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## **Sayreville Plans for Renovations to Bailey Park**

**SAYREVILLE – May 8, 2025** – The Borough of Sayreville is finalizing a \$3 million plan to renovate Bailey Park, funded through Green Acres and other outside funding.

The park, at South Minisink Avenue and Cheesequake Road, will undergo significant improvements beginning next year, such as walking trails, relaxation spaces and picnic groves. As part of the project, an all-inclusive playground will be constructed.

“We held a community-wide survey – with hundreds of respondents – who shared their opinions about the enhancements needed for Bailey Park,” said Mayor Kennedy O’Brien. “We have closely studied more than 400 responses from across town and are working on a scope of work which will go out to bid in the fall.”

Sayreville maintains five large parks primarily centered on sports activities. The Borough envisions Bailey Park as site for quieter recreation activities that will be accessible for persons of all physical abilities. This popular park, featuring a pond, attracts residents from all over Sayreville, including Tangletown, Sayre Woods, La Mer, Morgan, Winding River and other communities and neighborhoods.

Prior to being designated Bailey Park decades ago, the facility was commonly referred to as “Ducks Nest” because of the shape of its spring-fed pond. It served for many years as the municipal swimming facility and was a popular spot for picnics. During the Silent Film era, a train crash was staged at the site for inclusion in the popular “Perils of Pauline” serial features.

Sayreville secured \$975,000 from Green Acres to support enhancements at Bailey Park, as well as an additional \$750,000 in state money under “Jake’ Law” to construct the inclusive playground, which would be accessible for those with all abilities. Other governments grants will also be leveraged to fund the project.

The term “Jake’s Law” refers to Jake’s Place, a playground in Cherry Hill, which was created in honor of Jacob Cummings-Nasto, who passed away due to complications of heart surgery at the age of two and a half. He was born with hypoplastic heart syndrome and the park was a preferred place for physical therapy.

“No child in Sayreville should lack access to playgrounds based on their physical abilities,” said Council President Donna Roberts. “I am proud that Sayreville is leading by example, taking full advantage of Jake’s Law, ensuring our children, of every ability, have a place to play.”

O’Brien noted his administration has committed to substantial upgrades to all of the Borough’s recreational facilities and has already made visible progress in delivering new and improved facilities.

For example, a bid opening is scheduled on May 13 for two additional athletic fields at the Jerry Ust Recreation Complex, restroom renovations are underway at Kennedy Park with the installation of new and improved walkways slated to begin in the upcoming weeks, the council president said.

Additionally, the installation of six new pickleball courts has commenced in Veterans Park with walkway improvements slated for the upcoming months. The Borough also continues to renovate neighborhood “pocket” parks on a rolling basis; Sayreville residents benefit from almost 1,000 acres of open space, the mayor added.

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