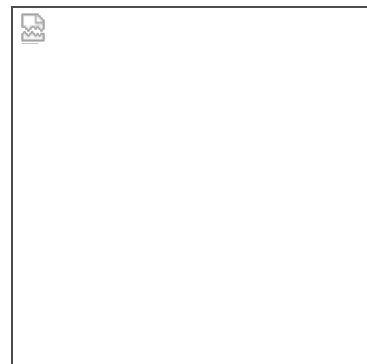


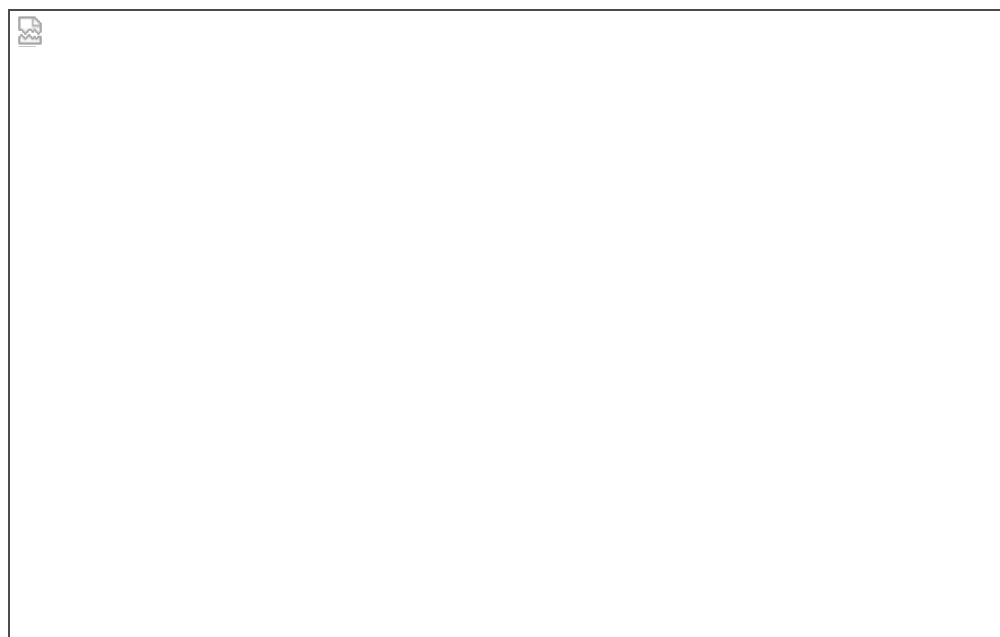
SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

## **Cohousing Now!** **What Cohousing Means To You**



### Cohousing is...



*photo credit Adam Johnson, Wild Sage Cohousing*

... a challenging task, with pitfalls (and perseverance), with laughter and hugs (or nods and drawing into oneself), with food and nurturing (or caution and health concerns), with a good measure of comfort and, especially, community.

... after parenting, the single greatest personal growth opportunity.

... a collaborative way of living that fosters connectedness, increases social capital for their residents, and creates opportunities for more conscious use of social, natural and man-made resources. A more sustainable way of living.

... a meaningful, growthful way to live.

... a paradigm-changing life experience.

... a village of mutually supportive people, sharing work and fun and care.

... a wonderful way to age in community! It is far better than any other option I've explored.

... both momentous and ordinary.

... a way for us to be the best person we can be.

... the hope to recreate thriving neighborhoods where people consent to practice enriching one another's life more than most of today's neighborhoods.

... the best future for many people, they just don't know it yet.

... a combination of commune and condominium, family and small town, where the quality of living is satisfying and sustainable.

... lots of fun and a great way to live!

... the future of living in harmony with others for a sustainable life!

... community living today with yesterday's values.

... to create authentic community and avoid isolation in a fractured world.

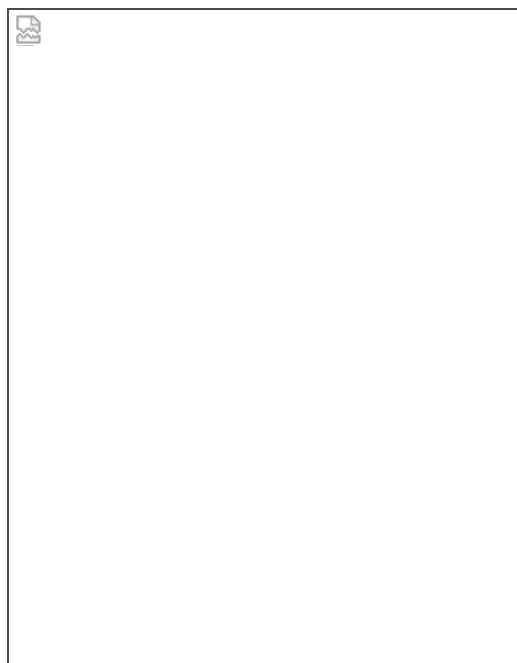
... fun, cooperative, friendly, challenging, supportive, thrifty, sometimes annoying but I love it!

