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Developers of Dallas' Cityplace complex are working on plans to use vacant blocks in the project for temporary development.

The property owner is asking for city approval for short-term entertainment, retail and recreation facilities on about eight acres at the northwest corner of North Central Expressway and Lemmon Avenue.

"We want to create some activity and interest so we don't have vacant land just sitting there," said Neal Sleeper, president of Cityplace Co. "We want to do something with those sites in the interim."

The three small blocks between Oak Grove Avenue and North Central have been empty since old houses and commercial buildings on the land were knocked down in the early 1980s.

Since then, most of the Cityplace project has built out with offices, apartments and retail.

But those high-traffic freeway sites have remained empty.

"We think long term those are going to be office building sites," Sleeper said. "But that's not going to happen real soon."

Until then, Cityplace Co. wants to rent the Uptown land out to businesses and entrepreneurs who can benefit from the high-traffic location. The property is adjacent to a DART light-rail station.

"We've looked at entertainment facilities, and we've looked at restaurant deals," Sleeper said. "We'd like to do some food trucks."

"We may do a dog park on part of it," he said. "We have a jillion ideas."

But first city planners have to OK the plan.

While considered "temporary," any project on the Cityplace land may be there for a while.

"Think back on the Hank Haney golf center and what we did with them," Sleeper said. "That lasted 17 years."

The golf driving range and practice facility at McKinney Avenue and Blackburn Street was recently scraped to make way for a high-rise residential and retail building.

But for years the golf operation was one of Cityplace's most popular offerings.