

SUN COMMUNITIES INC

Form S-3

April 17, 2009

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 17, 2009. Registration No. 333-

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

---

**FORM S-3**

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**

**UNDER**

**THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

---

**SUN COMMUNITIES, INC.**

**(Exact name of registrant as specified in its governing instrument)**

**Maryland**

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

**38-2730780**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**Gary A. Shiffman**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**27777 Franklin Road**

**Suite 200**

**Southfield, Michigan 48034**

**(248) 208-2500**

(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent for Service)

---

Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

Copies of all correspondence to:

**Lee B. Kellert, Esq.**

**Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, P.C.**

**27777 Franklin Road**

**Suite 2500**

**Southfield, Michigan 48034**

**(248) 351-3000**

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement as determined by market conditions.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box. \_\_\_\_\_

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. \_\_\_\_\_

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. \_\_\_\_\_

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box. \_\_\_\_\_

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a small reporting company. See definition of "accelerated filer," "large accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act (Check One):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

## CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price (1)	Amount of Registration Fee (2)
Debt Securities (3) Common Stock,  \$.01 par value (3)(5) Preferred Stock,  \$.01 par value (3) Warrants (4)				
Total			\$300,000,000 (6)	\$16,740

- (1) The proposed maximum aggregate offering price per class of security will be determined from time to time by the registrant in connection with the issuance by the registrant of the securities registered hereunder and is not specified as to each class of security pursuant to General Instruction II.D. of Form S-3 under the Securities Act.
- (2) Calculated on the basis of the maximum offering price of all securities covered by this registration statement pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act.
- (3) Subject to note 6 below, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminable amount and type of debt securities and an indeterminable number of shares of common and preferred stock of

the registrant as may be sold from time to time by the registrant. Pursuant to Rule 416 of the Securities Act, the shares being registered hereunder include such indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock as may be issuable from time to time with respect to the shares being registered hereunder as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions. Pursuant to Rule 457(i) under the Securities Act, the shares being registered hereunder include such indeterminate number of shares of common and preferred stock as may be issuable from time to time upon conversion or exchange of any debt securities, preferred stock or warrants issued under this registration statement.

- (4) Subject to note 6 below, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminable number of warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock, or debt securities in one or more series. Pursuant to Rule 457(i) under the Securities Act, the warrants being registered hereunder include such indeterminable number of warrants as may be issuable upon conversion or exchange of any debt securities or preferred stock issued under this registration statement.
- (5) Includes rights to purchase Junior Participating preferred stock of the Company (the "Rights"). Since no separate consideration is paid for the Rights, they are not considered in the calculation of the maximum aggregate offering price and the registration fee.
- (6) In no event will the maximum aggregate offering price of all securities issued from time to time pursuant to this registration statement exceed \$300,000,000. The securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or with other securities registered hereunder.

---

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act") or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.



## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

The information contained in this Prospectus is not completed and may change. The selling stockholders may not sell these securities until the registration statement we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This Prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

### **Subject to Completion**

**Prospectus dated April 17, 2009**

### **PROSPECTUS**

**Up to \$300,000,000**

**SUN COMMUNITIES, INC.**

**DEBT SECURITIES**

**COMMON STOCK**

**PREFERRED STOCK**

**SECURITIES WARRANTS**

We may offer and sell from time to time, together or separately, debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, or warrants or any combination of securities described in this prospectus, individually or in units, in one or more offerings, at prices and upon terms as set forth in a prospectus supplement. The maximum aggregate public offering price of the securities offered by this prospectus will not exceed \$300,000,000. We urge you to read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement, which will describe the specific terms of the securities, carefully before you make your investment decision.

The debt securities, preferred stock, common stock and warrants are collectively referred to herein as the "securities." This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time we offer securities, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that will contain more specific information about the terms of that offering, including the prices at which those securities will be sold. For each type of security listed above, the amount, price and terms will be determined at or prior to the sale. The securities may be sold for U.S. dollars, foreign currencies or foreign currency units, and the securities may be payable in U.S. dollars, foreign currencies or foreign currency units. We may also add, update or change in the prospectus supplement any of the information contained in this prospectus.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "SUI." The last reported sale price of the common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on April 16, 2009, was \$13.81 per share.

**YOU SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE “RISK FACTORS” BEGINNING ON PAGE 5 FOR CERTAIN FACTORS RELATING TO AN INVESTMENT IN THE SECURITIES.**

---

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission  
nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved  
of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy  
of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

---

This prospectus may not be used to sell securities  
unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The date of this Prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, 2009

## About This Prospectus

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that Sun Communities, Inc., a Maryland corporation (hereinafter sometimes referred to as “we”, “us”, or the “Company”), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), utilizing a “shelf” registration process. We may, from time to time, sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. We may prepare a prospectus supplement at any time to add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Except for those instances in which a specific date is referenced, the information in this prospectus is accurate as of the date of this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information”.

We believe that we have included or incorporated by reference all information material to investors in this prospectus, but certain details that may be important for specific investment purposes have not been included. To see more detail, you should read the exhibits filed with or incorporated by reference into the registration statement.

