

Intentional Community Presentation
By Bill Sikora November 30,2021

What is an “Intentional Community”?

According to the Foundation for Intentional Community:

“An intentional community is a group of people who live together or share common facilities and who regularly associate with each other on the basis of explicit common values.”

According to Bill Metcalf, communities researcher:

“Intentional communities are formed when people choose to live with or near enough to each other to carry out a shared lifestyle, and with a common purpose.”

I am particularly interested in a community that allows people to become as independent of the system. The less dependent you are on the system, the less control it has over people. This can be achieved by doing things like home schooling, growing food, solar and wind energy backups, having an alternative economy etc.

You don't always have to move to form an intentional community. Let's say you want to grow organic food. You can have monthly meetings in your neighborhood inviting your neighbors to attend if they have a similar interest. The meetings can be in public place such a restaurant. As you get to know the people attending the meetings, you can identify who you would like to form an intentional community with.

If you have decided you don't want to stay in your current neighborhood, you may be able to find an existing intentional community that suits your needs. The following websites are resources for that:

<https://www.ic.org/>

<https://ecovillage.org/>

If there is not existing intentional community, then you will need to create your own.

One of the things I like about intentional communities is that they are about neighbors helping each other out. I feel this is the natural order of things. In our modern society we have gotten away from that.

Here are some useful books available from ic.org:

Wisdom of Communités - Volume 1: Starting a Community

As part of a 4-volume series published by FIC, authors from *Communities* magazine share their experience and wisdom on how to successfully start a community and grow it beyond the initial forming stage.

Best of Communities - Volume1: Intentional Community Overview and Starting a Community.

Having as many resources as possible is one way to ensure success. More from the archives of *Communities* magazine, you'll receive 15 articles that cover first-hand stories from

forming communities, as well as sage advice about legal structures, the importance of community spirit, how to assess prospective property, and the importance of making process agreements before you need to apply them.

The Cooperative Culture Handbook By Yana Ludwig & Karen Gimnig

Decisions like buying land and determining a legal structure are only a portion of the community pie. Effectively communicating, working as a group, and overcoming obstacles are essential pieces too. With 52 transformative group and individual exercises, The Cooperative Culture Handbook is a practical toolkit for groups to solve problems, build community, and change culture towards greater empathy and authenticity.

Communities magazine issue #170 - Finding or Starting a Community.

A common question at the beginning: Find it or Start it? Whether looking to join an existing community or working to start a new one, aspiring communitarians can glean invaluable lessons from the experiences of elders. This Spring 2016 Communities issue is full of success stories, cautionary tales, adventures, reflections, and advice.

You can also watch videos and take online classes at ic.org.

Sociocracy is system of governance. For more information go to:

<https://www.sociocracyforall.org/sociocracy/>

From Wikipedia:

Permaculture is, amongst others, an approach to land management that adopts arrangements observed in flourishing natural **ecosystems**. It includes a set of design principles derived using **whole systems thinking**. It uses these principles in fields such as **regenerative agriculture**, **rewilding**, and **community resilience**. Permaculture originally came from "permanent agriculture",^[1] but was later adjusted to mean "permanent culture", incorporating social aspects as inspired by **Masanobu Fukuoka's natural farming**. The term was coined by **Bill Mollison** and **David Holmgren** in 1978, who formulated the concept in opposition to Western industrialized methods and in congruence with **Indigenous** or **traditional knowledge**.

Prince Crossing in Grayslake, IL

<http://prairiecrossing.com/>

John Bush's Operations:

<https://livefree.academy/>

<https://livefree.academy/exit-and-build-property-solutions/>

Cynthia Tina (Consultant):

<https://www.cynthiatina.com/>