



County of Kent, 300 Monroe Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-2206

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### KENT COUNTY DEDICATES DEVOS FAMILY BOATHOUSE AT MILLENNIUM PARK

**Grand Rapids, Mich. (June 22, 2011)** – Kent County officials, major donors and community leaders today dedicated the latest addition to Millennium Park, the [DeVos Family Boathouse](#). The new \$800,000 boathouse features nonmotorized watercraft for rent, including kayaks, canoes, rowboats and paddle boats as well as a viewing deck that surrounds the 1,200 square-foot-facility.

“We are so thankful for the many public-private partnerships that have made this magnificent park – and this beautiful boathouse – possible,” said Kent County Board Chair Sandi Frost Parrish. “These collaborations have helped transform nearly 1,500 acres of industrial land into a summer haven for the people of this community and beyond.”

The majority of the project was funded with a gift from the second generation of the DeVos family.

“As we celebrate the grand opening of the new boathouse today, we are especially grateful for the generosity of the DeVos family, who have moved us a step closer toward fulfilling our vision of creating one of the country’s biggest urban parks. Once again, they have provided our community with another wonderful asset that will be enjoyed for generations to come,” said Peter Secchia, chair of the Secchia Millennium Commission.

The Commission selected the park to be the community’s commemoration of the year 2000, and Ambassador Secchia remains active in fundraising for the project. To date, more than \$13.5 million in private contributions and pledges have been received for land acquisition and development of the park. The County has also allocated \$15.5 million toward the project and has been awarded an additional \$5.5 million in grant funding from the State of Michigan also through efforts of the private sector.

Located south of the swimming beach, the boathouse is open for rentals through September from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Boat rentals began in May and the new facility has quickly become a popular attraction at the park.

The brightly colored paddleboats offer a fun time on the water for families and kids, while the kayaks, canoes and rowboats provide the opportunity to explore the farther reaches of two of the park’s extensive lakes.

Boat rental fees include:

Kayaks (tandem)	\$8 per hour	\$7 for each addl hour
Kayaks (single)	\$6 per hour	\$5 for each addl hour
Canoes	\$8 per hour	\$7 for each addl hour
Rowboats	\$7 per hour	\$6 for each addl hour
Paddle boats	\$6 per half hour	\$5 for each addl half hour

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