

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 3, 2011

For more information, contact:

Kylie Crull, 815.489.3956, kcrull@pretc.net

RFD Announces Start of Large Green Project *Project Possible Through Donations By Community Partners Project First Rate and Laborers Local #32*

ROCKFORD, IL—The Chicago Rockford International Airport (RFD) announced the start of a new enhancement project at the airport. Approximately 200 trees donated by First Rockford Group will be planted around the airport's perimeter, specifically along Airport Drive. Planting is being completed this fall with labor donated by Laborers Local #32. The total cost of the project is valued at more than \$30,000.

This collaborative project is one of the airport's many planned initiatives to make the facility and its operations more environmentally friendly. The airport has already completed several green projects including:

- Replacing all airfield and terminal lighting with low-draw LED lighting
- Building a 23-million gallon retention pond that collects and treats deicing fluids before releasing into the river
- Enrolling in an energy reduction program where the airport reduces its energy usage when it's in high demand by switching over to generator power until the demand is lowered

For this collaborative project, RFD also partnered with the City of Rockford and the Forestry Division of the Public Works Department for the planning. Trees were selected based off of a sustainable airport landscaping plan for beautification purposes that does not include any fruit-bearing trees that can attract additional birds, which could be hazardous for aircraft. The trees are currently planted at A&T Lawn Care and Landscaping in Rockford. Proposed trees are:

- 56 Ornamental Pears
- 28 Red Maple
- 28 White Pine Birch
- 37 River Birch
- 8 Locust
- 2 Burr Oak
- 13 Sugar Maple

"The RFD team and the board of commissioners are very appreciative for the generosity of First Rockford Group and Laborers Local #32 for helping the airport complete this project," said Bharat Puri, Greater Rockford Airport Authority Board of Commissioners Chairman. "This is another example of how working and collaborating with our community's partners and resources further helps the airport be a responsible steward of taxpayer investment."



“The airport is one of the Rockford region’s greatest assets. The beautification achieved with these hundreds of trees will help to enforce RFD as a world-class airport to area residents and visiting passengers,” said Sunil Puri, Founder and President of First Rockford Group. “First Rockford Group has a strong history of making investments in the community. Whether it is through financial support of new recreation facilities, higher education and economic development, our goal is to help make Rockford a better place to live, work and play.”

“The airport is a huge generator of our regional economy and provides many jobs in the local trades through its multiple construction projects,” said Dominic Constanza, business manager at Laborers Local #32. “I’d also like to thank and recognize Operating Engineers Local #150 and the Northwestern Illinois Building Construction & Trades Council for their help in the project. Our members are from this community and have a personal investment in its advancements and well-being. This project is one of the many ways that area trade organizations demonstrate their commitment to the community and its valuable resources.”

###