... knowing your neighbors and continuing to deal with them even after a conflict.

... a journey...an adventure...caring and sharing...challenging...inspiring...THE FUTURE!

(responses collected and shared by Karin of Wild Sage Cohousing who says ...  
"Cohousing is my life. Seriously...I live it, I work it, I believe in it."

## Conferences & Events



There is still time to join us in Amherst, Massachusetts!

## In This Issue

[Conferences & Events](#)

[Cohousing Blogs](#)

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[Cohousing Map & Metrics](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

[Cohousing Professionals](#)

[In the News](#)

[Resources](#)

## **Classified Ads**

### **Homes for Sale**

This regional cohousing conference is for:

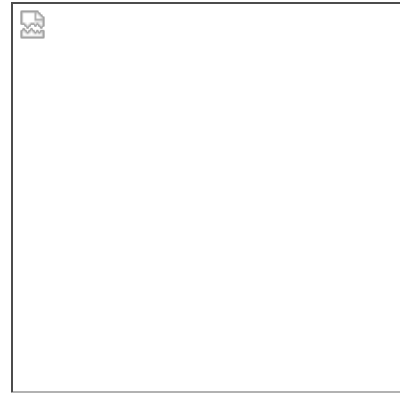
People that want to learn about cohousing,  
how to create it, how to live it

Those that are forming a cohousing community,  
whether you're just starting or already building

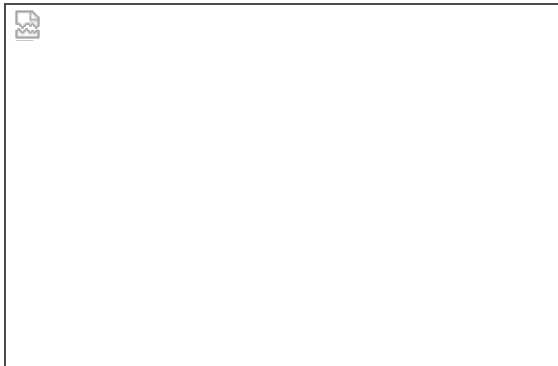
Residents who currently live in a cohousing community

Architects, developers, planners or other professionals  
interested in creating communities

for more information, click [here](#)  
to register, click [here](#)



[3BR 2BA townhome for sale by original owner](#)



In case you haven't heard yet, next year's National Cohousing Conference is already gearing up. We have a website (click [here](#)) where we're excited to announce our keynote will be Courtney Martin.

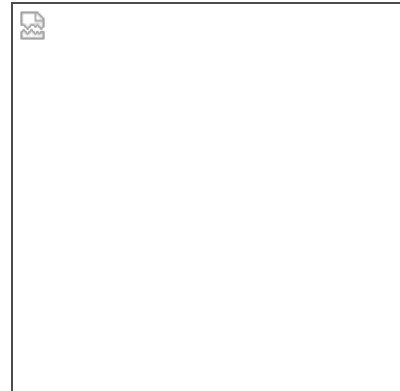
We have a little about the theme of the conference, 'Community for the Health of It' and the tracks on the About page.

The 2019 National Cohousing Conference team is excited to invite you to submit a proposal to present, facilitate or moderate at the Portland, Oregon Conference. We welcome both experienced presenters and newcomers to submit: (click [here](#)).

If interested in becoming a sponsor for what we anticipate to be a well attended national conference click [here](#).

if interested in volunteering in pre-conference prep or day-of activities, please contact [karincohous@gmail.com](mailto:karincohous@gmail.com)

Be sure to mark your calendars for May 30 to June 2, 2019, and share this with anyone you know who may be interested!

