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Story: Megan Sims • Photo: Bedrock • August 09, 2022

Bedrock hopes new streetscape plan will increase downtown Cleveland walkability

Bedrock's renderings of what Tower City Center would look like following the enhancements they plan on starting in the fall.

Bedrock's renderings of what Prospect would look like following the enhancements they plan on starting in the fall.

CLEVELAND, Ohio - New benches, planters, foliage and lighting will soon begin changing the look outside the Tower City Center and some nearby streets.

The real estate company Bedrock, whose holdings include Tower City Center, the Ritz Carlton and the May Building, plans to begin work this fall on a concept approved Friday by the Cleveland Planning Commission. Bedrock is part of the family of Rocket Companies led by Cavs owner Dan Gilbert.

"We believe it is important to address some of the physical issues immediately adjacent to these core downtown spaces, even as we evolve our plans for Tower City and curate a mixed-use residential community on the Cuyahoga Riverfront," Kofi Bonner, chief executive officer at Bedrock, said in a news release.

"Working with the city of Cleveland, we have proposed a few straightforward but important features that will help provide a more welcoming, pedestrian friendly environment."

The company declined to say how much money would be spent on the work.

According to the news release, the project would be in partnership with LAND Studio, a Cleveland-based nonprofit that uses public art to engage the local community.

The streetscape project received unanimous conceptual approval by the planning commission. Project representatives assured the committee that there would be on-going maintenance on the planters to ensure there would be no staining on the sidewalks. They hope to begin the enhancements fall.

This project comes after the recent opening of Skylight Park, an interior urban park setting inside of Tower City, last month. Bedrock partnered with the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park to encourage passersby to take a break at benches, picnic tables and chairs.

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