

## Improvements on the way for Newark's Minish Park

Posted by

[brtedesc](#) July 02, 2008 05:00AM

Federal, state and city officials will be on hand this afternoon to announce more redevelopment of Newark's Minish Park and the Newark waterfront.

Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ), Rep. Albio Sires (D-13th Dist.) and Newark Mayor Cory Booker will join Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commander Kenneth McDonald to talk about plans to further improve the land along the Passaic River.

The event is scheduled to start at 2 p.m. at the corner of Raymond Boulevard and Jersey Street.

The groundbreaking for the riverfront park, formally named the Joseph G. Minish Passaic River Waterfront and Historic Area, took place in 1999 under Booker's predecessor, Mayor Sharpe James.

However, Booker has made the revitalization of the park and other parts of Newark a centerpiece of what he hopes to accomplish in the city.

"I have great ambitions for that park," Booker said Tuesday.

The project received nearly \$3 million in federal funds for the fiscal year that ends in September, but officials say additional federal monies are needed to complete the work.

The park reaches toward the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark Penn Station and the downtown area, making it a vital link in the city, officials said.

Categories: [Essex County](#)

### Comments

**Sofie420 says...**

Where are all the negative commenters for this article?? nowhere to be found.. Ironic? i think not!

Posted on 07/02/08 at 9:23AM

**doctorphil says...**

Even though Booker had the money for months not one inch of the Minish Park has been improved. Guess we will have to wait two more years and until the next mayor takes office for any real improvement.

Posted on 07/02/08 at 12:35PM

**southpineln says...**

If you really want to cast blame for the delay, you can put the blame on the Federal Government. They (US Army Corps of Engineers) let the contract (solicited bids, reviewed bids and contracted with the contractor).

The USACE took months to decided if they were going to set this work aside as an 8A contract or to open bid process. Back on August 16,2007, the USACE originally had the work bid as an 8 (a) set-aside contract. You can check it out yourself, buy researching the contract via the USACE website, under solicitation number W912DS-07-B-0014.

It's the same reason we can't blame Sharpe James for the park not being built, even though the original ground-breaking ceremony was in 1999.

Somethings, such as federal budgets and allocations are not in control of local politicians. All you can hope for is that the local government is lobbying hard for the dollars to be spent and allocated for the projects that impact their municipality.

Posted on 07/02/08 at 4:54PM

**doctorphil says...**

southpineln - your are correct. However, notice that Booker was the one who claimed credit for improving the park so if there are any delays we can and should blame him for it. That is all I was doing.

Posted on 07/02/08 at 5:23PM

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