

New Sports Complex is ‘Major Win’ for Rockford, to open in 2014

Rockford will have one of the largest indoor amateur sports complexes in the Midwest when a new 115,000-square-foot complex opens in 2014 in downtown Rockford along the Rock River.

The Rockford City Council voted unanimously to green light the project; the Rockford Park District will operate and own the complex and the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau will market the facility and book sports tournaments.

Strong Interest in Tournament Bookings

A national sports tournament director has already said he wants to bring a five-tournament booking to the new facility. He has toured the existing site, seen the drawings and thinks it is ideal for his basketball tournaments. It's a good example of the type of tournament the region was previously unable to handle.

The new facility is expected to host more than 30 tournaments per year; it will also be available for use by local residents.

New Sports Complex Viewed as Major Win

Peter Provenzano, SupplyCore president and chief executive officer, said, "The new sports complex is a major win for our center city and our community as a whole. The year-round visitation to downtown that it will generate will create great synergy with other developments currently underway such as the Indoor City Market."

Rockford Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey added, "This complex will cement our reputation as a premier sporting destination in the Midwest, spur downtown development, generate new tax revenue and grow jobs. I commend our city council for their leadership, as well as our staff and partners at the State of Illinois, Rockford Park District and the RACVB for making this a reality."

The 115,000 square foot riverfront sports complex in the former Ingersoll building at the Chestnut Street Bridge and Water Street will have the following features:

- 8 basketball courts
- 14 volleyball courts or more
- an extreme sports park for skateboarding, rollerblading and BMX
- children's play area
- air conditioning
- boardwalk along the river and more!

Construction Schedule

City of Rockford officials say construction will begin later this year with the facility opening in fall of 2014.

Project Team Selected

A leading sports-recreation architectural firm, Sink Combs Dethlefs (SCD) was selected by a committee that represented the City of Rockford, RACVB, RPD, City of Loves Park and other related stakeholders. SCD is an internationally acknowledged leader in sports-facility planning and design with offices in Chicago, Denver and Fresno, www.sinkcombs.com. They will lead the architectural and engineering project team that includes local firms Larson & Darby Group, architects; McClure Engineering Associates; and Missman, Inc., civil engineers.

Reclaiming First Status

The new downtown complex is one of four projects included in the region's Reclaiming First master plan for sports tourism announced in November 2011. The master plan includes the modernization and expansion of the existing Indoor Sports Center, Sportscore One and Sportscore Two. Efforts to proceed with those three upgrades continue with optimism, particularly with the progress that is being made with the riverfront sports complex.