

CITY OF JERSEY CITY



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Mayor Healy To Hold Public Meeting On 32 Acre Waterfront Park at Former PJP Site Residents of Marion & West Side Encouraged to Attend May 17th Meeting Regarding Future Park Development

JERSEY CITY –Mayor **Jerramiah T. Healy** invites residents to attend a public meeting on plans for a new park at the former PJP landfill at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 17th, 2012, at the cafeteria in The Ethical Community Charter School, 95 Broadway.

Remediation of the site was recently completed by Waste Management, and the City solicited more than \$6 million in grant funding to purchase the land for use as a park. The administration hopes that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will remove the site from its National Priorities List this fall after final inspections are complete.

“As residents know, over the last four years, we’ve been hard at work turning part of the infamous PJP landfill into what will become a beautiful, waterside park,” said **Mayor Healy**. “The cleanup of this former landfill is now complete and we want to hear from residents as we finalize the park plans.”

The City has already begun work on restoration of the park, laying the groundwork for new wetlands and tidal marshes which will be landscaped with native grasses and wildflowers. Jersey City has also recently partnered with the Hackensack Riverkeeper to apply for \$1.5 million in Greenacres grants, part of which will go toward constructing 1,300 feet of a section of the Hackensack River Walkway, which will connect to the public walkway being built by the owner of the adjoining site.

“Our effort to turn this Superfund site and former junkyard into a park has not been easy,” added **Mayor Healy**. “Just a few years ago, the site was littered with more than 1,000 rusting trucks and truck parts. The City threatened litigation to change previously approved remediation plans that would have called for no future use of the area. That alone would have locked this waterfront site behind a barbed wire fence, allowing for no future use. It would have been a tremendous loss to the residents of both Marion and West Side. Now it will be a source of enjoyment for residents for generations to come.”

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Beginning in the 1960s, the PJP landfill became a dump for construction debris and waste. Remediation began in the spring of 2010. The City acquired the property for the park for \$12.4 million, which was paid over three years, enabling the City to obtain most of the acquisition funds from grants.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///