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## NJMC Releases First in Series of Meadowlands Trails Guides

**LYNDHURST, N.J.** – The NJMC today released a guide to the Mill Creek Canoe Trail in Secaucus, the first in a series of hand-held and online maps to recreational opportunities throughout the Meadowlands District.

“We are proud of this opportunity to promote self-exploration and environmental education along the Hackensack River,” said Acting NJMC Chairman Joseph V. Doria, also Acting Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. “The NJMC’s efforts at the Mill Creek Marsh, from leading eco-cruises in the summer to continuing wetlands enhancement activities with volunteers, have been tireless and we will continue to raise awareness of this unique urban wetlands site.”

The guide details major points of interest for canoeists and kayakers exploring the 1.5-mile Mill Creek Canoe Trail, including islands of replanted native vegetation, viewing locations of green-winged teal and other winter waterfowl, summer nesting sites for rare black-crowned night heron; tide gates, shopping malls, the New Jersey Turnpike and other vestiges of human presence. The canoe trail winds past these and other sites within the 202-acre Mill Creek Marsh, a preserved wetlands habitat between Mill Creek Point Park and the Mill Creek Marsh walking trail.

GPS coordinates are provided for each point in the guide. In early 2008, the NJMC will launch an interactive online companion using Google Maps, allowing prospective eco-tourists from anywhere in the world to access photos, satellite imagery, and information on the trail at [www.njmeadowlands.gov](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov).

“Expanding upon the Geographic Information System technology we provide to the Meadowlands municipalities, the NJMC is also putting the region’s environmental and historical infrastructure on the map,” said NJMC Executive Director Robert Ceberio. “These places, like the Penn’s Landing in Philadelphia or Washington’s Retreat Route across North Jersey, have a story to tell. As the region grows as a tourism destination, we are glad to help tell that story.”

Future sites to be mapped include the Sawmill Creek Canoe Trail, DeKorte Park, and the Secaucus Wetlands Enhancement Site. The guide series augments the release of the NJMC's "Birding and Wildlife Trails: Meadowlands and More" last summer. To date, the NJMC has distributed nearly 40,000 English and Spanish copies of the free color guide to locations as far away as Singapore and Tel Aviv. To request copies of the Mill Creek Canoe Trail Guide, or other eco-tourism materials, contact the NJMC at (201) 460-4640.

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