

JOHN G. & PHYLLIS W.
SMALE
RIVERFRONT
PARK

**SMALE RIVERFRONT
PARK WEEKS!**

MAY - JUNE 2015



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SPRING OPENING OF SEVEN NEW PARK FEATURES WILL BE REGIONAL GAME-CHANGER

CINCINNATI, OH:—Throughout May and June, 2015, the Cincinnati Park Board will host **Smale Riverfront Park Weeks**. This will be a time to celebrate the completion of the park's newest features that will be opening this spring. These include Carol Ann's Carousel, the Annie W. & Elizabeth M. Anderson Pavilion, the Sue and Joe Pichler Fountains, the Heekin/PNC Grow Up Great Adventure Playground, the P&G Go VibrantScape, the Gardner Family Grove & Rose Garden and the Castellini Esplanade. Ribbon cutting events are being planned to herald the opening of each new feature. These events will all be free and open to the public.

"The opening of these spectacular new features will be a game-changer for downtown and the entire region," said Willie F. Carden, Jr., Director of Cincinnati Parks. "The imagination and creativity that went into the development of these features will—without a doubt—attract hundreds of thousands into the downtown corridor; enhancing the park's existing reputation as a formidable economic engine for the region."

During the weeks long celebration, there will be lots of special programs, grand openings, and family-fun entertainment—including a community-wide family-friendly festival and concert that will herald the opening of Carol Ann's Carousel!

-MORE-

MySmaleRiverfrontPark.com

RIBBON CUTTINGS

**Heekin Family/
PNC Grow up Great
Adventure Playground**
Saturday, May 9

Pichler Fountains
Tuesday, May 12

Anderson Pavilion
Thursday, May 14

Carol Ann's Carousel
Saturday, May 16

P&G Go VibrantScape
Thursday, June 4

**Gardner Family Grove
& Rose Garden**
Wednesday, June 17

Castellini Esplanade
Saturday, June 20

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This celebration of new park features will also offer opportunities to reflect on the vision that has revolutionized Cincinnati's historic downtown riverfront. "The construction of Smale Riverfront Park has transformed the downtown riverfront from a virtual wasteland into a world class destination park," noted Otto M. Budig, Jr., President of the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners. "The planning process for the creation of the park began in 1997 and included public meetings and a design partnership between the City, the county and the business community. The park was built with a blend of City, State, Federal and private funding and serves as a stellar example of a robust public-private partnership that has resulted in an instantly iconic new park."

Carden says that private gifts (totaling over \$42 million) enabled the Park Board to construct the park with all of the amenities that were originally envisioned. "One after another, dedicated individuals, families and outstanding corporate partners stepped forward to demonstrate their unwavering commitment to the region and to the quality of life we enjoy through our nationally acclaimed Parks system." he said. "Each recognized the astonishing economic, social and recreational impact this park would have on our region; and they wanted to be among those who stepped forward to provide significant resources to transform 45-acres of Cincinnati's historic riverfront into a magnet greenspace open for all to enjoy. We are grateful beyond words."

More details about each ribbon cutting event will be announced in the coming weeks. Log on to MySmaleRiverfrontPark.com for the latest information.

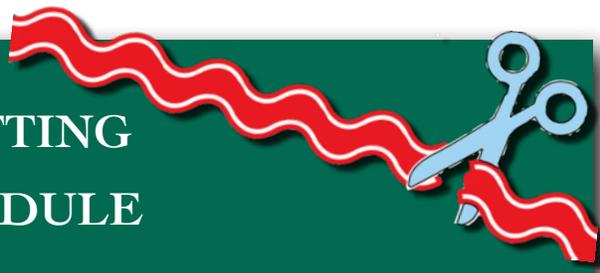
MEDIA: For more information or to arrange for an interview(s), please contact Manda Hurdelbrink at 513.324.8610.

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ATTACHMENT



RIBBON CUTTING EVENT SCHEDULE



The Heekin Family /PNC Grow Up Great Adventure Playground – Saturday, May 9

An innovative, fully accessible playground next to the Roebling Suspension Bridge that will contain a rock climbing canyon, log climbers, twin racing slides, a rope bridge, granite seating amphitheater and a fog-mist feature for cooling off on hot summer days.

The Sue & Joe Pichler Family Fountains at Vine Street – Tuesday, May 12

Steps aligning with Vine Street will be flanked by water cascades, illuminated with rainbow lights in the evening, and a plaza will contain fountains (splash and play!), a reflecting pool, water curtains, and glass balconies.

The Annie W. & Elizabeth M. Anderson Pavilion – Thursday, May 14

A banquet center on the floor beneath Carol Ann's Carousel will be a setting for parties, weddings and corporate functions. The center features views of the lower park, the Roebling Suspension Bridge and the Ohio River.

Carol Ann's Carousel – Saturday, May 16

A hand-carved carousel—a gift of The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation — will be filled with whimsical characters who each have a story to tell about a fascinating aspect of Cincinnati life, history or culture. The carousel—which will be open year 'round—will whirl within a glass building set on a plaza fronting Ted Berry Way. The plaza will contain water features, balconies overlooking the river and a comfort station.



P&G Go VibrantScape – Thursday, June 4

A series of fun play and exercise features for people of all ages, set within a unique environment. Features are being designed to be interactive and include a giant foot piano, a flying pig, and water pumps and channels.

Gardner Family Grove and Rose Garden – Wednesday, June 17

This tree grove—similar to yet larger than the existing tree grove on the east side of the park—will contain meandering pathways, understory plantings and several varieties of roses.

Castellini Esplanade – Saturday, June 20

The esplanade will be a setting for farmers' markets and other community activities. Its design will reflect the historic character of the produce industry that used to be housed on the site. A picnic terrace will flank both sides of the Castellini Esplanade. The unique setting includes moveable picnic tables on wheels, set on rails in a tribute to the produce distribution center formerly on the site.