

# Headlines



## ROCK ISLAND HAS AWARD WINNING YEAR

Rock Island is proud to celebrate many accomplishments this year, including being recognized nationally, within the state, and locally with awards. City Manager John Phillips commented, "We are quite honored with the number of awards we received this year, and the variety of projects recognized. We are proud to demonstrate to the citizens of Rock Island the competency of our team."

Following is a list of the distinguished awards Rock Island received in 2006.

### **Urban Innovation in Illinois Award**

All across Illinois, local governments demonstrate originality and creativity, increasing service per dollar and improving quality of life. Rock Island residents are encouraged to manage storm water by creating rain gardens. Rock Island is one of five winners of the Urban Innovation in Illinois 2006 Awards Competition. The Rain Gardens for Rock Island Program is intended to enhance neighborhoods and educate the citizens on the benefits and reasons for rain gardens. The program will assist homeowners and businesses install proper rain gardens through financial assistance and advice.

### **Environmental Hero Award**

The City of Rock Island was recognized as one of thirteen Illinois recipients for the Illinois 2005 Environmental Hero Awards. Awards were made to recognize the commitment to providing and maintaining a healthful environment for current and future generations of Illinois. The award, presented by Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn, was made in recognition of the City's Rain Gardens for Rock Island Program.

### **Savvy Award**

Rock Island won a Savvy Award, one of the most prestigious recognitions for marketing communities, from 3CMA (City-County Marketing & Communications Association). The Rock Solid, Rock Island branding strategy won the Savvy Award in the branding / new logo category for cities with a population up to 463,000. There were thirteen entrants, and Rock Island beat Miami Beach, FL and Reno, NV to win the top award.

### **Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award**

Sala Flats was one of nine projects to receive the 2006 Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award for Outstanding Rehabilitation. Landmarks Illinois has been assisted by a generous grant from the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation to honor individuals and organizations whose works demonstrate a commitment to excellence in historic preservation. By honoring these individuals, organizations, projects and programs, Landmarks Illinois and the Driehaus Foundation hope to inspire others to take action to preserve, protect and promote historic resources.

### **Excellence in Financial Reporting**

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Rock Island for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2005. This was the nineteenth consecutive year that the City of Rock Island has received this prestigious award. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

### **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award**

In addition, the City of Rock Island also received the GFOA Award for Distinguished Budget Presentation for its annual budget for fiscal 2006/2007. This was the eighteenth consecutive year that the City of Rock Island received this award. In order to qualify for the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, the City of Rock Island's budget document was judged to be proficient in several categories including policy documentation, financial planning and organization.

### **Included in Heart of the Community: The Libraries We Love**

The Rock Island Library will be included in the first book to sing the praises and show the beauty of public libraries. "Heart of the Community: The Libraries We Love" will feature only eighty libraries in the United States. It is scheduled to be published in December 2006 by Berkshire Publishing Group.

### **Eddy Award**

River Action gave the Eddy Award for Stewardship to the City of Rock Island for the Rain Gardens for Rock Island program stating that the ecological design could serve as a model for other communities. The Eddy Awards are given for outstanding work on the river and "going against the current to get things done."

### **Rock Island Preservation Society Award**

The Little Stone House at Saukie Golf Course received a Rock Island Preservation Society Award for restoration of the house, which could be the oldest building in Rock Island. Built in 1844, the house was deteriorating as a result of the sandstone eroding away. Rock Island Park and Recreation found an experienced contractor who rebuilt the front structure of the building and much of the side walls.

### **Certificates of Appreciation**

The Quad City Riverfront Council awarded the City of Rock Island four Certificates of Appreciation for these projects:

- Enhancing the 44<sup>th</sup> Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue entryway
- Adding arches to the fencing along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, to mirror the Centennial Bridge arches
- For their role in helping to complete the American Discovery Trail bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Sylvan Slough
- 20<sup>th</sup> Street Overlook