

SOUTH BOSTON

Second phase of overhaul of Old Colony housing complex begins

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City officials watch as ground is broken Wednesday on the next phase of the overhaul of the Old Colony housing development in South Boston.

Sarah N.Mattero, Globe Correspondent

The second phase of the the Old Colony public housing redevelopment in South Boston that began in 2010 is underway, the mayor's office announced today.

The first phase, in which 164 units along Columbia Road and Old Colony Avenue were demolished and replaced with 116 new affordable rental units, was completed in March.

The second phase of the project, scheduled for completion in May 2014, calls for the razing of the remaining 223 units along Old Colony Avenue up to Dorchester and Reverend Burke streets.

In turn, 169 new units in townhouse-style buildings that are LEED certified will be built.

The designs also call for a four-story elevator building, and planned so that as many units possible can have their own front doors to eliminate security issues.

Redeveloping Old Colony creates jobs and green affordable housing, Mayor Thomas M. Menino said in a statement. In these tough economic times, a project like this is a boon to our residents and those in the building trades.

The construction project is expected to generate between 600 and 700 jobs, the city previously said.

The new buildings will also be smoke-free, adopting the Boston Housing Authority's no-smoking policy. The project is said to be the most advanced green affordable housing project in the state, the mayor's office said.

Two new streets, outdoor recreation space, and a 10,000-square-foot community center were also opened in the first phase of the project earlier this year.

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