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Green Bay

Flats on the Fox Opens with Affordable Riverfront Housing

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The first piece of a major downtown Green Bay development project is open for business -- and for living.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony officially marked the opening of Flats on the Fox Wednesday afternoon, which is part of a development project on the site of the old Younkers department store.

Two-thirds of apartments on the riverside building have been applied for, and some residents have already moved in.

There are 64 apartments, a 24-hour fitness center, and a large community room. Several of the units get a prime view of the Fox River.

As far as how much it costs to live here, this isn't your average apartment. There are affordable and market-rate apartments available. In fact, 80-percent of the apartments are classified as affordable.

That's a selling point that's generated plenty of interest.

"It truly is a place people of different incomes can rent apartments," Richard Arnesen, vice president of Stone House Development, said. "We have people who have some of the highest rents in Green Bay on our upper floors in our market-rate apartments, and then we have rent that's on the low side, so there's really quite the range of opportunities for living downtown."

"This is the pad," Meghan Parknsky says, opening her door.

As she takes us on a tour of her apartment, she can't help but feel a little giddy about her new digs.

"It was really exciting and when I started unpacking and making it... See my stuff, it felt like home," she said.

A home that might have been out of reach under normal circumstances. Parknsky said, "I feel like it's not fair. I do I feel like I'm cheating the system somehow but it's legit."

That's because her rent payment is much lower than the market rate. And don't confuse "affordable" with "cheap" -- all the amenities of a regular luxury apartment are here, it's just now people who might not have been able to live along the waterfront can.

"We expect to be fully leased by the end of the year," Arnesen said.

"Compared to what other people pay the same amount for, it's not even fair it seems like," Parknsky says.

And for her, her apartment means even more than comfort.

"I come back and it's like I feel like I earned something. That's something to be proud of."