



Contact:  
Mary Schumacher, [mschumacher@coneyislandpark.com](mailto:mschumacher@coneyislandpark.com)  
(513) 232-6701  
Or  
Amy Pass, [apass@coneyislandpark.com](mailto:apass@coneyislandpark.com)  
(513) 232-6701

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONEY ISLAND CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF MAKING FUN INTO HISTORY**  
***Celebrations Planned for Anniversary Year***

CINCINNATI, OH (May 20, 2011) – Coney Island the 6<sup>th</sup> oldest amusement park in the United States, will mark the opening of its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with a packed schedule.

It begins with a private reception on May 27<sup>th</sup> celebrating the installation of commemorative bricks at Sunlite Pool. This preview party is for those who have purchased bricks, and in doing so made a donation to Children's Hospital Medical Center. The commemorative brick program is an ongoing project, and the opportunity for patrons to own a piece of history will continue throughout the summer.

The park opens for the season the next day, Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M. with special opening-weekend pricing. A Sunlite Pool or Classic Ride ticket is \$8.95 and a combination ticket is \$16.95 through Monday. In celebration of the Memorial Day weekend, the park will honor military families with a Free Pool & Rides Combo ticket to patrons with a military ID Saturday through Monday.

On Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, Coney Island hosts the *Dream is Real Weekend* Family Fest from 2:00 P.M. till 9:00 P.M.

The park's 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash will be on the evening of Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, complete with birthday cake, party games, music and fireworks. There will be \$1.25 specials throughout the park.

Coney Island is always a good value for your entertainment dollar. [Admission is the same low price at 2010](#). The popular "Deal of the Day" is back for 2011, where guests can check the web site and print the daily coupon for special pricing on anything from parking to admission to food.

(more)

## 125 Years of History

Coney Island's roots are in an apple orchard owned by Ohio farmer James Parker. Parker rented his peaceful and picturesque river front land for private picnics beginning in the 1870s. In 1886 he sold the farm to two riverboat captains, William and Malcolm McIntyre, who saw the opportunity to encourage travel on their boats by developing an amusement park.

*Ohio Grove, The Coney Island of the West*, officially opened on a rainy June 21, 1886, with the steamer Guiding Star delivering the first passengers. The fifty-cent round trip included park admission.

The park has grown and changed over the years. Did you know Coney Island was one of the first in the industry with a kiddie-land? A complete [history of Coney Island](#) is documented on our Web site. A fascinating gallery of archival photos is available on our [Facebook Page](#). In addition, Coney Island's rich history was the subject of book written in 2002 by Charles J. Jacques Jr. on sale in the Coney Island gift shops. You can also purchase a DVD by Tim Young, "Greetings From Coney Island" Both items make great gifts for the historian in your family and will confirm that although different rides have come and gone, the tradition of Coney Island has never waived.

"We know how special it is to many families knowing their parents, grandparents and great grandparents created memories here," said Vic Nolting, President of Coney Island. "Our past is important to us, but so is making new memories for families every day."

## New for 2011

New this year, a swing ride for little ones called **The Swing-A-Round** located in Moonlite Square along with the Carousel and a new kids' play set. This is all centered around a new fountain that will highlight the Salute to Cincinnati display, a tribute to long-standing corporations in the Great Cincinnati area.

The fastidious grounds and landscaping crew is bringing a fresh new look to the picnic grove located on the banks of the Ohio River. Parkers Grove picnic area is the ideal setting for company outing, family reunions or just good old fashioned picnicking. A brand new entertainment stage will be situated in the heart of the picnic area, and will be home to musical acts, magic shows and interactive family games such as Coney's Minute Olympics, Keep It Real and the Island Survival Challenge.

This anniversary season promises to be a special one. A calendar of events and a Coney Island Fact Sheet are attached.

For more information about Coney Island and the upcoming season, visit the park's website at [www.coneyislandpark.com](http://www.coneyislandpark.com).