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Fulop Administration, Community Members Cut the Ribbon to Open New Pershing Field Playground for Memorial Day Weekend

Nearly \$900,000 Renovations Include New Play Equipment and Water Features; Continues Mayor Fulop's Long-Standing Commitment to Open Space and Public Park Expansion

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** today joined with members of the City Council, the Jersey City Parks Coalition, and Heights community members to cut the ribbon and open the new **Pershing Field Playground** in time for Memorial Day Weekend. The playground had been closed while undergoing extensive renovations including new play equipment and water features.

“Preserving and expanding open space has been a central focus of my administration since the very beginning,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “We’ve invested more in parks than any administration in the city’s history, and that’s had a positive impact on property values and quality of life for all residents all citywide. We knew how important it was to renovate the playground in Pershing Field and thank the Parks Coalition and the community members for their involvement in getting us here today.”

Pershing Field Playground has undergone \$884,915 in renovations, including the installation of new playground equipment, new benches and other park furnishing, a new water spray feature, as well as landscaping, fencing, lighting and pavers. The renovations took less than a year to complete, beginning in late September 2015. The work done at Pershing Field Playground was in collaboration with input from the community members and the Jersey City Parks Coalition.

“How exciting to kick off the Memorial Day weekend and the start of summer with the grand opening of the long awaited new playground in Pershing Field. Modern, well maintained park facilities are crucial for the health and well being of families in Jersey City,” said **Laura Skolar, President of Pershing Field Garden Friends**. “While families in other more affluent communities retreat to the shore or other vacation destinations many of those in our inner city do not have that luxury. In many cases the local neighborhood park is their only option for summer fun and recreation. That’s why this renovation and others like it throughout the City are so important and vital to a thriving community.”

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Since taking office, the Fulop administration has made investing in parks a priority, with more than \$6 million allocated to renovations at 13 parks across all wards of the city. This is one of nearly a half dozen parks where renovations have been completed in the last six months. Just this week, Jersey City was ranked 36th of the 100 most populous cities for parks and open space by the national non-profit,

Berry Lane, which will be the city's largest municipal park at 17.5 acres, will open in June in the heart of Bergen-Lafayette.

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