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Urban Edge Properties
Form 10-K

February 14, 2018

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20549

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the annual period ended December 31, 2017

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number: 001-36523 (Urban Edge Properties)

Commission File Number: 333-212951-01 (Urban Edge Properties LP)

URBAN EDGE PROPERTIES

URBAN EDGE PROPERTIES LP

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland (Urban Edge Properties) 47-6311266

Delaware (Urban Edge Properties LP) 36-4791544

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) (I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

888 Seventh Avenue, New York, New York 10019

(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number including area code: (212) 956 2556

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Urban Edge Properties

Title of Each Class Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered

Common Shares, \$.01 par value per share New York Stock Exchange

Urban Edge Properties LP

Title of Each Class Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered

None N/A

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

Urban Edge Properties: None Urban Edge Properties LP: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Urban Edge Properties YES NO Urban Edge Properties LP YES NO

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

Urban Edge Properties YES NO Urban Edge Properties LP YES NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Urban Edge Properties YES NO Urban Edge Properties LP YES NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Urban Edge Properties YES NO Urban Edge Properties LP YES NO

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Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Urban Edge Properties Urban Edge Properties LP

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company" and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Urban Edge Properties:

Large Accelerated Filer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated Filer <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Accelerated Filer <input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller Reporting Company <input type="checkbox"/>	Emerging Growth Company <input type="checkbox"/>
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Urban Edge Properties LP:

Large Accelerated Filer <input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated Filer <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Accelerated Filer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Smaller Reporting Company <input type="checkbox"/>	Emerging Growth Company <input type="checkbox"/>
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If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Urban Edge Properties Urban Edge Properties LP

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Urban Edge Properties YES NO Urban Edge Properties LP YES NO

As of June 30, 2017, the last business day of the Registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, the aggregate market value of the Common Shares held by nonaffiliates of the Registrant was approximately \$2.5 billion based upon the last reported sale price of \$23.73 per share on the New York Stock Exchange on such date.

As of January 31, 2018, Urban Edge Properties had 113,824,653 common shares outstanding. There is no public trading market for the common units of Urban Edge Properties LP. As a result, the aggregate market value of the common units held by non-affiliates of Urban Edge Properties LP cannot be determined.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Part III incorporates by reference information from certain portions of the Urban Edge Properties' definite proxy statement for the 2018 annual meeting of shareholders to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission within 120 days after the close of the fiscal year.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This report combines the annual reports on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 of Urban Edge Properties and Urban Edge Properties LP. Unless stated otherwise or the context otherwise requires, references to “UE” and “Urban Edge” mean Urban Edge Properties, a Maryland real estate investment trust (“REIT”), and references to “UEL” and the “Operating Partnership” mean Urban Edge Properties LP, a Delaware limited partnership. References to the “Company,” “we,” “us” and “our” mean collectively UE, UEL and those entities/subsidiaries consolidated by UE. UEL is the entity through which we conduct substantially all of our business and own, either directly or through subsidiaries, substantially all of our assets. UE is the sole general partner and also a limited partner of UEL. As the sole general partner of UEL, UE has exclusive control of UEL’s day-to-day management.

As of December 31, 2017, UE owned an approximate 89.9% ownership interest in UEL. The remaining approximate 10.1% interest is owned by limited partners. The other limited partners of UEL are Vornado Realty L.P., members of management, our Board of Trustees, and contributors of property interests acquired. Under the limited partnership agreement of UEL, unitholders may present their common units of UEL for redemption at any time (subject to restrictions agreed upon at the time of issuance of the units that may restrict such right for a period of time). Upon presentation of a common unit for redemption, UEL must redeem the unit for cash equal to the then value of a share of UE’s common shares, as defined by the limited partnership agreement. In lieu of cash redemption by UEL, however, UE may elect to acquire any common units so tendered by issuing common shares of UE in exchange for the common units. If UE so elects, its common shares will be exchanged for common units on a one-for-one basis. This one-for-one exchange ratio is subject to specified adjustments to prevent dilution. UE generally expects that it will elect to issue its common shares in connection with each such presentation for redemption rather than having UEL pay cash. With each such exchange or redemption, UE’s percentage ownership in UEL will increase. In addition, whenever UE issues common shares other than to acquire common units of UEL, UE must contribute any net proceeds it receives to UEL and UEL must issue to UE an equivalent number of common units of UEL. This structure is commonly referred to as an umbrella partnership REIT, or UPREIT.

