



Rendering of the planned amphitheater and fountain.

MOUNT VERNON, Ind. — The now cleaned-up riverfront along Water Street in [Mount Vernon, Ind.](#), will get even prettier once an amphitheater and six new condos, 46 senior housing units and retail space are added to the area in the near future.

Mount Vernon Mayor John Tucker revealed Monday that an amphitheater with an interactive fountain — costing around \$1 million — will be built on picturesque acreage overlooking bends in the Ohio River.

He also revealed plans for the development of a \$7.9 million three-story building across Water Street from the amphitheater. The building will include senior housing units and condominiums on the upper floors and retail/commercial space on the ground level.

Tucker said the building will be known as The Landing.

It is all part of the city's continuing riverfront revitalization program, which calls for a bike and pedestrian trail as well.

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The revitalization recently began with the clearing of silos — built in 1953 and formerly used to store grain for Mount Vernon Milling — from the riverfront site. The acreage is now a peaceful, parklike setting.

The mayor said he hopes the new construction will make Mount Vernon “a destination place for families and businesses” and will spur additional economic development in the future.

The amphitheater and fountain will be funded by a \$900,000 matching grant from the [Indiana Department of Transportation](#), according to Tucker.

Debbie Bennett-Stearsman of the [Southwestern Indiana Economic Development Coalition](#) said tax credits from the [Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority](#) will be sought to pay for The Landing.

Construction on the Riverfront Amphitheatre is expected to begin next spring, according to Tucker.

He said if the period has favorable weather, the project may be complete by as early as next fall.

Andrew Myszak, project manager with [Myszak + Palmer, Inc.](#) a Vincennes, Ind., architectural and engineering firm, said The Landing construction is anticipated to begin in September 2012 and be complete by fall of 2013.

Though predominantly contemporary and green in design, the building will also feature some architectural elements reminiscent of older buildings, which formerly stood on the proposed construction site.

Tucker predicted energy costs in the senior housing units could average between \$80 to \$100 a month.

He said the condominiums will be offered for sale at market rate.

“The proposed 52 households and the retail areas will create a vibrant new center of activity on what is now vacant ground across from the proposed Riverfront Amphitheatre and park,” Tucker said. “The Landing supports the economic progress already made in Mount Vernon, by creating jobs during the construction phase, and in the operation of the building and retail employment

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while adding 52 quality units to the tax base, creating more income for the city's future endeavors.”

Jim Higgs, co-developer along with 21st Century Leadership, said, “We are excited about the opportunity to promote economic development and outstanding housing opportunities ...”