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**Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Exploring Water’s
Environmental and Cultural Impact Coming to Lake Hopatcong**

LANDING, N.J. (June 18, 2019) – From above, Earth appears as a water planet with more than 71 percent of its surface covered with this vital resource for life. Water impacts climate, agriculture, transportation, industry and more. It inspires art and music. The Lake Hopatcong Foundation, in cooperation with New Jersey Council for the Humanities, will examine water as an environmental necessity and an important cultural element as it hosts “Water/Ways,” a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street (MoMS) program. “Water/Ways” will be on view at the Lake Hopatcong Foundation Environmental and Cultural Center, 125 Landing Road, Landing, N.J. from July 1 through August 10.

The exhibit will be free and open to the public. Viewing hours will be 10 am - 4 pm Monday through Friday, 11 am - 3 pm Saturday, and evening hours Thursday and Friday 4 - 8 pm. The exhibit will be closed on July 4.

“Water/Ways” explores the endless motion of the water cycle, water’s effect on landscape, settlement and migration, and its impact on culture and spirituality. It looks at how political and economic planning have long been affected by access to water and control of water resources. Human creativity and resourcefulness provide new ways of protecting water resources and renewing respect for the natural environment.

“Water is an important part of everyone’s life, and we are excited to explore what it means culturally, socially and spiritually in our own community,” said Lake Hopatcong Foundation Grant and Program Director Donna Macalle-Holly. “We want to convene

conversations about water and have developed a free public program to compliment the Smithsonian exhibition.” On July 13, the Lake Hopatcong Foundation will host the Wild & Scenic Film Festival at the Palace Theatre in Netcong. The Festival is a collection of films which speak to the environmental concerns and celebrations of our planet. For more information visit lakehopatcongfoundation.org.

“Hosting this exhibit and film festival is a perfect confluence of our mission areas of protecting the lake environment and enhancing the lake experience, as it brings together the Lake Hopatcong community to learn about the importance of protecting this and other watersheds,” said Lake Hopatcong Foundation President Jessica K. Murphy. “We are thrilled to be the first host site in New Jersey, and excited for another opportunity to bring people into our newly rehabilitated building, which is meant to serve the community in a variety of ways.”

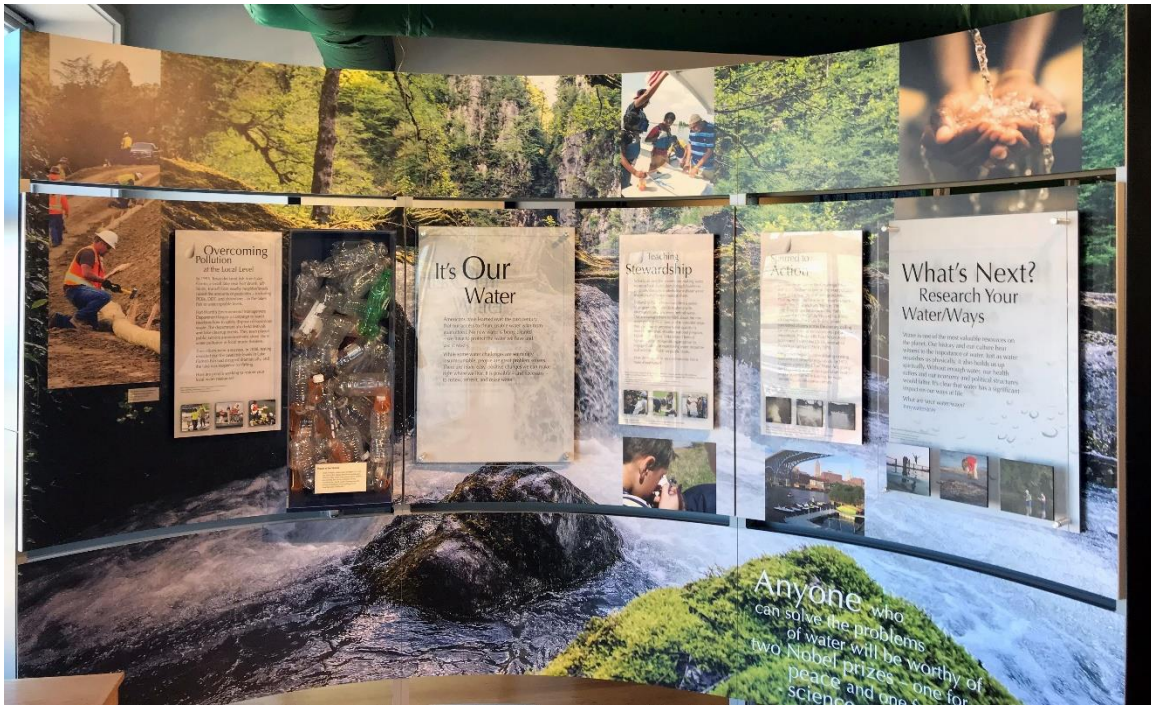
“Water/Ways” is part of the Smithsonian’s Think Water Initiative to raise awareness of water as a critical resource for life through exhibitions, educational resources and public programs. The public can participate in the conversation on social media at #ThinkWater.

“Water/Ways” was inspired by an exhibition organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), and the Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul (www.smm.org), in collaboration with Great Lakes Science Center, Cleveland; The Field Museum, Chicago; Instituto Sangari, Sao Paulo, Brazil; National Museum of Australia, Canberra; Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada; San Diego Natural History Museum; and Science Centre Singapore with PUB Singapore.

The exhibition is part of Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation, and local host institutions. To learn more about “Water/Ways” and other Museum on Main Street exhibitions, visit www.museumonmainstreet.org.

Support for MoMS has been provided by the U.S. Congress. The exhibit is sponsored by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

The Lake Hopatcong Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to protecting the lake environment and enhancing the lake experience by bringing together public and private resources to encourage a culture of sustainability and stewardship on and around New Jersey’s largest lake, for this and future generations. To learn more, visit lakehopatcongfoundation.org.



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