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Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association
31 Titus Mill Road
Pennington NJ 08534
(609) 737-3735

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Gwen McNamara, Communications Manager
P: (609) 737-3735 x16, E: gmcnamara@thewatershed.org

Watershed Association Opens Latest Section of Lawrence Hopewell Trail *New Bicycle & Pedestrian Path Enhances Connection for Hopewell Residents*

June 5, 2009 (Hopewell, NJ) – The **Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association**, central New Jersey’s first environmental group, will be celebrating the grand opening of the latest section of the Lawrence Hopewell Trail on Saturday June 13. Watershed Association leaders, local and state officials, and representatives from the Lawrence Hopewell Trail will dedicate the trail section, which runs through the Watershed Association’s 860-acre Watershed Reserve, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. at the corner of Wargo and Titus Mill Roads.

Made possible with a generous grant from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, the Watershed Association’s .8-mile stretch of trail will link cyclists, walkers, hikers and joggers to the Princeton Farms residential neighborhood from the existing Lawrence Hopewell Trail on Bristol-Myers Squibb’s Hopewell Township campus.

“Encouraging the use of bicycles and other ‘footpower’ instead of polluting fossil-fuel automobiles is part of our passion to protect our environment,” said **Jim Waltman**, Watershed Association Executive Director. “For 60 years, the Watershed Association has been protecting clean water and the environment through conservation, advocacy, science and education, encouraging responsible living so that we – and generations to come – can enjoy better health and the beautiful landscapes of the Hopewell Valley.”

When complete in 2012, the entire Lawrence Hopewell Trail will offer users a continuous 20-mile multipurpose trail loop connecting the people and places of Lawrence and Hopewell Townships.

“As partners, the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association and Lawrence Hopewell Trail are proud to invest in a community-wide amenity that contributes to environmentally friendly transportation and improved recreational opportunities for everyone,” said **Becky Taylor**, co-president of the Lawrence Hopewell Trail.

Designed to minimize its impact on the surrounding environment, the Watershed Association’s section of the Lawrence Hopewell Trail is constructed with a special kind of asphalt that is designed to allow rainwater to percolate through it into the soil rather than typical impervious paving materials, which can cause environmental problems as a result of storm water runoff.

The new trail segment traverses a portion of Wargo Road next to the Honey Brook Organic Farm, a tenant of the Watershed Association and one of the oldest operating organic farms in New Jersey, as well as one of the largest community supported organic farms in the country. As part of its mission, the Watershed Association promotes responsible land management as a critical component of water protection.

“What we do with the land has a direct affect on the quality of our water,” said Mr. Waltman. “Honey Brook Organic Farm has been a tenant of the Watershed Association since 1991 and demonstrates that organic farming is good for the land and the water.”

In addition to its new section of the Lawrence Hopewell Trail, the Watershed Association boasts more than 10 miles of walking trails on its 860-acre Watershed Reserve.

Parking for the June 13 event will be available at the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association's headquarters, 31 Titus Mill Road, from which attendees will have a five-minute walk to the actual ceremony site. The attached map shows parking and the walking path where guiding signs will be located. Please note that severe, inclement weather will cancel the day's event.

About the Watershed Association

The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, a not-for-profit organization, protects the 265-square-mile region drained by the Stony Brook and Millstone River – an area spanning 26 towns and five counties. Founded in 1949, the Watershed Association is central New Jersey's first environmental group protecting clean water and the environment through conservation, advocacy, science and education.

Interviews with Executive Director Jim Waltman are available upon request. Contact Gwen McNamara, Communications Manager, at (609) 737-3735 x16 or gmcnamara@thewatershed.org.