

# 238 units of eco-friendly housing slated for completion in April

With 238 eco-friendly units, underground parking, an outdoor pool, a fitness room, solar panels, Zip cars, and a new \$1.5 million public park, the Parkside Commons apartment com-

plex under construction on Stockton Street across from the Home Depot is sure to become a focal point of the city's housing community.

Since the complex is smoke-

free, has energy-conserving toilets and sun panels, and was built by cutting down zero trees and with eco-friendly materials, this property is considered eco-friendly and is therefore slated to receive certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, a program run by the United States Green Building Council.

Corcoran Development is constructing the facility, which is set to be completed by April.

"These improvements will be good for the area, and for the residents," said Cynthia Buckley, director of marketing for Corcoran Development. "These types of things are the wave of the future, so we decided to go the extra mile."

Many people have already taken a great interest in apartments at the Parkside Commons, Buckley said. "We're so excited to launch this project. We absolutely feel this will be a great success," she said.

Although pre-leasing won't begin until January, more than 150 people – residents largely from Chelsea, Revere, and Everett – occupy positions on the company's waiting list. More than half of those are from Chelsea, Buckley said.

The majority of apartments will be one-bedroom and two-bedroom units, with a handful of three-bedroom units. The complex will generate \$250,000 in property tax revenue – money that will go directly to the city's bank account.

It is for that reason that many are saying this complex will be an asset to the community.

But what is perhaps even more beneficial to the community and more conducive to 'greening' the city is the \$1.5 million public park that is being built on the property.

The Corcoran Development group donated one acre of land on their property to the city, a spot for which Chelsea Greenspace has already raised more than \$1 million.

"One of Chelsea's finer resources is its waterfront," said Chelsea Planning and Development's Special Projects Coordinator Josh Monahan. "We are always looking for ways to get more recreation-based activity by the waterfront."

The Creekside Commons, as it will be called, will feature new play structures, a water element, and an ice-skating rink with a rubber surface. Its physical properties are similar to those of ice, and will therefore enable people to skate throughout the year.

The park will complement the walkway that connects the Beth Israel walkway to the walkway along the Chelsea Creek.

It is that aspect of the park that many are saying will benefit the entire city most.

"Sometimes in an urban suburb like Chelsea it can feel like a concrete

jungle," said Monahan. "This park, with its added open space and interactive portions, will motivate youth and elderly in the area to come out and be active, and therefore increase the enjoyment of Chelsea's waterfront. It will lead to a happier and more healthy existence for them."