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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DELHI TOWNSHIP – Nearly 1,200 visitors attended the POTW Water Quality Awareness Open House on May 10. And some of those visitors took part in a fish story unlike any other – the completion of “Gill,” a sculpture of a giant blue gill.

With the help of Holt Community Arts Council volunteers, participants attached several hundred recyclable laundry bottles to a fish-shaped metal frame designed by Joe Keeley of the Public Services Department.

“Gill draws attention to recycling, water quality, and other environmental issues,” said Sandra Diorka, Director of Public Services. “He was a good fit with the purpose of the Open House itself which is to educate in a fun way.” She expressed appreciation for the public’s support for the Open House as well as the contributions from her staff, the township board, and the community members who helped make the day a success. One hundred volunteers helped staff the event.

The completed multi-colored Gill sculpture stands a little over 15-feet in height, and it is approximately 25-feet long. It was constructed near the township water treatment plant on the concrete pad that is usually the site of the township’s recycling center.

“It was great to see so many children and their families taking part in the creation of a temporary artwork,” said Kara Hope, Interim President of the Holt Community Arts Council. “We hope to involve the public in more creative endeavors in the future.”

Gill will live on – at least temporarily – as a mobile mascot of sorts for the Holt Community Arts Council.

“The colored plastic jugs will fade, but for the time being, he is a great way to draw attention to what the arts council is doing,” Hope said. When Gill is no longer attractive as a mascot, the bottles used to construct it will be recycled. In the meantime, look for Gill at future arts council events like this summer’s “Music in the Garden” concert series.

For more information about the Holt Community Arts Council and its upcoming projects, visit [www.holtarts.org](http://www.holtarts.org).