

Could downtown Orland Park look something like this?

Officials looking at Indy luxury development as model

By Jeff Vorva/TribLocal.com reporter



Photo courtesy of Flaherty & Collins Properties

Although Orland Park does not have a canal, Flaherty & Collins reps say that the village has enough around its downtown area to build an appealing development.



The village of Orland Park has some big ideas about dressing up the downtown area.

The village has been consulting with Flaherty & Collins Properties out of Indianapolis about developing a high-end luxury apartment area in its Main Street Triangle area.

Flaherty & Collins constructed a Cosmopolitan on the Canal development near downtown Indianapolis. A group of officials from Orland toured the development in late June and came away impressed.

"It's a very nice development," Orland's Director of Development Services Karie Friling said. "We're pleased with what we saw, with the high quality of their development."

Officials are hoping the area of 143rd Street, LaGrange Road and Southwest Highway can become a hot spot for residents to live and shop and believe a development similar to the Cosmopolitan project could be the key.

The Metra train station reconstruction project, completed in 2007, served as the first phase of the Triangle project. Crescent Park, which is open and is being used for concerts, is also part of that plan.

Now the village is turning its attention to high-end, high-density living.

It took three years for the Cosmopolitan on the Canal to get built. Orland Park is not as huge as Indianapolis, but those involved in the project believe there are some similarities.

"We've been to Orland Park several times and spent a lot of time riding the Metra train up and down and it's an underserved market," Flaherty & Collins developer Chris Kirles said. "When you have a brand new train station in place, it makes for a very unique opportunity."

Add to that the village's bike trails and forest preserve, and Kirles says there is a lot to work with. That is the key to the success of a project like this – taking advantage of what's already there, he added.

"What we're looking for is to take advantage of unique characteristics...which is the train station, Crescent Park and the beautiful retention pond with the fountain coming out of it," Kirles said.

Friling said the within the next three or four months, the Village Board will vote on the final proposal to hire Flaherty & Collins to start the development.