

Grand Rapids Brownfield Redevelopment to Create Private Investment

Governor John Engler announced that a major brownfield redevelopment would take place in downtown Grand Rapids with assistance from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

"This brownfield redevelopment will convert several unused, deteriorating buildings into a vibrant downtown center," Engler said. "Providing quality residential housing is a major component of urban revitalization. The city of Grand Rapids is doing an excellent job of targeting that need within this project."

This project will create up to 135 new jobs upon completion. This is expected to make the downtown area north of 6th Street more desirable to businesses while bringing in \$28 million in private investment.

American Seating Park, LLC, a new company formed by Pioneer General Contractors, Inc., and American Seating Company, is planning to build its corporate headquarters in the redeveloped complex. "I am pleased with the continued support of our efforts by the state of Michigan and the city of Grand Rapids," said Edward J. Clark, CEO of American Seating Company. "The development of American Seating Park is further testimony of American Seating's commitment to rejuvenate the surrounding community as we continue to anchor the west side of Grand Rapids."

The project includes 230,000 square feet of residential space and 100,000 square feet of commercial/retail space. The project will also boast a courtyard with an outdoor amphitheater, dining and seating area, and a gazebo with a fountain.

"This is a classic example of businesses combining to renovate an outdated manufacturing facility into something that citizens can use for an entirely different purpose than

originally designed," said Randall Zandbergen, President of Pioneer Construction. "We are proud of our contribution to the continuing growth of the greater Grand Rapids area, and we look forward to additional projects in the future."

Many local businesses are enthusiastic about the redevelopment. "This brownfield project is huge," said Rick Chapla of The Right Place Program and staff member of the Grand Rapids Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. "Pioneer Construction's confidence level in making this investment the city at this time and at this location is unparalleled."

DET_B\340571.1