The Story of EcoVillage at Ithaca

Liz Walker

What is an Ecovillage?

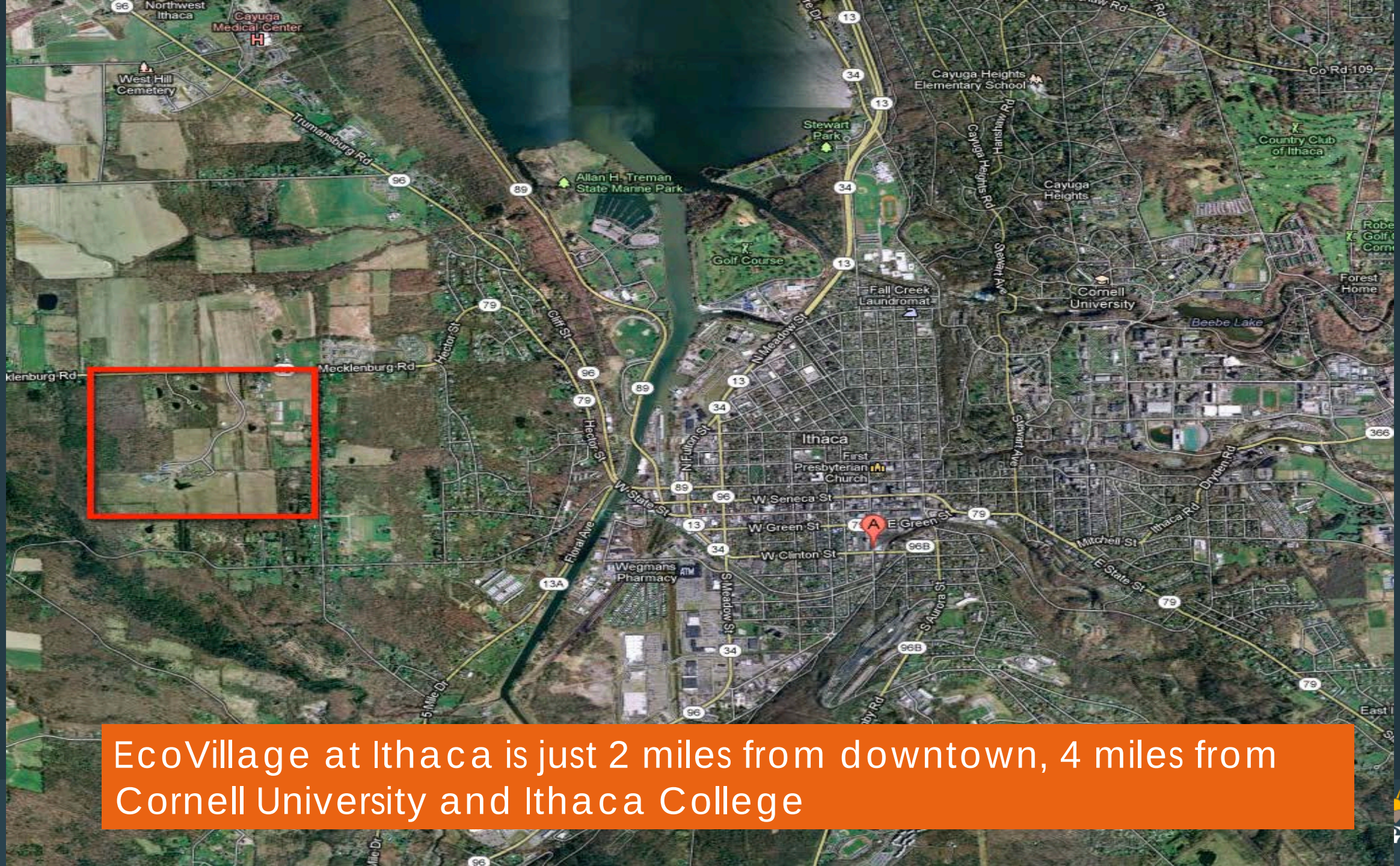
A Community That Strives to Live Sustainably…

that aims to live sustainably …

- ecologically
- socially
- economically
- culturally

Ecovillages take a Whole Systems Approach:

* Wise Land & Water Use
* Green Building/ Alternative Energy
* Organic Food Production
* On-site Jobs
* Hands-on Education



