

For Immediate Release

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Cooper's Poynt Waterfront Park Opens June 5, 2017 With Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Former Prison Site

***Congressman Donald Norcross, Camden Mayor Dana Redd,
Camden City Council President Frank Moran Spoke at the Event***

Camden, NJ – Cooper's Poynt Waterfront Park, formerly the site of Riverfront State Prison, opened June 5 with a ribbon cutting ceremony on the Delaware River in Camden, just north of the Ben Franklin Bridge. The five-acre park includes an ADA accessible playground, grassy areas for play, landscaping, lighting and views of the Ben Franklin Bridge and Philadelphia. The park also includes a half-mile multi-purpose trail for biking, walking and running on the [Circuit Trails](#), Greater Philadelphia's Regional Trail network and one of America's largest trails networks that currently includes more than 320 miles of completed trails.

The project is the result of a collaboration between the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, the City of Camden, Save Our Waterfront (SOW) and Cooper's Ferry Partnership (CFP).

"The completion of Cooper's Poynt Waterfront Park represents the culmination of years of perseverance, cooperation, collaboration, tenacity and vision that a group of residents and stakeholders had for this site and for the City of Camden," said Camden Mayor Dana L. Redd.

The project was first envisioned in 2008 when plans were made by the state to close the prison. Save Our Waterfront, a North Camden community advocacy coalition, and many of its local partners initiated a process to update the neighborhood's original 1993 North Camden Plan. With support from the Wells Fargo Regional Foundation, William Penn Foundation, the NJ Department of Community Affairs, the Fund for New Jersey and the Camden Economic Recovery Board, and with technical assistance from Cooper's Ferry Partnership, SOW initiated a new planning effort that included community public meetings, focus groups, survey and interviews to build a vision for the neighborhood.

"This park takes advantage of Camden's natural assets to create an incredible recreational destination and spur economic development in the neighborhood," said Camden City Council President Frank Moran.

The park will set the stage for future development of the balance of the site under the direction of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

"We've been talking about Camden's growth for decades. Now, all of that talk is becoming a reality. It's amazing to see the transformation before my eyes and it's an honor to be a part of it," said Congressman Norcross. "I thank everyone involved in this project and all of the Camden advocates who are consistently working together to make our city more beautiful, safer and a better place to call home. I look forward to seeing my children and grandchildren visit this park for years to come."

Several important neighborhood revitalization projects have been completed in North Camden since the unveiling of the North Camden Neighborhood and Waterfront Park Plan and removal of the Riverfront State Prison, North Camden's largest physical and psychological obstacle to redevelopment. Step by step, the priorities of the neighborhood plan are being implemented, with the collaboration of Save Our Waterfront and local, county, state and federal levels.

Cooper's Poynt Waterfront Park is a flagship project for the future build-out of the North Camden waterfront and revitalization of the core neighborhood. The park's design was managed by the City of Camden and CFP, in consultation with Save Our Waterfront and neighborhood residents, funded by a grant from the NJEDA's Economic Recovery Board for Camden. The NJEDA managed the construction of the park. The New Jersey Tree Foundation put the finishing touches on the park with a community tree planting a few weeks ago in honor on longtime North Camden resident Jean Kehner.

About Cooper's Ferry Partnership:

Cooper's Ferry Partnership (CFP) is a nonprofit economic development organization that is dedicated to planning and implementing high-quality urban redevelopment projects to help revitalize the City of Camden. CFP partners with public, private, and local leaders to strengthen Camden's connections to its parks and waterways; leverage public investment into infrastructure and real estate; and cultivate well-programed civic spaces that will encourage people to live, work, invest, and play in the City of Camden.

