

News Release

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Today Rock Island city and park board leaders and local children proudly picked up a shovel and were the first to overturn dirt in celebration of the groundbreaking for the Rock Island Park and Recreation Department's new addition and facility upgrades. They expressed their enthusiasm in moving forward with the addition of community recreation space and facility updates, and the promise of many fun opportunities it will bring for years to come.

The Rock Island Fitness and Activity Center, located at 4303 24th St, will become the center for the Park and Recreation Department for both public recreation and membership use, and a "one stop shop" for family recreation/fitness. Construction is anticipated to be completed in October of 2010.

The new gymnasium and classroom space will host youth and adult sport leagues, special events, school break programs, fitness, and many cultural arts and special interest programs. This addition will allow more participants in existing programs as well as expanded recreational opportunities for the community to enjoy. RIFAC members will enjoy a new whirlpool annex extending off the current pool deck and new glass windows will add natural light to the pool area.

The addition of office space will enable all Park & Recreation administrative and recreation management staff to locate in one facility, decreasing administration costs, and consolidating services. The current Park Office, located at 1320 24th Street will eventually be converted to a meeting space for community meetings, and other classroom and recreational activities.

Planning for this expansion has been underway for several years and over \$1 million has been saved for the planned project. In addition, \$2.5 million in bonds were sold, which will be paid back through revenues from programs and activities provided at the facility. Majority of the construction will be outside of the current building, so impact to current facility users should be kept to a minimum.
