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Consider Yourself Home

A new co-housing community in Portland

"Peninsula Park Commons"

Over five years ago, a group of folks first got together in a living room in North Portland and talked about what it would be like to have a shared housing situation where everyone had his or her own space but access to common outdoor and indoor spaces and amenities. Folks wanted the financial, environmental, and community benefits of a shared living arrangement combined with the advantages of privacy and individual homeownership.

In December 2002, two members of the original group- Eli Spevak and Jim Labbe- purchased a 7-unit apartment building located in the heart of the Piedmont Neighborhood (6325 N. Albina) to establish a co-housing community to realize this vision. The last two years of gradual renovation and landscaping culminated this summer with the conversion of the property to condominiums and its official establishment as a new co-housing community in Portland: "Peninsula Park Commons." The units are currently being sold to individuals/couples/families. Part of the overall goal of Peninsula Park Commons is to build "connection to the larger community of the neighborhood, city and region," "to enhance, steward, and enjoy Peninsula Park," and to share our experience in fostering "fun, affordable, and sustainable community living."

Small steps toward realizing these broader goals include planting a largely edible garden- including strawberries along the sidewalk (snacks for pedestrians)- and installing bike racks on the corner of Albina and Holman. Next time you are strolling by you might notice the inlaid tiles with bike haikus surrounding the racks, our attempt to grace the corner with a little public art. For more info on Peninsula Park Commons visit www.penparkcommons.org