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Mayor Fulop & JCRA Announce \$5 Million EDA Grant for Completion of Berry Lane Park in Ward F; Grant is Maximum Award Amount & Will Result in Quicker Completion of Park

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop and the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency announced today that the **New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA)** has awarded **\$5 million** to the completion of Berry Lane Park, the 17-acre park under construction in Bergen-Lafayette. The award is the maximum amount an applicant can receive and will mean a quicker completion for the park, which when complete will be the City’s largest municipal park.

“We sought this critical funding to expedite the Berry Lane Park project to provide active and passive recreation for residents of Ward F and the entire city,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “Berry Lane will be the largest municipal park in the City and is one of our most exciting projects. We are pleased the EDA recognized the importance of this brownfield to greenfield initiative and are looking forward to when the park is in full use bustling with activity.”

As a result of the influx of funding, the first 14 acres of the park will be completed in one mobilization rather than multiple phases, resulting in the park’s completion by the end of 2015, much sooner than anticipated. The \$5 million will be used toward the ball fields, courts, tree planting, landscaping, paths and other amenities. The City is also utilizing **\$1.3 million of Green Acres** funding to acquire the final parcels of lands to complete Berry Lane Park in Bergen-Lafayette.

Berry Lane Park is an ambitious project will ultimately transform more than 17 acres of property – including former rail yards, junkyards, auto repair shops, industrial facilities, and warehouses – into a recreational amenity in the heart of the Bergen-Lafayette community. When complete, the project will result in a nine percent increase in the amount of recreational open space in Jersey City.

In the spring of 2013, the first phase, consisting of environmental remediation, grading, demolition, and drainage installation was completed. New sidewalks along Woodward street were completed in the winter of 2013 and conduit and footings for new lighting was installed in this summer. Ultimately, the park will include two basketball courts, two tennis courts, a baseball field, a soccer field, dog run, spray park, roller skating, skatepark, adult fitness course and a playground. These active recreation components will provide opportunities to this neighborhood where more than 60 percent of residents are children under 18 years of age.

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Additional passive recreation areas – including a total of nearly 700 new trees, sitting areas, and a rain garden – will also be included in the park. The park’s design also incorporates historical features of the former Morris Canal, including the first portion of the Morris Canal Greenway to be built in Jersey City.

In addition to **Berry Lane Park**, which will be a newly created park in the heart of Ward F, twelve parks have been slated for renovations with the administration committing \$6 million toward the effort.

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