



NEWS

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PUBLIC DEDICATION OF DUKE ENERGY GARDEN IN SMALE RIVERFRONT PARK TO TAKE PLACE MAY 13

- WHO:** Duke Energy and the Cincinnati Park Board
- WHAT:** Dedication of The Duke Energy Garden in Smale Riverfront Park
- WHEN:** Monday, May 13 at 10:30 a.m.
- WHERE:** The Duke Energy Garden/Main Street Plaza in Smale Riverfront Park

CINCINNATI, OH: The public is invited to attend dedication ceremonies for the new **Duke Energy Garden** in Smale Riverfront Park on Monday, May 13 at 10:30 a.m. The garden is located adjacent to—and east of—the park’s Main Street Fountain and Plaza. Following a brief ceremony, tours of the new garden will be available and light refreshments will be served.



In addition to lush gardens, large trees, walking paths and granite seat walls, the **Duke Energy Garden** features oversized family-sized porch swings—suspended from undulating pergolas—that will offer visitors a front row seat to the passing river traffic. Dianne and J. David Rosenberg have given a gift of \$250,000 to the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and the Cincinnati Park Board to provide significant funding for the family porch swings. The swings provide an unobstructed view of the Ohio River and the Kentucky shoreline. The porch swings are expected to become one of the park’s most popular attractions.



Oversized family porch swings in the Duke Energy Garden will provide a front row seat for viewing the Ohio River and the Kentucky shoreline

“The Cincinnati riverfront is more than just an entryway into our community,” said Jim Henning, President of Duke Energy Ohio/Kentucky. “It serves as the front porch to Ohio. That’s why Duke Energy, through our foundation, is thrilled to bring this permanent asset to the citizens of Greater Cincinnati and to the hundreds of thousands of visitors who are expected to visit this park annually.”

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“Duke Energy’s commitment to the vitality of this region has been demonstrated again and again by the company’s substantial investments in economic development, education, environmental and energy efficiency efforts throughout the region,” said Willie F. Carden, Jr., Director of Cincinnati Parks. “The establishment of the **Duke Energy Garden** in Smale Riverfront Park provides a stunning new public greenspace in Greater Cincinnati’s grand new front yard. We are extremely grateful for Duke Energy’s tremendous generosity.”



Aerial perspective of the new Duke Energy Garden.

Phase I of Smale Riverfront Park, which opened in May, 2012, has already been cited by economists as being a meaningful contributor to the economic growth of the riverfront and the downtown corridor. The United States Army Corps estimates that the park will attract 1.1 million new visitors annually.

Construction continues in Smale Riverfront Park with funding from a blend of Federal, State, City and private funding. Substantial private support from individuals, foundations and the corporate community have demonstrated the critical role of this park and public greenspace to the region.

Private financial support has enabled the construction of many of the park’s unique amenities—which were not likely to be funded through other sources.

FUTURE PLANS

In future phases of construction, the park will extend to the west and will include such features as a transient boat dock, adventure playgrounds, a carousel, gardens, tree groves, promenades and fountains.

- * The Ohio River Trail extension to Paddlewheel Park should be completed by Fall, 2013.
- * Later this month, the Women’s Committee Garden (adjacent to and west of the labyrinth) will be open and ground covers/flowers/landscaping south of Mehring Way will also be completed.
- * The Heekin/PNC Grow Up Great Adventure Playground (southwest of the Women’s Committee Garden at the base of the Roebling Suspension Bridge) will open in Spring, 2014.
- * The outcome of grant applications that have been submitted by the Cincinnati Park Board will determine if the May, 2015 target date for the opening of the Boat Dock can be achieved.

For more information, please contact Joyce Kamen at 513.543.8109; or Manda Hurdelbrink, 513.324.8610.

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