

BUSINESS

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Uptown at Falls Park latest project to get 'green' foundation

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The developers leading the Uptown at Falls Park project in Sioux Falls are constructing a patio made out of 95 percent recycled materials for one of their buildings.

The 700-square-foot patio is being constructed from bricks of the VAST Composite Pavers material from VAST Enterprises of Minneapolis.

"It's a green product, made from rubber tires and plastic bottles," said Al Stone, the project manager for the Larson Square Lofts at North Main Avenue and Fourth Street.

Koch Hazard Architects, one of the companies working on the project, has been involved in renovating or constructing several green buildings.

"The popularity is increasing incredibly," said Stacey McMahan, green principal at Koch Hazard Architects. The company has completed the construction of three green projects and is working on four others.

"Everybody is just realizing the benefit of living in a healthy building," McMahan said.

The VAST material used at Larson Square is the first of its kind in Sioux Falls, said Kristen Gevik, Lloyd Cos. marketing coordinator.

The patio could be finished by this evening.

"I'm excited for them to get out here and use it," Gevik said.

Every 1,000 square feet of the pavers saves 500 scrap tires and 15,000 plastic bottles from landfills, according to VAST's Web site. The materials will not wear or degrade, according



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ABOVE: Landscaping foreman Kris Kathol uses a level Tuesday to screen sand at a joint between concrete stone and plastic block that will provide a walkway east of the Larson Square building on North Phillips Avenue. **TOP:** The blocks, made of recycled tires, plastic bottles and other plastic, come in three colors and are placed on mats over compacted sand.

to VAST Enterprises investor Duane Waack.

Larson Square, the second building to be renovated as part of the Uptown project, is being done as environmentally friendly as possible, according to Gevik.

Stone said developers did as much as possible to be energy efficient and green, including recycling most of the demolition materials during construction.

The first floor of Larson Square will be for commercial use, with residential space on the upper floors.

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