

NEWSRELEASE

ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT MAKING MEMORIES FOR A LIFETIME

From: Rockford Park District

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Park District Board Reviews Conceptual Plan for Sinnissippi Lagoon Project

ROCKFORD IL - At tonight's Rockford Park District Board meeting, commissioners reviewed a conceptual plan for the Sinnissippi Lagoon Restoration Project. Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens, which is scheduled for completion in late spring 2011, does not include repair or renovation of the Lagoon. The Lagoon Restoration Project is one of the priority projects recommended by staff for support by the Rockford Park District Foundation's 2010 Strategic Plan. The Lagoon project is part of the District's 100th anniversary riverfront restoration program, which includes repairing and improving the Sinnissippi Park riverfront areas.

Lagoon Conceptual Plan Highlights

Phase I of the renovation project includes: dredging the Lagoon, grading and restoring the surrounding lawn area, installation of a portion of the seat wall, a "big spray" water fountain, east side perennial gardens, waterfall, utilities, west-side sidewalk, lighting, and a bridge over the waterfall. Preliminary cost estimates for the Phase I projects are approximately \$1,660,000.

Future phases include: renovation of the tea house and surrounding plaza area, final restoration of the lawn area "rooms," additional landscaping, expansion of the rose garden trellis, and completion of the lighting plan. A design plan and budget will need to be developed for these future-phase projects.

"Obviously, completing the fundraising for the Nicholas Conservatory is a priority for the Rockford Park District Foundation. However, the Lagoon restoration is also identified as a top priority project for private fundraising," said Laura Pigatti Williamson, Deputy Director of Capital Planning and Management.

For additional information, contact Laura Pigatti Williamson at 815-987-8893.

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