nature Preserve. If you wish to walk your dog off leash – there exists within the Park an extensive trail system where you may do so. A map of the trails where your dog can run free is available at the Village Office.

You should **pick up no matter where you walk your dog**. Pet waste is offensive to encounter. It attracts flies, and spreads bacteria, viruses and parasites. Pet waste left at the Race Track will permeate storm water and runoff into Augusta Brook, polluting the stream by depleting oxygen and possibly releasing ammonia. Pet waste also contains nutrients that promote algae and weeds.

Thank you for being good neighbors and environmental stewards.