

City of Rockford
Illinois Boat Access Area Development (BAAD) Grant Program Public Notice
October 1, 2020

INFORMATION SHEET: Illinois Boat Access Area Development (BAAD) Grant Program
Davis Park Boat Dock Project

The Boat Access Area Development (BAAD) program is a State-financed program, administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), which provides funding assistance to local units of government for the acquisition and/or construction/renovation of approved public boat and canoe access areas in Illinois.

Funds for the program are derived from a portion of the revenue received under provisions of "The State Boating Act Fund". The primary source of revenue for this fund is Marine Motor Fuel Tax, but also includes funds received from boat and canoe registration fees and fines. Each fiscal year, the General Assembly appropriates funds for the BAAD program to the Department of Natural Resources for allocation to local agency projects through a competitive grant process based upon written applications.

The BAAD program can provide up to 100% reimbursement funding assistance on approved development project costs and 90% reimbursement funding assistance on approved land acquisition costs. For development projects, higher priority is given in project evaluation for local agency financial contribution to the project, up to 30% of project cost for maximum credit.

Maximum grant assistance for any one project per grant cycle is limited to \$200,000 for power boat access facilities and \$80,000 for non-motorized, canoe and other small boat launch facilities.

BAAD grants are awarded through a competitive application process. Project applications must be received by the IDNR no sooner than August 3, 2020, and no later than October 2, 2020, as specified by the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Applications received after 5:00pm on October 2 will be returned as ineligible. Notification of grant awards is typically announced within the first half of the following year.

The purpose of this public notice is to explain the project that the City of Rockford intends to apply for and to provide Rockford residents with an opportunity to express their views on the project. Written comments should be submitted to Jeannette Smith at jeannette.smith@rockfordil.gov by October 16, 2020, in order to ensure placement of such comments in the official record.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Rockford plans to submit a BAAD grant application to IDNR. The application will request \$200,000 in grant funds to construct a floating dock that would provide for stronger power boat and other non-motorized, canoe and other small boat access and land used connections in and around Davis Memorial Park at Founders Landing in downtown Rockford.

Dedicated in 1989, Davis Memorial Park at Founders Landing is a 7-acre festival space located on the western bank of the Rock River; where Rockford's cultural and industrial heritage began. Three decades after its inception, the redevelopment and re-programming of Davis Park remains a critical focus of the City of Rockford's comprehensive planning/implementation strategy. In this project,

the City of Rockford proposes to construct a floating dock (and complementing concrete/railing improvements) to activate the riverfront immediately adjacent to the Lorden Building located within the heart of Davis Park (see attached site exhibit). This proposed activation will allow for improved power boat and other non-motorized, canoe and other small boat access to the Rock River and Davis Park, as well as a pivotal connection to other public/private downtown riverfront developments, such as the UW Sportsfactory, BMO Harris Bank Center, the Embassy Suites by Hilton Rockford Riverfront Hotel and Convention Center, and other numerous downtown establishments. This project will result in no displacement of any persons or businesses.

The total development costs are estimated to be \$228,125; \$200,000 of which is proposed to come from the BAAD funds with the estimated remainder, \$28,125 to come from local funds from the City of Rockford Tourism Fund.

