



Inspirational Living for the 21st Century

Suzanne Marriott

"Inspired by the splendid, serene and natural setting in which we live..."

Thus begins the Vision Statement for Wolf Creek Lodge. Wolf Creek Lodge isn't a brick and mortar reality yet, but its vision has guided the work of its members for the last three years as they have planned and created their community.

The Vision continues: "...we at Wolf Creek Lodge are a group of independent, active adults who have come together to create a welcoming, caring, and supportive community where we can age safely and live with dignity..." This vision will manifest through an intentional approach to living called cohousing. Cohousing provides a dynamic balance between personal privacy and living in community. Members live in privately owned, self-sufficient units and share large common facilities. It is an ideal way to foster healthy and vibrant aging where independence is maintained and support is built in. The current membership, both working and retired, includes



"Cohousing is all about camaraderie: be it sharing workloads or laughter, our lives are so much richer."— Jacque Bromm

teachers, engineers, chiropractors, writers, and attorneys. Members are active and have varied interests, such as travel, kayaking, hiking, gardening and music.

The Lodge will be situated atop a beautiful, wooded plot of land in Grass Valley that slopes down to free-flowing Wolf Creek. The Vision states: "...we strive to be responsible stewards dedicated to sustaining our physical environment..." Accordingly, the creek and one-third of the acreage will remain undeveloped, and the Lodge will be green build and energy efficient. The site is within easy walking distance to shops and services and close to historic, downtown Grass Valley, with its gold rush character, art galleries, restaurants, and theater and music venues.

Cohousing is all about community, and the Lodge is intentionally designed to bring members together. Outdoor common areas will include a dining terrace, patio, gardens and hot tub. The indoor, 4,000 foot Common House will include a gourmet kitchen, large dining room, laundry facilities, guest rooms, library, sitting area, workshop and accommodations for a care-giver should members require this assistance. Common areas will be well used for community meals and parties and for crafts, book club meetings, guest talks, yoga, or just hanging out. By sharing resources residents will have ample opportunities for coming together as neighbors and friends while also reducing their carbon footprint.

The Vision Statement concludes: "...it is our individual commitment to the core values and goals we share that unite and guide us..." These values, such as cooperation, open-mindedness, patience and responsibility, make possible the unique manner in which cohousing communities are self-managed. Most major decisions are arrived at by consensus using a well thought out process that ensures all members have input and are heard. When the lodge is built, the HOA will be comprised of the entire membership.

Our developer, Katie McCamant, sums it up well: "Our communities are strong because we involve the members in every facet of the process: visioning, community organizing, planning, investment and budget. Members of our completed communities tell us it's worth being involved. In fact, they tell us that it is one of the most valuable things they've ever done." *

Suzanne Marriott is a member of Wolf Creek Lodge and a retired educator and grant proposal writer. Her interests include travel and travel writing, transpersonal psychology, exploring avenues of spiritual growth, hiking and being in nature. She is currently working on a memoir. Please visit us at www.wolfcreeklodge.org and learn more about cohousing and our community. Senior cohousing is a concept whose time has come.