



**Veridian Village**  
at HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE

## **Veridian Village at Hampshire College Mission and Program Statement**

Hampshire College is a liberal arts college committed to assisting students to develop confidence in their intellect, creativity, and values with an emphasis on each student's curiosity and motivation through broad, multidisciplinary learning and close mentoring relationships with teachers. In late 1960s, Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, Amherst College, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst came together to create Hampshire College as an experimental institution for alternative education. More than 40 years later, this school that began as an experimental institution has become a respected member of the community of higher learning.

Several years ago, while crafting our Sustainable Campus Plan, Hampshire College identified several areas surrounding our core campus as ideal areas for thoughtful and careful development, complementary and consistent with Hampshire's core academic mission. The purpose of such development is to expand academic opportunities for students and the community, enhance the vibrancy of the Hampshire campus, strengthen the sense of place in the village center of South Amherst, and bolster the financial health of our institution.

Hampshire College first began to explore the idea of Veridian Village during this master planning process, envisioning a community that would serve current and retired faculty, alumni, and other individuals interested in living in a college-affiliated environment. This community will exist adjacent to and in concert with Hampshire's core campus, and it will be an integral part of the larger Hampshire College community. Hampshire College is creating Veridian Village for adults who, having reached turning points in their professional and personal lives, wish to return to the social and intellectual vibrancy of a college campus. Veridian Village at Hampshire College will allow such individuals to join a tight-knit, exciting community that will provide many opportunities to engage in the life of the College.

Homeowners at Veridian Village will be able to audit certain classes free of charge, with permission of the instructor; use campus facilities, including the library, pool, and outdoor tennis courts; attend social, academic, and cultural events; take part in activities at the Hampshire Farm Center such as Hampshire's community supported agriculture program; and participate in programs at the National Yiddish Book Center and the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. The community will have links to the Museums10 organization, which hopes to find many new docents and participants in adult education among the residents of Veridian Village. Veridian also hopes to develop relationships with the Five College Learning in Retirement organization and the Five College Consortium. (A draft list of the Hampshire College program and amenities is attached after this statement.)

We envision that our students, our campus, and our institution will benefit greatly from the new community. The members of Veridian Village will bring with them a wealth of life experience, and we anticipate that many of them will be interested in sharing that experience with Hampshire's students. Thus Veridian Village will be a community that fosters not only lifelong learning, but also intergenerational learning. We imagine that members of the Veridian Village community—retired businesspeople, professionals, academics, scientists, journalists, political leaders, and so on—will be guest lecturers, mentors, tutors, and students. Individuals will move to Veridian Village precisely because they desire this sort of active involvement in education, and this active involvement will enrich their lives as well as the lives of Hampshire's students. In this way, Veridian Village will advance Hampshire's innovative educational program by creating new opportunities for lifelong and intergenerational learning.

Veridian Village will include a commons building that will be a center of activity within the new community as well as a point of connection with the larger community. This commons will be a place to congregate and meet casually, discover information about programs and events at Hampshire and the Five Colleges, attend seminars and presentations, view art shows, see student music groups perform, paint and sculpt, exercise, and relax. We expect that the links between Hampshire and the new community will grow and evolve over time in ways that will surprise and elate us, and that Veridian Village will be an important addition to the Town of Amherst and the Five College community. For example, we are currently working to involve Hampshire students in the creation of an outdoor public sculpture for Veridian Village, and we anticipate that the community may engage students to help manage its art studio, workshop, and community gardens.

The College is also interested in leading long-term research and habitat restoration and maintenance projects in some of Veridian's conservation areas, including the area of Muddy Brook. In fact, students have already begun some research in these areas. Going forward, we imagine that such research and care could involve faculty, students, and Veridian Village community members. Such projects would be developed and implemented in conjunction with the Town and could also involve the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. These research, restoration, and maintenance projects would be designed to enhance environmental awareness and understanding and improve the body of knowledge regarding habitat protection and wildlife behavior.

Consistent with the tenets of Hampshire College's mission and Sustainable Campus Plan, sustainable design and low impact development standards are being incorporated into every level of the design of Veridian Village. The development will achieve or exceed a Silver rating on the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Green Design Guidelines. To achieve this rating, the development will utilize green design features in its site design, its building materials and methods, and its finishes. Homeowners will receive documentation about Veridian's green design and will be encouraged to learn about, engage with, and advance the community's green features.

Finally, a program director at Veridian Village will help homeowners take advantage of opportunities at Hampshire as well as at the other schools and throughout the Valley. This person will help work with Hampshire faculty and staff to coordinate the links between Veridian's residents and the College and will be responsible for helping the community develop relationships with other institutions.

