

Downtown Battle Creek is getting a face lift

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BATTLE CREEK, Mich. (NEWSCHANNEL 3) – Downtown Battle Creek is in the process of getting a face lift.

Those who haven't been to downtown Battle Creek lately will be sure to notice all of the changes taking place. That's because the city is in the middle of a multi-million dollar project to jump start growth in the downtown area.

When all is said and done it's estimated that area companies will have invested about \$85 million to reinvigorate the area.

It's expected that by mid-October roughly 600 additional Kellogg employees will be transferred to a building that construction workers are putting the finishing touches on.

"There will be many more people in the downtown," said Karl Dehn.

The additional Kellogg workers will be just the start of it, while Kellogg is expanding, Convince's food safety lab is expected to be move-in ready sometime in October, and the street-scape in the downtown area is to be completely transformed into a workable green space.

The hope is to make the green space so eye-pleasing that in the end other businesses may find Battle Creek an attractive place to set up shop.

"There is some strategy involved," said Dehn, "where people can interact and businesses can go."

The transformations in downtown Battle Creek are expected to take two more years to complete, and Newschannel 3 has been told that there has already been some interest by restaurants and retailers to relocate into the downtown area.