

Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau

Birmingham AREA Development

BIRMINGHAM

The new year brings with it more new developments in the greater Birmingham area. *Here is some of the latest news from a city that doesn't stand still.*



22 Best Places to Go in 2022 – Well-respected Condé Nast Traveler issued their choices for places to go in the world in 2022, and Birmingham, Alabama, is right there alongside London, Istanbul, and Singapore. The naming noted the city's inspired dining, new boutique hotels, the much-anticipated City Walk development, and Birmingham's hosting The World Games 2022 in July.

Condé Nast
Traveler

USFL Coming to Birmingham - After much speculation and negotiation, it was formally announced in January that Birmingham will host 40 **USFL** regular and postseason games this year. The league's eight teams will play at the new **Protective Stadium** and at historic Legion Field. The National Spring Football League and the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex, which includes Protective Stadium, reached an initial agreement last fall. The Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Birmingham City Council, and the Jefferson County Commission stepped up with commitments to cover costs associated with the season. CVB officials expect the league will use more than 40,000 hotel room nights to house players, coaches, and league officials between April and July.



City Walk BHM – The park under the new I-20/59 interstate is coming together nicely, giving the north end of the city a more pedestrian friendly feel. The massive 31-acre park will have everything from beer and wine gardens to dog parks. Other plans call for recreational sports space, water features, performance space, markets, and public art. **City Walk BHM** will be home to World Games Plaza when the event comes to Birmingham in July. The 10-block park is adjacent to the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex.

Legacy Arena – The Legacy Arena at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex reopened in December after a 20-month modernization and renovation project. Birmingham’s new NBA G League team, the **Birmingham Squadron**, plays its home games in the venue. With more than 15,000 fixed seats, the arena has a new entry plaza with floor to ceiling windows, along with new seating and other added amenities. An important addition are new sensory rooms that allow visitors with sensory needs to have a safe space if crowds become overwhelming.



Craft Breweries –

Breweries around the area are springing up with new locations to serve thirsty patrons. **Ghost Train Brewing Company** just opened a second location with a larger taproom, event space,

and a music venue. Birmingham’s award-winning breweries produce inventive varieties of craft beer, and many are live music venues as well.



New Merchants on Morris – The cobblestones along historic Morris Avenue are getting a workout as new businesses open their doors there. **Mercantile on Morris** brings new residential units and thousands of square feet of retail space to the charming street. Opening their doors are businesses such as **Bridge + Root**, a high-end clothing store for the discerning gentleman. **Cannella Gelato & Café** joins **Pizza Grace** with new spots to eat along the avenue.



The Hardwick – Another development along **Rotary Trail** is bringing historic chic to this mixed-use project. Historic features of the building are being incorporated into the design. New restaurants, retail businesses, and workspace will become part of the neighborhood as **The Hardwick** progresses. **Epice**, a Lebanese bistro, is preparing to open in the development.

RENDERING: WILLIAMS BLACKSTOCK ARCHITECTS

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