



**Somerset County
Park Commission**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHOTO ATTACHED

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2017

**SOMERSET COUNTY & HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP
CELEBRATE OFFICIAL OPENING OF
MOUNTAIN VIEW PARK**

BRIDGEWATER, NJ – Officials from Somerset County government, the Somerset County Park Commission, and Hillsborough Township officially opened the state-of-the-art athletic complex at Mountain View Park on Saturday, April 22, 2017 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 141 Mountain View Road in Hillsborough, the site of the former GSA Belle Mead Depot.

The Park includes two (2) adult baseball fields, four (4) youth baseball fields and one (1) special needs Challenger Field. All fields are lighted. Amenities include batting cages, playground, pavilion, a concession/restroom facility, park maintenance facility, and a paved perimeter multi-use trail with associated parking. The facility will allow the potential for future development of six (6) additional baseball/softball fields.

Somerset County and Hillsborough Township executed an Offer to Purchase the 369-acre property with the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) in October of 2008. The Somerset County Improvement Authority acquired the property in April of 2009 at a cost of \$15,735,000. The funds from the purchase were then applied to the environmental cleanup of the former depot.

Mountain View Park is contiguous to the County's 5,500-acre Sourland Mountain Preserve and in close proximity to the Township's Ann Van Middlesworth Park. It is flat and relatively open, providing a sweeping vista of the nearby Sourland Mountain.

The project continues to promote the goals of the Somerset County Parks Recreation and Open Space Master Plan (December, 2000) by implementing the goal of providing open space for a diverse mix of quality recreational experiences appropriate for a County-wide park system.

According to Ray Brown, Director of the Park Commission, "Mountain View Park is significant for many reasons including the transition of an environmentally tainted site to an extraordinary athletic complex that will benefit the entire county."

Freeholder Director Peter Palmer added, "This beautiful and functional park is the result of cooperation among many agencies including the GSA, the Freeholders, the Improvement Authority, Hillsborough Township, and the Park Commission. Without the cooperative effort, we would not be standing here today."

Information on all Somerset County Park Commission activities may be found on the Internet at www.somersetcountyparks.org. Like us on Facebook and Twitter.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Representatives of Somerset County government, the Park Commission, Hillsborough Township, and the Somerset Patriots officially open the state-of-the-art Mountain View Park Athletic Complex.

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