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Pringle

Continued from 1A

hired by the Boise site's developers.

The path would have a plaza with room for food cart vendors, as well as outdoor seating for a restaurant. It would run under the railroad bridge at the Boise site, as well as under Commercial Street SE, and could become another way to reach Riverfront Park.

But the section of Pringle Creek that cuts across the Boise site hasn't gotten much appreciation for decades. That's because industrial buildings have spanned the waterway, blocking it from view.

Buildings north of Pringle Creek at the Boise site have been leveled. The spot where the structure known as the Old Mill Building once stood is an open expanse of concrete — a

sub-basement that covers Pringle Creek.

The creek has flowed beneath buildings since at least the 1930s and maybe longer, Gerling said. Pringle Creek will stay concealed beneath the sub-basement until developers line up permits from a plethora of state and federal agencies.

"Until we get those permits, we're not going to take that basement slab off the creek, and we're certainly not going to do any work in there," Gerling said.

About 18 groups of federal and state regulators will have a say in how the project proceeds, he said.

Early next year, the developers will begin filing applications to remove the slab and restore the creek. The site's demolition contractor would like to begin the work right away, but Gerling expects the approvals will take more than a year to obtain.

The portion of the creek that flows underneath the slab is now a "wasteland" of rocks heaped around about 70 columns driven into the streambed, he said. Restoration work would include removing the slab and columns, and creating a new creek bank.

On the north bank, the plan is to carve a gentle slope so it's practical to install a path. It's now a sharp, 30-foot drop from street level to the creek.

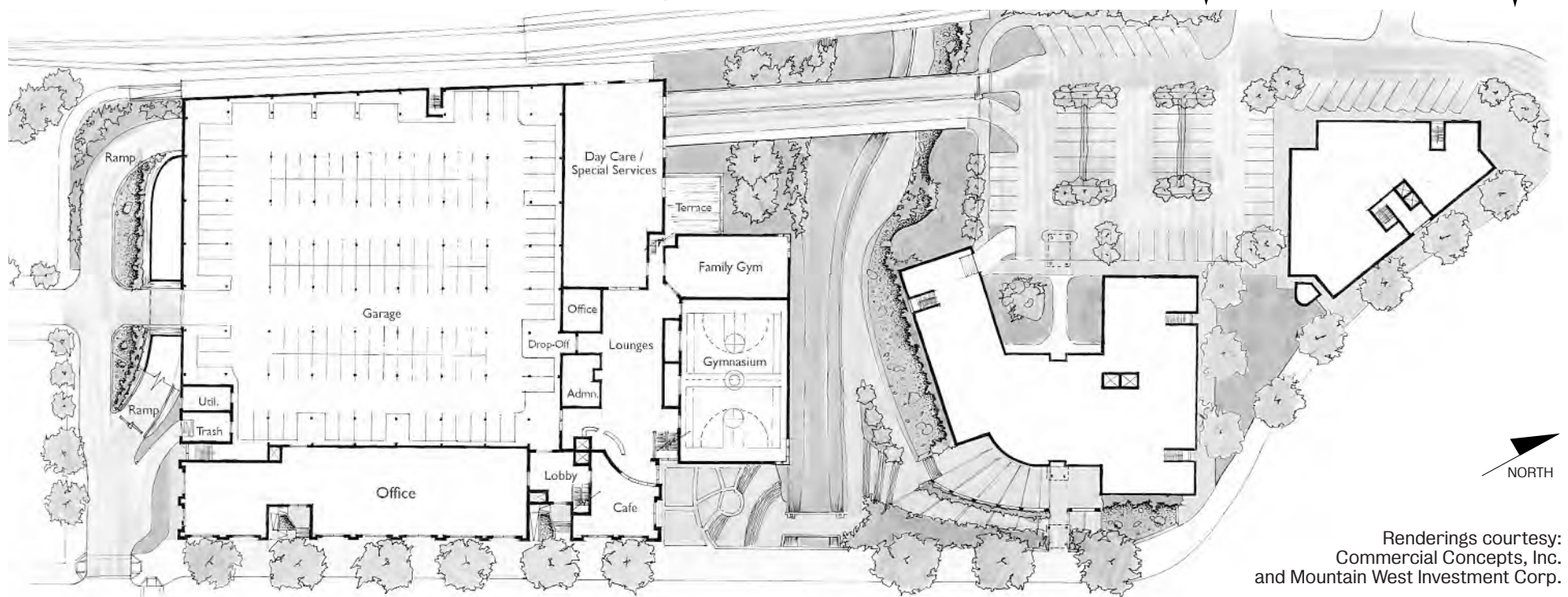
In addition, a 1 million-gallon water reservoir underneath the sub-basement, which hasn't been used in many years, would be taken out. It's now empty, but it's a large mass of concrete to be removed, Gerling said. Boise probably used the reservoir when paper pulp was made at the location.

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EAST ELEVATION (GROUND VIEW)



SITE PLAN GROUND LEVEL (OVERHEAD VIEW)



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