

MAN HAS BIG PLANS FOR OLD CEMENT COMPANY SITE - RIVERVIEW GETS AN UPDATE ON PROJECT

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Robert Cassilly is known for his talent in taking what others may call junk and transforming it into something of great amusement and interest. In his newest project, now in progress, he is turning an old cement plant into a recreation area.

Cassilly last week gave Riverview officials an update of his plan for the old Missouri Portland Cement Co. at Riverview Drive and Scranton Avenue.

He bought the property several years ago and said that his plan to turn it into a recreation area was slowly taking shape. One of the buildings has some asbestos problems. In the meantime, he is filling the site with earth and constructing a berm. Cassilly said the view from the berm provided a vista of the Mississippi River and downtown St. Louis.

"It was the world's largest cement company and was built in 1949," Cassilly said. His plan includes a walkway on top of the berm, a lake and boat rides and a museum of antique industrial objects. He hopes to be finished with the site in about two years. He also has hopes to connect it to the bicycle path that follows the river.

The silo original to the factory is about 73 feet tall. His plan includes a landscaped nature area. He has bought 17 old Bi-State buses, which he will be using on the site.

The park/museum/landscape has yet to be officially named. Cassilly suggests calling it Cement Land. A good view of the site can be seen by travelers from airplanes approaching Lambert Field from the east.

The site is partly in St. Louis and partly in Riverview.

Cassilly devised and built the City Museum in an old shoe factory in downtown St. Louis.

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