## Where You Can Find More Information

We file annual, quarterly and special reports and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC’s public reference room at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the SEC’s public reference rooms. Our SEC filings are also available to the public over the Internet at the SEC’s web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and such reports, proxy statements and other information concerning the Company can be inspected at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows us to “incorporate by reference” the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the following documents we filed with the SEC and our future filings with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until the offering is complete; provided, however, that we are not incorporating by reference any information furnished to, but not filed with, the SEC under either Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K, as well as any exhibits filed on such forms that are related to such items.

1. The Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, filed with the SEC on March 13, 2009.
2. The Company’s Amendment to its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, filed with the SEC on March 30, 2009.

You may request a copy of these filings at no cost, by writing or calling us at the following address:

Sun Communities, Inc.

27777 Franklin Road

Suite 200

Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

Southfield, MI 48034

Attn: Corporate Secretary

(248) 208-2500

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus and any supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information.

3

---



## The Company

*As used in this prospectus, "Company," "us," "we," "our" and similar terms means Sun Communities, Inc., a Maryland corporation, and one or more of its subsidiaries (including the Operating Partnership (as defined below) and Sun Home Services, Inc.).*

We are a self-administered and self-managed real estate investment trust, or REIT. We own, operate, develop and finance manufactured housing communities concentrated in the midwestern and southeastern United States. We are a fully integrated real estate company which, together with our affiliates and predecessors, have been in the business of acquiring, operating and expanding manufactured housing communities since 1975. As of December 31, 2008, we owned and operated a portfolio of 136 properties located in eighteen states (the "Properties" or "Property"), including 124 manufactured housing communities, four recreational vehicle communities, and eight properties containing both manufactured housing and recreational vehicle sites. As of December 31, 2008, the Properties contained an aggregate of 47,613 developed sites comprised of 42,299 developed manufactured home sites, 3,107 permanent recreational vehicle sites, 2,207 seasonal recreational vehicle sites, and an additional 6,081 manufactured home sites suitable for development. In order to enhance property performance and cash flow, the Company, through Sun Home Services, Inc., a Michigan corporation ("SHS"), actively markets, sells and leases new and pre-owned manufactured homes for placement in the Properties.

Structured as an umbrella partnership REIT, or UPREIT, Sun Communities Operating Limited Partnership, a Michigan limited partnership (the "Operating Partnership"), is the entity through which we conduct substantially all of our operations, and which owns, either directly or indirectly through subsidiaries, all of our assets (the subsidiaries, collectively with the Operating Partnership, the "Subsidiaries"). This UPREIT structure enables us to comply with certain complex requirements under the Federal tax rules and regulations applicable to REITs, and to acquire manufactured housing communities in transactions that defer some or all of the sellers' tax consequences. We are the sole general partner of, and, as of December 31, 2008, held approximately 89.4% of the interests (not including preferred limited partnership interests) in, the Operating Partnership. The Subsidiaries also include SHS, which provides manufactured home sales and other services to current and prospective tenants of the Properties.

Our executive and principal property management office is located at 27777 Franklin Road, Suite 200, Southfield, Michigan 48034 and our telephone number is (248) 208-2500. We have regional property management offices located in Austin, Texas; Dayton, Ohio; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Elkhart, Indiana; and Orlando, Florida, and we employed an aggregate of 644 people as of December 31, 2008.

## Forward-Looking Statements

This prospectus contains various "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and the Company intends that such forward-looking statements will be subject to the safe harbors created thereby. For this purpose, any statements contained in this filing that relate to prospective events or developments are deemed to be forward-looking statements. Words such as "believes," "forecasts," "anticipates," "intends," "plans," "expects," "may," "will" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements reflect the Company's current views with respect to future events and financial performance, but involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties, both general and specific to the matters discussed in this filing. These risks and uncertainties may cause the actual results of the Company to be materially different from any future results expressed or implied by such forward looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include the national, regional and local economic climates, the ability to maintain rental rates and occupancy levels, competitive market forces, changes in market rates of interest, the ability of manufactured home buyers to obtain financing, the level of repossessions by manufactured home lenders and those risks and uncertainties referenced under the headings entitled "Risk Factors" contained in this prospectus and the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus speak only as of the date hereof and the Company expressly disclaims any obligation to provide public updates, revisions or amendments to any forward-looking statements made herein to reflect changes in the Company's expectations of future events.



## Risk Factors

Our prospects are subject to certain uncertainties and risks. Our future results could differ materially from current results, and our actual results could differ materially from those projected in forward-looking statements as a result of certain risk factors. These risk factors include, but are not limited to, those set forth below, other one-time events, and important factors disclosed previously and from time to time in other Company filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. This registration statement contains certain forward-looking statements.