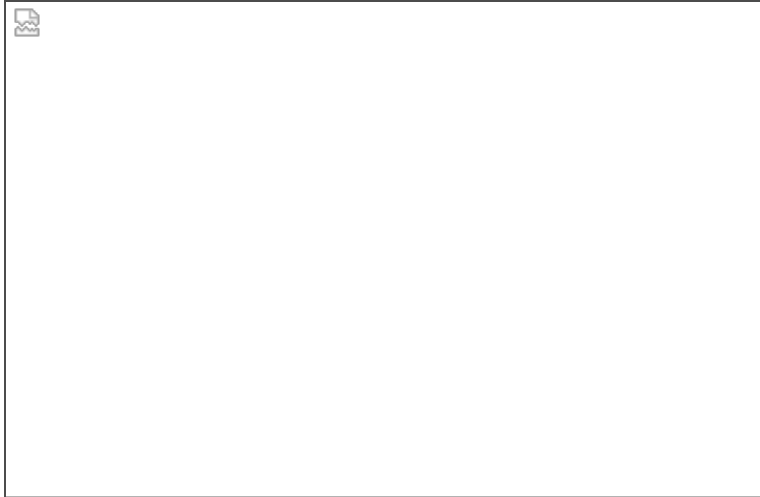


[Beautiful Home In Stunning Prescott Arizona](#)



[FIRST COHOUSING IN CONNECTICUT BUILDING NOW!](#)

## Cohousing Blogs



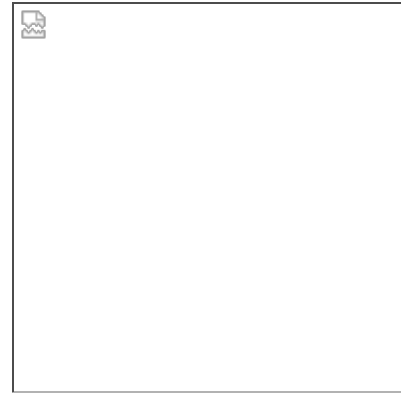
## **Walkability**

**by Bob Miller, Wolf Creek Lodge**

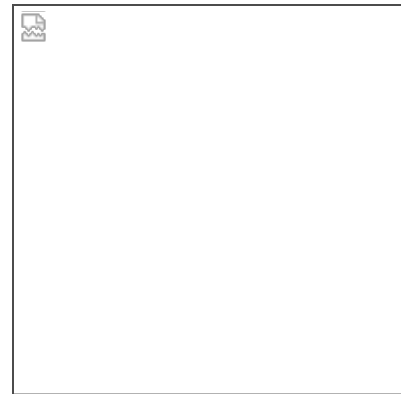
The concept of a "walk-able community" is appealing to many. However, to plan residential homes with walk-able access to stores, banks, parks, etc. is challenging. The typical suburban subdivision is car rather than walker friendly. Few have homes that are walk-able to supermarkets and shopping malls. The very economics of supermarkets and shopping malls encourages large facilities which must service customers over a much larger area than is accessible on foot.

Wolf Creek Lodge is an exception. Thanks to Katie McCamant we are on a piece of land very close to two significant shopping areas. These areas serve a car driving customer base over a wide area. Wolf Creek Lodgers who arrive on foot are a peculiar species. "Can I help carry this to your car?" "Actually I'm walking!"

Let's look at some Google satellite images. Below is an area of Grass Valley. A typical suburban subdivision. Looks to me that to get anywhere you need a car.



[Large 4 Bed/3 Bath Townhome For Sale By Original Owner - Beautiful two-story with ample storage and carport option](#)

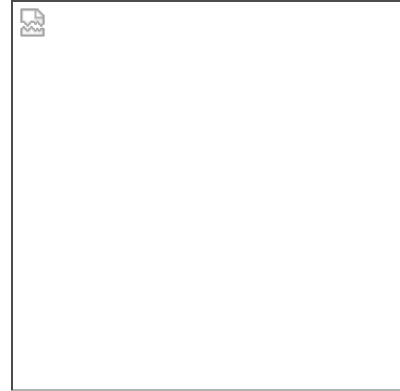
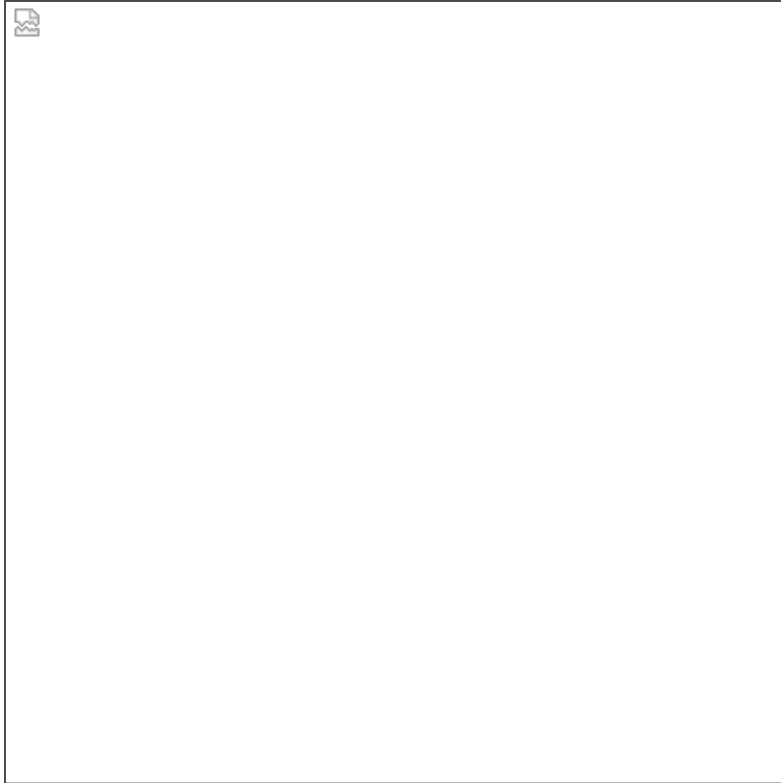


