



Media Alert

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Roberto Clemente Park Grand Re-Opening

When: Wednesday, August 21st at 11 a.m.

Where: Roberto Clemente Park. Roberto Clemente Park is located at the Perry Street exit of Route One, across the street from the Trenton Fire Department headquarters. Parking is available at the end of the block on Academy St.

What: Once a turning basin for the Delaware and Raritan canal in the 1800s, the Perry Street Playground was re-named the Roberto Clemente Park after the untimely passing of the star Pittsburgh Pirate.

The highly visible park fell into disrepair in the 1980's. In 1988, Isles created a Children's Garden on the Perry Street corner of the Roberto Clemente Park. Designed to offer hands-on growing opportunities to kids in the community and beyond, the Children's Garden thrived. In 2004, Isles Youthbuild students and trainers began to restore the vacant historic homes along the adjoining 300 block of Academy Street. The new residents brought more eyes on the park, enabling Isles to envision a major park renovation.

In 2005, the NJ DEP Green Acres Program provided a grant, and the City of Trenton, Princeton Garden Club and Wyeth Corporation partnered with Isles to move and expand the Children's Garden to the Academy Street side of the Park.

A second NJ Green Acres grant was awarded in 2008, along with funds from the NJ Department of Community Affairs' Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit program and other private sources, to support this last, and final re-development phase. Because of environmental hazards and other administrative delays, the phase spans five years – a testament to the perseverance of many.

The park is designed to provide both passive and active recreation for neighborhood residents--- a place to play, learn and simply enjoy the greenery while sitting on one of the park's many benches. Unusual park features include environmentally sensitive materials on the basketball court, new plantings and a green lawn to cool the area and combat the



Self-Reliant Communities

heat island effect. In the Children's Garden, there are new gazebos, butterfly benches, a bamboo maize, vegetable gardens, and much more.

The park project is part of a larger revitalization project that has included numerous home renovations, energy efficiency improvements, community gardens and other community projects. Another 26 unit housing redevelopment project is planned to break ground this fall.

Attendees will have the chance to see the renovation of Roberto Clemente Park and hear more about the other Old Trenton Neighborhood (OTN) projects.

Reporters and photographers are encouraged to attend this event.

Partners: Isles' Roberto Clemente Phase 1 and Phase 2 partners include: NJ Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program, NJ Department of Community Affairs Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit Program, City of Trenton, Wyeth Corporation, JPMorgan Chase, PSE&G, PNC Bank, Bank of America, and Princeton Garden Club.

About Isles, Inc.: Isles is a community development and environmental organization founded in 1981 to foster more self-reliant families in healthy, sustainable communities. Each year, Isles' staff and volunteers reach thousands of central New Jersey residents through asset-creating, self-help efforts that restore the environment. Learn more at www.isles.org or follow us at www.facebook.com/islesinc and www.twitter.com/islesinc.

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