



NEWS

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U.S. Senator George V. Voinovich Affirms His Support for Cincinnati Riverfront Park Construction

Park Board requests expanded Federal authorization for destination park

CINCINNATI, OH:----During the Monday, March 15, 2010 site tour of Cincinnati Riverfront Park construction for Senator George V. Voinovich (R-OH)—hosted by Cincinnati Parks Director Willie F. Carden Jr. and Cincinnati City Manager Milton Dohoney—the need for an additional \$6.5 million of Federal support (the maximum that can be requested under the current authorization) was discussed. The Park Board is also requesting that Federal authorization for the project be expanded from \$30 million to \$80 million (\$40 million Federal and \$40 million non-Federal dollars).

The Senator, who requested the site tour, is a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee and was a conferee on the 2007 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill that contained a \$30 million authorization to begin construction of the park. Senator Voinovich helped to secure a total of \$5.2 million in construction appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-2010 for the park, which includes \$2.3 million in the FY2010 Energy and Water Appropriations bill. The park is being built with a blend of City, State and Federal funds along with substantial private donations. Private funding is needed to build many of the park's unique features and to endow the park.

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Senator George V. Voinovich (center) tours Cincinnati Riverfront Park construction with (L-R) Dave Prather, Cincinnati Riverfront Park Project Manager, Cincinnati Parks Director Willie F. Carden, Jr. and Cincinnati City Manager Milton Dohoney.

“From my days as mayor I have always been a champion of public-private partnerships just like this,” said Senator Voinovich. “I applaud the way that the private sector is working towards their goal of \$40 million dollars, after already stepping up to the plate with \$7 million to fund this park. Throughout my life I have always said ‘together we can do it,’ and this is great example of all parties working together. I look forward to seeing the finished project and enjoying all that the historic Cincinnati Riverfront has to offer.”

“We were most gratified at the senator’s enthusiastic response to our Phase I park construction, which is on budget and on-time for a Spring, 2011 opening,” said Carden. “The senator also reiterated his support for our current efforts to receive an additional \$6.5 million in Federal dollars along with the expansion of the Federal authorization.

“The importance of this project to the City and to the region cannot be overstated—and the roles of all of our elected officials—Senator Voinovich, Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Congresswoman Jean Schmidt (R-OH) Schmidt and Congressman Steve Driehaus (D-OH) can never be minimized,” Carden continued. “As a destination park, Cincinnati Riverfront Park will drive people into the city, from throughout the world and walks of life—citizens, business people, tourists, new residents and others. Cincinnati Riverfront Park—together with The Banks—has the power to fuel significant economic development, tourism and commerce for southwest Ohio and the entire region.”

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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.CRPark.org to see the exciting park designs and video updates of park construction.