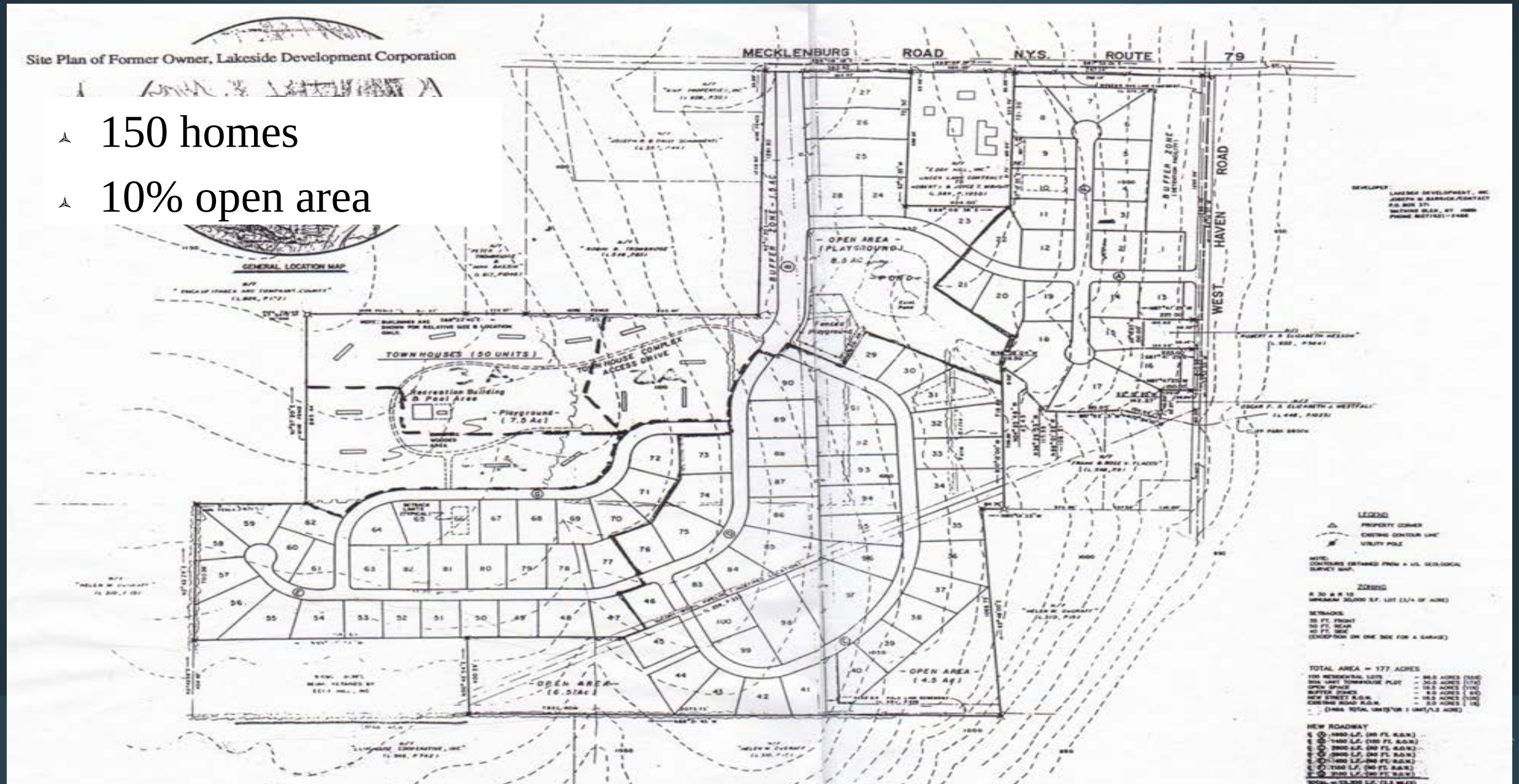
EcoVillage at Ithaca is just 2 miles from downtown, 4 miles from Cornell University and Ithaca College

EcoVillage at Ithaca's Best Practices for Sustainable Living:

- Conserve 90% of land as Open Space
- Integrate Organic Agriculture
- Develop a village of several Cohousing neighborhoods
- Build Energy-efficient, Passive Solar homes
- Develop On-site Businesses
- Create Educational opportunities

Original Developer’s Plan

- 150 homes
- 10% open area



EcoVillage at Ithaca plan:

100 homes

90% Open Space

Integrated Agriculture

West Haven Farm CSA

* 10 acre organic farm
  - Feeds 1000/week
  - CSA & Farmer's Market
* 5 acre U-Pick Berry Farm

Cohousing - Definition

- Balance of Privacy and Community
- Common House
- Pedestrian Street
- Cooperative Decision-making

FRoG Common House

EcoVillage: currently 140 adults, 75 kids, all ages, and growing…

First Resident Group, “FROG”:
30 homes, 5,000sq/ft. Common House
Built 1996-1997

First two EcoVillage neighborhoods - total per capita ecological footprint 63% LESS than a standard American ecological footprint.

