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**'Famous Dave' backs huge resort near MOA**

**Sam Black**  
Staff reporter

A company owned by "Famous Dave" Anderson, plans to start construction next year on a 500- to 750-room hotel in Bloomington with a \$150 million water park.

It's part of Bloomington Central Station, a 45-acre project surrounding a new light rail station two blocks east of the Mall of America.

The resort, dubbed Majestic Springs, will feature a 60,000-square-foot water park that will include a 90-foot-drop water slide. Plans also include a spa and fitness center, a 30,000-square-foot conference facility and two new restaurants developed by Anderson. The water park would be housed under a 13-story cascading glass atrium designed to recreate a tropical resort.

Eden Prairie-based Great Northern Resorts, in which Anderson is a partner, will develop and own the hotel.

The overall developer of Bloomington Central Station is McGough Development, a division of McGough Cos, Roseville.

McGough has asked the city of Bloomington for \$50 million in public financing for the \$600 million redevelopment project.

McGough plans to begin construction in 2004 on 250 of an eventual 1,000 condominium units. McGough also announced it has hired Minnetonka-based Northstar Partners to begin marketing the site for office development.

**Competition**

The plans for Majestic Springs come three weeks after the announcement of a 90,000-square-foot water park and 500- to 700-room hotel project at another site near the Mall of

America. Jeffrey Wirth, a developer who renovated the Grand Hotel in downtown Minneapolis, announced his plans for an \$80 million project on the site of the former Decathlon Club on Interstate 494 and



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Cedar Avenue.

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Bloomington city officials have publicly expressed skepticism about that project's ability to receive financing from the city because it isn't one of the city's priority redevelopment sites.

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McGough and Great Northern officials said their project is different because it is already under control of the developer. And due to two years of biweekly meetings with city officials, the project already has political support, they said.

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