

Excerpt from *Finding Community:* *Do Communities Tell You What it Costs?*

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Mostly yes. When I emailed communities to ask what it cost to join their community I got back friendly, straightforward answers right away. Most communities are happy to tell you up front, so as not to waste your time (and theirs) if the costs might be out of your range. They offer this information in handouts to visitors, in handbooks for potential new members, and/or on their website.

However, some communities don't tell you until they get to know you. I know founders of one community who prefer to share cost information only after people have visited many times or lived at the community for several months. Joining a community and sharing land ownership is an intimate kind of relationship, and I can see why a community would want to proceed cautiously. At the same time, I think most people would want to know if they could afford to join a community first, before investing time off work and travel costs to visit the community several times before they found out whether it was even in their ball park.

—From Chapter 11: "What It Costs"