

# 100 NEWS RELEASE

From: Rockford Park District

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## Park District Board Approves Contractor for Nicholas Conservatory Project

ROCKFORD, IL – The Rockford Park District Board of Commissioners tonight approved a \$7.1 million contract with Ringland-Johnson, Inc. to begin construction of the Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens project. The Conservatory's conceptual design was approved at the February 28, 2006 Board meeting and at that time, fundraising efforts began as the initial donation of \$2.1 million from the Nicholas family was presented to the Board of Commissioners. The Conservatory project was identified as the "centerpiece capital project" for the Rockford Park District's Centennial celebration. The fundraising campaign goal was met in April 2009.

The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for early August 2009 and construction work will commence immediately thereafter. The goal is for the project to be substantially completed by August 2010 with a grand opening scheduled for December 2010.

Upon its completion, the Nicholas Conservatory will be the third-largest in Illinois and will feature changing floral exhibits and a year-round exhibition of tropical trees, plants, and flowers. The lobby area will be available to rent for private receptions, meetings, weddings, and other catered events for groups up to 150. A private meeting room will also be used to hold educational seminars, not-for-profit organizations' meetings, and various group gatherings.

### Scope of Work

The following represents the scope of work for Phase I development:

- Conservatory – tropical plantings
- Growing Greenhouse
- Visitors Center/Reception Area
- Private Meeting Room
- Geothermal heating/cooling system
- Photovoltaic solar panels
- Minimal site development and landscape plantings
- Multiple interior and exterior sculptures
- Parking and walkways
- Rec Path restroom/concession building

(more)



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"The Nicholas family came forward in February 2006 as the lead donor for the project and since then, over 900 supporters have generously donated to this project. The Nicholas Conservatory and Gardens will be a showcase for the entire region enhancing Rockford's riverfront. This project, being constructed by local contractor Ringland Johnson, Inc., will employ a workforce here in Rockford, which also is an economic benefit to our community," said Rockford Park District Board President Doug Brooks.

For more information, please contact Jim Reid at 815-987-8863.

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