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***Mayor Fulop Announces \$25,000 Grant from the Tony Hawk Foundation for Skatepark in Berry Lane Park as Fulop Administration Develops Berry Lane into Jersey City’s Most Dynamic Recreational Facility***

***Foundation of Legendary Skateboarder Selects Jersey City as Top Grant Recipient from Nearly 100 Applicants Nationwide; Second Major Grant for Recreational Features at Park this Month***

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** announced today that Jersey City was selected from nearly 100 applicants as **the top 2015 grant recipient** by the **Tony Hawk Foundation** for a **\$25,000 grant** to install a state-of-the-art skatepark in **Berry Lane Park** as the Fulop Administration continues to develop Berry Lane Park into Jersey City’s most dynamic recreational facility.

The foundation was created by legendary skateboarder Tony Hawk as a way to giveback to communities, promote the sport of skateboarding and expand opportunities for youth.

“We couldn’t be more excited about this grant, which will allow us to build a state-of-the-art skatepark at Berry Lane,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “Our local skateboarders were instrumental in the design process and this will be one of the best skate parks in the country. We can’t wait to invite Tony Hawk here to personally thank him.”

The skatepark, which will be approximately 12,000 square feet, will incorporate a combination of street and transition features, including a large, below grade concrete bowl. It will be the first poured in place concrete skatepark in Hudson County, and one of a small number in New Jersey. It was designed by SITE Design Group, Inc. of Carlsbad, CA, an internationally known designer of skateparks.

“The local skaters worked hard to get a park approved, attending Council meetings and lobbying their cause for the last eight years,” said **Tony Hawk**, who announced the award today on his Instagram account with 1.5 million followers.

Today’s announcement follows the announcement earlier this month that Jersey City was selected for a **\$173,500 grant** from **the Baseball Tomorrow Fund** to install field lighting and a scoreboard at the park’s baseball field. In January, the Fulop administration announced plans to fast-track completion of Berry Lane Park with construction to be finished by the end of this year. The skatepark is scheduled to be completed when the park opens.

**Some of the skatepark features include:** A layback bank, hipped quarter pipes, a roller, an A-Frame ledge combo, a split level A-Frame w/gap, a three-star rail, a bump to ledge, a kicker gap, a flat rail over gap, a clam shell, a quarter pipe extension, a pump bump and a backyard bowl.

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Applying for a grant from the Tony Hawk Foundation is a detailed process with many requirements, including that the park be free and open to the public. Other determining factors include the design of the skatepark which is reviewed by the THF Board of Director's to ensure that the design is functional, safe, and shares a fair balance of riding terrain for all age groups and skill levels. With the minimum THF grant starting at \$5,000 going all the way up to \$25,000, many municipalities are applying in hopes of any kind of funding support.

“From the ashes of a demolished DIY skatepark, skateboarders engaged with City leaders to develop a sustainable long-term solution to the community’s skateboarding needs,” said **Peter Whitley, Programs Director of the Tony Hawk Foundation**. “More importantly, the skateboarders have been relentless in raising community awareness and gathering support for this incredible facility. This skatepark will be a regional landmark and we’re stoked that we are in a position to help see it finished.”

### **About Berry Lane Park:**

Berry Lane Park is an ambitious project that will ultimately transform a 17-acre brownfield of former rail yards, junkyards and industrial facilities into a **dynamic recreational facility** in the heart of the city as part of Mayor Fulop’s commitment to invest in and enhance the quality of life of previously overlooked neighborhoods.

The park will include two basketball courts, two tennis courts, a baseball field, a soccer field, a dog run, a spray park, a skatepark, an 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. When complete, the project will result in a **nine percent increase in the amount of recreational open space** in Jersey City.

### **About the Tony Hawk Foundation:**

A charitable, non-profit organization, the Tony Hawk Foundation was established in 2002 by its namesake, professional skateboarder Tony Hawk. THF promotes and provides technical assistance and funds for high-quality public skateparks in low-income areas throughout the United States that promote healthy, active lifestyles, and to International programs that enrich the lives of youth through skateboarding.

Domestically, the Foundation’s Skatepark Grant program has awarded over \$5.2-million to 560 communities in all 50 states. The Foundation focuses on working with local officials and grassroots, community-based organizations that plan to hire designers and contractors with strong experience designing and building skateparks.

The Foundation’s International Program has provided technical support and awarded \$100,000 to assist youth through the Skateistan educational programs in Afghanistan, Cambodia, and South Africa ([www.skateistan.org](http://www.skateistan.org)).

The Tony Hawk Foundation was established by a gift from Tony Hawk. Its directors raise additional funds through events, industry donations, and continuing contributions from Tony and other entities. For more information or to make a donation, visit the Foundation’s Web site at [www.tonyhawkfoundation.org](http://www.tonyhawkfoundation.org). You can also visit THF on facebook and Instagram @tonyhawkfoundation, and on Twitter @THF.

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

**Rendering of Berry Lane Skate Park:**