The Company believes that combining the annual reports on Form 10-K of UE and UEL into this single report provides the following benefits:

- enhances investors’ understanding of UE and UEL by enabling investors to view the business as a whole in the same manner as management views and operates the business;
- eliminates duplicative disclosure and provides a more streamlined and readable presentation because a substantial portion of the disclosure applies to both UE and UEL; and
- creates time and cost efficiencies throughout the preparation of one combined report instead of two separate reports.

The Company believes it is important to understand the few differences between UE and UEL in the context of how UE and UEL operate as a consolidated company. The financial results of UEL are consolidated into the financial statements of UE. UE does not have any other significant assets, liabilities or operations, other than its investment in UEL, nor does it have employees of its own. UEL, not UE, generally executes all significant business relationships other than transactions involving the securities of UE. UEL holds substantially all of the assets of UE. UEL conducts the operations of the business and is structured as a partnership with no publicly traded equity. Except for the net proceeds from equity offerings by UE, which are contributed to the capital of UEL in exchange for units of limited partnership in UEL, as applicable, UEL generates all remaining capital required by the Company’s business. These sources may include working capital, net cash provided by operating activities, borrowings under the revolving credit agreement, the issuance of secured and unsecured debt and equity securities and proceeds received from the disposition of certain properties.

Shareholders’ equity, partners’ capital and noncontrolling interests are the main areas of difference between the consolidated financial statements of UE and UEL. The limited partners of UEL are accounted for as partners’ capital in UEL’s financial statements and as noncontrolling interests in UE’s financial statements. The noncontrolling interests in UEL’s financial statements include the interests of unaffiliated partners in consolidated entities. The noncontrolling interests in UE’s financial statements include the same noncontrolling interests at UEL’s level and limited partners of UEL. The differences between shareholders’ equity and partners’ capital result from differences in the equity issued at UE and UEL levels.

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To help investors better understand the key differences between UE and UELP, certain information for UE and UELP in this report has been separated, as set forth below: Part II, Item 8. Financial Statements which includes specific disclosures for UE and UELP, and Note 15, Equity and Noncontrolling Interests, Note 17, Earnings Per Share and Unit and Note 18 thereto, Quarterly Financial Data.

This report also includes separate Part II, Item 9A. Controls and Procedures sections and separate Exhibits 31 and 32 certifications for each of UE and UELP in order to establish that the requisite certifications have been made and that UE and UELP are compliant with Rule 13a-15 or Rule 15d-15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and 18 U.S.C. §1350.

URBAN EDGE PROPERTIES AND URBAN EDGE PROPERTIES LP
 ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K
 YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

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PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

The Company

Urban Edge Properties (“UE”, “Urban Edge” or the “Company”) (NYSE: UE) is a Maryland real estate investment trust that manages, develops, redevelops, and acquires retail real estate, primarily in the New York metropolitan area. Urban Edge Properties LP (“UELP” or the “Operating Partnership”) is a Delaware limited partnership formed to serve as UE’s majority-owned partnership subsidiary and to own, through affiliates, all of our real estate and other assets. UE and UELP were created in 2014 to own the majority of Vornado Realty Trust’s (“Vornado”) (NYSE: VNO) former shopping center business (the “UE Business”), and separated from Vornado in January 2015. Our portfolio currently comprises 85 shopping centers, four malls and a warehouse park totaling approximately 16.7 million square feet with a consolidated occupancy rate of 96.3%.

Unless the context otherwise requires, “we”, “us” and “our” refer to UE after giving effect to the transfer of the UE Business from Vornado, and for periods prior to such transfer, refer to the UE Business while owned by Vornado.

The Company reviews operating and financial information for each property on an individual basis. Segment information is prepared on the same basis, and therefore, each property represents an individual operating segment. We aggregate all of our properties into one reportable segment due to their similarities with regard to the economics of the properties, tenants and operational processes.

The Company elected to be taxed as a REIT under sections 856-860 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), commencing with the filing of its 2015 tax return for its tax year ended December 31, 2015. Under those sections, a REIT which distributes at least 90% of its REIT taxable income as a dividend to its shareholders each year and which meets certain other conditions will not be taxed on that portion of its taxable income which is distributed to its shareholders. If we fail to qualify as a REIT for any taxable year, we will be subject to federal income taxes at regular corporate rates (including any alternative minimum tax, which, for corporations, was repealed under the TCJA (defined below) for tax years beginning after December 31, 2017) and may not be able to qualify as a REIT for the four subsequent taxable years. Our two Puerto Rico malls are subject to a 29% non-resident withholding tax which is included in income tax expense in the consolidated and combined statements of income.

