

# Nixalite® Project Case History

## Project Case History

**Name:** Schwiebert River Front Park

**Location:** Rock Island, Illinois

**Architects:** Gere Dismer AIA, Rock Island, IL & Schreiber Anderson Architects, Madison, WI

**Installer:** Premier Pest Management, Eldridge, IA



Early plans for Armory Park which was renamed Schwiebert Park in honor of Mayor, Mark Schwiebert. Image courtesy of the City of Rock Island.

## Purpose:

Preventing pest birds from infesting the Schwiebert Park pavilion canopies and the open structural steel protected by the pavilion roof.

Located along the City of Rock Island river front walk way, Schwiebert Park is named after former Rock Island Mayor, Mark Schwiebert. While in office, Mayor Schwiebert worked tirelessly to promote the public use of the Mississippi river front in downtown Rock Island. With covered pavilions, sculptures, playgrounds, fountains and open vistas, Schwiebert Park is renowned as the perfect setting for weddings, special events, concerts and more, all on the shores of the mighty Mississippi.



View down river from Schwiebert Park and river front walkway.



The main stage at Schwiebert Park before the bird netting was installed.

## Problem:

Plans for this new park included two covered spaces; a pavilion and a protected stage, both with exposed structural steel as part of their design.

During the design phase, the architects and city planners realized that the open structural steel made them vulnerable to pest birds. The park was being built along the Mississippi River in an area where birds and their droppings have historically been a problem.

After discussing their concerns with Nixalite of America Inc, the planners decided to incorporate a bird control system into the construction plans and documents. The requirements were two fold - It needed to be effective (and humane), while maintaining a low visual impact after installation.

## Why take these precautions?

Bird droppings are a hazard to both humans and structures. The planners had to keep in mind the safety and well being of the people that would use these covered spaces as well as the structures themselves.

Bird droppings are the smelly and ugly bi-product of bird infestations. As a hazard to humans, bird droppings can harbor up to 60 different transmittable diseases and parasitic organisms. As a hazard to buildings, bird droppings can corrode structural steel, peel and discolor paint and short out electrical equipment.

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**If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Nixalite of America Inc**  
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## Solution:

Architect Gere Dimer (Rock Island, IL) and Schreiber Anderson Architects (Madison, WI) contacted Nixalite of America Inc for assistance in selecting the appropriate bird control system. After evaluation, Nixalite recommended the **K-Net HT Bird Netting** and stainless steel support cables as the best possible solution.

K-Net bird exclusion netting (a Nixalite exclusive) is a knotted and seamless square mesh netting with  $\frac{3}{4}$ " openings. It is constructed from 12-ply high density polyethylene (HDPE). The netting has a 75 pound per knotted strand breaking strength for maximum durability.



K-Net HT Bird Netting



Tensioned cable hardware example

To install the bird netting, the Rock Island City Planners contacted Nixalite's recommended local installer; Mike Thavenet at Premier Pest Management (Eldridge, Iowa). Premier was included in the planning and consultation phase of the project. Shortly after the canopies were finished, the installation of the K-Net HT and supporting cables began.

Premier Pest Management installed the bird netting system perfectly. They took their time and eliminated any gaps or wrinkles in the netting that birds could exploit to get behind the netting after installation. This is a common problem for less experienced installers. "You have to pay attention to the details" said Mike Thavenet. "You need to install your perimeter and support cables with an eye towards the path of the installed netting".



*"You have to pay attention to the details. You need to install your perimeter and support cables with an eye towards the path of the installed netting (enclosure)."*

*Mike Thavenet - Premier Pest Management, Eldridge IA.*

## Results:

Premier Pest Management installed the bird netting under both the main covered stage as well as the smaller covered pavilion. Aesthetically, the bird netting enclosure is virtually undetectable if one is not looking for it. The netting blends in well with the shadowed underside of the pavilion roofs.



*Installed K-Net HT Bird Netting is discreet and perfectly effective!*

## Summary:

Through the combined efforts of all involved the installation of the K-Net HT at the Schwiebert Park has been successful and discreet. The net keeps the areas under the pavilions free of bird droppings making for a much more enjoyable experience.

***If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Nixalite of America Inc***



**Nixalite® of America Inc**  
1025 16th Ave, East Moline, IL. 61244  
Experts in Effective Architectural Bird Control

**Phone:** 800.624.1189 or 309.755.8771

**Fax:** 800.624.1196 or 309.755.0077

**Email:** [birdcontrol@nixalite.com](mailto:birdcontrol@nixalite.com)

**Web:** [www.nixalite.com](http://www.nixalite.com)