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**MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM ACQUIRES ANOTHER
PARCEL FOR FRENEAU WOODS PARK**

ABERDEEN — The Monmouth County Park System is pleased to announce the addition of 91 acres to Freneau Woods Park in Aberdeen Township. The acquisition is the latest milestone in the formation of a regional park that will provide recreational opportunities for county residents for years to come. Comprised primarily of woodlands at the headwaters of Lake Lefferts along the County’s northwest border, the parcel protects critical wildlife habitats and bolsters water quality in the region. Eventually the park will offer trails and other recreational amenities while leaving most of the park undeveloped for visitors to enjoy passive recreational activities.

“This acquisition is critical to meeting the County’s open space goal and providing recreational opportunities for our residents,” said Freeholder Lillian G. Burry, liaison to the Park System. “The Freneau Woods project is truly a collaborative effort with support from Senator Joe Kyrillos, Aberdeen Township officials, the Monmouth Conservation Foundation and the New York/New Jersey Baykeeper. Partnerships and community support continue to make Monmouth County a leader in open space preservation.”

Although the property had been approved for residential development over the years, it has remained undeveloped. In 2011, the Park System began actively working on acquiring it with the assistance of several non-profit groups and other government agencies. The county funded the purchase through its Open Space Trust Fund with assistance from the Monmouth

Conservation Foundation. Including the \$200,000 from the Monmouth Conservation Foundation, the property was purchased for \$10.6 million.

The Park System's acquisition of the property is just the latest chapter in its rich history. It was once part of a larger property owned by the family of writer Philip Morin Freneau. Often referred to as the Poet of the American Revolution, Freneau is known for both his political works and nature-themed pieces. Named after this patriot, the park will preserve the lands that may have inspired the works of this important literary figure.

For more information about the Monmouth County Park System, please visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com or call 732-842-4000, ext. 4312. For persons with hearing impairment, the Park System 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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