### Real Estate Risks

*General economic conditions and the concentration of our properties in Michigan, Florida, Indiana, and Texas may affect our ability to generate sufficient revenue.*

The market and economic conditions in our current markets generally, and specifically in metropolitan areas of our current markets, may significantly affect manufactured home occupancy or rental rates. Occupancy and rental rates, in turn, may significantly affect our revenues, and if our communities do not generate revenues sufficient to meet our operating expenses, including debt service and capital expenditures, our cash flow and ability to pay or refinance our debt obligations could be adversely affected. We derived significant amounts of rental income for the twelve month period ended December 31, 2008 from properties located in Michigan, Florida, Indiana, and Texas. As of December 31, 2008, 47 of our 136 Properties, or approximately 30% of developed sites, are located in Michigan, 19 Properties, or approximately 21% of developed sites, are located in Florida, 18 Properties, or approximately 14% of developed sites, are located in Indiana, and 17 Properties, or approximately 11% of developed sites, are located in Texas. As a result of the geographic concentration of our Properties in Michigan, Florida, Indiana, and Texas, we are exposed to the risks of downturns in the local economy or other local real estate market conditions which could adversely affect occupancy rates, rental rates and property values of properties in these markets.

The following factors, among others, may adversely affect the revenues generated by our communities:

- the national and local economic climate which may be adversely impacted by, among other factors, plant closings and industry slowdowns;
- local real estate market conditions such as the oversupply of manufactured housing sites or a reduction in demand for manufactured housing sites in an area;
- the number of repossessed homes in a particular market;
- the lack of an established dealer network;
- the rental market which may limit the extent to which rents may be increased to meet increased expenses without decreasing occupancy rates;

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

- the perceptions by prospective tenants of the safety, convenience and attractiveness of the Properties and the neighborhoods where they are located;
- zoning or other regulatory restrictions;
- competition from other available manufactured housing sites and alternative forms of housing (such as apartment buildings and site-built single-family homes);
- our ability to provide adequate management, maintenance and insurance;
- increased operating costs, including insurance premiums, real estate taxes and utilities; or
- the enactment of rent control laws or laws taxing the owners of manufactured homes.

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

Our income would also be adversely affected if tenants were unable to pay rent or if sites were unable to be rented on favorable terms. If we were unable to promptly relet or renew the leases for a significant number of the sites, or if the rental rates upon such renewal or reletting were significantly lower than expected rates, then our business and results of operations could be adversely affected. In addition, certain expenditures associated with each equity investment (such as real estate taxes and maintenance costs) generally are not reduced when circumstances cause a reduction in income from the investment. Furthermore, real estate investments are relatively illiquid and, therefore, will tend to limit our ability to vary our portfolio promptly in response to changes in economic or other conditions.

*Competition affects occupancy levels and rents which could adversely affect our revenues.*

All of our Properties are located in developed areas that include other manufactured housing community properties. The number of competitive manufactured housing community properties in a particular area could have a material adverse effect on our ability to lease sites and increase rents charged at our Properties or at any newly acquired properties. We may be competing with others with greater resources and whose officers and directors have more experience than our officers and directors. In addition, other forms of multi-family residential properties, such as private and federally funded or assisted multi-family housing projects and single-family housing, provide housing alternatives to potential tenants of manufactured housing communities.

*Our ability to sell or lease manufactured homes may be affected by various factors, which may in turn adversely affect our profitability.*

SHS is in the manufactured home market offering manufactured home sales and leasing services to tenants and prospective tenants of our communities. The market for the sale and lease of manufactured homes may be adversely affected by the following factors:

- downturns in economic conditions which adversely impact the housing market;
- an oversupply of, or a reduced demand for, manufactured homes;
- the difficulty facing potential purchasers in obtaining affordable financing as a result of heightened lending criteria; and
- an increase or decrease in the rate of manufactured home repossessions which provide aggressively priced competition to new manufactured home sales.

Any of the above listed factors could adversely impact our rate of manufactured home sales and leases, which would result in a decrease in profitability.

*Increases in taxes and regulatory compliance costs may reduce our revenue.*

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

Costs resulting from changes in real estate laws, income taxes, service or other taxes, generally are not passed through to tenants under leases and may adversely affect our funds from operations and our ability to pay or refinance our debt. Similarly, changes in laws increasing the potential liability for environmental conditions existing on properties or increasing the restrictions on discharges or other conditions may result in significant unanticipated expenditures, which would adversely affect our business and results of operations.

*We may not be able to integrate or finance our development activities.*

From time to time, we engage in the construction and development of new communities, and may continue to engage in the development and construction business in the future. Our development and construction business may be exposed to the following risks which are in addition to those risks associated with the ownership and operation of established manufactured housing communities:

- we may not be able to obtain financing with favorable terms for community development which may make us unable to proceed with the development;
- we may be unable to obtain, or face delays in obtaining, necessary zoning, building and other governmental permits and authorizations, which could result in increased costs and delays, and even require us to abandon development of the community entirely if we are unable to obtain such permits or authorizations;

