



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 19, 2014

CONTACT: Alexander Marion
Press Secretary (315) 448-8044

MINER DEDICATES EXPANSION OF HEATH PARK

Land Donated By ESF College Foundation Incorporated Into Valley Neighborhood Park

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner today dedicated a new piece of land in Heath Park donated to the City of Syracuse by the ESF College Foundation, the charitable foundation which supports the mission of SUNY-ESF. The parcel of land will expand the park used by many Valley neighborhood residents.

“Heath Park is a valuable resource for our Valley neighbors and seeing it expanded will serve to improve this asset,” said **Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner**. “I appreciate the work of the ESF College Foundation, SUNY-ESF, the Parks Department, and all those who made this gift to the people of Syracuse possible.”

This donation was made possible through the collaboration of SUNY-ESF, the ESF College Foundation, and the City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs. The property being given to the City of Syracuse today was donated to the ESF College Foundation in 1996 by Frederick W. Celke, a friend of the college.

“ESF is delighted to be able to support the City of Syracuse by donating this property to be added to Heath Park,” said **SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry President Quentin Wheeler**. “We know the many benefits of encouraging children to experience nature at an early age. What better way to do that than through a city park? ESF is happy to see this land used for the betterment of our entire community and, particularly, for the benefit of our children.”

“On behalf of the Board of Directors of the ESF College Foundation, I am tremendously pleased to present this gift of land to the people of Syracuse,” said **Brenda Greenfield, Executive**



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Director of the ESF College Foundation. “At ESF we believe that parks and open spaces enhance appreciation of nature. It is our hope that current and future generations of City residents will enjoy this addition to Heath Park.”

Third District Common Councilor Bob Dougherty said, “This will be a great addition to the park that will allow continued easy access to neighbors and community members.”

Heath Park came to the City initially as a donation from SUNY-ESF in 1967. It was named in 1969 after James Heath, a former Commissioner of Parks and Recreation who had died in a plane crash.

The SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) is the oldest and largest college in the United States devoted solely to the study of the environment. Since it was established in 1911, the college has developed innovative programs in a broad range of academic areas related to biology, chemistry, engineering, management, design and planning. The college focuses on educating problem solvers who will help develop the science and technology for a sustainable future.

The ESF College Foundation is a non-profit corporation of alumni, college and community representatives committed to helping ESF achieve its mission of education, research and public service through resource development and fund management.

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