

## Harriet Tubman Square Renovation is Moving Ahead!

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, the Newark City Parks Foundation hosted a public meeting about the renovation of Harriet Tubman Square. The park will receive a major makeover with the meeting focused on public comments and concepts that will be implemented in the renovation (see below site-plan rendering from the meeting presentation). Both the artist & architect (Nina Cooke John from Studio Cooke John), and landscape architect (Jan Saltiel Rafel from Edgewater Design) presented at the meeting.

The scope of work includes:

- Structural improvements including irrigation, lighting, electrical, repairs of walkways and entryways, and landscaping
- Addition of two playgrounds:
  - One for two- to seven-year-olds
  - One for five-to-12-year-olds
- A comfort station with two family bathrooms and a storage facility
- Renovation of the crushed stone area to better accommodate park activities



## Park Site Plan



The Harriet Tubman Square renovation incorporates keeping the existing walkways and healthy trees in place. Design elements and materials from the Harriet Tubman Monument will be incorporated in the park's playgrounds and comfort station. Given that the park is in the James Street Commons Historic District, the design is keeping with its historic significance while incorporating modern aspects. The next step is to present the finalized plans to the New Jersey Historical Commission for approval, since the park is within the Historic District.

The presentation also included video segments from Nina Cooke Jones' "Black Moses Rising" focused on construction of the Harriet Tubman Monument and a video of poet Kween Moore's Auburn Eyes poem.

Construction is planned for late summer (August/September) with a completion timeline of up to 12 months.

Click [here](#) for a link to the video posted on YouTube.



## Newark Downtown District

### About the NDD:

The Newark Downtown District (NDD), Newark's special improvement district (SID) of the central business area, is a privately funded 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, dedicated to enhancing cleanliness, safety, and beautification in Downtown Newark, while preserving and enriching culture, commerce, and community.

NDD works hard to enrich the quality of life for those who live, labor, and leisure in Newark by providing supplemental cleaning and quality of life services, as well as physical improvements, horticulture, marketing, and event programs. These efforts make downtown Newark attractive to residents, businesses, students, tourists, and visitors.

The NDD is funded through a special assessment on district commercial and residential properties and is overseen by a Board of Trustees consisting of business and property owners within the District, representatives of non-profit organizations, as well as municipal officials and staff.

*The NDD defines downtown Newark as the area generally bounded by I280 to the north, the Passaic River and the New Jersey Transit and AMTRAK rail to the east, Poinier Street to the south, and University Avenue, Washington Street, and Pennsylvania Avenue to the west. The adjacent map shows the specific boundaries as defined by the NDD. Property statistics in this report represent properties in the NDD special improvement district.*

