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PARK SYSTEM CELEBRATED EARTH DAY WITH DEDICATION

LINCROFT— As the steady stream of walkers, joggers and bicyclists already know, the two bridges completing the 4.4-mile loop trail at Thompson Park in Lincroft are a huge success. These long awaited bridges were formally opened and dedicated during a brief Earth Day ceremony on Saturday, April 21. Set against a picture perfect day, Park System staff and members of the County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Board of Recreation Commissioners saw first hand how popular the completed project is by the number of people enjoying the trail.

During the ceremony, Freeholder Lillian Burry praised the Park System and its role in the lives of county residents. “Each day, our residents tell us how important open space, the environment and parks are to them. Today we are dedicating these bridges for all county residents to enjoy.”

The completed paved trail in Thompson Park not only loops through the park but connects with a paved trail along Newman Springs Road. Freeholder Director John Curley noted the improved safety along Newman Springs Road, “We have connected two existing segments of a multi-use trail which accommodates pedestrians and bicyclists for over three miles. It begins at the

Lincroft School, Middletown, and extends through Brookdale Community College and Thompson Park and ends at the athletic fields on Cross Road in Holmdel.”

By providing safe passage along Newman Springs Road, the paved trail allows users to exercise, explore the park and connect with nature as they traverse the area. Already immensely popular, the Park System has received many emails and calls from residents expressing their appreciation for these beautiful bridges. Jim Berg of Colts Neck wrote his thanks for the improved safety and noted that “I have never met a person on the trail on foot or on bike that was not smiling.”

The paved trail at Thompson Park is just one of the many trails found within the Park System. From an easy walk to a challenging hike and everything in between, the Park System offers over 129 miles of trails that wind through scenic woodlands, hills and open space. To learn more about Park System trails, visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com or call (732) 842-4000. The TTY/TDD number for persons with hearing impairment is 711. The Monmouth County Park System, created in 1960 by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, is Monmouth County’s Open Space, Parks and Recreation agency.



PICTURED – Andy North and Robin Ostrowski with their son Ian ride along the paved trail in Thompson Park, Lincroft.