

Louisville

Looavul.Luhvul.Loueville.Looaville.Looveville.

We've got it!



Debbie and Pat Seifert, 2007 Conference Hosts

Preparations are well under way for the 112th IMSA Conference being held in Louisville, Kentucky, August of 2007. Over the next several months I will be keeping you abreast of technical sessions and activities as they develop. I will also be providing information on Louisville attractions and fun facts about the area. I have been greatly motivated by the enthusiasm shown in Overland Park for the 2007 conference and will work diligently to make this a successful conference.

"... if you want the city to have broad and tranquil meadow spaces with shadows of great spreading trees slanting across them and areas of turf for lawn games, that would be the park by the Ohio." Frederick Law Olmstead

Building on the ground work laid by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead, Louisville is planning to add thousands of acres of park land and protected green space to its "greenprint".

A significant part of Louisville's "greenprint" is Waterfront Park, a 55 acre oasis of green, located downtown. The park replaces what was historically a heavily industrial area of sand and gravel operations, scrap yard, petroleum-asphalt terminals, and an interstate that effectively cut off all public access to the Ohio River.

Dedicated July 4, 1999, the 12 acre Waterfront Great Lawn is used for large concerts, pick-up football games, viewing fireworks, or just being lazy. A 900-foot long Water Feature has pools that cascade down to the river, with water cannons that shoot from pool to pool and an entry fountain called Dancing Waters that kids (of all ages) jump around in to get wet. Linear Park includes a popular children's play area, as well as picnic areas, tree groves, hills and meadows, boat slits, and walking paths through the park and along the river. The Warf is home to the historic Belle of Louisville steamboat and various other visiting boats such as the Delta Queen and American Queen. If seafood is your thing, Joe's Crab Shack is located at the Warf.



The Children's Play Area and Adventure Playground host playground equipment designed to reflect Louisville's river heritage, including a barge, tugboat, steamboat, sandbars and docks, and a huge waterplay area. While the kids play you can connect to the internet via the parks Wi-Fi connection. The Tumbleweed is an open air Tex-Mex restaurant located in this area. It boasts a wonderful dining view of the Ohio River and skylines of Louisville and Indiana.

The Children's Play Area and Adventure Playground host playground equipment designed to reflect Louisville's river heritage, including a barge, tugboat, steamboat, sandbars and docks, and a huge waterplay area. While the kids play you can connect to the internet via the parks Wi-Fi connection. The Tumbleweed is an open air Tex-Mex restaurant located in this area. It boasts a wonderful dining view of the Ohio River and skylines of Louisville and Indiana.

Construction has started on the third phase of the park which will include converting the former Big Four Bridge into the longest pedestrian only bridge in the world. The bridge will connect to Jeffersonville Indiana's waterfront park. Several more lawn areas, tree groves, walking paths, and picnic areas will be added. Construction could be completed by late 2007.

The design of Waterfront Park has been noticed both nationally and internationally and has won a number of prestigious awards.

Metro Louisville's ambitious "City of Parks" program intends to acquire thousands of acres of park land in an effort to interconnect a system of parks every bit as vital as its existing parks designed by Frederick Law Olmstead. The plans include a 100-mile paved loop trail around Louisville Metro's perimeter that will tie together our diverse parks and neighborhoods. A second plan is to tie walking paths on both sides of the river together utilizing the Kentucky & Indiana railroad bridge and the former Big Four Bridge creating a six mile walking loop.

Louisville is also working to make our streets bike-friendly. To accomplish this Bike Louisville is widening the right hand driving lanes on designated roads all over the county to 14 feet and a bike lane is added within that area. The intention of the bike lanes are to help define road space, encourage bikers to ride with traffic flow, and to give bicyclists a clear place to be so they are not tempted to ride on the sidewalks.



Bike Louisville is working to create a bicycling environment that appeals to riders of all ages and levels of experience through education, enforcement, encouragement, engineering, and evaluation in an effort to decrease the stress level of bicyclists riding in traffic. The bike routes will take you to all of Louisville's major parks and downtown.

During your stay in Louisville, I hope you take a little time to enjoy and relax in one of our many parks.

Name that tune:

Two sisters in Louisville wrote a song that they would sing to their class every morning called "Good Morning to You". The song did not gain popularity until the words were changed to "Happy Birthday to You"