

# *Siskiyou Cohousing*

*A cohousing community in Portland, OR*

## **Overview**

Siskiyou Cohousing is envisaged to be a sustainable, multi-generational cohousing community with 31 units to be nestled into a 14-acre site in NE Portland, OR that is being developed as a Buddhist temple and habitat refuge. A cohousing community is a planned development designed by residents and managed for the purpose of creating cohesive neighborhood life. In the contemporary context of smaller household sizes and working parent households, cohousing offers a practical and supportive approach to city life.

The site is surrounded by residential neighborhoods on three sides, with commercial uses to the west, three blocks away. The views in three directions are of tall trees. The site has easy access to two freeways and several large surface arterials, but is sheltered from noise and has a rural feeling. There are several schools and parks in easy walking distance, and ample public transportation.

Membership in Siskiyou Cohousing is open to those fulfilling membership criteria around financial stability and willingness to uphold the values of interdependence, authenticity, compassion and diversity. Current members are active with the work of planning and developing the community, and community decisions will be made with a form of consensus process.

## **Current situation, June 2019**

In a nutshell here's what we are doing.

Dharma Rain Zen Center (DRZC) is leasing Siskiyou Cohousing LLC (LLC) two acres of land at the north edge of their new campus. We plan on eventually building 21 housing units in Phase 1 of the project.

Anyone who is interested in becoming an owner pays for a subscription in the LLC. Current price of a buy-in is \$62,168.24, and this price increases every six months. We are not taking new subscriptions until we are able to build the first units.

The LLC will run the housing as apartments; in essence, members rent to themselves. There will also be rental possibilities to the public. In accordance with our vision of cohousing, we don't plan on making a profit or increasing the rents like most apartment owners do. Rents will be determined by construction cost, taxes, insurance, utilities and maintenance. It is expected that monthly rents will start out near market rate.

We are working on obtaining a construction loan. Once that is complete, construction can begin and will take from 12 to 18 months. The first bank that we worked with backed out because of their fear of liability at building on a brownfield. Currently we are working with RSF Social Finance. Our paperwork has been submitted to them and they are working through their loan process.

All Phase 1 units have been spoken for. We keep a waiting list of those who may want to subscribe in the future or who may want to rent once units are available. The last two people who subscribed were the last two

to join the waiting list, so although the list is long, it doesn't prevent the last person on that list from having the opportunity to join.

We have tours of the property with discussions of plans that you are welcome to attend. You can be added to our email list and will be informed as the project progresses.

**Contact us at**

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