



## **Green Public Housing Option Opens** *First Of 16 Park Apartments Available For Rent*

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**INDIANAPOLIS** -- Developers and dignitaries ushered in a new, [affordable housing](#) option in Indianapolis on Thursday.

The first 29 of 155 units are available for rent at 16 Park, a \$34 million project on the city's near-north side.

The apartments have many state-of-the-art green features, including one of the largest plant-covered green roofs in the city and rain gardens that surround [the complex](#) to manage storm water runoff.

"We want to maintain our footprint and the damage we do on our site to make sure we don't have additional storm water burden on the system for the city," said Dani Bauman with the Insight Development Corporation.

Markina Sanders used to live in Caravelle Commons, parts of which had fallen into disrepair. She's happy to be in her new home.

"I love my new apartment. It is really nice. I have a dishwasher," Sanders said. "It's a lot of room for me and the boys. It's really nice. It's a much bigger improvement from what I had."

The new apartments at 16th Street and Park Avenue range in price from \$350 to \$900 a month, based on income.

"We're all familiar with the stereotypes of what typically constitutes public and affordable housing. Our goal was to transcend those negative images with 16 Park," said Rod Morgan, board chairman of

Insight Development, a nonprofit development arm of the [Indianapolis](#) Housing Agency. "From incorporating green design features to integrating 16 Park with the rest of the neighborhood, we wanted this development to represent a new era in affordable housing in Indianapolis."

Some residents in nearby neighborhoods voiced concerns that the project would bring parking and crime issues.

Tim Herd, who lives just down the street, said he believes developers delivered a winner.

"A lot of my neighbors were concerned about parking. They were concerned about crime in the neighborhood and what the building would look like," he said. "Well, the building is beautiful and they put parking underneath, and that's not going to be a problem."

The project is expected to be finished in 2012.

"Our goal is to not only build great housing, but ensure these investments are a driving force for economic growth in local neighborhoods," said Bud Myers, IHA executive director.

The project was funded by a mix of private financing and federal grant money.