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

- we may abandon development opportunities that we have already begun to explore and as a result we may not recover expenses already incurred in connection with exploring such development opportunities;
- we may be unable to complete construction and lease-up of a community on schedule resulting in increased debt service expense and construction costs;
- we may incur construction and development costs for a community which exceed our original estimates due to increased materials, labor or other costs, which could make completion of the community uneconomical and we may not be able to increase rents to compensate for the increase in development costs which may impact our profitability;
- we may be unable to secure long-term financing on completion of development resulting in increased debt service and lower profitability; and
- occupancy rates and rents at a newly developed community may fluctuate depending on several factors, including market and economic conditions, which may result in the community not being profitable.
- If any of the above occurred, our business and results of operations could be adversely affected.
- We may not be able to integrate or finance our acquisitions and our acquisitions may not perform as expected.
- We acquire and intend to continue to acquire manufactured housing communities on a select basis. Our acquisition activities and their success are subject to the following risks:
  - we may be unable to acquire a desired property because of competition from other well capitalized real estate investors, including both publicly traded real estate investment trusts and institutional investment funds;
  - even if we enter into an acquisition agreement for a property, it is usually subject to customary conditions to closing, including completion of due diligence investigations to our satisfaction, which may not be satisfied;
  - even if we are able to acquire a desired property, competition from other real estate investors may significantly increase the purchase price;
  - we may be unable to finance acquisitions on favorable terms;
  - acquired properties may fail to perform as expected;
  - acquired properties may be located in new markets where we face risks associated with a lack of market knowledge or understanding of the local economy, lack of business relationships in the area and unfamiliarity with local governmental and permitting procedures; and

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

- we may be unable to quickly and efficiently integrate new acquisitions, particularly acquisitions of portfolios of properties, into our existing operations.

If any of the above occurred, our business and results of operations could be adversely affected.

In addition, we may acquire properties subject to liabilities and without any recourse, or with only limited recourse, with respect to unknown liabilities. As a result, if a liability were to be asserted against us based upon ownership of those properties, we might have to pay substantial sums to settle it, which could adversely affect our cash flow.



*Rent control legislation may harm our ability to increase rents.*

State and local rent control laws in certain jurisdictions may limit our ability to increase rents and to recover increases in operating expenses and the costs of capital improvements. Enactment of such laws has been considered from time to time in other jurisdictions. Certain Properties are located, and we may purchase additional properties, in markets that are either subject to rent control or in which rent-limiting legislation exists or may be enacted.

*We may be subject to environmental liability.*

Under various federal, state and local laws, ordinances and regulations, an owner or operator of real estate is liable for the costs of removal or remediation of certain hazardous substances at, on, under or in such property. Such laws often impose such liability without regard to whether the owner knew of, or was responsible for, the presence of such hazardous substances. The presence of such substances, or the failure to properly remediate such substances, may adversely affect the owner's ability to sell or rent such property, to borrow using such property as collateral or to develop such property. Persons who arrange for the disposal or treatment of hazardous substances also may be liable for the costs of removal or remediation of such substances at a disposal or treatment facility owned or operated by another person. In addition, certain environmental laws impose liability for the management and disposal of asbestos-containing materials and for the release of such materials into the air. These laws may provide for third parties to seek recovery from owners or operators of real properties for personal injury associated with asbestos-containing materials. In connection with the ownership, operation, management, and development of real properties, we may be considered an owner or operator of such properties and, therefore, are potentially liable for removal or remediation costs, and also may be liable for governmental fines and injuries to persons and property. When we arrange for the treatment or disposal of hazardous substances at landfills or other facilities owned by other persons, we may be liable for the removal or remediation costs at such facilities.

All of the Properties have been subject to a Phase I or similar environmental audit (which involves general inspections without soil sampling or ground water analysis) completed by independent environmental consultants. These environmental audits have not revealed any significant environmental liability that would have a material adverse effect on our business. These audits cannot reflect conditions arising after the studies were completed, and no assurances can be given that existing environmental studies reveal all environmental liabilities, that any prior owner or operator of a property or neighboring owner or operator did not create any material environmental condition not known to us, or that a material environmental condition does not otherwise exist as to any one or more Properties.

*Losses in excess of our insurance coverage or uninsured losses could adversely affect our cash flow.*

We maintain comprehensive liability, fire, flood (where appropriate), extended coverage, and rental loss insurance on the Properties with policy specifications, limits, and deductibles which are customarily carried for similar properties. As a result of market conditions in the insurance industry, we carry a \$250,000 deductible on our liability insurance. Certain types of losses, however, may be either uninsurable or not economically insurable, such as losses due to earthquakes, riots, or acts of war. In the event an uninsured loss occurs, we could lose both our investment in and anticipated profits and cash flow from the affected property. Any loss would adversely affect our ability to repay our debt.

## **Financing and Investment Risks**

*Our significant amount of debt could limit our operational flexibility or otherwise adversely affect our financial condition.*

We have a significant amount of debt. As of December 31, 2008, we had approximately \$1.2 billion of total debt outstanding, consisting of approximately \$1.1 billion in debt that is collateralized by mortgage liens on 105 of the Properties (the "Mortgage Debt") and secured by collateralized receivables, \$4.6 million collateralized by liens on manufactured homes, and \$135.2 million in unsecured debt. If we fail to meet our obligations under the Mortgage Debt, the lender would be entitled to foreclose on all or some of the Properties securing such debt which could have a material adverse effect on us and our ability to make expected distributions, and could threaten our continued viability.

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

We are subject to the risks normally associated with debt financing, including the following risks:

- our cash flow may be insufficient to meet required payments of principal and interest, or require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow to pay our debt and the interest associated with our debt rather than to other areas of our business;
- our existing indebtedness may limit our operating flexibility due to financial and other restrictive covenants, including restrictions on incurring additional debt;
- it may be more difficult for us to obtain additional financing in the future for our operations, working capital requirements, capital expenditures, debt service or other general requirements;
- we may be more vulnerable in the event of adverse economic and industry conditions or a downturn in our business;
- we may be placed at a competitive disadvantage compared to our competitors that have less debt; and
- we may not be able to refinance at all or on favorable terms, as our debt matures.

If any of the above risks occurred, our financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

*We may be able to incur substantially more debt which would increase the risks associated with our substantial leverage.*

Despite our current indebtedness levels, we may still be able to incur substantially more debt in the future. If new debt is added to our current debt levels, an even greater portion of our cash flow will be needed to satisfy our debt service obligations. As a result, the related risks that we now face could intensify and increase the risk of a default on our indebtedness.

*Our equity investment in Origen Financial, Inc., may subject us to certain risks.*

In October 2003, the Company purchased 5,000,000 shares of common stock of Origen Financial, Inc. (“Origen”). The Company owns approximately 19% of Origen as of December 31, 2008, and its investment is accounted for using the equity method of accounting.

Origen was a publicly traded real estate investment trust that originated and serviced manufactured home loans. In March 2008, Origen announced that conditions in the credit markets had adversely impacted Origen’s business and financial condition. In response, Origen suspended loan originations and took steps to right-size its work force. Following this announcement, Origen executed an asset disposition and management plan and sold \$176 million of unsecuritized loans, and its servicing and origination platforms. In December 2008, Origen voluntarily delisted its common stock from the NASDAQ Global Market and deregistered its common stock under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934. Currently, Origen is actively managing its residual interests in securitized loans, whole loans, and bond holdings which provide

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

continuing cash flows for the organization.

If Origen's business and financial condition do not perform as expected, our investment in Origen may result in additional other than temporary impairment charges and financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

The Company recorded losses from our investment in Origen of \$16.5 million, \$8.0 million, and \$16.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, respectively. These losses are comprised of: 1) other than temporary charges to the carrying value of the Origen investment; and 2) our equity allocation of the anticipated losses from Origen. The components of the loss associated with our investment in Origen are summarized as follows (in thousands):

	Years Ended December 31,			
	2008	2007	2006	
Equity income (loss) from Origen affiliate	\$(6,851	) \$(6,099	) \$1,417	
Other than temporary impairment charges	(9,619	) (1,870	) (18,000	)
Total loss from Origen affiliate	\$(16,470	) \$(7,969	) \$(16,583	)

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

*The financial condition and solvency of our borrowers may adversely affect our installment and other loans.*

As of December 31, 2008, we had outstanding approximately \$47.4 million, net of reserves, in installment loans to owners of manufactured homes. These installment loans are collateralized by the manufactured homes. We may invest in additional mortgages and installment loans in the future. By virtue of our investment in the mortgages and the loans, we are subject to the following risks of such investment:

- the borrowers may not be able to make debt service payments or pay principal when due;
- the value of property securing the mortgages and installment notes receivable may be less than the amounts owed; and
- interest rates payable on the mortgages and installment notes receivable may be lower than our cost of funds.

If any of the above occurred, our business and results of operations could be adversely affected.

### **Tax Risks**

*We may suffer adverse tax consequences and be unable to attract capital if we fail to qualify as a REIT.*

We believe that since our taxable year ended December 31, 1994, we have been organized and operated, and intend to continue to operate, so as to qualify for taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code (“Code”). Although we believe that we have been and will continue to be organized and have operated and will continue to operate so as to qualify for taxation as a REIT, we cannot assure you that we have been or will continue to be organized or operated in a manner to so qualify or remain so qualified. Qualification as a REIT involves the satisfaction of numerous requirements (some on an annual and quarterly basis) established under highly technical and complex Code provisions for which there are only limited judicial or administrative interpretations, and involves the determination of various factual matters and circumstances not entirely within our control. In addition, frequent changes occur in the area of REIT taxation, which require the Company continually to monitor its tax status.

If we fail to qualify as a REIT in any taxable year, we would be subject to federal income tax (including any applicable alternative minimum tax) on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. Moreover, unless entitled to relief under certain statutory provisions, we also would be disqualified from treatment as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which qualification was lost. This treatment would reduce our net earnings available for investment or distribution to stockholders because of the additional tax liability to us for the years involved. In addition, distributions to stockholders would no longer be required to be made. Even if we qualify for and maintain our REIT status, we will be subject to certain federal, state and local taxes on our property and certain of our operations.

