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## Paddling Festival in Aurora Set for This Weekend Illinois' first paddling film festival debuts

July 8, 2009 (AURORA, IL) - The Illinois Paddling Council (IPC) announces today that it will sponsor a "Paddlesports Festival" in Aurora this summer to introduce the general public to the wide variety of human powered boats, paddling clubs, award winning paddlesport films and the local paddlesport retailers.

The **AURORA PADDLESPO RTS FESTIVAL** will take place the weekend of July 11 and 12, 2009 in Aurora's Phillips Park. The park's "Mastodon Lake" will provide a clean, safe place to try out canoes and kayaks or take a class on how to paddle while the expansive lawn adjacent to the lake will fill with paddle craft dealers, paddling club displays, exhibits and demonstrations.

This fun-filled weekend of paddling activities is designed to attract novices, the merely curious and experienced paddlers alike. The **AURORA PADDLESPO RTS FESTIVAL** is based on the highly successful "Paddling in the Park" event which was held for fourteen years in Palatine and drew thousands of visitors each year.

Sponsored by the IPC and the City of Aurora, the Paddlesports Festival will offer two hour introductory lessons in canoeing and kayaking taught by American Canoe Association certified instructors. Visitors can also test paddle the latest boat designs from well-known canoe and kayak manufacturers. The **AURORA PADDLESPO RTS FESTIVAL** will feature Illinois paddling clubs as well as statewide and local river and nature conservation organizations.

The **AURORA PADDLESPO RTS FESTIVAL** will also include Illinois' first paddling film festival. The 3rd Annual Reel Paddling Film Festival World Tour will bring the world's best paddling films to Aurora. The Reel Paddling Film Festival is a worldwide film contest awarding films in nine categories. Individual winning films in each category will be previewed in various locations throughout Aurora during the week before the festival. The entire list of award winning films will be shown during the two day festival at indoor and outdoor locations in Phillips Park.

Founded in 1963, the Illinois Paddling Council is dedicated to promoting the safe enjoyment of all phases of canoeing and kayaking in Illinois. For more information visit [www.illinoispadding.org](http://www.illinoispadding.org)

Established in 1899, Phillips Park is the crown jewel of Aurora's parks and the flagship park for the city and its visitors. The Park includes a zoo, golf course, aquatic center, formal gardens and a visitor center displaying prehistoric mastodon bones that were found on the site. For more information visit [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org).

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### ABOUT THE AACVB:

The Aurora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau serves as the tourism marketing and management organization for Aurora, Batavia, Hinckley, North Aurora, Montgomery, Plano, Sugar Grove and Yorkville. This not-for-profit organization provides numerous travel resources to visitors via the Web site at [www.enjoyaurora.com](http://www.enjoyaurora.com) and a toll-free number 1-800-477-4369