## Veridian Village Program and Amenities\*

### 1. Hampshire Programs

- 1.1. Hampshire will provide residents preferential access (over other seniors in the Amherst community) to **audit Hampshire courses**; the Dean of the Faculty will designate selected courses each semester, ensure agreement by the teaching faculty, and communicate the number of seats per course available for auditing. No course/registration fees will apply, although books/materials/lab fees may apply. Courses may also be taken for credit at the same cost per course as charged to Hampshire employees. Course participation is limited to one per semester per resident.
- 1.2. Hampshire will consider offering **tailored classes or lectures** on topics of particular interest to residents. Participation in tailored course offerings is on an actual-cost reimbursement basis.
- 1.3. Residents may apply to participate in **Outdoor Programs**, recognizing that students receive preference. OPRA produces three activity calendars per academic year and trips open to residents will be noted. Instructors permission is required. Participants will be charged expenses and are subject to all policies and procedures.
- 1.4. Residents will be welcome to all **special lectures and community events** open to the wider community.
- 1.5. Residents' active involvement in **community service** on campus will be highly valued and encouraged. Residents may have the opportunity to work with students on their academic work and assisting them with planning their divisional project work. Residents may also join forces with community outreach programs at Hampshire and volunteer their time and brain power.

### 2. Hampshire Facilities and Services

- 2.1. Hampshire will issue a HC Photo ID Card to all residents, allowing access to the Robert Crown Center (RCC), library, and services. Residents may not bring guests into the **RCC**. Use of the sauna is restricted to students. The RCC playing floor will be open to residents during designated morning schedule for the academic year. Residents may participate in designated open swim times during the week and weekend.
- 2.2. Residents may purchase any of the several memberships in the **Bay Road Tennis Club** (Multi-sports Center) at a 10% discount rate. Residents may use the outdoor tennis courts at designated times on a first come first serve basis and free of charge.
- 2.3. The **Hampshire Library** may be used by residents for accessing electronic subscriptions, data bases, magazines, books, and papers. Borrowing of books is possible on the same basis as for other members of the Hampshire College Community.
- 2.4. The **Photo ID Card** will also serve as a declining balance card, allowing residents to purchase food items at all Hampshire Dining Services locations on campus, at the same prices as applicable to other members of the Hampshire Community. Certain time restrictions may apply based on the capacity of the dining facilities at peak mealtime hours.
- 2.5. **Post Office and Campus Store** facilities may be used by residents at regular opening times.

- 2.6. **Hampshire Farm Center's** events are open to residents of the new community. Residents may purchase shares in the community supported agriculture (CSA) program at the same cost as students, staff and faculty. Farm Center personnel will avail themselves to provide guidance to residents for agriculture-related questions, activities and projects, which may include use of Farm Center resources.
3. Five College – sponsored Learning in Retirement Programs
  - 3.1. As a member of the Five College Consortium, Hampshire encourages residents to become active members of the Five College LIR Organization. The Community House located at the new community will have **administrative space available** for the Five College LIR Program (at no charge) to help inform the LIR membership - including residents of the community - of programs, special events, meetings, schedules, and so forth.
  - 3.2. The Five College Learning in Retirement Program is sponsored by all five consortium members and Five College Inc., primarily by making available classrooms on each of the area campuses. Hampshire College will continue to meet its existing commitment for providing space on campus. Furthermore, LIR may schedule **seminar rooms in the Community House** for conducting workshops/programs and special events.
  - 3.3. **LIR's Learning-in-Community** initiatives will also be very welcome in this new venue. The new community will be attractive to those who want to explore new ways of life-long learning, of building community, and of sustainable living. As an example, a community-based learning project may explore the best possible balance between life in the community and conservation of the surrounding environment. LIR members, in partnership with Hampshire's faculty, students, and residents, are encouraged to explore such and other frontiers in an inter-generational community setting.
4. Supportive Community Infrastructure
  - 4.1. The **Community House**, located centrally in the new residential development, will serve multiple purposes. It will be a place to
    - congregate and meet people casually,
    - discover information about programs, activities, and events
    - attend classes, presentations, lectures, and workshops
    - exercise
    - view an exhibition
    - read or work on your laptop while having a cup of coffee;

Space in the Community House will be designed with maximum flexibility in mind, so that small and large groups can be accommodated, technical equipment needs can be met with ease, and people are always "*drawn to*" this "activity hub", "*drawn in*" to what's going on there, and "*drawn-out*" to engage in activities of interest in and beyond the community.

#### 4.2. **Director of Programs**, Events and Community Development

The Community will have a professional on staff, located in the Community House, to

- provide general information on programs and facilitate access to them
- organize special events, meetings, exhibitions and so forth in the Community House
- liaise with Hampshire, Five College LIR, and other entities for all aspects of new and on-going programming, including arranging tailored programs
- provide individual assistance in locating mentoring or volunteering opportunities at Hampshire, the other colleges, and/or with entities in the wider community
- continuously evolve the community in its mission to be a model of community, sustainable living, and life-long learning.

#### 4.3. High Involvement and Commitment-generating Community

Residents will be drawn into the **process of creating their own community**, as early as possible in the planning phases, to ongoing evaluation and course correction as to what community means or should become at “Veridian Village”. Besides undertaking the traditional tasks of condominium governance, the homeowners association is also charged to engage all members in issues of community development

It is expected that this community is a model of community development, and that it will evolve with the times and remain “at the edge”. Research and studies by Hampshire scholars and students are broadly encouraged to support the community’s ongoing development.

\*Hampshire College Program and Amenities for Veridian Village residents are in the planning stages and are subject to change.