



BOSTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

BHA demolishes Washington Beech for HOPE VI redevelopment

Boston Housing Authority has begun demolishing the Washington Beech Housing Development in Roslindale as part of the HOPE VI redevelopment plan.

In March 2008, the BHA received a HUD HOPE VI Grant to revitalize the distressed Washington Beech Housing Development in Roslindale. This \$20 million grant will enable the BHA to demolish the existing 266 units and replace them with 342 new affordable housing opportunities, 206 onsite and 136 offsite. The redevelopment plan includes 15 newly constructed affordable homes for purchase and a first-time homebuyer assistance program.

Washington Beech's new site design reduces density to be more in keeping with the surrounding neighborhood. A variety of unit types replace the existing institutional walk-ups including a low-rise elevator building (for households without children), small garden apartments, duplexes over flats, and townhouses. New private roads will be built so that all unit entries front on a street and residents can park nearby. A central green space with play facilities and park benches is provided for young children and adults.

BHA and its Community Supportive Services Advisory Group has developed a comprehensive CSS program which includes job readiness training, computer training, English language classes and health services among other things. Intensive case management and a coordinated service referral program will form the cornerstones of this program. All Washington Beech residents will be eligible to participate in these services during the life of the grant.

Phase 1 of redevelopment will begin in June. The affordable units will be constructed using green principles and technology, allowing for maximum energy efficiency at the site. Redevelopment will be completed by 2011.

This redevelopment effort is also being made possible with \$10 million in federal ARRA funds.