



# WILDER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Wilder development picks up speed in Newport

***Green village moves forward with new construction, trail dedication***

**NEWPORT, OR, October 30, 2012** – A new wave of energy is flowing through Wilder, a pioneering example of Traditional Neighborhood Development on the Oregon Coast. The green community is breaking new ground and experiencing a rush of activity, including the dedication of a hiking trail and forested disc golf course. The most recent round of construction on the eco-friendly village is the result of renewed interest in quality housing from the surrounding community.

"We decided right from the beginning that if we were going to put a human imprint on the forest, it better be for a development that was gentle on the land," says Bonnie Serkin of Landwaves, Inc., the development company behind Wilder. "To keep the houses attainable for people who live and work in Newport, we are subsidizing the cost of the Earth Advantage certification of the homes. We figured we should back up our commitment to sustainability by taking much of the cost of green building out of the home price equation."

Every home that's been built has sold or rented, including the house originally intended to be Wilder's sales office. A teacher at neighboring Oregon Coast Community College (OCCC) and his seven kids fell in love with the space, and Wilder was happy to accommodate. Because of the demand, three more houses are currently being built.

Wilder was born out of a response by the landowners to the needs of Newport. In 2005, the city approached Bonnie Serkin and Will Emery, the owners of 1800 acres of timberland, about annexing up to 100 acres on which to build the new OCCC campus and additional residential housing. In the years that followed, the idea of creating an environmentally conscious village around the college was conceived.

From there, streets leading to the college began to take shape, along with a multi-use path, bioswale, pervious pavement, rain gardens and energy-efficient, non-light-polluting street lights.

It was in 2010 that Wilder proper came into being with the opening of Wilder Twin Park, a playground for local kids, and Wilder Dog Park, featuring an agility course for adventurous area pooches. Perhaps more importantly, ground was broken on the first two cottages.

Since then, six more homes have been completed and sold or leased, including Wilder's first flex homes. Landwaves also created a trail from Wilder Twin Park through the OCCC campus to Mike Miller Park. Planning is underway for apartments and a village commercial center, and three new houses are under construction.

With the opening of an on-site sales office and the dedication of the Mike Miller Trail, a fresh push is in the works to attract buyers who want to live in an intentional neighborhood. Local realtors Lisa Morrigan and Ed Tanabe of Prudential are representing the property locally, and representatives of Wilder are looking to area residents to find out what additional features they'd look for in a livable, sustainable community.

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