



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt

Press Release

**World War II Memorial Park Groundbreaking
Announced for Monday, April 6, 2015 at 2:00 PM**

Thursday, April 02, 2015

WOONSOCKET, RI: Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt is pleased to announce the scheduling of a formal groundbreaking ceremony at World War II Memorial Park for Monday, April 6, 2015 at 2:00 PM. The ceremony will be held at the Social Street entrance to the Park. The ceremony will be planned and scheduled in conjunction with and attended by officials from the RI Department of Environmental Management as well as state elected officials, and/or their representatives.

The Mayor expressed her great personal pride that this project is finally coming to fruition. She noted that her involvement in World War II Memorial Park for its continued operation and improvement first began when she vigorously lobbied and fought for DEM to reopen the park, and to begin making substantial improvements.

Working with the House leadership as a Representative, Mayor Baldelli-Hunt was successful in having a \$2.6 million appropriation included in the state budget for the renovation of this prominent downtown park. However, after receiving this \$2.6 million appropriation, the City of Woonsocket did not take action to implement the renovations at the park. By not proceeding with the renovation, WWII Memorial Park was allowed to deteriorate further.

As questions were raised over the local cost of operations for the park, Senator Picard and Representatives Morin, Casey, and Phillips assisted Mayor Baldelli-Hunt in obtaining an appropriation from the state to offset the cost of the Park's operation by the City. Plans have been completed for the work, and a contract has been awarded by the state to Manafort Brothers, Inc. to perform this work. The Mayor is hopeful that substantial work is completed in time for Autumnfest 2015.

The Mayor invites all Woonsocket residents, elected officials and other interested parties to attend the groundbreaking. A future detailed press release will be issued jointly by the City of Woonsocket and the State of Rhode Island listing the details of this project.

###END###