

Tuscaloosa Post-Tornado Development

Graphics courtesy of Humphreys & Partners Architects



Following the city's new MX code, the apartment buildings will edge pedestrian-friendly streets. Parking decks are concealed from view.



This view shows how commercial buildings (not these particular designs) will front McFarland Boulevard with a similar urban footprint.



The site plan shows parking decks wrapped by the apartment buildings on all major exposures. The commercial footprints extend left toward McFarland Boulevard.

By Philip Morris



The first project being built under the City of Tuscaloosa's plan to replace suburban-style buildings destroyed by the tornado with pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use development has begun. The Lofts at City Center, a 348-unit student housing community, is being built on a portion of the 13.5-acre site that held Wood Square Shopping Center at McFarland Boulevard and 13th Street.

There will be three five-story apartment buildings, a 10,000-square-foot community center and other amenities. The apartments wrap the exterior of two five-story pre-cast concrete parking decks that serve residents. Design is by Humphreys & Partners Architects of Dallas, Texas. This is the first development approved under the city's new mixed-use (MX) zoning codes approved in 2012, and the buildings edge streets with sidewalks, lampposts and other pedestrian amenities.

Between the apartment blocks and McFarland Boulevard will be a hotel and retail with urban frontages. The developers, a partnership between the site's owner, Capital Growth Buchalter Inc, and Capstone Collegiate Communities of Birmingham, have congratulated Tuscaloosa leaders including Mayor Walt Maddox and the city council for their Tuscaloosa Forward redevelopment plans (see DA Journal 2011).



This view shows the community center opening to the street that leads through the apartment blocks.