[NEW LUXURY COHOUSING RESIDENCES IN THE HEART OF BOULDER!](#)

## **Seeking Members**



[Cohousing in Spokane WA - We have the land!](#)

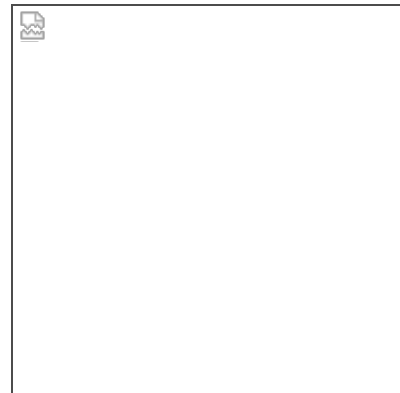


[Fair Oaks EcoHousing:  
Intergenerational Cohousing  
near Sacramento!](#)

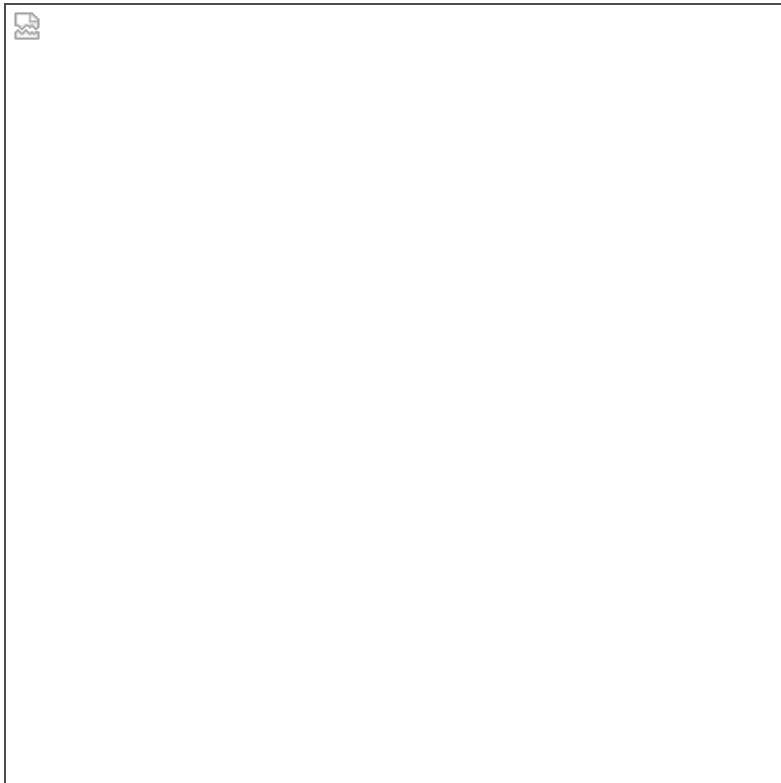


[New homes available in  
Summer 2018](#)

**Below is a view of Wolf Creek Lodge (in the red box) and areas to the north. There are definitely places you can walk to. The Raley's Super Market is the anchor store but you can also find a gym, several restaurants, a coffee shop, bank and more. Notice also Wolf Creek to the left meandering through the trees.**



[Skagit Cohousing has land in  
Anacortes, WA and is seeking  
members](#)



