

Schwiebert Riverfront Park Named

Parks & Recreation Department

10/23/09

Rock Island's newest park, located on the riverfront between 17th and 20th Streets, was officially named Schwiebert Riverfront Park at a ceremony on Friday, October 23, 2009, honoring former mayor, Mark Schwiebert.

The public ceremony was officiated by Mayor Dennis Pauley, Parks and Recreation Board Chairman Fred Dasso, Jim Hass of Williams / Valley Construction Management LLC, and William Nelson, Parks and Recreation Director. Mark and Debbie Schwiebert graciously acknowledged the dedication.

The downtown park will offer spectacular views of the Mississippi River, and will include an open-air stage, playground areas, interactive fountain, observation shelter, waterfront promenade, bike trail, beautifully landscaped grounds, and other amenities. The Parks and Recreation Department is making special event and activity plans for the park, including a grand opening event as well as family-friendly activities. In addition, the public will be able to reserve park space for reunions, weddings, parties, and other functions. [Click here](#) to see the final design of the park.

The \$10 million park is on target to be completed in Summer 2010. The project is being paid for from the Downtown Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District funds, a source that can only be spent in the downtown area.

All underground utility, grading, and mechanical work is complete. The entry building, main stage, water feature, secondary stage, eastern parking lot, and riverfront promenade are underway. The Modern Woodmen parking lot is nearly complete and the floodwall system is in place.

Honoring Mark Schwiebert

The new riverfront park in Downtown Rock Island, on the site of the former National Guard Armory, is being named for former mayor, Mark Schwiebert, for his tireless efforts to promote public use of the Mississippi Riverfront.

Mark Schwiebert served as mayor of Rock Island for twenty years. During his tenure, Mr. Schwiebert provided vision and leadership for the creation of this new riverfront park. Naming Schwiebert Riverfront Park recognizes Mr. Schwiebert's tireless efforts to guide the City of Rock Island in the decisions of what should be built on the riverfront, what it should look like, who it should serve, and how it will play a critical role in connecting The District to the Mississippi River. Naming this park for Mark Schwiebert is a fitting tribute for the countless hours he spent on this effort.

The Parks and Recreation Board recently created guidelines for naming parks; parks can be named for a marketing purpose, location or historical purpose, donation, or community service. The Parks and Recreation Board voted in August 2009 to name Schwiebert Riverfront Park to honor his 20+ years in a leadership position with significant impact on the park, as well as direct ties to the park including spearheading the development.