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Appleton

World-Class Skater Contributes to Riverfront Development Project

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A Chicago developer has a grand vision for Appleton's riverfront.

The site is on the east side of the Fox River near the College Avenue bridge. The plan calls for condominiums, restaurants, shops, and now an outdoor skating rink overlooking the Fox.

The development team is tapping a world-class figure skating and record holder to design the rink.

While she is best known as the world's fastest spinner on ice, in Appleton two-time national gold medalist Lucinda Ruh will be famous for her ice rink nestled along the Fox River.

"It just sounded like an incredible opportunity for me to express my art and all the experience that I've had living all around the world. I've been skating around the world and touring, so I know exactly what an ice rink needs," Ruh said.

Ruh, a friend of the riverfront developer, plans to design the outdoor rink as something looking much like Rockefeller Plaza in New York.

The outdoor skating rink is part of a bigger plan for the riverfront. By next year a developer hopes to have condos, shops, and restaurants, too.

"There is enough room out there that you can have a whole neighborhood. The exciting thing is, is that we're kind of creating it from scratch," developer Mark Geall said.

They hope to put a new spin on the usual development.

"This is going to be outdoors. I mean, this is beautiful, to be able to skate and have that wind blowing in your hair, the ice from your blades, that feeling is something that I know I have experienced," Ruh said. "It's an honor to be a part of it."



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