



THE  
Trenton  
Historic  
Development  
Collaborative



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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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**Isles, Inc. and the City of Trenton Celebrate Park Improvements: June 20<sup>th</sup> 3-6pm**

**Trenton, NJ** – On June 20, 2017 from 3-6pm, Isles will host a summer kick-off in Edgewood Avenue Playground (located at 530 Edgewood Avenue) to celebrate recent park improvements made there and in two other City parks. Mayor Eric Jackson will join the celebration at 4 pm to address the crowd officially open the newly restored space for the summer. Isles' T-Recs mobile recreation service will be on hand to add to the fun. Isles will also provide healthy snacks for attendees.

Three Trenton parks, Edgewood Avenue Playground, Wilkinson Place Playground, and Roberto Clemente Park have recently undergone improvements made possible under a cooperative agreement between Isles, Inc. and the City of Trenton with grant funding provided by New Jersey Manufacturers through the New Jersey Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit (NRTC) program, which is administered by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. NRTC currently funds comprehensive neighborhood plan implementation in East Trenton, Old Trenton (OTN), and the Trenton Historic Development Collaborative (THDC) neighborhoods. Edgewood Avenue Park and Wilkinson Place Playground are in the THDC neighborhood, while Roberto Clemente Park is in OTN.

Park improvements included basketball court repairs and striping, new fencing, sidewalk repair, and new site furnishings. The upgrades were completed by local contractor Rusling Paving and Isles employees under the Clean & Green service. Clean & Green, funded through NRTC, was created as a result of resident-led planning and is responsible for cleaning up, maintaining, and beautifying parks and vacant lots in several Trenton neighborhoods. Clean & Green supports City efforts to address illegal dumping and littering, in addition to the maintenance of parks, trails, open space, streetscapes, and vacant lots. Crew members work in conjunction with Isles Garden Support Network staff, and alongside resident volunteers.

T-Recs is Isles' mobile recreation service, which brings play equipment to the community, activating vacant lots and underutilized open spaces in the OTN and THDC neighborhoods while providing much needed recreational opportunities to residents where and when residents want them.

Isles is pleased to celebrate the enhancement of these important community assets, while also showcasing its work to maintain, beautify, and activate the public realm, making it safer and more attractive for residents and visitors alike. Isles seeks to positively change the perception and experience of place in Trenton neighborhoods.

**About THDC:**

The Trenton Historic Development Collaborative (THDC) is a coalition of stakeholders convened by Shiloh Community Development Corporation in 2006. The collaborative includes more than 40 neighborhood organizations, business, and residents who are committed to working together to revitalize their community. Other ongoing work in the THDC neighborhood includes the rehabilitation of multiple vacant buildings along with targeted demolition; improvements to the Carver Center, a historic hub of Trenton’s African American community; Shiloh CDC’s new family life center on Bellevue Avenue; the T-Recs mobile recreation services; targeted revitalization of commercial nodes and properties; and a range of services designed to meet resident and stakeholder priorities.

**About Isles:**

Founded in 1981, Isles, Inc. is a community development and environmental organization in Trenton, New Jersey. With a mission to foster self-reliant families and healthy, sustainable communities, Isles designs and develops effective services that support this mission and share what they learn with others who can make a difference. Beyond its central New Jersey base, Isles works to influence policy and practices that support healthy, self-help agendas. For more information, visit [www.isles.org](http://www.isles.org).

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