

## Element Hotel Holds Irving's First Ground "Awakening"

If there is a different feel near the I-635, Regent and Beltline area, it just may be due to the recent awakening of the soil for construction of the Element, an eco-friendly concept in long-stay hotels.

At a September 6 event, hotel developer Suhas Naik of

SAVA Holdings, explained the significance of the "ground awakening" stating, "Rather than breaking ground, we seek to enrich it just as we are enriching Irving."

The hotel design, construction and plans for management have all focused on eco-friendly materials and practices from lighting and low-flush toilets to recycling programs.

When complete, there will be 123 guest rooms—studios and 1- and 2-bedroom suites. Designed for longer-stay travelers, the hotel will have a fitness center and open spaces providing many areas for guests to meet, log on to the Internet, and enjoy a view of the gardens. Suites will include a gourmet pantry allowing guests to eat meals in a comfortable, private setting.

There is currently one other Element Hotel under construction in Lexington, Massachusetts so the race is on for the Irving hotel to be the first to open its doors. Completion is expected in a year.

The Element is being developed by Starwood Hotels and Resorts, the parent company of Westin Hotels. For more information, visit [www.elementhotels.com](http://www.elementhotels.com) or [www.starwoodhotels.com](http://www.starwoodhotels.com).



*Representatives from the City of Irving, Office of State Representative Linda Harper-Brown, Office of State Senator Chris Harris, Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce, SAVA Holdings and Starwood Hotels stand on the newly awakened soil. Photo courtesy of GILCCC.*