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**50TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY HELD FOR THE
NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION AND THE
MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM**

UPPER FREEHOLD – Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold, was a fitting setting for celebrating the 50th anniversaries of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the Monmouth County Park System. During the Park System’s recent Walnford Day celebration, the two organizations, who worked together to successfully preserve the historic site, exchanged proclamations and words of praise.

Speakers included Lillian Burry, Director of the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders; Edward Loud, Chair of the Board of Recreation Commissioners; Dave Moore, Former Executive Director and current Board of Trustees member of the NJ Conservation Foundation; Alison Mitchell, Policy Director of the NJ Conservation Foundation; Adele Keller, Executive Director of the Monmouth Conservation Foundation; and Maria Wojciechowski, Executive Director of the Friends of the Monmouth County Park System. Also present were Edward and Joanne Mullen, the last private owners of the Walnford property, who were presented with a hard-cover copy of *The Monmouth County Park System: The First Fifty Years*.

In many ways, the Mullens were the unifying factor in the group. Through their generosity, and with the help of the NJ Conservation Foundation and the Monmouth Conservation Foundation, Walnford was preserved and became one of the Monmouth County Park System’s two historic sites. With a history dating back to 1734, Historic Walnford

showcases over 200 years of technological, social and environmental history of Monmouth County.

For more information about Historic Walnford and the Monmouth County Park System, visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com or call the Park System at (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: Board of Recreation Commissioners Chair Edward Loud presents Alison Mitchell, Policy Director of the NJ Conservation Foundation, a proclamation during the 50th Anniversary Ceremony for the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the Monmouth County Park System.