SPRINGFIELD’S URBAN PARK

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois, the capital of the state, is seeing a loss of residential and businesses at its core. Reasons for this loss include commercial development along the western corridors, loss of state government jobs and lack of public parking. In the area of Springfield, this paper outlines the ways an urban park space could help bring residents and businesses back. Many citizens have succeeded in developing urban parks to mitigate these issues, including Millennial Park in Chicago and Right-Thirty Park in Detroit. While these examples may be more appealing to a larger number of residents, they are not the only parks that can bring back the downtown core. If done correctly, parks can be developed in the in-between areas. If people were to live downtown and enjoy the open spaces that make up the downtown area, a safe, more pedestrian downtown core would be created. If residents instead rely more on public transportation, private downtown surface parking lots in Springfield could be reused for new developments in those spaces.

In this environment, the city of Springfield will gain new significance. To be named Third Street Corridor, it will host a green pedestrian corridor, which will run north/south through the heart of downtown. With this green link walking as a spine, core pocket parks could be developed off of it in the remaining space. Through this corridor, not only will people be able to enjoy open space, but they will also be able to connect to the other downtown core.

Springfield possesses many of the necessary attributes people look for in a city and spans over the 66 square miles. A growing with practical downtown considerations, many residents and businesses have difficulty to find open developments in their area. According to Jane Jacobs, the heart of a city are the commercial areas. In order to stimulate the development of downtown, loss of state government jobs and downtown core lacks green space. There are three small green spaces downtown. Throughout the year, downtown hosts a variety of festivals. Something that is missing is a larger gathering space that can hold these festivals without shutting down many vital streets downtown. With Springfield having a third of the day, the environment has a variety of benefits. Something that is missing is a larger gathering space that can hold these festivals without shutting down many vital streets downtown.

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