



PRESS RELEASE

News from Monmouth County's Open Space, Park and Recreation Agency

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MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM OPENS UNION TRANSPORTATION TRAIL

UPPER FREEHOLD – The Monmouth County Park System is proud to announce the opening of a new trail in Upper Freehold Township. The Union Transportation Trail was once the Pemberton and Hightstown Railroad, a short line right-of-way established in 1864 to provide dairies and farms access to larger railroads at junctions in Pemberton (Burlington County) and Hightstown (Mercer County). In 1888, the Union Transportation Company acquired the line which thrived until the New Jersey Turnpike was constructed in the 1950s, cutting the rail off from its Hightstown junction. Ceasing operation completely in the 1970s, the right-of-way was later acquired by Jersey Central Power & Light. In 1998, the Park System leased the right-of-way for 99 years, preserving it for possible reactivation as a rail corridor in the future.

The first 1.4 miles of the new Union Transportation Trail is the County's second rail trail and will be opened and dedicated during a public ceremony on Saturday, September 25 at 10:00am. This portion of the gravel trail includes a rehabilitated historic wood trestle bridge over Lahaway Creek which is one of the few physical remnants of the old railroad. Two parking lots and access points are

available at both Millstream Road and Jonathan Holmes Road. All are welcome to the ceremony, which will feature dedication speeches, a ribbon cutting, and light refreshments.

For more information about this and other Park System events, please visit

www.monmouthcountyparks.com or call (732) 842-4000. For persons with hearing impairment, the TTY/TDD number is 711. The Monmouth County Park System is celebrating its golden anniversary of keeping the county green and livable, since the Board of Chosen Freeholders created the first county park in 1960. Today, the Park System has grown to over 30 sites totaling more than 14,500 acres and offers approximately 4,000 recreation programs and activities, making it the perfect place to come outside and play.

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PHOTO CAPTION: The Monmouth County Park System’s new Union Transportation Trail in Upper Freehold will open on Saturday, September 25 at 10:00am with a dedication ceremony that welcomes the public.