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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HAVE A BLAST THIS WINTER WITH THE MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM

LINCROFT— Sometimes winter is a blast, most of the time it's just blah. Luckily, the Monmouth County Park System can help you take it all in stride. With things to do both inside and out, the Park System can make this season a breeze. Here are a few things to do to make winter more enjoyable:

Sign up for a Park System class or trip! Whether you're looking to express yourself creatively in an art class, get moving with an exercise class or explore a new place, the Park System has something to fit your interest. The winter issue of the Directory is now available. Pick up a copy or visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com to see all Park System offerings.

Looking to do your own thing? Then head outside. Just because it's cold doesn't mean you have to stay in. Layer your clothes, don your hat and gloves and enjoy the fresh air. There are plenty of things to do – bird watch, visit a playground, hike, in-line skate or bike. Kids love bundling up for a winter's nature hike. Create a list for a scavenger hunt to hold their interest. Youngsters may enjoy bringing a magnifying glass along and taking a closer look at pine cones and stones.

On days when it's simply too cold or wet to be in the great outdoors, connect with nature in the comfort of the Huber Woods Environmental Center in Locust or the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center in Howell. At the Huber Woods Environmental Center visitors can discover how local Native Americans lived through hands-on activities, check out the Junior Naturalist station and come face-to-face with some of the creatures of Huber Woods. Adjacent to the Environmental Center, the Reptile House is home to a variety of reptiles native to Monmouth County.

The Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Georgia Tavern Road, Howell is all about water, wetlands, and their habitants. There's plenty for little (and big) hands to do with interactive exhibits. Visitors can enjoy free nature-themed programs most weekends. These

drop-in activities range from crafts to short walks. Sometimes movies are shown on the big screen in the auditorium.

While at the Manasquan Reservoir in Howell, check out the Visitor Center on Windeler Road. With its cozy fireplace and spectacular views, this is a great spot to warm up after a hike or a visit to the playground. On chilly days, it's a popular place to bring lunch or a snack and enjoy an "indoor" picnic.

If or when it snows, be sure head over to the sledding hill in Holmdel Park, Holmdel or go cross-country skiing, ice skating or ice fishing in a county park. No matter the weather, there's plenty to do. To learn more about the Monmouth County Park System visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com or call (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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PICTURED – Ceramics at the Thompson Park Creative Arts Center in Lincroft is just one of the many classes offered throughout the year.