



NEWS

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Contact Joyce Kamen, Cincinnati Riverfront Park
Public Relations, at 513.543.8109



\$20 Million Gift from John Smale Given in Memory of Late Wife *Phyllis W. Smale Riverfront Park “will become jewel of our city”*

CINCINNATI, OH:---John G. Smale, former Chairman of Procter & Gamble, has made a \$20 million gift to the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and the Cincinnati Park Board for the construction of Cincinnati Riverfront Park—to be known henceforth as “Phyllis W. Smale Riverfront Park”. The gift—initially given anonymously and announced last month—was made by Mr. Smale in memory of his late wife.



Artist's rendering looking southeast over the Jacob G. Schmidlapp Stage and Event Lawn towards the Moerlein Lager House in Phyllis W. Smale Riverfront Park

In a letter to Mayor Mark Mallory, Mr. Smale wrote:

“My gift is in memory of my late wife, Phyllis, who spent decades raising funds to create green spaces in the city and hours upon hours doing the work herself...

I recognize that these are difficult economic times for the city. But I am sure this is a project that will more than repay its investment over the years to come in energizing the core of the city.

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This Park will become the jewel of our city. Through my gift, I hope you encourage others as well to see their gifts to the Park lasting in perpetuity for future generations of the citizens of the city.

I lived in Cincinnati for 43 years before retiring in 1995. The city is unique in the U.S. for the number of beautiful parks it contains. Maintaining this leadership position deserves, I believe, a high priority on the City's budget.

And in the final analysis, this gift to our park system is my way of expressing my affection for the city and its citizens."

"Mr. Smale's overwhelming generosity to the Parks Foundation and to the citizens of this community is an enduring gift that will provide generations of Cincinnatians with an unparalleled resource for healthful recreation, socialization, entertainment and much more," said Cathy Crain, President of the Cincinnati Parks Foundation.

Marian Lindberg, President of the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners, noted that, "Mr. Smale, along with his late wife Phyllis, have always been champions for the welfare of this community. This is a grand manifestation of the Smale family's unwavering commitment to the region and to the quality of life we enjoy through our nationally acclaimed Parks system."

The new 45-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. Phase I construction is well underway. Already completed is the Jacob G. Schmidlapp Event Lawn, with the Walnut Street Fountain and grand stairway, water cascades, public toilet rooms and elevator expected to be completed by the end of the year.

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The Moerlein Lager House is also under construction, with the grand opening scheduled for late Fall. Next Spring, the Tree Grove, the Main Street Fountain, the Women's Committee Garden, the Labyrinth and the Black Brigade Monument will be completed.

"Our gratitude for Mr. Smale's magnanimous gift is infinite," said Willie F. Carden, Jr., Director of Cincinnati Parks. "Mr. Smale understands that in addition to offering an open, inclusive, dynamic civic space for citizens, visitors, convention-goers and business people to enjoy, the park will become a powerful economic engine for the region. He has invested mightily in the vitality of this region for years to come."

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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 Cincinnati Riverfront Park. The new 45-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 moving forward collaboratively but independently from the Banks project. The Cincinnati Riverfront Park project is progressing on time and on budget. Citizens are invited to visit www.MyCincinnatiRiverfrontPark.com to see the exciting park designs and video updates of park construction.