

Sarah Connor? May I park your car?

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We had no idea that they were making "Terminator 5." Su-weet.

This YouTube video just popped up on our radar. It opens with the a thundering score, close ups of a metallic, finely-greased machine, and this epic tease: "In the future, machines will ..."

Wait.

Put away the popcorn. It's a promo for a new robo-parking system at The 20 on Hawthorne apartment complex at Southeast Hawthorne Boulevard and 20th Avenue.

Still, we think the automated "puzzle parking" garage is certainly deserving of the Hollywood treatment.

That's right: Robo-parking.

The system allows 29 cars to be parked in an area that would typically only accommodate 10. Cars are parked on "trays" that move up and down and side to side. One car is stored below grade, one car at grade and one car above grade, according to contractor Harding Steel.

To retrieve their vehicles, residents simply swipe a magnetic card and their car is made available at ground level with an average wait time of 30 to 40 seconds.

The automated parking system at The 20 is the largest of its type in the country, developer Gerding Edlen says.

Demonstrations of the automated parking system will happen at the building's Grand Opening and Smart Living Fair on Saturday from 3 to 6 p.m.

Designed by GBD Architects, The 20 features recycled materials, high-efficiency appliances and high-efficiency glass windows among other items that support a sustainable lifestyle. Second floor units include Eco-Roof patio areas.

The Smart Living Fair will feature local companies focused on resources for sustainable living, including: Smart Car and folding bicycle demonstrations, Segway rides, sustainable pet care options, local food and beverage sampling, space-saving organization tips from Organizers NW, interior design

solutions from MHD Studio, along with gift certificates from local Hawthorne restaurants.

It's the only rob-garage that we know of in Portland. Local car wash heir Derek Hanna, however, has dreams of a robotic underground parking for his proposed 650-foot Space Needle-like spire along the Willamette River. Not sure where things stand with that.

We'll be there at The 20 on Saturday, with a video camera - and popcorn.

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