

New Homes

Condo Living

Emerald towers coming to the New Loop area

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Prairie Woods plus

Ponds, wetlands part of the atmosphere of semicustom home community in Island Lake

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Picture this: Exquisite homes, large home sites, winding streets, a rural setting, and acres of ponds and natural wetlands that are home to birds and wildlife.

Prairie Woods, a new community of 87 semicustom homes by Kenneth James Builders in Island Lake, is drawing interest.

"Starting out as a summer home community because of its beautiful lake, Island Lake has grown into a great place to live year-round," said Carl James, president of Kenneth James Builders. "Visitors to Prairie Woods are impressed with the intimacy of the community, with only 87 homes compared with some of the huge communities being developed nearby."

Prairie Woods is divided into two sections, each featuring a different product line.

The Meadow Series features 60 homes surrounded by mature trees. Seven floor plans are available from 2,060 to 3,219 square feet on one-quarter to one-half acre lots with prices starting under \$300,000.

The Arbor Series features 27 homes on heavily wooded half-acre home sites. This series offers five floor plans from 2,200 to 3,825 square feet with prices starting in the low \$400,000s.

The hilly terrain allows many homes to have lookout or walkout basements. A nature conservancy provides scenic views from many of the backyards.

Community amenities include 29 acres of open space and parks with a playground, baseball and soccer fields, a sledding hill and an ice rink. Island Lake has fishing and boating facilities as well as five beaches for summer enjoyment.

The two model homes showcase the artistic work of designer Lindy Britten of Britten Design Continuum Inc.

One of the two models, the Winchester, is priced from \$365,000 in the Meadow Series and \$448,500 in the Arbor Series.

This home offers 3,219 square feet, four bedrooms, 2½ baths, full basement and three-car garage. A fifth bedroom is optional.

The two-story home reflects the romance and drama of an Italian villa and the casual elegance of a Ralph Lauren design. The color palette is a blend of chocolates.

"You can almost taste the colors," Britten said. "From dark decadence to milk chocolate to caramel and butterscotch, chocolate tones cover the floors, upholstered furnishings



PHOTOS BY PAUL VALADE/DAILY HERALD

and wood tables with cherry red and pumpkin orange accents."

Off the two-story foyer, the living and dining rooms each feature a bay window and furnishings in a variety of textures such as wools, silks and leather.

Double doors open to an optional bonus room shown as a home office.

The well-equipped kitchen showcases maple cabinets, granite countertops, a center island with breakfast bar, stainless steel appliances and walkout bay breakfast room.

Adjacent to the kitchen, a den is shown as a game room complete with poker table and game shelves.

Open to the kitchen and breakfast area, the family room features a stone fireplace, red sofas and two

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A masonry fireplace is the centerpiece of the two-story family room in the Fairfield model at Prairie Woods, above. The master bath of the Winchester model, below, features a soaking tub, double vanities and a separate dressing table.



Prairie: Models provide buyers with ideas

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brown chairs.

Upstairs, double doors lead into the master suite, which has a separate sitting area with two elegant red chairs and custom entertainment center.

The master bath has a soaking tub with whirlpool jets, ceramic floor and surround, walk-in shower with clear glass door, double vanities plus a separate dressing table.

Three other bedrooms share the full hall bath. Bedrooms display a golf theme and dog motif, while the third room is decorated for a young child with white furnishings and stuffed animal wallpaper.

Priced from \$338,000, the Fairfield model is in the Meadow Series and features 2,513 square feet, four bedrooms, 2½ baths, full basement and two-car garage.

Options include a master suite sitting area or fifth bedroom and three-car tandem garage.

This home showcases a soft contemporary interior with a casual feel.

"A favorite among this age group is the Pottery Barn look," said Britten, who uses serene colors of the sea — sand, driftwood, azure blues and surf tones — throughout the home.

Gold draperies decorate the windows and contrast with dark wood furnishings in the living and dining rooms that flank the foyer.

In both rooms, square pillars welcome guests.

Next to the living room is an office with French doors and dark, rich furniture.

An optional butler pantry acts as a serving area and storage space separating the dining room from the kitchen.

Echoing the contemporary decor, the kitchen features birch cabinets, Corian countertops, white appliances, center island, teal walls with upper wallpaper border and a breakfast area with glass-topped table.



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A contemporary look is found in the kitchen and eating area of the Fairfield model.

The two-story family room has the optional masonry fireplace, green wraparound sofa, striped chair and teal wall with decorative molding.

Topped with a coffered ceiling, the master bedroom is a haven for relaxation decorated in ocean colors with ultrasuede chairs, soft bed coverings and embroidered silk pillows that contrast with coffee bean furnishings.

The deluxe bath features a soaker tub and whirlpool jets, walk-in shower with clear glass door, and ceramic floor and surround.

A full hall bath with granite countertops serves the secondary bedrooms, one featuring a baseball theme, teal walls and walk-in closet.

The American railroad highlights another room while the third features a surfing theme with white furnishings and white linen draperies.

Six other designs in the Meadow Series include the Victoria, from \$322,000 with 2,200

Price range: \$299,000 to \$489,500

Square footage: 2,060 to 3,825

Schools: Edgebrook and Duker Elementary and McHenry Middle schools in McHenry Elementary District 15 and McHenry High School East Campus in McHenry High School District 156



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square feet; the Carlton, from \$299,000 with 2,060 square feet; the Devonshire, from \$316,000 with 2,270 square feet; the Fairfield, from \$338,000 with 2,513 square feet; the Hampshire, from \$341,000 with 2,696 square feet, and the Kensington, from \$349,000 with 2,882 square feet.

Four other designs in the Arbor Series include the Victoria, from \$401,500 with 2,200 square feet; the Hawthorn, from \$459,500 with 3,421 square feet; the Berkshire, from

\$486,500 with 3,683 square feet, and the Oxford, from \$489,500 with 3,825 square feet.

To reach Prairie Woods from Rand Road and Route 176, travel west on Route 176 1½ miles to Darrell Road, turn north 2½ miles to Dowell Road and turn left to the community entrance on the left side.

The sales center is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Call (815) 759-9898.