



NEWS

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SMALE RIVERFRONT PARK RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

CINCINNATI, OH:—The Cincinnati Park Board has been selected to receive the National Facility/Park Design Award by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) for Smale Riverfront Park. This award recognizes the uniqueness and innovativeness of the Park's design, the inclusiveness of the design process and the creative ways the Cincinnati Park Board met the objectives and needs of the community. NRPA will present the award publicly at a special reception at the association's 2013 National Congress & Exposition in Houston, Texas on Wednesday, October 9, 2013.



The Cincinnati Park Board initiated planning for the park in 1997 and has managed the project since then. Phase I of Smale Riverfront Park opened on May 18, 2012 and with the 2nd phase now open, the park has grown to 10 acres and represents an investment of over \$30 million of both public and private funds. Ultimately the park is projected to cost \$120 million.

Smale Riverfront Park has been a catalyst for the development of the newest downtown neighborhood – The Banks development. The park is literally the “front yard” of this new neighborhood of apartments, condominiums, restaurants, bars and retail establishments. The high quality design of the park includes a range of notable features including waterfalls/cascades, a series of glass balconies, interactive fountains, a labyrinth, public art, unique gardens, “porch” swings under pergolas, and a regional bike center.



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“Since its Grand Opening in May, 2012, Smale Riverfront Park has attracted thousands of visitors,” said Willie F. Carden, Jr., Director of Cincinnati Parks. “The work of our outstanding team ensured that Smale Riverfront Park would exceed all expectations in terms of use and popularity—and it has. Future phases are already under construction and will include a carousel, innovative new playgrounds, promenades and additional water features. The Park Board will accept this award on behalf of the citizens of Cincinnati who have long-deserved this tremendous rebirth of their historic riverfront.”



“NRPA is pleased to honor our nation’s park and recreation heroes—agencies and individuals who work tirelessly and with passion to improve the lives of their citizens and make their communities great,” said Barbara Tulipane, President and CEO of NRPA.

Each year, NRPA National Awards are presented to individuals and agencies across the U.S. to honor their efforts—both professional and personal—in the field of parks and recreation. Recipients are selected from a pool of applicants by NRPA’s National Awards and Scholarship Committee, and are chosen for excellence in a variety of topics, including professional and voluntary service, programming, leadership, research and public outreach. The NRPA is the preeminent park and recreation association in the country.

For more information, please contact Joyce Kamen at 513.543.8109; or Manda Hurdelbrink at 513.324.8610. For digital access to NRPA’s flagship publication, Parks & Recreation, visit www.parksandrec-magazine.org.

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About Smale Riverfront Park

The City of Cincinnati’s Park Board—a long-time and much-trusted steward of our region’s natural resources—is leading the construction of Smale Riverfront Park. The new 40-acre public park—a regional attraction which will welcome millions of visitors to downtown Cincinnati—is being built with a blend of federal, state, city and private dollars. Construction of this destination park, located adjacent to The Banks development, is progressing on time and on budget. Citizens are invited to visit www.MySmaleRiverfrontPark.org to see the exciting park designs and video updates of park construction.

About the NRPA

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of 30,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources.