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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, April 2, 2012

**MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM PLANS  
EARTH DAY WEEKEND**

HOWELL— Too big for just one day, the Monmouth County Park System's plans for Earth Day have turned into a weekend-long celebration! The fun starts on Saturday, April 21 when the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Georgia Tavern Road, Howell, hosts an *Earth Day Celebration*. From 11am-5pm, the center will offer crafts, boat taxis, exhibitors and themed nature walks around the park. Staff from the Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge will be presenting three half-hour programs with live animals throughout the afternoon. Admission and parking are free. Some activities require a small fee.

The festivities spread through the county on Sunday, April 22, with small events planned at various county parks. Here's what is planned:

**Celebrate the Shore**

**Sunday, April 22 at 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm**

**Bayshore Waterfront Park Activity Center, Port Monmouth**

Discover cool coastal animals like whales, dolphins, crabs and even tiny plankton during this interactive show-and-tell program. Tours will also be given of the historic Seabrook-Wilson House, which dates back to the early 1700s.

**Spring Plant Walks**

**Sunday, April 22 at 12noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm**

**Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown**

The flowers are back in bloom. Discover the park's floral beauty, hidden places and native plants. Find out how to become an earth-friendly gardener and ways to compost.

### **Eco-Fashion Fun!**

**Sunday, April 22 from 11am-5pm**

**Holmdel Park Shelter Building, Holmdel**

Look fabulous this spring by creating eco-friendly fashion jewelry and accessories from organic or recycled materials.

### **Snakes & Reptiles**

**Sunday, April 22 at 11:30am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 3:30pm & 4:30pm**

**Huber Woods Environmental Center, Middletown**

This family-oriented show features snakes and reptiles found in New Jersey. There will also be freshwater pond creatures on view and a chance to identify animal scat.

### **Boat Tours**

**Sunday, April 22 at 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm**

**Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell**

Enjoy a tour of the Manasquan Reservoir and learn about its history, use as a water source and wildlife habitat.

### **Nature Walks**

**Thompson Park Visitor Center, Lincroft**

**Sunday, April 22 at 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm**

Returning birds, emergent buds and blooming wildflowers are just some of the sights to enjoy while wandering with the Park System's Roving Naturalist. Binoculars provided.

For more information about any of these events, please visit

[www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com) or call (732) 842-4000. For persons with hearing impairment, the TTY/TDD number 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.

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PICTURED – Boat tours of the Manasquan Reservoir, Howell, will be offered on Saturday & Sunday, April 21 & 22 as part of the Monmouth County Park System’s *Earth Day Weekend*.