

# 100 NEWS RELEASE

From: Rockford Park District – Foundation

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Nicholas Conservatory  
& Gardens Campaign  
preserve. conserve. rejuvenate.

## Rockford Park District Hosts Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens Groundbreaking Ceremony

ROCKFORD, IL –The Rockford Park District celebrated the start of the Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens Construction Project with a groundbreaking ceremony held today at Sinnissippi Park. The \$9.1 million project, which is being funded through private donations and grants, is expected to be completed in December 2010. In March 2009, the Rockford Park District Foundation announced that the Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens Public Campaign Project had met its \$9.1 million Phase I goal, capping a five-year fundraising effort. Approximately 946 donors contributed to the campaign.

“The Nicholas brothers’ gift provides the opportunity for the family to honor and recognize their parents, while at the same time providing the means to enhance our riverfront with a top-notch conservatory that will be enjoyed by the entire community. This groundbreaking ceremony celebrates the our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary centerpiece project, that will not only provide our Park District citizens with a fabulous new attraction, but will complement existing garden destinations and attract visitors to our community from across the region,” said Rockford Park District Executive Director Tim Dimke.

### Scope of Work: 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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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.

"When completed, the Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens will be a showcase for the entire region. Additionally, from an economic impact standpoint, this project is employing approximately 100 full-time workers over the next 18 months, which has an immediate benefit to our local community," said Rockford Park District Board President Doug Brooks.

## FUTURE PHASE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The total project is not completed. Future phases include adding outdoor fountains and gardens, as well as refurbishing of the Lagoon area. Contact the Rockford Park District Foundation for information on giving opportunities, including "Buy a Brick" and other ways to contribute to the project. There are still significant donor opportunities available for future phases. Phone: Rockford Park District Foundation Executive Director, Elaine Harrington 815-987-1630, e-mail [elaineharrington@rockfordparkdistrict.org](mailto:elaineharrington@rockfordparkdistrict.org) or visit [www.rockfordparkdistrict.org/foundation](http://www.rockfordparkdistrict.org/foundation).

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

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