Company Strategies

Our goal is to be a leading owner of retail real estate in and on the edges of major urban markets, principally in the New York metropolitan area. We believe urban markets offer attractive investment opportunities resulting from a unique interplay of demographic, supply/demand and redevelopment/development trends. To achieve this goal, our primary strategies include:

Maximizing the value of existing properties through proactive management. We intend to maximize the value of each of our assets through comprehensive, proactive management encompassing: continuous asset evaluation for highest-and-best-use; efficient and cost-conscious day-to-day operations that minimize retailer operating expense and enhance property quality; and targeted leasing to the most desirable tenants. Leasing is a critical value-creation function that includes:

- Monitoring retailer sales, merchandising, store operations, timeliness of payments, overall financial condition and related factors;
- Being constantly aware of each asset’s competitive position and making physical improvements or adjusting merchandising if circumstances warrant;
- Continuously canvassing trade areas to identify unique operators that can distinguish a property and enhance its offerings;
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Maintaining regular contact with the brokerage community to stay abreast of new merchants, potential relocations, new supply and overall trade area dynamics;

- Conducting regular portfolio reviews with key merchants;
- Building and nurturing broad and deep relationships with retailer decision-makers;
- Focusing on spaces with below-market leases that might be recaptured;
- Understanding the impact of options, exclusives, co-tenancy and other restrictive lease provisions; and
- Optimizing required capital investment in every transaction.

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Actively investing. We intend to redevelop existing properties and to acquire properties in target markets. Each investment must meet our criteria for risk-adjusted return and for overall quality compared to our existing portfolio.

Investment considerations include:

Geography: We focus primarily on the New York metropolitan area and secondarily on the Washington, DC to Boston corridor.

Product: We generally seek retail properties that offer local communities necessity and convenience-oriented retailers. We also seek large shopping centers, preferably with a supermarket, where demographics and supply constraints provide attractive financial dynamics.

Tenancy: We consider tenant mix, sales performance and related occupancy cost, lease term, lease provisions, omni-channel capabilities, susceptibility to e-commerce disruption and other factors. Our tenant base comprises a diverse group of merchants including department stores, supermarkets, discounters, entertainment offerings, health clubs, DIY stores, in-line specialty shops, restaurants and other food and beverage vendors and service providers. We believe that this diversification provides stability to our cash flows as no specific retail category constitutes more than 20% of our portfolio's annual base rental revenue and no one retailer contributed more than 6% of our annual base rental revenue in 2017.

Rent: We consider existing rents relative to market rents and target submarkets that have potential for market rent growth as evidenced by strong retailer performance.

Competition and Barriers-to-Entry: We seek assets in underserved, high barrier-to-entry markets in densely populated, affluent trade areas. We believe that properties located in such markets present more attractive risk-return profile relative to other markets. We intend to invest in our existing core markets, and, over time, may expand into new markets that have similar characteristics.

Access and Visibility: We seek assets with convenient access and good visibility.

Physical Condition: We consider aesthetics, functionality, building and site conditions and environmental matters in evaluating asset quality.

Constantly evaluating our portfolio and, where appropriate, engaging in selective dispositions. We intend to regularly evaluate each property and, where appropriate, dispose of those properties that do not meet our investment criteria. We intend to reinvest the proceeds from any dispositions into redevelopment, development and acquisitions, or we may use such funds to reduce outstanding debt.

Maintaining capital discipline. We intend to keep our balance sheet flexible and capable of supporting growth. We expect to generate increasing levels of cash flow from internally generated funds and to have substantial borrowing capacity under our existing revolving credit agreement and from potential secured debt financing on our existing assets.

Significant Tenants

None of our tenants accounted for more than 10% of total revenues in any of the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015. The Home Depot is our largest tenant and accounted for approximately \$22.3 million, or 5.5% of our total revenue for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Employees

Our headquarters are located at 888 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019. As of December 31, 2017, we had 120 employees.

