



CONTACT: Karen Livingstone or  
Communications  
732-842-4000 ext. 4256  
[klivings@monmouthcountyparks.com](mailto:klivings@monmouthcountyparks.com)

Andrew Spears  
Visitor Services  
732-842-4000 ext. 4247  
[aspears@monmouthcountyparks.com](mailto:aspears@monmouthcountyparks.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FRIENDS OF THE PARKS HOST UNVEILING OF MURAL AT  
THE MANASQUAN RESERVOIR ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER**



*The newest addition to the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell.*

HOWELL — The Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center just got a little nicer thanks to the Friends of the Parks and the talent of artist Ken Stetz. See for yourself when the Friends of the Parks host an unveiling of a new mural depicting the site's wildlife. Held from 2-4pm on Saturday, October 26 at the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Georgia Tavern Road, Howell, the event is free. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet the artist, explore the site, and enjoy light refreshments.

Dedicated to the education of wetlands ecology, wildlife, and habitat protection, the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center delights visitors of all ages with its interactive exhibits, hands-on activities, and events. The new mural is located in the pavilion filled with children's books, puppets and puzzles. Over the years, the Friends of the Parks, a non-profit group dedicated to supporting Park System sites, programs, and facilities, have made numerous contributions to exhibits at the Thompson Park Visitor Center, Longstreet Farm, Bayshore Waterfront Park's Seabrook-Wilson House, the Manasquan Reservoir Visitor Center, and the Environmental Centers at Huber Woods Park and the Manasquan Reservoir. This bright and colorful mural is just their latest gift to the Park System.

The project started when the Park System wanted to freshen up the pavilion and the Friends of the Parks hired local artist Ken Stetz. A Neptune Township resident, Ken Stetz has been an artist/illustrator for *Highlights* children's magazine and currently teaches at *Colorest* in Red Bank. His experience made him the perfect choice to create a family-friendly scene that reflects nature found around the Manasquan Reservoir. Working closely with Park System naturalists, Ken Stetz captured the essence of the site. A close look at the work reveals deer, fox, eagles and other animals found near water. Visitors are welcomed to view the work at their leisure. The Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center is open daily from 10am to 4:30pm. Admission and parking are free.

For more information about the Environmental Center or the Park System, please visit [www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com) or call the Park System at 732-842-4000, ext. 4312. For more information about the Friends of the Parks, please visit [www.friendsofmonmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.friendsofmonmouthcountyparks.com) or call 732-975-9735.

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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