

New Burnside Park Gateway to Showcase Public-Private Sustainability Win LEED for Homes® green building standard debuts in City of West Linn

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West Linn, OR – Local green builder Prairie View Homes, LLC has completed the city's first LEED for Homes® project, and thanks to a strong sense of environmental stewardship and public-private collaboration, a new park entrance and sustainability showcase has been created.

The project, known as Maddax Bluff for its perch on top of Burnside Park overlooking the Willamette River, required careful collaboration between the private developer and the City to preserve fragile natural resources adjacent to Bolton Creek and a significant amount of adjacent public right-of-way used to access the park.

The cooperation resulted in the creation of a new Burnside Park gateway and a sustainable design win showcasing a private storm water management solution located in the public right-of-way known as a bioswale.

Bioswales use vegetative filtration to slow and direct rooftop rainwater and runoff from hard impervious surface such as drive and walkways. They are easily identified by their gently sloped, vegetated growth in shallow trenches. The use of bioswales at Maddax Bluff will greatly reduce the amount of untreated storm water runoff entering Bolton Creek and the Willamette River via the city storm water system.

A public trail to access Burnside Park and related public landscaping were installed creating the defacto gateway to the park which has several smaller trail entrances along Buck Street. The new trail design allows for visual and physical separation between public and private lands using earth berms and native privacy plantings. Accommodating private property access via public right without interrupting trail access was the greatest challenge.

"City parks clearly win in this case," said Ken Worcester, City of West Linn Parks Director. "Creative land planning and a strong sense of environmental stewardship came together for a great result," he said.

In addition to the sustainable site plan, the new green homes on Maddax Bluff uses less energy, water and natural resources to operate; create less waste; and are healthier and more comfortable for the occupants compared to non-green homes.

The homes are plumbed for solar hot water and use a highly efficient tankless hot water heater as backup to the solar pre-heat system. The heating and ventilating system utilizes an energy recovery ventilator (ERV) which captures the energy of expelled, stale air to preheat fresh incoming air.

The homes are **certified LEED Gold** by the US Green Building Council's LEED for Homes program.

The LEED for Homes residential green building standard is the single most stringent national green building standard in existence. "Third party checks and balances are essential for developing and maintaining consumer confidence in high-performance, green homes," expressed Jack Wagnon, Managing Director of Prairie View Homes. "The LEED for Homes program is clearly the national leader," he said.

Prairie View Homes was a member of the select national pilot to launch the LEED for Homes program in the Pacific Northwest.

To obtain third-party LEED for Homes certification, Prairie View Homes worked with local program provider, Earth Advantage, Inc, to ensure the highest standard for energy efficiency, indoor air quality, resource efficiency, water conservation and environmental responsibility is integrated into the construction of the home. Final performance testing and inspections are conducted by Earth Advantage, Inc. before a LEED for Homes certificate is issued.

Randy Hansell, LEED for Homes program manager at Earth Advantage, Inc., applauded the collaborative effort at Maddax Bluff, citing success as proof that superior design and green building techniques can go hand-in-hand.

"Building green is about a healthy, durable home that saves energy dollars and is affordable to maintain. Prairie View Homes clearly has delivered these tangible values to the future home owners in West Linn," said Hansell.

Only one home remains for sale at the Maddax Bluff project. 1393 Buck Street is listed in the Regional Multiple Listing Service (#8108907) for \$649,000. Additional details may be found on the builder's website at <http://www.prairieviewhomes.net/MaddaxBluff.cfm>.

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Prairie View Homes, LLC is a craft home builder that designs and builds original custom homes for the sustainable lifestyle. We exclusively utilize high performance, green construction based on the building science methodology. A green Prairie View Home uses less energy, water and natural resources; creates less waste; and is healthier and more comfortable for the occupants. For additional company information, please visit www.PrairieViewHomes.net.

The City of West Linn is a community where citizens, civic organizations, businesses and city government work together to ensure that the community retains its hometown identity, quality of life, and natural beauty. The estimated population is 24,180. The City Council consists of the Mayor and four Councilors who act as the board of directors of the City of West Linn municipal corporation. The Council sets policies for the city government, enacts ordinances and hires, directs, and evaluates the city manager. Municipal services are provided by City employees and headed by the City Manager. The city operates its own police department, a municipal court, water, wastewater and storm water utilities, street operations, planning, engineering, fleet management, library, and parks and recreation. **Media inquiries should be directed to Kirsten Wyatt, 503-722-3428, or kwyatt@ci.west-linn.or.us**

Earth Advantage, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation is a leading green building authority in the Pacific Northwest and the largest third-party testing program in the country. The organization is the Pacific Northwest official Program Provider for the US Green Building Council's LEED for Homes® certification. For more information, visit www.earthadvantage.org.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a voluntary, consensus-based national rating system for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings that emphasizes state-of-the-art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials and resources selection, and indoor environmental quality. For additional company information, please visit the US Green Building Council's website at www.usgbc.org.