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NJTJF TreeKeepers Workshop in Jersey City

April 5, 2016 – Jersey City, New Jersey – On Saturday May 7th the NJ Tree Foundation, in partnership with the Jersey City Parks Coalition and Sustainable Jersey City, will collaborate to host a one-day tree care workshop in the auditorium of William Dickinson High School. The Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority has funded the program and the Jersey City Department of Public Works has donated five trees, two of which will be planted on Dickinson High School Campus, with the other three to be offered up in a drawing to workshop participants.

All residents of Jersey City are welcome at the event that will be held at the William Dickinson High School Auditorium, 2 Palisade Ave., Jersey City. Registration begins at 9:30am and the workshop will begin promptly at 10:00am, running until 3:00pm. Lunch will be provided. Registration is limited to 75 people. Reserve your seat early by emailing Lisa Simms, NJ Tree Foundation Executive Director, at lsimms@njtreefoundation.org with the subject line “Jersey City TreeKeepers.”

“The NJ Tree Foundation plants trees in urban communities throughout the state, mostly in Camden and Newark. We have recently started planting trees in Jersey City. Residents help to plant the trees and then commit to caring for them long-term. This workshop will teach attendees all they need to know about basic tree care so that the trees have the best chance to survive,” explains Lisa Simms, Executive Director of the NJ Tree Foundation.

As the NJ Tree Foundation, Jersey City Parks Coalition, and Sustainable Jersey City work to plant more trees in Jersey City, concrete may be removed to make space for the trees. This allows stormwater to filter naturally through the ground rather than contribute to overflow of the storm drains. Trees provide a number of other environmental benefits that workshop attendees will learn about.

Jersey City MUA Executive Director, Dan Becht acknowledged that the training program was very worthwhile, “We are pleased to provide the funding for this program as it is aimed at reducing stormwater impacts and improving overall environmental conditions in Jersey City. Such programs would be in furtherance of the Jersey City MUA’s mission to minimize detrimental runoff, thereby reducing treatment costs and limiting the need for enhanced infrastructure to accommodate larger volumes of stormwater.”

Attendees will learn about basic tree biology and tree identification; tree planting, pruning, and maintenance techniques; recognizing tree hazards and tree disease; and understanding the environmental impacts of trees. Free tree care tools and educational materials will be provided to attendees.

Laura Skolar, President of JCPC acknowledges the overwhelming need for the NJ Tree Foundation and their TreeKeepers workshops here in Jersey City. “We are at the cusp of a progressive urban forestry

movement. The community has shown unwavering support for more trees, a proactive maintenance plan, and the usage of innovative mapping technology to analyze the current landscape and determine new opportunities for future improvements”, said Skolar.

In sharing her excitement about the TreeKeepers Workshop, Deb Italiano, Founder & Chair of Sustainable JC gears up, “SJC is Jersey City’s Community Green Team and we’re thrilled to welcome this NJ Tree Foundation program to Jersey City. As an educational advocacy organization, we recognize that it will take a brigade of community stewards to replenish our City's [very deficit Tree Canopy](#) - this training program will help to mobilize that. And partnering with other community orgs like JCPC, with the support of JC MUA, JC DPW and JCEC, is a great opportunity. Over the last four years we’ve worked hard to support sustainability initiatives across the City and it’s clear that when we all row together we can make a real impact.”

About Sustainable Jersey City www.sustainablejc.org

The mission and focus of the Sustainable Jersey City Collaborative Network is to encourage community partnerships and neighborhood actions toward making Jersey City a more sustainable place to live and work. Since our inception in 2011, SJC's activities have focused on Community Outreach & Education, Sustainability Planning for Neighborhoods and Innovative Demonstration Projects. SJC works to bring resources to neighborhood stakeholder groups and has established a framework for civic leadership development and sustainability focused educational opportunities. More about [SJC’s Green Infrastructure Initiatives here](#). Connect with Sustainable JC on Twitter/ Instagram @SustainableJC and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/SustainableJC/>

About Jersey City Parks Coalition

The Jersey City Parks Coalition (JCPC) was founded in 2004 and consists of 22 member parks and cemeteries who advocate for the continued care and renovations of some of the most cherished historical open spaces. Its mission is to empower and engage residents in the planning, implementation, and care of Jersey City’s parks and public spaces.

In partnership with The City of Jersey City, the JCPC launched *City of Trees*, a citywide commitment to plant more than 2,020 new trees in parks, streets, and public spaces. Beginning October 2016 and continuing through 2020, this program will serve to replenish a staggering tree canopy deficit in Jersey City. Complementing the tree planting will be the JC Tree Lovers Crew, a brigade of volunteers trained to help monitor and maintain public trees. Our programming is made possible through Goldman Sachs, our 2016 Education and Engagement Sponsor. To connect with JCPC: www.jcparks.org, <https://www.facebook.com/jerseycityparks/?fref=ts>

About NJ Tree Foundation

The NJ Tree Foundation is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to planting trees in New Jersey’s most underserved neighborhoods, where the need is greatest. Through tree planting, volunteerism, and partnerships, the NJ Tree Foundation assists numerous communities in improving their environment and quality of life. Since its inception in 1998, the NJ Tree Foundation has planted 203,661 trees across the state. Learn more at www.njtreefoundation.org. To stay connected with the NJ Tree Foundation follow them on Facebook www.facebook.com/NJTreeFoundation and Twitter/Instagram [@NJTrees](https://twitter.com/NJTrees).

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