

# Ten Mile Run

## Bluebirds



### Franklin Township Open Space

Open space, in the simplest terms, is the area that is not occupied by buildings. Open space surrounds, separates, and connects building clusters, villages, and neighborhoods. The arrangement and character of open space and its relationship to the built environment plays a major role in the definition of Franklin Township's character.

Franklin Township's open space is made up of a wide range of landscapes, ranging from forest stands and open farm land, to hedgerows, ponds, historic structures, open meadows, and even small yard areas or vacant lots in intensely developed parts of the Township. The contribution of open space to Franklin Township's character and identity is aesthetic, psychological and recreational.

Recognizing the importance of the conservation of notable open space resources, Franklin Township's voters in November 1998, approved a referendum that resulted in the passage of an Open Space tax that is now utilized by the Township to purchase and manage the open space parcels located throughout the Township.

[www.franklintwpnj.org](http://www.franklintwpnj.org)

### New Jersey Audubon Society

The New Jersey Audubon Society (NJAS) is a privately supported, not-for-profit, statewide membership organization founded in 1897 and is one of the oldest independent Audubon societies. NJAS has no connection with the National Audubon Society.

The New Jersey Audubon Society fosters environmental awareness and a conservation ethic; protects New Jersey's birds, animals, plants, especially endangered and threatened species, and promotes preservation of New Jersey's valuable natural habitats.

[www.njaudubon.org](http://www.njaudubon.org)



# Bluebirds

*Sialia sialis*

The Bluebirds typically found at Ten Mile Run Park are Eastern Bluebirds. They are found throughout the Eastern United States and live in open fields, farmlands, orchards, open woodland areas and among sparse trees on mountain slopes.

Eastern Bluebirds are 5 to 7 inches when fully grown. The males have a bright blue back, wings, and tail. The throat and under parts are a rusty orange and the belly is white.

Females are a paler blue and their back is tinged brown. Female Bluebirds have a rusty orange throat.

Eastern Bluebirds breed during the spring and summer. The female lays a single clutch each season of 3 to 5 eggs. Both the male and female begin to feed nestlings within the first hour of hatching.

Hatchling food consists of spiders, moth, and butterfly larvae, grasshoppers, and fruits. Adult Bluebirds eat beetles, crickets, caterpillars, grasshoppers, and other insects during the spring and summer. Their fall and winter diet consists of fruits and plants.

## Ten Mile Run Greenway Canal Road Franklin Twp, NJ

Over one-third of the Township's land base is currently preserved as either open space that is owned by the Township, open space or parkland that is owned by the State or County, or farmland preservation easements that permanently preserve certain farms from any further development.

Ten Mile Run covers 684 acres in Franklin Township. Approximately 100 acres is pasture and 60 acres are being actively preserved. The land once served as a horse farm and is now being preserved to attract endangered or threatened bird species such as the Northern Harrier or the smallest North American Falcon, and the American Kestrel which is a species of special concern in New Jersey.

Ten Mile Run is part of the Millstone Valley and stretches over three miles of Griggstown and Millstone. From the very northeast section of the park, one can see the Sourland and Watchung Mountains.

The preservation of this land was made possible through a partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Franklin Township, and the New Jersey Audubon Society.

### Ten Mile Run Hiking Trails and Landscape Features



**This close up of a Bluebird nest with one egg laid, shows the fine layer of hair placed in the nest cup, typical of the species. The egg appears round because of the angle the picture was taken. The eggs are usually more obround looking. No one is quite sure what purpose this hair serves.**