

q-c area

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RiverTech set for debut

With site work nearly done, Moline courts developers

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MOLINE — Sixteen acres of city-owned riverfront land will be development-ready this fall, a project in the works for almost four years.

RiverTech is what Moline calls the land it owns between 25th Street and the Western Illinois University Quad City Riverfront Campus on River Drive. The city has plans for the land to house multiple buildings.

The city bought the land in 2004 for \$3 million and demolished the ABC Supply building on the parcel in November 2008.

Plans were to build a road behind the site and raise the land as much as four feet, but because the project was in part federally funded, it took years for plans to be approved.

Cement from demolition of the original building remained

on site until about two months ago, when crews began crushing the cement to work it into the site and filling began, city engineer Scott Hinton said.

Site filling — which raises the property out of the flood plain — is nearly finished, Mr. Hinton said, adding that workers will shape the dirt that is there and then seed it, leaving it ready for a developer.

He said the water main is installed and the road that will go from 25th Street to the railroad track right of way, then east to 34th Street, will be paved and ready by winter.

The road will give motorists access to RiverTech and the WIU campus when River Drive floods, he said.

“This project is going to help the area quite a bit,” Mr. Hinton said. “It will allow the redevelopment of the land with new buildings that complement Western Illinois



Paul Colletti / staff

Construction workers level the ground at the new RiverTech development on River Drive in Moline on Thursday

University’s new campus and give access to those buildings when the river floods. It is certainly good for the city.”

The work under way is funded in part with a \$1.06 million U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration grant, which was matched by the city with Tax Increment Finance funds.

Ray Forsythe, Moline’s planning and development director, said the city is negotiating with Heart of America to build e3, a mixed-use building in RiverTech, and recently met with a developer interested in building student housing.

“We are starting to see some interest now that Western Illinois University is almost open.”