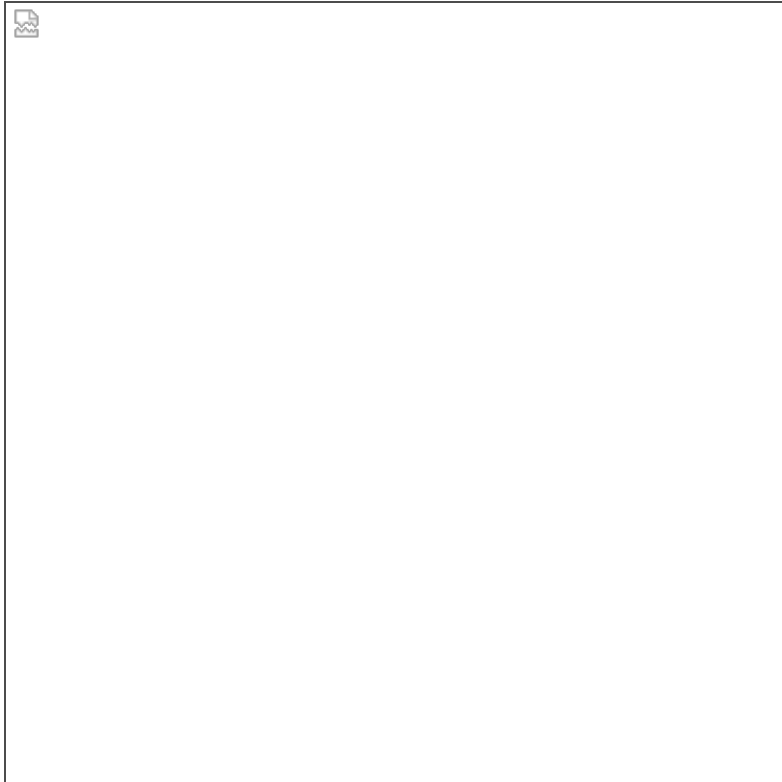
**Now let's look east. Again Wolf Creek Lodge is in the red box.**

Here we see the SPD super market. A more local experience than Raley's but both are good. A five minute walk can get you a roasted chicken if you need something quickly for the potluck. (Don't tell - I try to suggest I cook them myself.)

Also here are pizza shops, Kmart, a fish and chip shop, Baskin Robbins (194 steps from the lodge), a donut shop (also has smoothies and sandwiches), the "Afternoon Deli", a Chinese Restaurant and much more.

Do you live in a walkable community? Can you walk to a variety of stores, banks, coffee shops, restaurants, gyms and places to enjoy a stroll?

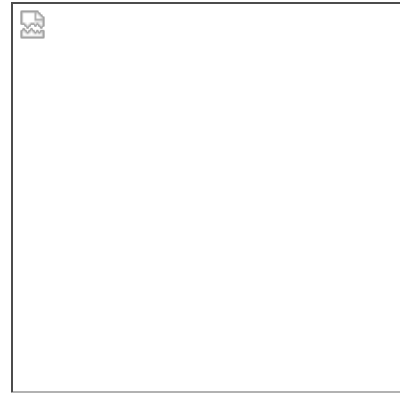
*You do? lucky you! Then get out and walk, build relationships with community members, meet people in the larger neighborhood, support and shop local, enjoy your feet on the ground and the community you live in.*



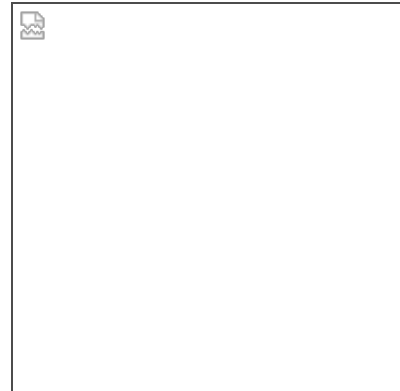
**Don't Give Up The Dream, It Just Might Pay Off**  
by Betty Grant, Oakleigh Meadow Cohousing

The seed of cohousing along the Willamette River in Eugene was planted in 2011. Oakleigh Meadow, LLC incorporated in 2012 . With design & architectural plans in our pocket and membership interest growing solidly into the double digits, we were jazzed! OMC's Planned unit Development application to the city of Eugene was approved in late 2013 and we anticipated breaking ground by September 2014 . Then the clock got turned back.

