

Master Plan Description

In September 2005, the Urbana City Council approved a set of common goals that the Council members want to achieve in the coming years. One major goal is to create an energetic, vibrant Downtown that provides needed services to the City.

As part of this larger goal to energize the Downtown area, the Council wishes to create and implement a redevelopment plan for the Boneyard Creek, especially between Race and Vine Streets and to create a trail way from Carle Hospital to Downtown.

These efforts, in combination with several other key projects, are aimed at better connecting downtown to surrounding neighborhoods and capitalizing on existing and planned projects and development, consistent with the objectives of the Downtown Strategic Plan and TIF 1 and 2 Plans.

The north Downtown area is the prime Downtown growth area, as exemplified by recent mixed-use developments and the availability of land.

The study area can be broken up into four (4) segments:

1. Main Street to Race Street
2. Race Street to Broadway Avenue
3. Broadway Avenue to Vine Street
4. and Vine Street to University Avenue

The City envisions a unified design theme along the entire proposed creek study area with additional design concepts for each segment. The selection of elements shall be subject to appropriate modifications to reflect differing design parameters, such as pedestrian paths, overlooks, fences, public art, and other items.

All design parameters shall be consistent with the Downtown Plan.

Urban design considerations to be addressed for this study include, but are not limited to:

- Creating pedestrian connectivity between Downtown and surrounding neighborhoods and commercial developments.
- Enhancing the physical appearance of the creek through improvements such as naturalization, landscaping, bank stabilization, and other amenities, while maintaining the creek's primary drainage function.
- Providing opportunities to add fencing, lighting, overlooks, and/or public art within the corridor.
- Facilitating adjacent property uses and creating urban design standards for public and private development along the Boneyard Creek.
- Creating an end product with a community-wide use.

All of these design considerations shall be consistent with the 2002 Downtown Strategic Plan and shall complete the picture of a quality Downtown, leading to increased private investment on adjacent private properties.