

Madison Cohousing Community Information Sheet



ARBORETUM COHOUSING

arboretumcohousing.org/wordpress/

Contact: Karen Ecklund: info@arboretumcohousing.org

Size of site: 2.2 acres

Move-in year: 2008



Description

Arboretum Cohousing was started in 2003 by a small group of people affiliated with the Madison Meeting of the Society of Friends (Quakers). We were lucky to find a potential building site early in the development process. The group spent several years meeting, planning, fundraising, coordinating with City officials and neighbors, and marketing before formally buying the land from our neighbor, St. Mary's Hospital, in August of 2007. Construction began the next day, and most members moved in one year later. We were helped through development and construction by the generous financial assistance and enduring patience of St. Mary's, and by support in many forms from neighbors, the City of Madison, local non-profit agencies, and our families and friends. We are especially grateful for help we received from the members of Madison's flagship cohousing community, Village Cohousing.

Physical Space

40 Units Total: Two new multi-family buildings with 29 units; a duplex built in partnership with Habitat for Humanity; a triplex with 3 rehabbed townhomes; 6 free-standing houses kept from the original site. All units have their own kitchens, living rooms, bathrooms, bedrooms, laundry (if desired). Multi-family units have assigned storage space.

Unit Sizes: 750 – 1500 square feet

Accessibility: All units are visitable. Several accommodate residents with disabilities.

Affordable Units: 4

Market Rate Units: 36

Shared Property

Community Garden, Playground, Common House, Guest Rooms, Workshop, Play Rooms, Lounge, Media Room, Gym, Laundry, Sledding Hill, Compost Areas, Solar Panels, Industrial Kitchen

People

77 Residents: 58 adults, 19 children

Age Range: 6 months – 86 years

Community Meals: 1-2 meals/week, optional participation

Regular Workdays and Parties

Process

Consensus with a voting fall back (rarely used)

Committees/Groups: Arbco Board, Functioning Committees, Chicken Club, Personal Plot Gardeners

Unique Features

Near UW-Madison Arboretum and Lake Wingra, Car Share

Arboretum Cohousing Site Map

Erin Street

