

ABSTRACT

CREATIVE PROJECT: Riverfront Redevelopment In A Medium-sized City: Taking White River Sites In Downtown Indianapolis As An Example

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This creative project redesigns the underutilized industrial riverfront area of White River in Indianapolis as an example to explore strategies to develop a complete system to connect the riverfront green spaces in a medium-sized city in United States. Industrial development used to be prosperous in Mid-western area of United States. Industry, especially manufacture developed fast from late 19th century in Indianapolis, and became the economy's mainstay of the city. Along with the transformation of economic structure, industrial decline and many factories close down lead the contaminated lands cannot be used any more as well as many surrounding vacant lots. Setting the goal for redesigning a sustainable system of industrialized river-edge sites to provide comprehensive service for human, the project explores developing the underutilized urban river-edge sites as well as returning to local community uses.

This project reviews existing literatures to identify solutions for redesigning and improving urban river-edge networks, including providing more opportunities to local community uses, providing sustainable site design for redeveloping underutilized urban

river-edge sites, increasing urban spatial design for underutilized area, and cooperating with commercial development to facilitate the urban economic development. Then, the project analyzes problems and conflicts of the existing conditions, including population decreasing, commercial declining, and aesthetics. In the design process, the project provides possible design solutions to increase the connection of the existing green spaces along river-edge, and increase the comfort of local residential environment.