



It is not often that a municipality is in a position to boast the opening of a new public park...especially a municipality in East Bergen County. The availability of land and the costs of acquisition alone pose insurmountable challenge to most municipalities. Fort Lee is the exception!!! In the very near future, Fort Lee will proudly add **3 additional public parks** to its growing inventory of open space.

These parks include a one-acre passive public park at the corner of Main Street and Lemoine Avenue in the heart of our new downtown district; a two-acre passive public park located at Redevelopment 5 East adjacent to The Modern high rise with nature walks, beautiful plantings and perhaps even a small pond; and thanks to the generosity of a giving and caring Fort Lee family, a third public park on 15th Street will also be opened this summer, a portion of which will be devoted to our *second* Community Garden program and provide more planting space for our local gardeners. Without exception, each of these parks will be owned by Fort Lee and acquisition of these parks is at **absolutely no cost to our taxpayers**. Each of our new parks will be “passive” in nature and offer residents and visitors an opportunity to sit, relax, meet friends, and take a break from the hectic lives that we lead.

With the support of the Governing Body, I continue to lobby the United States Postal Service to relocate their existing obsolete post office on Main Street to our new state-of-the-art parking facility and convert the existing dilapidated post office building which is not A.D.A. accessible into yet another public park for our entire community to enjoy.

The introduction of our three new public parks(and hopefully a fourth), as well as our other “green” initiatives, have earned the attention of environmental agencies across the state and have helped Fort Lee earn “Bronze” designation from *Sustainable New Jersey*. There is arguably no greater challenge to a municipality than to acquire and introduce new parks in light of the costs and expenses associated with these types of acquisitions. As a result of our smart growth policies, our emphasis on “quality of life” initiatives and the generosity of a Fort Lee family, these additional parks have been made possible here in our community **without any acquisition cost to our taxpayers**.

## Mayor's Message - March 2016

Tuesday, 01 March 2016 15:12

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Thank you for your continued support and please try to attend the upcoming opening ceremonies for each of these public parks which are sure to be fun for all...I will be the guy sitting on the bench with a cup of coffee spending time with a few fellow residents...see you there!