Neighbors - who early on had been actively involved when the



[Village Hearth: LGBTs, Straight Friends & Allies in Durham, NC](#)



[We have the land & plans in hand! Come build community with us!](#)

## **Professional Services**



[Cohousing Architect Internship Available](#)

## **Cohousing Professionals**

[Caddis Architecture](#)

[CoHousing Solutions | Sustainable Neighborhood Consultants](#)

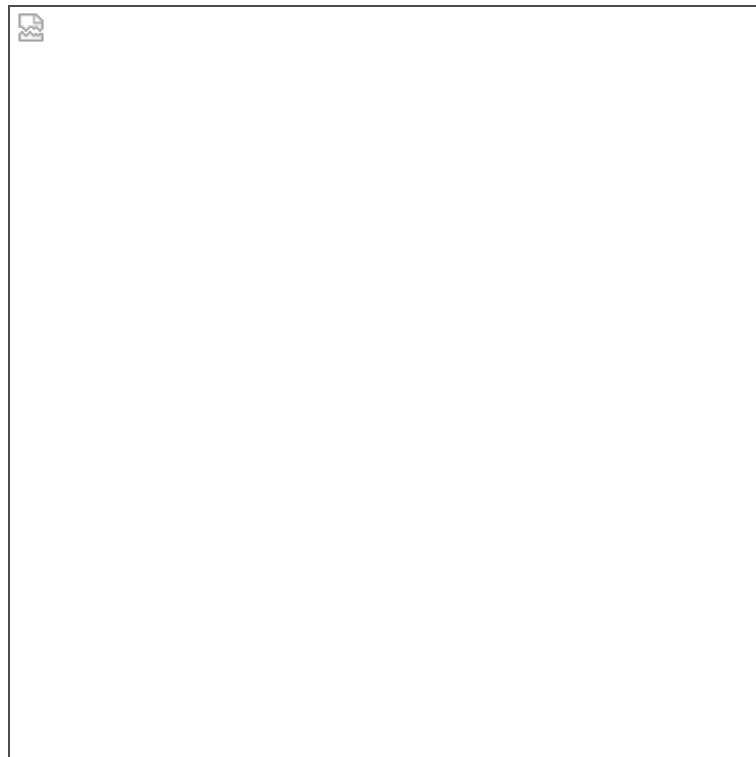
original owners reached out to the neighborhood to ask "How can we use this meadow to enhance community?", who showed up to help clear the meadow of invasive blackberries, who enjoyed our marketing picnics on the land - decided, NO - too much for our quiet neighborhood.

The next 5 years were arduous. "Legal-ise" nearly strangled the life out of our cohousing dream. In the delay, many wonderful members moved on and those who remained have struggled to stay positive and get the work done. But, nature often requires seeds to lay dormant. Seven years from inception and 3 trips later to the Oregon Court of Appeals, OMC is at a turning point. The appeal itself (vs. procedural points which kept us in the legal spiral) was finally ruled insubstantial and OMC has the green light to proceed. And so we will!

OMC is ecstatic to be moving forward and re-growing our ranks so that we can begin sharing our wonderful location on the Willamette River, inviting all members and neighbors - past, present and future - to come together on the land for meals, frivolity and friendship.

So, hang in there developing community. We are glad we did ! We love Eugene. And we love the community that comes with cohousing.

## Living in Community



[Fitch Architecture & Community Design | Home - Community - Planet](#)

[Linda Herman Consulting](#)

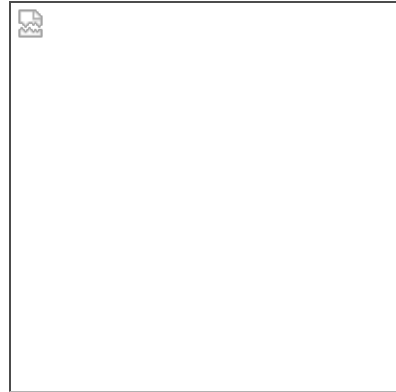
[Mary Kraus, Architect](#)

[McCamant & Durrett Architects: The Cohousing Co](#)

[schemata workshop | architecture & planning](#)

## In the News

I've lived in cohousing - a neighborhood based on Danish principles of community living - for 14 years. Here's why I never want to live elsewhere. by Laura McCamy



Cohousing communities are residential living arrangements organized around common space, shared meals, and group activities.

Neighbors help each other with everything from childcare to home maintenance.

Each unit is self-contained, so you can balance your need for solitary time with the joy of group experiences.

click [here](#) to read the full article published in Business Insider

**How America Lives: Creative Housing Options for Boomers, Veterans, Millennials and More** by Paula Spencer Scott

## Why Cohousing?

By Barbara Sanders, Germantown Commons

Why would anyone choose to live in a cohousing community? After all, living so close to people can be challenging. I have close friends who think my husband and I are a bit whacked that we moved into Germantown Commons 3 years ago. Why would we (or you) do that?

We might all agree with the impressiveness of a multigenerational community that believes in sustainable living, composting, compassionate communication, diversity of all sorts, social justice, and caring about one another. But, when you consider living in a cohousing community, there is more to life than just these wonderful values. In fact, some of what brings us together can also pull us apart at times.

