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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Borough of Dunellen Installs First Bandalong Bandit Litter Trap in the State of New Jersey Through Grant Funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Part of Revolutionary Pilot Program

Dunellen, NJ - May 23, 2024 - On Sunday, May 19, 2024, the Borough of Dunellen held an official ceremony to celebrate the installation of the Bandalong Bandit Litter Trap in the Green Brook at the end of Jefferson Avenue, Green Brook, NJ. The Bandalong Bandit Litter Trap, which is the first of its kind in the State of New Jersey, catches any debris and waste that flows through that section of the brook, reducing pollution and increasing cleanup efforts.

“The installation of the Bandalong Bandit Litter Trap is a testament to the Borough of Dunellen’s collective dedication and hard work to cleaning up our environment and we are grateful for the opportunity to lead the way for future organizations through this pilot program,” said Dunellen Mayor Jason F. Cilento.

The pilot program for the Bandalong Bandit Litter Trap was made possible through a grant from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that fully funded the project, in addition to our partners including the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership, and Borough of Dunellen Business Administrator Alex Miller, who saw the project through from start to finish.

“The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is thrilled to see this project be implemented because it will improve aquatic habitat by way of an innovative method, with this being the first in-stream litter trap in the State of New Jersey. Removing floatable trash will benefit fish and wildlife through plastic and microplastic pollution reduction in the Green Brook and all the way out to Raritan Bay and the Atlantic Ocean,” said Fish & Wildlife Biologist Jillian Stark of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Litter Trap Ceremony began with remarks from Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership Board President and de facto Executive Director Heather Fenyk, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Biologist Jillian Stark, Dunellen Mayor Jason F. Cilento, and Green Brook Mayor Jim Van Arsdale and a ribbon cutting before concluding with live demonstration of the litter trap by the Dunellen Department of Public Works who installed the trap with Storm Water Systems. The trap will be maintained by the Borough of Dunellen Department of Public Works with the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership charting all debris cleanup data.

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