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business

## "Gardens" sprouting at former Buckingham Square Mall



It takes a welder's mettle to meld the structural metal together for The Gardens on Havana. The Buckingham Square shopping center was razed, making way for the mixed-use project. (John Prieto, The Denver Post)

Redevelopment at the mall site is in full swing; the project is called The Gardens on Havana.

By Margaret Jackson  
The Denver Post

Posted: 01/19/2009 12:30:00 AM MST

Kohl's is slated to open a store March 1 at the site of the former Buckingham Square Mall in Aurora.

A number of smaller tenants at the shopping center, now called The Gardens on Havana, are expected to open in March and April, and Dick's Sporting Goods will open June 1.

Developer Miller Weingarten Realty LLC plans to break ground on Sprouts Farmers Market during the first quarter, said Bill Mackiernan, vice president of leasing and asset management for the company.

The shops will be located along Garden Drive, which runs from Havana to the east. Most of the infrastructure to the south of Garden Drive is

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complete, but Miller Weingarten still has work to do to the north, Mackiernan said.

The \$110 million project is expected to re-establish the site at the southeast corner of East Mississippi Avenue and South Havana Street as a destination and activity center.

The development will be a mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented outdoor retail center with 940,166 square feet of space.

Other tenants in the shopping center will include PetSmart, Wachovia, Qdoba, Noodles & Co., T-Mobile, GNC and a nail salon.

The site is surrounded by a wide range of land uses, including multifamily residential, single-family homes, offices, drive throughs, in-line and large-format retail and automotive sales.

The second phase of the project will include residential development, but the market will determine when that work will start, Mackiernan said.

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### By the numbers

**\$110 million:** Cost of The Gardens on Havana development at the southeast corner of East Mississippi Avenue and South Havana Street  
**940,166 square feet:** Size of the mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented outdoor retail center

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