



Midtown Crossing at Turner Park Receives ASLA Award

Midtown Crossing at Turner Park is already collecting accolades prior to its May ribbon-cutting. This 1.1 million SF development will realize the Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company's vision of a revitalized urban mixed-use commercial and residential neighborhood complementing its corporate campus at the edge of Omaha's central business district.

Cope Linder Architects served as Master Planner, Design Architect and Landscape Architect for the project, working with ECI Investment Advisors who lead the development effort on behalf of Mutual of Omaha. Executive architect is Holland Basham Architects.

Midtown Crossing encompasses two city blocks and includes seven buildings, each with street level retail, and two parking structures. The Marcus Theatre multiplex cinema, which opened last November, occupies the upper floors of one building. Two of the five residential-over-retail buildings are now finished and occupied, with the remaining three to be completed in the next few months. The seventh building is designed as a 300-room Westin Element Hotel, which will open over the summer. Over 80 percent of the 180,000 SF retail space is currently leased with several tenants open and operating, including New Prairie Life Fitness Center. The remaining retail and restaurant spaces are expected to be occupied over the summer.

The centerpiece of the development plan is the redesign and expansion of Turner Park, which forms the central public open space for the project. Supplemented by land donated by Mutual of Omaha and framed with vibrant, new development, the expanded park features a formal elliptical lawn, which will be home to a variety of programmed public events. In recognition of the significance and quality of the design, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) has awarded the project this year's Merit Award.

The U. S. Green Building Council has also selected the project for Stage 2 of its LEED pilot program for Neighborhood Development Certification.