

August 20, 2024 Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island
Tuesday 7:00 PM

September 17, 2024 Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island
Tuesday 7:00 PM

October 15, 2024 Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island
Tuesday 7:00 PM

If you have requested, an email reminder with the Meeting Agenda will be sent prior to each meeting with confirmation of time and location of each meeting. Remember to keep the third Tuesday of each month marked on your calendar

LONGVIEW PARK

New Preservation Happenings at Longview Park

In 2008, the 100th Anniversary of the dedication of Longview Park was celebrated. A historical booklet about the park was given to all attendees; there was a short play featuring historic characters; and photo placards chronicled the park's history. The grand finale of the celebration of this beautiful park in the heart of Rock Island, was the unveiling of brand-new donated lions to replace the well-loved ones which were severely deteriorated, held together mostly by layers of gold paint.



Above, Historic gold painted lions greet visitors at 18th Ave entrance to Longview Park. Below, donated bronze lions replace the deteriorated gold painted lions

A decade prior to that anniversary, in 1997, a new 501c nonprofit corporation, Friends of Long View (FOLV), was formed to enable donations to the park and encourage more citizen participation in planning its future. FOLV brought back a beloved historical event, the lantern parade, in those first years. Other goals were commendable – notably restore the lower lagoon – but most were not achieved. After 2008, it seemed that interest in FOLV declined. Rather than dissolve the corporation – it's a lot of work to achieve 501c status – on the advice of legal counsel, the organization went inactive. This meant that an interim board was established, primarily to keep up to date with IRS and Illinois Secretary of State filings.

In 2003, a new aquatic center, Whitewater Junction, replaced the 1954 pool and many FOLV members participated in the planning for that amenity. In 2023, thanks especially to a neighbor of the park, Tom Sparkman, who walks his dog daily through the park, picks up litter, and generally observes park happenings, it was apparent that FOLV needed to be revived. At that time, the slow disassembly and demolition of the historic 1937 Conservatory on the eastern side of the park was brought to public notice. Even an annual Day of Caring had volunteers assisting in disassembly. Other areas of deterioration were also becoming apparent. In 2023, Augustana College organized a workshop at the large shelter in the park, soliciting priorities for future Longview development from the public. The net result of all these events was the revival of the 501c3 FOLV organization. An easy transition resulted in new officers and a reinvigorated board, with Sparkman becoming president.

Historic investigation and strategic planning was a priority for the reactivated group. Activities started with full support of the Parks leadership. During the holiday season in 2023, a small group of volunteers outlined the Conservatory in strings of LED lights, creating a dramatic vista and calling attention to the historic structure. In the meantime, further investigation found that the Conservatory had been purchased in kit form, which was manufactured by Lord & Burnham. And, amazingly, Lord & Burnham is still in business and still manufactures parts for historic greenhouses and conservatories. www.lordandburnham.com But replacement and repair costs money and the net treasury when the FOLV was revived was only about \$2000.

So fundraising had to begin. From small donations to larger grants, the treasury began to grow. Additional grant applications are pending. A generous program offered by Royal Neighbors to members brought in additional funds. And volunteers grew exponentially. Gardeners especially began to “adopt” areas of Longview. There are new banana trees by the Helen Horst former pool area. The volunteer who supplied them will dig them up this fall to be replanted in the spring. A paranormal group, Whispering Souls, recently led an exploration of the park with all proceeds donated to FOLV. And Quad Cities Disc Golf took on the task of improving the course at Longview.



Disc Golf volunteers work on the course

LONGVIEW PARK



Volunteers store salvaged conservatory panels

(Continued from front page) The worn out tennis courts have been removed and will be replaced with a natural garden. There are so many amenities in Longview, most of which the average citizen is unaware. That is unless we're interested in that particular thing. Fortunately, the park is big enough to accommodate everyone's interests.

In the meantime, a disassembled Lord & Burnham Conservatory was found in Pennsylvania. So, with a road trip and lots of volunteer help loading, transporting, and unloading, there are now enough parts and pieces to restore the current Conservatory and build a new greenhouse, neatly packed away in the garage next to the Conservatory. The Rock Island Parks and Rec Department has enthusiastically welcomed their renewed partnership with Friends of Long

View. And there are many more park improvements planned, including naturalized areas and, we hope, a restored lagoon. But that takes even more money.

Join FOLV, dues are only \$10 a year – see www.FriendsofLongviewPark.org Be sure to follow their Facebook page [FaceBook.com/FriendsofLongviewPark1](https://www.Facebook.com/FriendsofLongviewPark1) And volunteers are always needed. Contact FOLV through their web page and learn how you can contribute. Come to a monthly meeting – they're held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm.



The simple but dramatic holiday lighting celebrated the historic Conservatory in Winter 2023

QC PASTPORT

Your QC PastPort Is Here!

A new history and tourism project is popping up around the Quad City area. It is called QC PastPort. The goal of the project is to physically bring the person to the site where history happened. When you visit a location with your phone you can download a narrative, images, and an audio recording that will share with you the story of what happened here. Some of the stories are quite long so the information will stay on your phone so you can reread it at your leisure.

Learn the answers to questions like these and much more in a Pastport posting.

- How did brothers-in-law Denkmann and Weyerhaeuser turn a failing sawmill into a huge company and where did each family live?
- How did Bailey Davenport's pasture become one of Rock Island's premiere parks?
- Which Rock Island church was founded by Father Alleman, the pioneer priest who was said to have walked everywhere and carried what he needed in saddle bags flung over his shoulders?



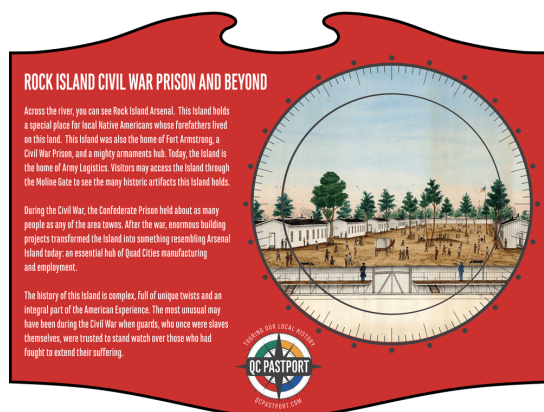
Ribbon cutting for QC Pastport destination at Longview Park



Downtown Rock Island Public Library displays its Pastport signage

Here is a list of the sign locations in Rock Island. You can pick up a brochure with a map listing all Quad City locations at our next RIPS meeting at Hauberg.

Hauberg Estate
House on the Hill
Lincoln Park
Longview Park
Modern Woodmen – Royal
Neighbors
Rock Island Public Library
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Swedish Zion Lutheran Church
Webber Park
St Mary of the Immaculate
Conception Church



Watch for QC Pastport signs at historic Quad City locations

Check the mailing label on this Newsletter to confirm your RIPS Membership is up to date. Go to www.RockIslandPreservation.org for membership information.