

Cohousing project proposed for Fair Oaks

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[Ben van der Meer](#)

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For people who despair of living in a neighborhood where you drive into your garage, recreate in the backyard and generally don't know your neighbors, a housing project in its early stages in Fair Oaks offers a different way to live.

Fair Oaks EcoHousing, modeled on successful projects in Nevada City and near Southside Park in Sacramento, will feature 30 homes built on about 3.5 acres, all clustered around a common space at the center. A common house in the project has shared kitchen, dining and children's play areas, and all the homes are built to be highly energy efficient.

[Marty Maskall](#), Fair Oaks EcoHousing's founder and project manager, said the idea is for people to know, interact and look out for their neighbors in a way not typically found anymore in many residential neighborhoods.

"You actually have community," she said, though the style of living means it's not for everyone, she added. "We're looking for people who like to connect with neighbors, and lots of people have been interested in that."

Houses on the property, two adjoining lots on 4025 New York Ave. and 9620 Fair Oaks Blvd., will be sold for between the high \$200,000s and the high \$500,000s, Maskall said, depending on size and amenities. Smaller homes will be about 850 square feet, larger ones about 1,700 square feet, and residents will have monthly dues.

A site tour is set for this Saturday, with another on March 16 and a presentation on the cohousing concept planned on March 29 at the Fair Oaks library. A previous forum on cohousing in February attracted 70 people, and Maskall said developers specializing in cohousing also are looking for potential sites in midtown and downtown Sacramento.

Pending approval by the Sacramento County Planning Commission, the project could begin construction next summer and be open for move in during summer 2016, Maskall said.

Read more about the cohousing project at the [Fair Oaks EcoHousing website](#).

Ben van der Meer covers real estate, development, local and regional planning, construction, transportation, agriculture and water for the Sacramento Business Journal.