



40th ANNIVERSARY
CAMDEN COMMUNITY
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PRESS RELEASE

**MAYOR CARSTARPHEN CELEBRATES THE REOPENING OF ELIJAH PERRY PARK
IN THE CENTERVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD OF CAMDEN**

***The City Will Also Receive More Than \$450,000 In NJDEP Green Acres Funding For Phase II Of
The Project***

CAMDEN, NJ – Camden Mayor Victor Carstarphen took part in a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate reopening of the newly renovated Elijah Perry Park in the Centerville Neighborhood of the City. The Mayor was joined by City Council President Angel Fuentes, US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 2 Senior Advisor for Equity Olivia Glenn, Camden County Commissioner Jeffrey Nash, Camden Redevelopment Agency Commissioner and Councilman Chris Collins, Coaches Courtland Smith and Orlando Pettigrew of the Camden Youth Athletic Association, and members of the community to mark this joyous occasion.

“The remediation of Elijah Perry Park is another step in the right direction for environmental justice in Camden,” said Camden Mayor Victor G. Carstarphen. “I commend the Biden-Harris Administration, Congressman Donald Norcross, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for their efforts to ensure urban areas like Camden receives this critical funding. Camden boast the best parks in this region, and I remain committed to investing in our neighborhoods while improving the quality of life for our children, seniors, and families.”

Phase I of the Elijah Perry Park renovations, which features a host of new and improved amenities such as a baseball field, basketball court, mini soccer pitch, playground, walking path, and raingarden was made possible through \$2.3 million in grant funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the City of Camden, the Camden Redevelopment Agency, and the Housing Authority of the City of Camden. In addition, nearly \$3 million dollars in grant funding was utilized for the environmental remediation of the site. Two additional basketball courts were rehabilitated thanks to the generosity of the 2K Foundation and the DJ Wagner Foundation.

“The EPA Brownfields program helps communities across America turn blight into might,” said Olivia C. Glenn, Senior Advisor for Equity and Chief of Staff, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2. “Elijah Perry Park’s renovation demonstrates the good we can achieve when communities, stakeholders, and all levels of government work together. EPA is pleased to celebrate this local endeavor to improve this green space and promote equitable environmental health.”

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“It’s not enough for us to create places for children to play, but these spaces also need to be maintained and updated as the years roll on and there is no doubt in my mind that Elijah Perry Park is the perfect example of that reengineering to create a 21st century park that is not only a place for children to play, but a gathering place for the community,” Camden County Commissioner Jeffrey Nash said. “This park will be a special place in the middle of Centerville and generations of children will get years of enjoyment out of the new amenities we’ve installed here.”

The Mayor also received welcomed news when the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s Green Acres Program announced that the City was awarded \$484,750 in grant funding for Phase II of the renovation project, which will consist of a new concession stand and shade trees.

“This is real, tangible, and transformational change taking place directly within our neighborhoods,” said Camden City Council President Angel Fuentes. “The city and its partners have transformed Elijah Perry Park, a formerly contaminated site, into a beautiful open space for all to enjoy. The City’s parks are once again becoming the centers of our community and safe gather spaces for residents of all ages.

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