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***Mayor Fulop Joins with Members of the Community to Mark the Reopening of the Historic Riverview Gazebo at Riverview-Fisk Park; \$1 Million Construction Replaces Gazebo Destroyed During Hurricane Sandy***

***The Heights Landmark Devasted during Hurricane Sandy Completely Rebuilt Utilizing Community Input from the Riverview Neighborhood Association and the Jersey City Parks Coalition***

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** today joined with members of the **Riverview Neighborhood Association** and the **Jersey City Parks Coalition** to mark the grand reopening of the historic Riverview-Fisk Park Gazebo in the Jersey City Heights neighborhood. The gazebo needed to be replaced after the roof was destroyed during Hurricane Sandy.

The Riverview Neighborhood Association and Jersey City Parks Coalition worked with neighborhood residents to meet community needs, while also following historic preservation guidelines. The now reinforced concrete gazebo has masonry veneer walls, a composite roof, and also includes ornamental railings, lighting, electrical and plumbing.

“By investing in parks citywide we’re investing in our residents, improving their quality of life, and giving families safe recreational and community space,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “This gazebo not only represents a piece of Jersey City’s history, dating back to the early 1900s, but it’s also an important part of this community today. I am proud to say that we were able to work with the community to complete this important project.”

As part of the Fulop Administration’s aggressive implementation of the Parks Master Plan, to compliment the modernized gazebo, the surrounding area also received upgrades with new curbing and sidewalks, the instillation of a new water service line from the existing meter pit including a water meter, backflow preventer, ground hydrants, and associated plumbing. Decorative enhancements include iron fencing, gates, trees, and low maintenance landscaping that also helps with water retention.

“The gazebo reconstruction is the culmination of a series of community visioning sessions sponsored by City of Jersey City and the Riverview Neighborhood Association,” said **Laura Skolar, President of the Jersey City Parks Coalition**. “The community evaluated and provided input on the overall design of the gazebo; deciding on a variety of elements including the design of the structure as well as the materials for the brickwork, gabled roof, and railings, chosen to echo a historic feel to this new structure.”

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“Weighing public opinions resulted in the decision to keep the height of the platform consistent with the original structure thereby maximizing the magnificent NYC view that the park is known for,” added **Skolar**.

Perhaps one of the most innovative aspects of this project is the incorporation of a bioswale composed of almost 5,000 native plants, making it a first of its kind in a Jersey City park. The bioswale is designed to be sustainable once the plants have become established. These plants will help to manage erosion and absorb storm water runoff on the slope. Hopefully, this and the many sustainable features of the gazebo itself will serve as a model for future park structures and renovations.

The Fulop administration has invested more than \$6 million in renovations to 13 parks across all wards of the city, including several in the Heights. The administration also completed the city’s first municipal park in decades – and its largest – the flagship 17.5 acre Berry Lane Park in Bergen Lafayette. This spring, the mayor also announced plans to build a new 5-acre public greenway in Country Village on Sullivan Drive.

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