



Lincolnshire
Splash Pad
Rochester Minnesota

ROCHESTER SPLASH PAD FUNDRAISER LAUNCHED BY
ROCHESTER PARKS FOUNDATION

The private effort already has seen success and seeks community partners to get over the finish line to open the city's first proper splash pad.

Rochester— AUGUST 4, 2020 — Today the Rochester Parks Foundation launched a community fundraising drive at www.RochesterSplash.org to raise the last dollars needed to open a splash pad water park. The splash pad was originally planned by the Rochester Parks Department for this summer but budget restrictions left the project short of the funds needed for completion. The splash pad, designed to be placed in Lincolnshire park, was to be the first such water park in the city. And the fundraiser has a local twist.

Under the guidance of Rochester Parks Department Director Paul Widman, The Parks Foundation designed a fundraising goal of 100,000 that will see the Splash Pad open for use in summer 2020. “If every person in Rochester gave \$1, we would have a splash pad,” said Foundation Board President Andy Masterpole. “But we know it’s not that simple, so we are going to need \$1 from a few and a bit more than that from a lot more.”

The Foundation drive has already secured nearly \$20,000 in match commitments from community partners. The first is a very generous pledge of \$12,000 from well-known community supporters The Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation. When that \$12,000 is matched in the community, the Foundation has another pledge which it hopes, with community matching support, will get it near the \$40,000 level. “This will not be simple and we really need everyone’s help,” said Masterpole. “We are actively seeking other generous community

partners who want to see quality of life improved in Rochester and be known as part of this long-awaited park feature. All donations are tax deductible.”

With the closure of local public pools due to Covid and recent sanitation issues closing the beach at Cascade Park, the importance of a community splash pad is more important than ever. Additionally, with recent Covid-related economic stresses on families, splash pads bring equity to a city, allowing for all children to cool off and enjoy splash play even if they cannot, currently, buy an entry ticket or afford a membership.

The splash pad itself isn't the only local part of the fundraiser. The drive is being facilitated through the 4Giving platform which has its headquarters in Rochester. 4Giving.com is a fundraising platform startup launched right here in Rochester. “It's a great, easy to use platform for what we want to do,” said Masterpole. “The fact that it is also a local just makes sense for an organization like ours. By supporting the splash pad you're also supporting the growth of a local startup business.” The 4Giving splash pad page and donation portal can be found at www.splashrochester.org.

The Rochester Parks Foundation is an independent, donor-supported 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to supporting the Rochester, Minnesota Parks system. They can be reached at rparksfoundation@gmail.com or rochesterparksfoundation.org.

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