*We intend for the Operating Partnership to qualify as a partnership, but we cannot guarantee that it will qualify.*

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

We believe that the Operating Partnership has been organized as a partnership and will qualify for treatment as such under the Code. However, if the Operating Partnership is deemed to be a “publicly traded partnership,” it will be treated as a corporation instead of a partnership for federal income tax purposes unless at least 90% of its income is qualifying income as defined in the Code. The income requirements applicable to REITs and the definition of “qualifying income” for purposes of this 90% test are similar in most respects. Qualifying income for the 90% test generally includes passive income, such as specified types of real property rents, dividends and interest. We believe that the Operating Partnership would meet this 90% test, but we cannot guarantee that it would. If the Operating Partnership were to be taxed as a corporation, it would incur substantial tax liabilities, we would fail to qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes, and our ability to raise additional capital could be significantly impaired.

*Our ability to accumulate cash may be restricted due to certain REIT distribution requirements.*

In order to qualify as a REIT, we must distribute to our stockholders at least 90% of our REIT taxable income (calculated without any deduction for dividends paid and excluding net capital gain) and to avoid federal income taxation, our distributions must not be less than 100% of our REIT taxable income, including capital gains. As a result of the distribution requirements, we do not expect to accumulate significant amounts of cash. Accordingly, these distributions could significantly reduce the cash available to us in subsequent periods to fund our operations and future growth.

## Business Risks

*Some of our directors and officers may have conflicts of interest with respect to certain related party transactions and other business interests.*

*Ownership of Origen.* In the 2003 recapitalization of Origen Financial, Inc., (“Origen”), the Company purchased 5,000,000 shares of Origen common stock for \$50 million and Shiffman Origen LLC (which is owned by the Milton M. Shiffman Spouse’s Marital Trust, Gary A. Shiffman (the Company’s Chief Executive Officer), and members of Mr. Shiffman’s family) purchased 1,025,000 shares of Origen common stock for approximately \$10.3 million. Gary A. Shiffman is a member of the board of directors of Origen and Arthur A. Weiss, a director of the Company, is a trustee of the Milton M. Shiffman Spouse’s Marital Trust.

Accordingly, in all transactions involving Origen, Mr. Shiffman and/or Mr. Weiss may have a conflict of interest with respect to their respective obligations as an officer and/or director of the Company. The following are the current transactions and agreements involving Origen which may present a conflict of interest for Mr. Shiffman and/or Mr. Weiss:

- We previously had a loan servicing agreement with Origen Servicing, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Origen, which serviced our portfolio of manufactured home loans. Origen agreed to fund loans that met our underwriting guidelines and then transfer those loans to us pursuant to a Loan Origination, Sale and Purchase Agreement. We paid Origen a fee of \$550 per loan pursuant to a Loan Origination, Sale and Purchase Agreement which totaled approximately \$0.2 million during 2008 and 2007. We purchased loans, at par, from Origen which totaled approximately \$12.4 million and \$13.3 million during 2008 and 2007, respectively. We also purchased \$0.6 million and \$1.2 million of repossessed manufactured homes located within our communities that were owned by Origen during 2008 and 2007, respectively.
- With the sale of Origen’s servicing platform assets to Green Tree Servicing LLC, we engaged a different entity to continue the servicing of the manufactured home loans. In order to transfer the manufactured home loan servicing contract to a different service provider, we paid Origen a fee of \$0.3 million.

In addition to the transactions with Origen and the LLC described above, Mr. Shiffman and his affiliates and/ or Mr. Weiss have entered into the following transactions with the Company:

- *Legal Counsel.* During 2008, Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer, & Weiss, Professional Corporation (“JRH&W”) acted as the Company’s general counsel and represented the Company in various matters. Arthur A. Weiss, a director of the Company, is the Chairman of the Board of Directors and a shareholder of such firm. The Company incurred legal fees and expenses of approximately \$1.0 million in 2008 and 2007 and approximately \$1.3 million in 2006, in connection with services rendered by JRH&W.
- *Lease of Executive Offices.* Gary A. Shiffman, together with certain family members, indirectly owns a 21 percent equity interest in American Center LLC, the entity from which we lease office space for our principal executive offices. Arthur A. Weiss owns a 0.75 percent indirect interest in American Center LLC. This lease was for an initial term of five years, beginning May 1, 2003, with the right to extend the lease for an additional five year term. On July 30, 2007, the Company exercised its option to extend its lease for its executive offices. The extension was for a period of five years commencing on May 1, 2008. On August 8, 2008, the Company modified its lease agreement to lease approximately 5,300 additional square feet, for a total of approximately 36,700 rentable square feet, and extend the term of the lease until August 31, 2015, with an option to renew for an additional five years. The annual base rent under the current lease is \$18.81 per square foot (gross) and will remain this

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

amount through August 31, 2015. Mr. Shiffman and Mr. Weiss may have a conflict of interest with respect to their obligations as an officer and/or director of the Company and their ownership interest in American Center LLC.

