



GREAT PLACES IN NEW JERSEY

Launched in 2012, Great Places in New Jersey recognizes unique and exemplary downtowns, streets, neighborhoods and public spaces – four essential components of exceptional communities. These places thrive as testaments to forward-thinking planning that promotes community involvement, showcases unique natural features and diverse architectural styles, fosters economic opportunity and a vision for tomorrow. This year, APA-NJ is pleased to announce the addition of 3 downtowns and 3 public spaces as 2016 designees.

Great Public Spaces



Roosevelt Plaza Park, Camden County

Roosevelt Plaza Park is the symbol of a new downtown City of Camden. It's central location, in the heart of the City of Camden, at a crossroads for thousands of residents, students, employees and visitors, is a critical connection point. It links the City's growing, and thriving, downtown education and medical district. It is located between two of the most heavily trafficked streets in the downtown, Market St. and Federal St., and is adjacent to the City Hall PATCO station, along the high speed train line between Southern New Jersey and Philadelphia, and the Walter Rand Transportation Center, the central hub for bus transportation in Camden. At the doorstep of the beautiful Camden City Hall, the most well-known building in the city, Roosevelt Plaza Park functions as the premiere civic space in Camden.

The park has provided much needed space for community events such as fall festivals, community movie nights, and holiday tree lighting ceremonies. In September, the park will play host to the first ever Camden Jam: The Camden Arts and Music Festival, an event that is part of the growing movement to bring arts and culture back to the city. Roosevelt Plaza Park is unique because it is a mixing ground for residents, workers, and students in the City of Camden. The park's tables and benches offer a shaded place for a conversation or a meal, and the wide open grass spaces allow children to play sports or fly kites, an opportunity not commonly available in high density downtowns. Even more, two recent "pop-up" parks in Roosevelt Plaza Park have brought new life to the park, and made the place truly deserving of the title "Great Place in New Jersey."