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Press Release
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MAYOR DEMARIA LOOKS TO PUT PLANS INTO ACTION

Mayor DeMaria and his team are developing a vision and looking forward to a time when Everett will truly be a place to live, work and play. The Live, Work and Play vision is steering the City of Everett toward becoming an inclusive community where everything resident's need is within walking or biking distance.

While attention is focused on the city's parks, streets and municipal owned buildings, major sites of interest from both State and local officials for future development are the Rivergreen Business Park and the Parkside Lofts Development, a 198 unit residential complex. While major construction is still in planning stages, the Mayor is eager to keep both projects moving in the interest of developing the area into a premier residential and business complex.

"With this development along the Malden River, we will be a world class place to work, live and do business," DeMaria explained.

The RiverGreen Business Park is a 22-acre site which sits along the Malden River and is the former site of General Electric. Berkley LLC, the developer of the RiverGreen site, has remediated the parcel and is currently showcasing the development to potential tenants. The site has been named a priority development site by the City and the State, which makes it qualified for expedited permitting. The developer has estimated that the creation of this development will generate 500 new jobs in Everett.

Over the past few weeks, the City of Everett, through a \$2 million dollar MassWorks Infrastructure Grant, is working on the reconstruction of Airforce Road, which will become an attractive new gateway into the development. This work includes installation of sidewalks, pedestrian crosswalks and lighting.

Directly adjacent to the site is the proposed Parkside Lofts, which would contain 198 units of one and two bedroom housing.

“I envision this complex to go hand in hand with the Rivergreen Business park,” DeMaria explained. “People will be able to live walking distance from work in a first class residential complex.”

The developers of the residential portion of the project, which is still pending before the Planning Board, are meeting continuously with the administration to ensure development plans will meet the conditions and standards the Mayor is envisioning for the area.

“These developments represent the future of Everett,” DeMaria stated. “We are setting higher standards for developers because this is a special part of Everett. We can’t go back to a clogged industrial center when we can have a modern contemporary site. I refuse to settle for anything that will not revitalize that area.”

The DeMaria administration spoke at the Planning Board meeting in favor of the Parkside Lofts Project, but read a list of 9 conditions they wanted placed on the project. These restrictions included: full reconstruction of Water’s Ave and any sidewalks abutting the development, landscaping requirements, application for easement onto Airforce Road and restrictions to ease the inconvenience of construction on the abutting neighborhoods.

According to Mayor DeMaria, the area will further be heightened by amenities, like the Northern Strand Community Trail, formerly the Bike Path to the Sea, a canoe launch and an area which has already been granted a marina license.

“This area will quickly become a destination spot,” DeMaria stated. “A place where residents can work, live and enjoy all the activities Everett offers.”

The Northern Strand Community Trail, which will allow residents to ride their bikes right from Everett to the beaches of Nahant and Lynn, has already begun construction. Mayor DeMaria has been lobbying fellow Mayors to begin their construction as well. The Everett portion has already seen the former MBTA rail being removed in some portions and the rest of that rail should be removed this summer. Once the path has been paved, this will be a safe place for residents to bike, run and walk.

With a favorable vote from the Conservation Commission, the canoe launch is also moving closer to becoming a reality. The city currently has grant funding to build a small canoe launch along the Malden River, giving canoeists and small boaters easy access to the river.

“The canoe launch is one of my favorite projects,” DeMaria explained. “It’s amazing the opportunities a city like Everett will have, canoeing, walking, biking- it is an exciting time for the City and I can’t wait to see people paddling their canoe down the river.”

A chapter 91 License, which regulates construction along waterways, is in place for the area. With this license the city or developer could construct a marina. With the new bridge construction on Route 99, the expanded bridge allow for bigger vessels to pass under the bridge without lifting, opening up more opportunities for marinas and docks along the River. Mayor DeMaria envisions this marina could attract a water taxi service, which would carry Everett's residents and commuters into downtown Boston.

With the addition of the Parkside Lofts, and the new Airforce Road, the Mayor is expanding the his vision for the project area from the Madeline English School to Santilli Circle looking to bring more office, research, and retail development to the site.

Extended beyond these development sites, Mayor DeMaria is in conversations with Massachusetts Department of Transportation lobbying for a train station or a commuter rail flag stop in the City of Everett. With the administration's recently completed a Parkway study Mayor is also lobbying the Department of Conservation and Recreation to conduct a Corridor Study of Route 16. This study will help determine the needs of expansion along the popular corridor and the Mayor hopes the State will finally undertake an overhaul of the road with new landscaping, better traffic lanes, bike lanes, and easier access into and out of area businesses.

With all the work scheduled to begin on Route 99 within the next couple of months, and with the Mayor working on an Everett Square Revitalization study, which spans from Second Street past the Old High School site. Adding to the high level of work, is currently reviewing completed designs for a renovation of Glendale Park.

"In the past week, I have met with several planning consultants to find the right person to put this plan together," DeMaria said. "I know that with this visioning exercise and the development of a master plan we are making Everett an even better place to live, work and play."

Photos – Airforce Road Construction
Potential Site of Parkside Lofts

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