

Port KC will add a beer garden to complement Berkley Riverfront hotel, KC Current stadium

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KEM Studio

Berkley Riverfront will add a beer garden in 2024.

Visitors to Kansas City's Berkley Riverfront will soon have another space to spend some leisure time: a beer garden.

Berkley Beer Garden will open in 2024, according to a release from the Port Authority of Kansas City.

It plans to be operational around the same time as the [Kansas City Current's \\$118 million stadium](#) and The Thrash Group's [Origin Hotel](#), both under construction. A [riverfront streetcar extension](#) is set to open in 2025.

Thrash Group will develop the 8,200-square-foot, two-story space, but the beer garden will be publicly owned by Port KC. The beer garden will sit on half an acre in what's known as the grove, across Riverfront Drive from the hotel.

According to a Port KC spokeswoman, Thrash Group will cover the majority of costs for the structure. Right now, the cost estimate is \$5 million, but that could change because the project is still being designed.



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Port KC will pursue a development agreement with Thrash Group for a new public beer garden at the Berkley Riverfront, across from the builder's Origin Hotel site. KEM Studio's design would reuse some park structures set for demolition during upcoming streetcar construction.



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Kansas City-based architecture and industrial design firm KEM Studio is designing the beer garden building, and it aims to make it fit in with the surrounding park. The proposed design also will reuse some park structures set for demolition as part of upcoming streetcar construction.

Thrash Group is developing the five-story boutique hotel, which broke ground in December, the release said.

Port KC anticipates a groundbreaking for the beer garden over the summer.

Development in Berkley Riverfront is picking up steam. Along with the hotel and KC Current stadium, which will be the first built specifically for a women's team, [Lux Living also is doing predevelopment work for 254 new apartments](#).

A pair of successful projects that opened several years ago — [Bar K](#) and [Union Berkley Apartments](#) — helped [generate Berkley Riverfront's current momentum](#).

"It's been a long time coming," Port KC CEO [Jon Stephens](#) said in 2020. "This was an area that was really abandoned — it was brownfield. It was true reclamation, and we've gotten it back."

Ellen Cagle

Digital Reporter - *Kansas City Business Journal*

