For Affordable Homes, Demand Far Outstrips Supply

Overwhelming demand for apartments in a newly opened development in Hayward makes it clear just how great the need is for affordable homes in a city where the median home value is down from $514,000 to $312,000 year on year and foreclosures are at an all-time high.

"We received 1,500 applications for 78 apartments at Walker Landing," said Linda Mandolini, Eden Housing's Executive Director on Friday at the development's opening ceremony.

Walker Landing, developed jointly by Eden Housing and the DeSilva Group, features two-story townhouses and flats arranged around three courtyards on North Lane, Hayward 94545. A central building, which includes a community room and a computer learning center, opens onto a central courtyard with outdoor seating, BBQ, picnic and play areas. Residents can take advantage of on-site after-school and summer enrichment youth programs.

Those who were able to move in to Walker Landing are working families earning $13,000-$43,000 (30-50% of the area's median income). Rents for the apartments range from $442 to $1,056 a month, depending on size, household-size and income.

The development was named to honor James Alonzo Walker, long-time Hayward community leader and Eden board member.

It isn't only Hayward that is crying out for more homes targeted at lower-income residents. Mandolini says Eden Housing has waiting lists at several other apartment complexes in the company's portfolio. "The need for affordable housing is greater than ever," she says.