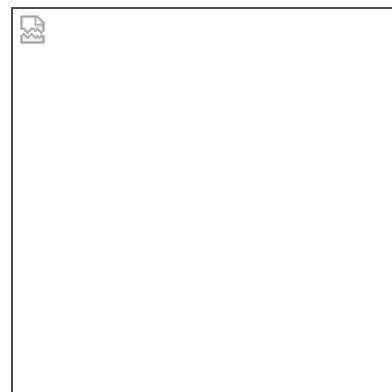
Many of us grew up in families, even good ones like mine. And, perhaps that helped me imagine what a cohousing community is like. But, not really. In a modern American family, parents or guardians make most of the decisions for the family, even though they may seek input from the children. Not so in cohousing. Therefore, what our experience has taught us may not appear to be that useful when making consensus decisions with our peers, other community members that have as much a stake in decisions as we do. No more hierarchy, more equality.

After all, we each buy our own condos, participate in the work of the community, and we spend much time and energy helping make our policies and procedures as streamlined and effective as possible.

But, you might say that there are always personality conflicts in every group. Exactly! Conflict does occur along with shared responsibilities, fun and enjoyment of ourselves and one another.

So, if you like living in your private space, your own home with your own property, cohousing may not be for you. I, myself, loved living in several of my family's private homes with our fenced in backyards for the dogs. I liked the amount of space we had where our 3 member family could stretch out and enjoy privacy and togetherness without too much hassle.

However, when we think about cooperative living and actually embark on the cohousing path, there are lots of variables to consider. Yes, it is great that we don't have to own our own lawn mowers or every kind of cookware necessary. It is wonderful when we are cooking that we have 25 other homes nearby where we can ask for eggs or spices to complete our meals. We enjoy a 2600 square foot Common House which we co-own, where we can cook with



When was the last time you actually borrowed an egg from the guy next door? Do your friends show up in your social media feeds more often than in your backyard? Do you even know your neighbors' names-and would they know if you needed help?

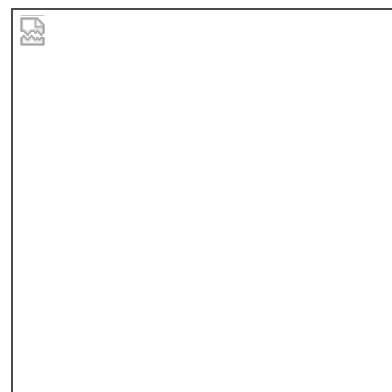
Maybe that's why what's old is new again in housing, from tight-knit neighborhoods where residents look after one another to fresh twists on boardinghouses. The hot word is communal.

"Long before '60s communes, the idea of idealists coming together to create a better world goes back centuries," says Sky Blue of the Fellowship for Intentional Community (FIC), which tracks collective living of all kinds. "But now instead of escaping the mainstream, the trend is to be more engaged."

Whether the initial draw is company, saving money, greener living or physical and emotional support, communal living seems here to stay. "Words like economical and ecological share the root eco-which is Greek for 'home,'" Blue says. "It's about getting your basic needs met and doing it together."

click [here](#) to read the full article published in Parade Magazine

### Can cohousing help solve America's loneliness epidemic? by Josh Lew



...  
Architect Grace Kim is championing a solution to the isolation epidemic. In a



each other and enjoy meals and parties together - when we choose to do so. Respecting each other's privacy is extremely important and we try not to make up stories about people who seem standoffish or too domineering.

We all enjoy our separate lives, but we no longer have to drive across town to have coffee or a drink with a friend. We meet each other's families and get to know best those people we enjoy the most. At times, community business meetings can be a bit stressful, but I think of cohousing living like this: it is similar to getting involved in an intimate relationship, which hopefully contains some joy and excitement as well as comfort - and sometimes conflict, which we attempt to work through.

How lovely it is to walk my dog every morning and see a couple of neighbors outdoors when I open my courtyard door! Seeing a smile, getting a hug, or even a brush off at times, works for me. If I want more privacy, I leave by another door where there are fewer eyes and neighbors.

Why live in cohousing? Because we want to. Because we want to challenge ourselves, to grow more healthy and find ways to live together in community with some unlike ourselves, to learn how to be compassionate even when someone's behavior is annoying. To get to know people on a deeper level than I ever got to know any of my past neighbors over many years. To have people around if I am sick, upset or just plain ole lonely, and to learn about people from other types of backgrounds than my own, finding them fascinating and often loveable.

