

# Headlines



## Major Rock Island Employer Expands

*February 14, 2006*

### **Norcross Safety Products – A Major Rock Island Employer Expands**

Norcross Safety Products (NSP) recently announced their intention to expand their operation. Rock Island City Council voted Monday, February 13, 2006 on a development agreement for the construction of a 45,000 square foot building that will house NSP's injection-molding footwear manufacturing process. Rock Island Industrial Partners (RIIP) will build the structure and lease it to NSP on a ten-year term. The building is located just south of NSP's existing plant at 1136 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

The total investment in the building is estimated at over \$2 million and NSP will place a new injection-molding machine in the building valued at \$1.2 million. In addition, NSP will relocate four injection-molding machines from the current facility to the new building. The building is sized to accommodate a sixth machine when and if business conditions warrant, and will represent a state of the art footwear injection molding operation when in full production.

NSP is Rock Island's largest manufacturing employer with over 370 current employees. While the new machine will require hiring six new workers, the ability to house the entire injection-molding process in a new building will help retain over forty jobs. NSP has had an operation in Rock Island since 1922 and is recognized as a world leader in the production of head-to-toe protective equipment and other safety products used primarily in the fire service, utility, industrial safety, and agricultural sectors. Some of NSP's products are marketed to consumers under the brand names Servus, Northerner, Muck, Ranger, XTRTUF, and North.

The development agreement between the City and RIIP supports the project by conveying title to the property to the developer for \$1, assisting with completion of site acquisition and clearance, and contributing \$150,000 to support building construction. Based on estimates of property tax revenue to be received by the City after the building is completed, the City's contribution will be returned in about seven years. The site acquisitions have been undertaken over a three-year time period in accordance with the Sunset Business Park Redevelopment Plan, which suggests removing incompatible residential uses in an industrial area and improving the appearance of the area from the Rock Island Parkway.

This investment in the Sunset Business Park represents a significant improvement in the area and compliments other projects completed by Rock Island Lubricants, Crawford Company, and Automotive Paint Equipment. In addition, RIIP has purchased and improved several properties in the area to accommodate new tenants Habegger (a distributor of HVAC systems), Kreiser Company (distributor of medical supplies), and an expanded facility for TSC Band-All (commercial / industrial packaging products).

Building construction is scheduled to begin immediately and be completed by Fall 2006.