

Downtown Alton, Inc.

A nonprofit corporation dedicated to the enhancement and growth of the downtown business district

DOWNTOWN ISLANDS MASTER PLAN ON THE WAY THIS SPRING

The sudden chopping down of the last four pear trees on West Third in Downtown Alton caused a bevy of conversation, both for and against



From the monthly meeting of the Alton Beautification and Clean City Committee (ABCCC), to the responses of area residents in Sound Off in The Telegraph, from the board of Pride, Inc., to property owners in downtown, the cutting down of the mature trees resulted in a backlash of protest.

The reason for the chopping, according to Rhonda Lewis of the Park and Recreation Department, was to address health issues associated with the bird droppings.

Birds have been a continual, if intermittent problem downtown, coming and going as they please, no matter what the business owners tried. Plastic owls and snakes, firecrackers at midnight, sticky spray and pet cats were all tried. When birds decide to roost, they have been hard to get rid of.

The islands and fountain area on West Third St. was once the centerpiece of Downtown Alton's revitalization. Now all the trees are gone, and the fountains have been broken since the middle of last summer. Green areas on map show location of islands that are part of master plan being proposed.



The good news is, plans are in full swing on a master plan for the islands.

Some recent developments include:

- The aldermanic board has given the ok to hire an outside consultant for the master plan.
- The park department is addressing the problem of the remaining stumps and roots from the chopped trees.
- Pride, Inc., is working on a master beautification plan that includes Downtown Alton.
- DAI is consulting with arborist and gardening expert Bill Ruppert, designer for Downtown Kirkwood and Gateway Greening in St. Louis, for ideas specific to our island planting.
- The Mississippi Valley Garden Club has extended their offer of help with Downtown Alton beautification.
- Flowers have been ordered for the hanging basket project in Downtown Alton.

Several areas of funding, from the park department budget, to the city Alton Beautification and Clean City Committee, to DAI's donation from the Block Party account, will be used to begin purchasing.



Workers with Wegman Electric place a globe atop a new lamppost in front of Don and Penny's on State St. last week. Work continues on the lampposts, which match those throughout Downtown Alton, along State St. from Broadway to Fourth St.

Please consider helping to improve our downtown by volunteering on one of the following committees:

Beautification/Litter-

Island Upkeep; Street, Alley, Parking lot cleanup, Signage, garbage can, park bench funding & placement; "Unkept" building/facade issues

Advertising, Marketing, Volunteer, Membership

Co-op advertising efforts, guerrilla marketing efforts, membership, dues, fund raising, publications, pamphlets, civic memberships, email list updates, newsletter

Events

That huge annual event known as "Block Parties"! Other street festivals, shop walks, bike and walking tours, cook-offs, parades, other events

Planning and Growth

Incorporation boundaries, property log, property availability, parking issues, residential issues, TIF funds, City and Madison County grants, design assistance, retail and service related business issues, City Hall liason