



## NEWS

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The Groundbreaking!

# CAN YOU DIG IT?

If you're a citizen of Greater Cincinnati,  
**YES YOU CAN!**

CINCINNATI, OH:--- When the groundbreaking ceremonies for Cincinnati Riverfront Park—the new 45-acre "front yard" for the City—take place on Monday morning, September 29 at 10:00 a.m. at the Roebling Suspension Bridge (foot of Walnut Street), Greater Cincinnati's citizens will be invited to turn the dirt that will mark the start of construction of the new park.

“Like every park in the Cincinnati Parks system, Cincinnati Riverfront Park will be a park for the people—ALL the people,” said Willie F. Carden, Jr., Director of Cincinnati Parks. “So it's the people who should be honored with the chance to participate in this historic moment in the life of our region. Because when this park is completed, it will offer an open, inclusive, dynamic civic space for citizens, visitors, convention-goers and business people to enjoy. And it will become a powerful economic engine for the region.” The event is FREE and open to the public. UDF ice-cream will be served following the ceremonies.

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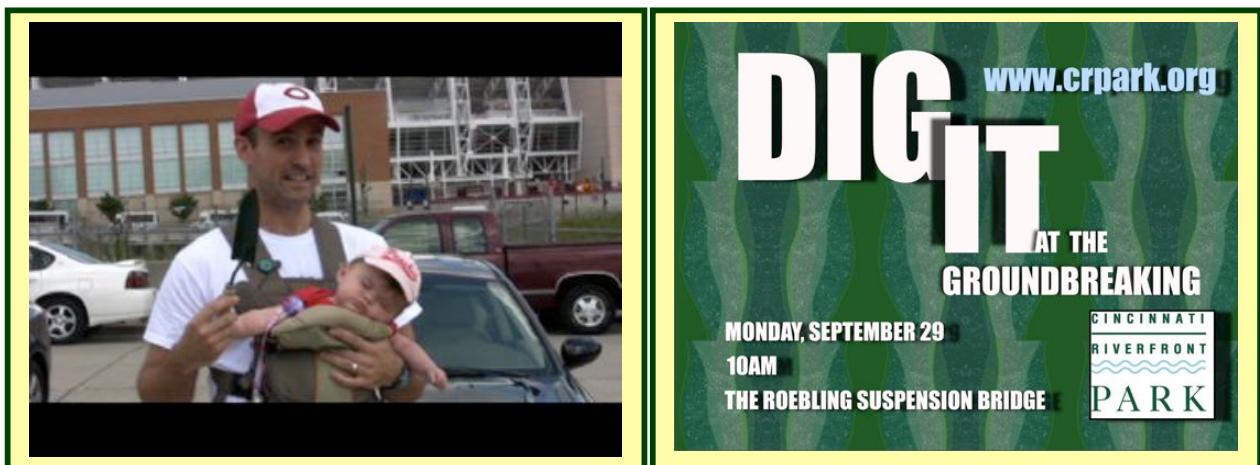


*Dramatic water features like the Vine Street fountain will abound in the new Cincinnati Riverfront Park.*

Video PSAs for the groundbreaking entitled, “Can You Dig It?”, are posted on YouTube at [www.YouTube.com/CincinnatiParks](http://www.YouTube.com/CincinnatiParks). Citizens are also encouraged to share their thoughts about the start of park construction online at [www.cincinnati-riverfront-park.blogspot.com](http://www.cincinnati-riverfront-park.blogspot.com). Postings may be incorporated in subsequent PSAs that will be created to keep the community informed about the progress of park construction.

Cincinnati Parks—which is leading the effort to plan, design and construct the park—is hosting the ceremonies in partnership with The City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, The State of Ohio and The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Many elected officials and other dignitaries have been invited to participate in the groundbreaking event—including Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, U.S. Senators Brown and Voinovich, U.S. Representatives Jean Schmidt and Steve Chabot, Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory, Cincinnati City Council members and Hamilton County Commissioners.

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*Father and daughter “Dig It” on Cincinnati Parks’ YouTube Channel.  
[www.YouTube.com/CincinnatiParks](http://www.YouTube.com/CincinnatiParks)*

## **ABOUT CINCINNATI RIVERFRONT PARK**

**Cincinnati Riverfront Park, adjacent to The Banks development, will re-connect downtown to the river edge.** It will feature unique playgrounds, boat docks, expansive lawns, a carousel, floral gardens, a bike trail, walkways, tree groves, a river edge promenade, dramatic water features like cascades, fountains and waterfalls, and restaurants and cafes. The park will also feature works of art and will be designed to be universally accessible and sustainable.

**Sasaki Associates, a world-renowned landscape architecture firm, created the design plans for Cincinnati Riverfront Park.** Sasaki's work was inspired by the input of citizen stake-holders at a series of public meetings and focus groups that began in 1998. The design plans are consistent with the area's Master Plan— created by Hargreaves Associates in 1999. The plan was approved by the City, County, Planning Commission, Park Board and the Urban Design Review Board.

**The Park will be built in phases over the coming years.** Phase I will include a plaza of water jets with cascades of water that drop to pools along Mehring Way. There will be a grand stairway with landings at water-filled basins, a glass-floored walkway above a lower level loggia, a shade trellis, informational and interpretive displays, and public restrooms. Also part of the design is an event lawn and stage, a promenade, a restaurant, a tree grove and labyrinth, an adventure playground and part of the Ohio River bike trail. The park will also feature a bike center.

**Funding is coming from a variety of public sources and also includes a major private fundraising campaign, which has already raised over \$5 million.** For those interested in more information on the park or who want to make a donation toward the park, call 513-352-4079 or visit [www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cityparks](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cityparks).

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