FROG 50KW Solar Array Provides 55% electric needs for 30 homes

SONG Neighborhood: 30 homes, built 2002-2004

welcomehome
community-that-works.org

SONG Building Materials

- Structurally Insulated Panels (SIPs)
- Timber-frame, Straw-bale
- All Passive Solar Duplexes

Photovoltaic Panels

Building a SIP wall in SoNG

welcomehome
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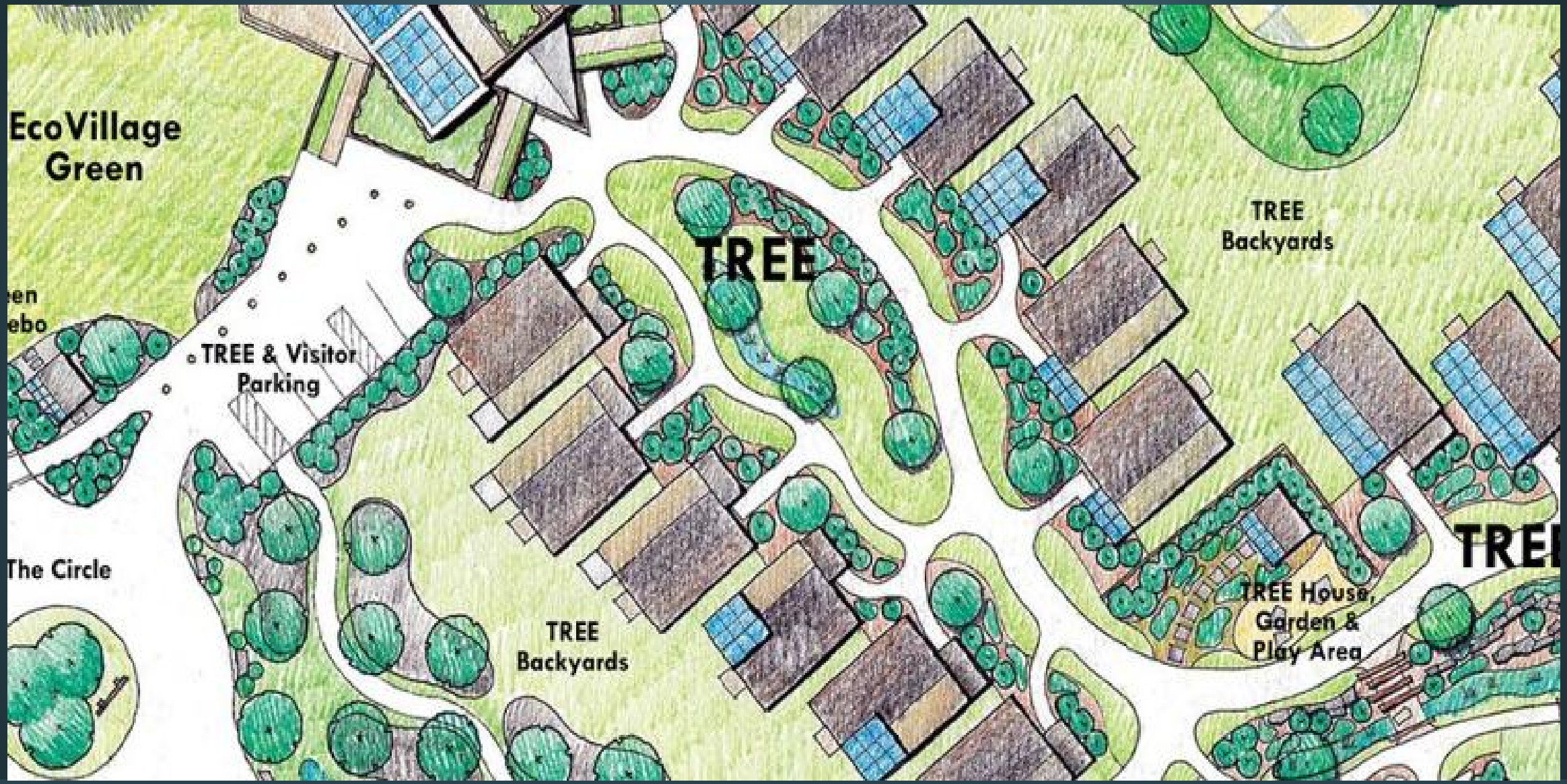
Almost half of SONG homes have solar panels.

Third Neighborhood (TREE): 40 homes, built 2013-2015



TREE Neighborhood : 25 houses, 15 apartments

TREE Neighborhood: accessible, affordable, sustainable

80% wheel-chair accessible, 20% rentals, extremely low energy bills. LEED Platinum, Passiv Haus, close to Net Zero

Contact Information

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