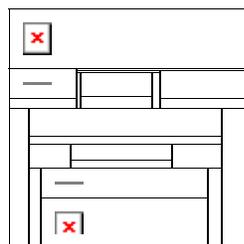


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Friday, June 24, 2005

Keep it going: Business park model should be duplicated

06/23/2005

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The rapid development of the Fayette County Business Park, where most of 277 acres became spoken for in less than three years, stands as a textbook example of how progressive, risk-taking leadership can have a positive impact.

The former county home property was turned over to the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority, and a county commission then comprised of Vincent A. Vicites, Ronald M. Nehls and Sean M. Cavanagh wisely set aside \$2 million for its development in the county's first bond issue of the modern era.

The park's prime location along Route 40 has been a big factor in its development too, as has strong support from the South Union Township supervisors. By the end of 2004 only 60 acres remained available for further commercial development, an impressive accomplishment.

But since a big gully needs filled in to make most of the remaining acreage marketable, a likely two-year undertaking, it's not too early for the county and the FCRA to start thinking about duplicating this success elsewhere, perhaps partnering with a willing municipality.

Two years will fly by. It would be a shame to let the development momentum stop because of weak long-term planning or satisfaction with the track record.

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