

Cantigny Announces Major Front Entrance Upgrade

Privately funded project will improve park access, appearance and public safety

WHEATON, IL, September 26, 2013 — Cantigny Park, part of the Robert R. McCormick Foundations, today announced a major construction project focused on the park's main entrance on Winfield Road in Wheaton. The upgrades are scheduled for completion in mid-2014.

Plans for an improved front entrance have been in the works for several years.

"This project is all about creating a better guest experience, which begins and ends at our front door," said Matt LaFond, Cantigny Park executive director. "We want visitors to be able to come and go without delay. During some of our larger events the park entrance can be a bottleneck."

Front-entrance features will include:

- New turn lane into the park for cars traveling north on Winfield Road
- Wider entrance and exit lanes to improve traffic flow
- Two parking booths (instead of one) to reduce entry time
- New signage visible to passing motorists on Winfield Road
- Improved lighting for visibility and safety
- Attractive landscaping by Cantigny's horticulture department

Cantigny's current front entrance is essentially unchanged from 1958, when the park opened to the public. It was certainly not designed to accommodate the park's current annual visitation of more than 350,000, driven by special events and permanent attractions that include the Robert R. McCormick Museum, the First Division Museum and 30 acres of gardens.

"We're excited to bring the front entrance up to speed with the rest of our operations," said LaFond. "A safer and more attractive gateway, along with better visibility from Winfield Road, is a great investment in the park's future."

The project timetable was chosen to minimize interference with key events at the park. However, Cantigny recognizes that park visitors may encounter some inconvenience during the estimated 10-month construction period.

"We'll do our best to make this easy for guests," said LaFond. "By next summer we think everyone will be happy. The new entrance is a big step forward in so many ways."

Cantigny's general contractor for the project is Sigalos & Associates, Itasca, IL. Funding is entirely by the McCormick Foundation, a nonprofit public charity based in Chicago. Cantigny receives no funding from taxpayers.

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About Cantigny Park

Cantigny Park, part of the nonprofit Chicago-based Robert R. McCormick Foundations, is the 500-acre Wheaton (Illinois) estate of Robert R. McCormick (1880-1955), longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. It is home to 30 acres of spectacular gardens, the Robert R. McCormick Museum, the First Division Museum and a 27-hole championship golf course. All are open to the public. Cantigny also is a favorite destination for special events, weddings, concerts, lectures, workshops and other recreation and learning opportunities for all ages. Full-service banquet and dining facilities are on site. More information, including hours, directions and a calendar of upcoming events is online at Cantigny.org. For details about Cantigny Golf, including the Cantigny Golf Academy and 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links, please visit CantignyGolf.com.

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