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Tempe Marketplace sprouting

Construction beginning on mall in Tempe

Katie Nelson
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The Tempe Marketplace construction site for months has been a giant expanse of dirt.

But walls are starting to sprout from the land southwest of the intersection of the Loops 202 and 101.

The shells of eight retail stores are up, the first of many to come.

There will be more than 120 shops and restaurants on the mall site that was home to a smattering of industrial businesses and landfills.

The environmental clean up that's removing of the remains of three old unlined landfills is about 95 percent done. That work, which is taking place on the eastern-most area of the site, is slated to be complete within the next month, according to David Larcher, executive vice president of Vestar, the project's developer.

At the same time, concrete walls are being poured on the ground and then erected on the site's southwestern side. Underground utilities and curbs are being put into place for the parking lots.

"We're really just getting going on vertical construction," Larcher said. "But so far, it's going very well."

So well, that Larcher said the construction material shortages that seem to be plaguing many other construction projects throughout the country haven't affected Tempe Marketplace so far.

"I'm not saying it won't (cause delays) but we did a lot of ordering early on, prior to this actually starting," Larcher said.

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"We ordered long ahead of time, so we can hopefully avoid that. You absolutely have to these days."

As of now there are some 300 to 400 people working on the site.

Once construction is fully under way in about six months, that number could reach into the thousands.

The mall is slated to open about a year from now, Larcher said.

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