- *Tax Consequences Upon Sale of Properties.* Gary A. Shiffman holds limited partnership interests in the Operating Partnership which were received in connection with the contribution of 24 properties (four of which have been sold) from partnerships previously affiliated with him (the “Sun Partnerships”). Prior to any redemption of these limited partnership interests for our common stock, Mr. Shiffman will have tax consequences different from those of us and our public stockholders on the sale of any of the Sun Partnerships. Therefore, Mr. Shiffman and the Company may have different objectives regarding the appropriate pricing and timing of any sale of those properties.



*We rely on key management.*

We are dependent on the efforts of our executive officers, particularly Gary A. Shiffman, John B. McLaren, Karen J. Dearing and Jonathan M. Colman (together, the “Senior Officers”). The loss of services of one or more of our executive officers could have a temporary adverse effect on our operations. We do not currently maintain or contemplate obtaining any “key-man” life insurance on the Senior Officers.

*Certain provisions in our governing documents may make it difficult for a third-party to acquire us.*

*9.8% Ownership Limit.* In order to qualify and maintain our qualification as a REIT, not more than 50% of the outstanding shares of our capital stock may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals. Thus, ownership of more than 9.8% of our outstanding shares of common stock by any single stockholder has been restricted, with certain exceptions, for the purpose of maintaining our qualification as a REIT under the Code. Such restrictions in our charter do not apply to Gary Shiffman, the Milton M. Shiffman Spouse’s Marital Trust and the Estate of Robert B. Bayer.

The 9.8% ownership limit, as well as our ability to issue additional shares of common stock or shares of other stock (which may have rights and preferences over the common stock), may discourage a change of control of the Company and may also: (1) deter tender offers for the common stock, which offers may be advantageous to stockholders; and (2) limit the opportunity for stockholders to receive a premium for their common stock that might otherwise exist if an investor were attempting to assemble a block of common stock in excess of 9.8% of the outstanding shares of the Company or otherwise effect a change of control of the Company.

*Staggered Board.* Our Board of Directors has been divided into three classes of directors. The term of one class will expire each year. Directors for each class will be chosen for a three-year term upon the expiration of such class’s term, and the directors in the other two classes will continue in office. The staggered terms for directors may affect the stockholders’ ability to change control of the Company even if a change in control were in the stockholders’ interest.

*Preferred Stock.* Our charter authorizes the Board of Directors to issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock and to establish the preferences and rights (including the right to vote and the right to convert into shares of common stock) of any shares issued. The power to issue preferred stock could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control of the Company even if a change in control were in the stockholders’ interest.

*Rights Plan.* We adopted a stockholders’ rights plan in 2008 that provides our stockholders (other than a stockholder attempting to acquire a 15% or greater interest in the Company) with the right to purchase stock in the Company at a discount in the event any person attempts to acquire a 15% or greater interest in the Company. Because this plan could make it more expensive for a person to acquire a controlling interest in the Company, it could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control of the Company even if a change in control were in the stockholders’ interest.

*Changes in our investment and financing policies may be made without stockholder approval.*

Our investment and financing policies, and our policies with respect to certain other activities, including our growth, debt, capitalization, distributions, REIT status, and operating policies, are determined by our Board of Directors. Although the Board of Directors has no present intention to do so, these policies may be amended or revised from time to time at the discretion of the Board of Directors without notice to or a vote of our stockholders. Accordingly, stockholders may not have control over changes in our policies and changes in our policies may not fully serve the interests of all stockholders.

12

---

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

*Substantial sales of our common stock could cause our stock price to fall.*

Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock, or the perception that such sales could occur, could adversely affect prevailing market prices for shares. As of December 31, 2008, up to approximately 2.7 million shares of our common stock may be issued in the future to the limited partners of the Operating Partnership in exchange for their common limited partnership interests ("Common OP Units") and preferred limited partnership interests ("Preferred OP Units"). These Preferred OP Units are convertible into common shares at a price of \$68 per share. The limited partners may sell such shares pursuant to registration rights or an available exemption from registration. Also, in 2009, Water Oak, Ltd., a former owner of one of the Properties, will be issued Common OP Units with a value of approximately \$1,250,000. In addition, as of December 31, 2008, options to purchase 205,906 shares of our common stock were outstanding under our 1993 Employee Stock Option Plan, our 1993 Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan, our 2004 Non-Employee Director Option Plan, and our Long-Term Incentive Plan (the "Plans"). No prediction can be made regarding the effect that future sales of shares of our common stock or our other securities will have on the market price of shares.

