

Army Corps of Engineers Approves Armory Park Project

City of Rock Island

March 20, 2009

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has approved the City of Rock Island's plans for flood protection during the Armory Park construction project. This permits Williams Construction Management / Valley Construction, the City's construction manager, and its subcontractors to proceed with starting the permanent flood protection system on the north of the existing Armory building and then demolishing the Armory.

The Corps of Engineers staff in Rock Island and in Vicksburg, Mississippi worked closely with City of Rock Island staff and its consultants to address how temporary flood protection systems were designed and when they are to be installed by City staff.

The first step in the process, scheduled to begin after March 23rd, is to install steel sheet piles on the north side of the Armory, followed by demolition of the Armory building. No date has been set for the demolition since it will follow the sheet pile work. A special event will be planned when the demolition begins.

In addition to the flood protection and demolition, a sewer project on 1st Avenue from 17th to 24th Streets will begin on March 30th.

"The City expresses its appreciation for the Corps of Engineers thoroughness, professionalism and efforts to complete its review quickly so Armory Park construction can move forward", said Alan Carmen, Rock Island Planning and Redevelopment Administrator. "City staff from many departments and design professionals from Schreiber / Anderson Associates, Madison, WI, and our engineers from Stanley Consultants in Muscatine, IA worked tirelessly to respond to the Corps questions. They cannot be thanked enough," he added.

Armory Park is a \$10 million public park on the Mississippi Riverfront that will offer spectacular views of the River, a performance stage, small pavilion, two playgrounds, benches, landscaping, restrooms and other amenities for Rock Island and Quad City residents and visitors. It is being paid for with funds from the City's Downtown Tax Increment Finance District, monies that can only be spent on projects in the downtown area. The project is expected to be completed in 2010.