If you are like me and interested in cohousing, I advise you to do what my husband and I did even though our process took a long time. When Germantown Commons was forming, designing, financing, and building this lovely community, we often joke that we "flirted" with this community for a year. The next year, we "dated" them, getting to know some of them better, participating in potlucks and meetings. And, then the third year, we "married" them.

I sometimes wonder if we will grow old in this community, and like with any relationship, I have learned more about myself than I sometimes care to know. My weaknesses and strengths are more apparent than ever before. But, if not growing and developing, what is there to life? You will have to answer that question for yourself!

## Coho/US Notes

recent TED talk, she claimed the design of our cities, neighborhoods and homes contributes to loneliness. Her cure for modern isolation is based not only on her experience as an architect, but also on firsthand knowledge from living in a cohousing development.

Living together in separate houses  
Cohousing is a blanket term. In Kim's case, it means a condo complex with separate units. Each unit is fully self-contained with a living space, kitchen, bathrooms and bedrooms. The development also has community spaces where residents can interact with one another.

...  
This more casual approach leaves room for residents' privacy, but still fights isolation by facilitating interaction with other members of the community on a regular basis. Socialization is built in to the community, so you don't have to create a connection with neighbors and invite them over for dinner in order to be part of the community; you simply show up to the regular, preplanned meals and events.

click [here](#) to read full article published in Mother Nature Network

### **Cohousing community breaks ground at Village Hill Northampton** by Luis Fieldman



Future residents of a cohousing community gathered to celebrate a momentous occasion on Wednesday afternoon: the groundbreaking at the site that will become Village Hill Cohousing. Among them were a married couple from Amherst, Paddy Lane and David Grodsky, who are members of the 6-acre cohousing complex that will be developed by Sunwood Builders of Amherst. Developers said the project, located on the corner of Olander Drive and Ford Crossing at Village Hill Northampton, is expected to be completed in the next two years and the first phase of construction will begin soon. A cohousing development involves people living around a common building with shared open space and neighbors

CohoUS is very excited about our latest project, the updating of our website. You will see the final product when we roll it out in 2019. In the meantime we want to share our progress.

One of the most common comments we hear about the current website is that there is a lot of great information there, but it is very difficult to find what you are looking for. Our first step for the new website was to design a structure that will keep all the great information and organize it in a way that makes it easier to use, all while creating a clean, modern look. We're excited about the new structure which includes dozens of new pages about topics of interest from common meals to capital reserves. Each page will include both curated information, all the basics and a solid overview of the topic noting a variety of perspectives, and a less curated section where all cohousers are welcome to add their stories and their expertise to the conversation. Whether you are looking for a quick reference or a deep dive into all that is known, you'll be able to find what you are looking for quickly and easily.

We want to encourage ongoing participation in the most successful parts of the website. The directory will be updated with a new look and some new features, but will retain the great information already available. Communities and professionals will continue to be able to share about homes and services available through classified ads and sponsorships. We'll continue to welcome blogs posts and will add more opportunities to provide feedback and updates to website content.

We are in the process of gathering high quality photos of all things cohousing. At this point we have a pretty good library of general coho photos. We would be very interested in more photos that depict diversity, especially color diversity. As we focus on specific pages or topics, we'll reach out through cohousing-L with specific requests. If you have professional quality photos to offer, please email them to Karen Gimnig at [karencohous@gmail.com](mailto:karencohous@gmail.com) and include photo credit and community name.

Please note that we will credit photographers, but are not offering payment.

### Cohousing Directory Metrics

Established Communities = 166

---Completed = 149

---Building = 17

Forming\*\* = 144



~~~~~  
Like receiving eNews? Please support Coho/US, serving as a clearinghouse and connector to grow and nurture cohousing across the country.



## Thanks for reading

**Cohousing Now!** provides news and events on Cohousing... Now! From **Coho/US**, the Cohousing Association of the United States, Cohousing

collaboratively managing common areas, according to the Cohousing Association of the United States.

click [here](#) to read the full article published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette

## Resources

[Finding Cohousing](#)

[Creating Cohousing](#)

[Living In Cohousing](#)

[Aging In Cohousing](#)

[Group Process](#)

[Tag Cloud](#)

## The Cohousing Directory

See these new or updated listings:



[Bull City Commons  
in Durham, NC](#)



[West Florida  
Permaculture  
Village](#)



[BalsamRoot  
Commons  
in Richland, WA](#)

Edit your community directory listing  
click [here](#)

## Join Our Mailing List

Now! is emailed monthly. Please forward to your friends, communities, and other lists to spread the word about cohousing!

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