Available Information

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Copies of our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports, as well as Reports on Forms 3, 4 and 5 regarding officers, trustees or 10% beneficial owners of us, filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a), 15(d) or 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, are available free of charge through our website (www.uedge.com) as soon as reasonably practicable after they are electronically filed with, or furnished to, the Securities and Exchange Commission. Also available on our website are copies of our Audit Committee Charter, Compensation Committee Charter, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee Charter, Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and Corporate Governance Guidelines. In the event of any changes to these charters or the code or guidelines, changed copies will also be made available on our website. Copies of these documents are also available directly from us free of charge. Our website also includes other financial information, including certain non-GAAP financial measures, none of which is a part of this Annual Report on

Form 10-K. Copies of our filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 are also available free of charge from us, upon request.

Supplement to Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences

This summary supplements and updates the discussion contained under the caption “Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences” in the prospectus dated August 5, 2016, contained in our Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed with the SEC on August 5, 2016, should be read in conjunction therewith and is subject to the qualifications set forth therein. This summary is for general information purposes only and is not tax advice. This discussion does not address all aspects of taxation that may be relevant to particular holders of our securities in light of their personal investment or tax circumstances.

Recent Legislation

The recently enacted Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the “TCJA”), generally applicable for tax years beginning after December 31, 2017, made significant changes to the Code, including a number of provisions of the Code that affect the taxation of businesses and their owners, including REITs and their stockholders, and, in certain cases, that modify the tax rules discussed in the accompanying prospectus.

Among other changes, the TCJA made the following changes:

For tax years beginning after December 31, 2017 and before January 1, 2026, (i) the U.S. federal income tax rates on ordinary income of individuals, trusts and estates have been generally reduced and (ii) non-corporate taxpayers are permitted to take a deduction for certain pass-through business income, including dividends received from REITs that are not designated as capital gain dividends or qualified dividend income, subject to certain limitations.

The maximum U.S. federal income tax rate for corporations has been reduced from 35% to 21%, and corporate alternative minimum tax has been eliminated for corporations, which would generally reduce the amount of U.S. federal income tax payable by our taxable REIT subsidiaries (“TRSs”) and by us to the extent we were subject to corporate U.S. federal income tax (for example, if we distributed less than 100% of our taxable income or recognized built-in gains in assets acquired from C corporations). In addition, the maximum withholding rate on distributions by us to non-U.S. stockholders that are treated as attributable to gain from the sale or exchange of a U.S. real property interest is reduced from 35% to 21%.

Certain new limitations on the deductibility of interest expense now apply, which limitations may affect the deductibility of interest paid or accrued by us or our TRSs.

Certain new limitations on net operating losses now apply, which limitations may affect net operating losses generated by us or our TRSs.

A U.S. tax-exempt stockholder that is subject to tax on its unrelated business taxable income (“UBTI”) will be required to separately compute its taxable income and loss for each unrelated trade or business activity for purposes of determining its UBTI.

New accounting rules generally require us to recognize income items for federal income tax purposes no later than when we take the item into account for financial statement purposes, which may accelerate our recognition of certain income items.

This summary does not purport to be a detailed discussion of the changes to U.S. federal income tax laws as a result of the enactment of the TCJA. Technical corrections or other amendments to the TCJA or administrative guidance interpreting the TCJA may be forthcoming at any time. We cannot predict the long-term effect of the TCJA or any future law changes on REITs or their stockholders. Investors are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the effect of the TCJA based on their particular circumstances.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the following risks and other material in this information statement in evaluating the Company and our common shares. Any of the following risks could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition. These risks have been separated into three groups: (1) Risks Related to Our Business and Operations and to Our Status as a REIT, (2) Risks Related to Our Common Shares and (3) Risks Related to Our Organization and Structure.

RISKS RELATED TO OUR BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS AND TO OUR STATUS AS A REIT

Factors that may materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition are summarized below. The risks and uncertainties described herein may not be the only ones we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently believe to be immaterial, may also adversely affect our business. See “Forward-Looking Statements” contained herein.

There are inherent risks associated with real estate investments and the real estate industry, particularly retail real estate, each of which could have an adverse impact on our financial performance and the value of our properties. Real estate investments are subject to various risks, many of which are beyond our control. Our operating and financial performance and the value of our properties can be affected by many of these risks, including, but not limited to, the following:

- the convenience and quality of competing retail properties and other retailing platforms such as e-commerce;
- local real estate conditions, such as an oversupply of retail space or a reduction in demand for retail space, resulting in vacancies or compromising our ability to rent space on favorable terms;
- adverse changes in the financial condition of tenants at our properties, including financial difficulties, lease defaults or bankruptcies;
- national, regional and local economies, which may be negatively impacted by inflation, deflation, government deficits, high unemployment rates, severe weather or other natural disasters, decreased consumer confidence