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New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign Provides Free Tree Seedlings to Residents in Jersey City to Replace Trees Destroyed During Hurricane Sandy; Jersey City Parks Coalition Assisting With Distribution

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop announced today that the **New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign** will make tree seedlings free and available to **Jersey City** residents during the month of April to help communities replace trees that were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. The **Jersey City Parks Coalition** will **distribute 400 tree seedlings** from **10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** on **Saturday, April 12, 2014** in the following parks and green spaces:

Columbia Park, at 145 Old Bergen Road
Arlington Park, at 752 Grand Street
Harsimus Cemetery, at 435 Newark Avenue
Van Vorst Park, at 257 Montgomery Street
Leonard Gordon Park, at John F. Kennedy Blvd. and Manhattan Avenue
Bayside Park, at Garfield Avenue and Bayside Terrace
Living Community Garden, at 612-616 Communipaw Ave.
Lafayette Community Learning Garden, at 314 Pacific Ave.

“As Jersey City continues to rebuild from Hurricane Sandy, we are pleased to work with the Jersey City Parks Coalition and the New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign to help plant new trees throughout the City,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “This valuable program is free of charge for Jersey City residents and is a great service to the community.”

Seedlings are only 2 feet to 7 feet tall and are not yet ready to be used as street trees. Some varieties such as the Sycamore are more appropriate for a backyard or park. The seedlings will come with planting instructions, variety, eventual height, and care information.

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Residents may receive one to five seedlings, which are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Residents should plant the seedlings within two days after pick-up in order to prevent the roots from drying out.

When properly planted and maintained, trees can be an asset to the community and improve the quality of life. They enhance the aesthetic of a neighborhood or business district, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants, and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

The goal of the Tree Recovery Campaign is to distribute more than 500,000 tree seedlings to New Jersey residents over the course of the next five years. The campaign is a joint effort between municipalities, such as Jersey City, the New Jersey State Forestry Services Community Forestry Program, the State Forest Nursery, the New Jersey Soil Conservation Districts, Sustainable Jersey, and the Arbor Day Foundation. The Arbor Day Foundation, as well as FedEx, and BJ's Wholesale Club have provided financial support for the program.

For more information, please contact Alisha Powers at (201) 547-5296 or apowers@jcnj.org.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.////