

#2 Mid-Cities Mall / Elks Club Property

The first two milestones at the mid-cities mall have already been met with the demolition of the buildings and the creation of a TIF District to spur future development.

However, we need to take an even larger look at this property along Lake Michigan. We intentionally created the TIF District to include the old Elks property and the property between that and the mid-cities mall. I view this stretch of Memorial Drive as a pivotal region for development along that scenic route. We are in constant discussions with all 3 owners of that land (mid-cities mall, Elks, and the property in-between). Mixed development of commercial and residential would suit this area well.

This property also connects to another point on this plan: Lincoln Park/Zoo. With the western-most portion of the old Elks property being in conservancy, we have an excellent opportunity to expand Lincoln Park and the Zoo across the river and incorporate trails and other park uses for this land. It would be great to also connect the Mariners Trail to Lincoln Park and the Zoo through this land. The safety features of the roundabout that will be added once Waldo Blvd. is reconstructed will help connect the Mariners Trail to this property.

I have stated publically before and will continue to state: if The Y were to consider relocating, the mid-cities mall site would be an ideal location. The Y, along with other non-profits that I hope would join, could utilize this land for a new facility that incorporates their current and long-term plans, along with better parking and fields for softball, baseball, soccer, and much more.

The mid-cities mall site will be separated into two parcels versus the current one. A road separating the parcels would be constructed where the mall was, with commercial/retail on the eastern portion (or The Y) and residential on the western portion.