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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DETROIT RIVERFRONT CONSERVANCY JOINS STATE OF MICHIGAN IN
DEDICATION OF MICHIGAN'S FIRST URBAN STATE PARK**

Soon to open phase II of park to connect Detroit RiverWalk to 6-acres of East Riverfront

DETROIT (22 OCTOBER 2009) – The Detroit RiverFront Conservancy joined Governor Jennifer Granholm, former Governor William G. Milliken along with representatives from the State of Michigan and Department of Natural Resources today to celebrate the dedication and renaming of Tri-Centennial State Park and Harbor on Detroit's East Riverfront.

The newly-dedicated William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor is Michigan's first urban state park and located just east of Rivard Plaza & Pavilion. The new phase, opening in late 2009, will add six acres of new park space for the public on the East Riverfront, including a bicycle and pedestrian trail that will connect to the Detroit RiverWalk.

“The phase two completion of the William G. Milliken State Park will help move the Conservancy one step closer to a more connected and revitalized riverfront,” said Faye Alexander Nelson, Conservancy, President & CEO. “We anticipate the park becoming another must-see destination along the three miles of RiverWalk.”

The second phase of the park will feature trails, shoreline fishing, wildlife observation, interpretive signage, a wetland designed for storm water treatment and a memorial to Detroit River advocate and philanthropist, Peter Stroh. Once the additional phases are complete, the park will be a total of 31-acres.

In 2004, the State renovated and opened the harbor portion of the park to the public, which includes a renovated 52-slip harbor, several covered picnic areas and shoreline fishing. A 63-foot replica of the Tawas Point lighthouse marks the harbor entrance.

“The collaboration between the State, Wayne County, Detroit and the Conservancy has allowed the Detroit Riverfront to become a diverse and engaging space for the public,” said Matt Cullen, Conservancy Chairman. “We look forward to the numerous educational and recreational opportunities this new park will provide to the community.”

The Detroit RiverFront Conservancy was formed as a 501 (c) 3 public-private partnership in early 2003 with the mission of developing public access on the Detroit International Riverfront. The completed project will span 5½ miles of riverfront property, from the Ambassador Bridge to Gabriel Richard Park, just east of the Belle Isle Bridge, and will include a continuous RiverWalk along with public parks and green spaces. Currently, nearly 3 miles of East Riverfront is complete and open to the public. The Conservancy is responsible for the permanent operations, maintenance and programming of the Detroit International Riverfront and the Dequindre Cut Greenway. For more information, please visit www.detroitriverfront.org.

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