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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOLUNTEERS PLANT TREES ALONG THE UNION TRANSPORTATION TRAIL

UPPER FREEHOLD – “It was a good day for the Monmouth County Park System,” said Project Manager Andy North of Saturday, November 6’s tree planting along the Union Transportation Trail in Upper Freehold. “Our volunteers continue to amaze me with their level of dedication and hard work. I can’t thank them enough.” During their latest project, 17 trail team members planted 60 trees, donated by Timbercreek Nurseries, along three sections of the trail.

The Union Transportation Trail’s tree planting is just the latest accomplishment for the trail team. The group is made up of volunteers who assist the Park System in maintaining over 120 miles throughout the county. Each month, the team holds one or two work sessions where they improve existing trails or build new ones. Team members are trained in safety, tools, equipment and practices before participating in these events. A training session is held in the spring and work continues through the fall. Countless trail users reap the benefit of the team’s hard work as the runners, walkers, bicyclists and equestrians who pass by the newly planted trees along the Union Transportation Trail can attest.

The recently opened Union Transportation Trail is a permanent easement along the now former Pemberton & Hightstown Railroad. Trail users will see a few physical reminders of the old line such as the historic wood trestle bridge. Future plans for the trail include expanding from 2 miles to 8.6 miles. It is the Park System’s second rails-to-trails project following the opening of the Henry Hudson Trail in 1992. For more information about the Union Transportation Trail or any Park System site, 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 15,000 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: Volunteers planted 60 trees along the newly constructed Union Transportation Trail in Upper Freehold.