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***Mayor Fulop, County, State and Federal Officials to Celebrate with Community the Completion of Berry Lane Park in Ward F Saturday with Ribbon Cutting and Family Day Festival***

*Former 17.5-acre Brownfield is Now Jersey City's Largest Municipal Park as Fulop Administration Continues To Invest in Previously Underserved Communities; Ribbon Cutting Event Will Highlight Park's Amenities*

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** and the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency (JCRA), along with county, state and federal officials, will join with community members at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 25th, 2016, to mark the highly-anticipated grand opening of **Berry Lane Park**, the city's first new municipal park in decades. Berry Lane is a nearly \$40 million, 17.5 acre park in the heart of Bergen-Lafayette, where a longstanding brownfield was turned to public park.

The day's festivities will include an official ribbon cutting ceremony and an afternoon of activities for all ages from 11am to 3pm. The event is open to the public and will include guest speakers and a tree planting ceremony followed by music, children's activities, local food vendors and free rotating sports clinics and demonstrations hosted by the Department of Recreation. Demonstrations will include lacrosse, soccer, basketball and more starting at noon, and guests will be able to register on the spot for upcoming activities organized by the Department of Recreation.

"Berry Lane Park is one of the most exciting projects anywhere in the City, with the incredible potential to transform a community that has been ignored for too long. In the heart of Bergen-Lafayette, in Ward F, we've turned an abandoned former industrial site into what is now the biggest, most impressive park in the entire City," said **Mayor Fulop**. "At cost of \$40 million, and with the help of county, state, federal, and private-sector partners, this has really been a collective effort to bring significant resources to a neighborhood that needs it."

Berry Lane Park is located between Garfield Avenue and Woodward Street in the Morris Canal neighborhood of Bergen-Lafayette and includes several large active recreation areas that include two basketball courts, two tennis courts, a baseball field, a soccer field, splash pad waterpark, playground, and a skate park. Other features include rain garden, bike paths, over 600 new trees, and two historic plazas incorporating elements of the original industrial architecture. Area residents and local officials worked together with the project's contracted architects and planners to design the park's many amenities and features. The project has resulted in a 9 percent increase in the amount of useable open space in Jersey City.

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The initiative to create new open space began in 2007 on what was formerly vacant, abandoned, and underutilized industrial properties when the JCRA acquired 11 brownfield property sites from PPG Industries. Acquisition of the land spanned nearly 5 years and required extensive negotiation to remedy the chromium contamination and its cleanup.

Environmental remediation and early construction on Berry Lane Park began in 2012. Grading, demolition, and drainage, sidewalk and lighting installation were completed in 2013 and 2014. In October of 2014, the City of Jersey City was awarded a \$5 million grant from the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) that allowed for Berry Lane Park's final phase to be completed ahead of schedule.

Like many other sites throughout Hudson County and Jersey City in particular, the Berry Lane Park site had chromium ore processing residue. The chromium ore processing residue was remediated under the supervision of the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency's Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) from the Dresdner Robin environmental consulting firm and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

The LSRP has certified to the NJDEP and the City that the remediation of the chromium ore processing residue soils has been accomplished in compliance with all applicable federal and state environmental laws, regulations, and guidance documents adopted to ensure protection of public health, safety, and the environment. The most stringent NJDEP established remedial standards, those applicable to residential, childcare, and school facility uses, were followed and met for the Berry Lane Park remediation.

The Berry Lane Park project cost approximately \$38 million, of which the City itself paid roughly 15 percent. Private funding, including payments from PPG Industries, federal funding and grants from the State and Hudson County accounted for the project's funding. Funding was obtained from the following sources: EPA Brownfields Grant, Community Development Block Grant, Green Acres, Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Grants, Open Space Fun, Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund and PPG Industries.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, the Family Day Festival will include face-painting, bounce house, craft station and giveaways. Guests can enjoy popcorn, snow cones, and treats from Milk Sugar Love and the Light Rail Café and a variety of food trucks. The park's several water features will be on for children to enjoy.

#### **SCHEDULE OF SPORTS DEMONSTRATIONS:**

11:45am - 12:30pm: Rugby with Coach Terry Matthews, Hudson Catholic High School and JC PAL Programs | Turf Field

11:45am - 12:30pm: Lacrosse with Coach Eric Fleming and Staff, JC Lacrosse Program | Turf Field

12:30pm - 1pm: Lacrosse scrimmage game with JC Lacrosse Teams | Turf Field

11:45am - 12:45pm: Basketball clinic with Hall of Fame Coach Bob Hurley, St. Anthony's High School | Court #1

11:45am - 12:45pm: Tennis by Carl Holtzberg and Staff | Court #1

11:45am - 1pm: Softball Clinic Coach Wilber Amaya Roberto Clemente Program | Grass Ballfield

11:45am - 1pm: Football Fitness Clinic conducted by JC Jets Youth Tackle Football Coaches

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12:00pm - 1pm: Boot Camp by Helen Clarke | Exercise Equipment Stations

12:45pm - 1:45pm: Soccer conducted by Coaches Dan Ali, Edgar Bautista and Karim Mazarou USA-Global Soccer

12:30pm - 1:30pm: Girls Basketball Clinic with Coach/Athletic Director Alice De Fazio and NJCU Staff | Court # 2

1pm - 2pm: Kickball Activity with Matt Fox, Zag Sports | Grass Field

Please note that clinic times and locations are subject to change.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at [jenniferm@jcnj.org](mailto:jenniferm@jcnj.org) or 201-376-0699. ///**