

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Public Lands Day Event, Metuchen, N.J.

DATE: Sunday, October 1, 2017, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.* Rain or Shine.

THE EVENT: **Rally to extend the Middlesex Greenway to the Dismal Swamp.**

LOCATION: "Trailhead Park," western end of Middlesex Greenway at Middlesex Avenue, Metuchen, N.J.

THE ACTIVITIES: Guided walks on the Middlesex Greenway. Tables for community fitness and outdoors groups interested in the Greenway. Food trucks and live music.

OPEN TO: Members of the public and interested fitness and outdoors groups. Children and families welcome!

SPECIAL INVITEES: United States Congressman Frank Pallone will attend, and United States Senator Cory Booker has been invited.

ORGANIZERS: The Middlesex Greenway Coalition is the official sponsor. Participants will include the Metuchen Environmental Commission and the National Park Service.

PARKING: We highly encourage you to bike or use public transit, as parking is limited. Limited parking at Trailhead Park; more along Memorial Parkway at Memorial Park and at western end of Amboy Avenue at Lake Avenue, near TD Bank.

QUESTIONS? Contact Bob Takash or Walt Stochel of Middlesex Greenway Coalition, info@edisongreenways.org, (732) 985-7071.

BACKGROUND: National Public Lands Day is an annual event, celebrated across the country for over two decades. It is the largest single-day volunteer event for public lands in the U.S.A. Other events are being held nationwide on public lands large and small, from national parks and forests, wildlife refuges, historic sites, state parks, and local and regional parks and gardens. Public lands make up 30% of the land area of the United States.

The Middlesex Greenway is the newest Middlesex County Park. It was created on the right-of-way of the former Easton and Amboy railroad, which once crossed New Jersey from Easton, PA to Perth Amboy, NJ. The Greenway runs 3.6 miles through the Townships of Woodbridge and Edison and the Borough of Metuchen, from Crows Mill Road at its eastern end to Middlesex Avenue at its western end. The land was purchased and the Greenway was built by Middlesex County, N.J., after twenty years of advocacy by the Middlesex Greenway Coalition and other interested residents. Unused portions of the rail line could be acquired to extend the Middlesex Greenway east to Raritan Bay at Perth Amboy and west to the large freshwater wetlands of the Dismal Swamp. This event intends to show public support for this extension.

* National Public Lands Day is on Saturday, September 30, 2017. Since that day is Yom Kippur this year, we have scheduled our event the next day when more of our community can attend.