*An increase in interest rates may have an adverse effect on the price of our common stock.*

One of the factors that may influence the price of our common stock in the public market will be the annual distributions to stockholders relative to the prevailing market price of the common stock. An increase in market interest rates may tend to make the common stock less attractive relative to other investments, which could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

*The current volatility in economic conditions and the financial markets may adversely affect our industry, business and financial performance.*

The capital and credit markets have been experiencing, and continue to experience, extreme volatility and disruption. In recent months, the volatility and disruption have reached unprecedented levels. In many cases, the markets have exerted downward pressure on stock prices and credit capacity for certain issuers. In response to these developments, the U.S. government has taken, and may take further, steps designed to stabilize markets generally and strengthen financial institutions in particular. The impact, if any, that these financial market events or these governmental actions might have on us and our business is uncertain and cannot be estimated at this time. The other risk factors presented in this prospectus discuss some of the principal risks inherent in our business, including liquidity risks, operational risks, and credit risks, among others. The current upheaval in financial markets has accentuated each of these risks and magnified their potential effect on us. At the same time, there appears to be a general weakening of the U.S. economy and the economies of many other countries. If these economic developments continue to worsen, there could be an adverse impact on our access to capital, stock price and our operating results.

### **Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges**

The following table sets forth our historical ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated:

	<b>Fiscal Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	0.17:1	0.92:1	0.82:1	0.87:1	0.74:1

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

The ratios of earnings to fixed charges were computed by dividing earnings by fixed charges. For this purpose, earnings consist of pre-tax income from continuing operations before adjustment for minority interests and income or loss from equity investees plus fixed charges less capitalized interest. Fixed charges consist of interest expense (including the amortization of debt issuance costs), capitalized interest and distributions to preferred OP unit holders. In addition, we had no preferred stock outstanding for any period presented, and accordingly, the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends is the same as the ratio of earnings to fixed charges.

13

---

## Use of Proceeds

We will retain broad discretion over the use of the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered hereby. Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, we currently anticipate that we will use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities for general corporate purposes, including working capital, acquisitions, retirement of debt, and other business opportunities.

## Description of Debt Securities

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplements, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus. While the terms we have summarized below will generally apply to any future debt securities we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any debt securities we offer under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms we describe below.

We will issue the senior notes under a senior indenture which we will enter into with the trustee named in the senior indenture. We will issue the subordinated notes under a subordinated indenture which we will enter into with the trustee named in the subordinated indenture. We have filed forms of these documents as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. The terms of any indenture that we enter into may differ from the terms we describe below. We use the term “indentures” to refer to both the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture.

The indentures will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, or the Trust Indenture Act. We use the term “debenture trustee” to refer to either the senior trustee or the subordinated trustee, as applicable.

The following summaries of material provisions of the senior notes, the subordinated notes and the indentures are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements related to the debt securities that we sell under this prospectus, as well as the complete indentures that contain the terms of the debt securities. Except as we may otherwise indicate, the terms of the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are identical.

## General

The debt securities will be direct, unsecured obligations of the Company and may either be senior or subordinated debt securities. We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms relating to a series of debt securities, including:

- the title;

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

- the principal amount being offered, and, if a series, the total amount authorized and the total amount outstanding;
- any limit on the amount that may be issued;
- whether or not we will issue the series of debt securities in global form and, if so, the terms and who the depositary will be;
- the maturity date;
- the principal amount due at maturity, and whether the debt securities will be issued with any original issue discount;
- whether and under what circumstances, if any, we will pay additional amounts on any debt securities held by a person who is not a United States person for tax purposes, and whether we can redeem the debt securities if we have to pay such additional amounts;
- the annual interest rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate, the date interest will begin to accrue, the dates interest will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates or the method for determining such dates;

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

- the terms of the subordination of any series of subordinated debt;
  
- the place where payments will be payable;
  
- restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;
  
- our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of any such deferral period;
  
- the date, if any, after which, the conditions upon which, and the price at which we may, at our option, redeem the series of debt securities pursuant to any optional or provisional redemption provisions, and any other applicable terms of those redemption provisions;
  
- provisions for a sinking fund, purchase or other analogous fund, if any;
  
- the date, if any, on which, and the price at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund or analogous fund provisions or otherwise, to redeem, or at the holder's option to purchase, the series of debt securities;
  
- whether the indenture will restrict our ability and/or the ability of our subsidiaries to:
  - incur additional indebtedness;
  
  - issue additional securities;
  
  - create liens;
  
  - pay dividends and make distributions in respect of our capital stock and the capital stock of our subsidiaries;
  
  - redeem capital stock;
  
  - place restrictions on our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends, make distributions or transfer assets;
  
  - make investments or other restricted payments;
  
  - sell or otherwise dispose of assets;

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

- o enter into sale-leaseback transactions;
  - o engage in transactions with stockholders and affiliates;
  - o issue or sell stock of our subsidiaries; or
  - o effect a consolidation or merger;
- whether the indenture will require us to maintain any interest coverage, fixed charge, cash flow-based, asset-based or other financial ratios;
- a discussion of any material or special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;
- information describing any book-entry features;
- the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any;
- the denominations in which we will issue the series of debt securities, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;
- if other than dollars, the currency in which the series of debt securities will be denominated; and



## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

- any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities, including any events of default that are in addition to those described in this prospectus or any covenants provided with respect to the debt securities that are in addition to those described above, and any terms which may be required by us or advisable under applicable laws or regulations or advisable in connection with the marketing of the debt securities.

### **Conversion or Exchange Rights**

We will set forth in the prospectus supplement the terms on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock or other securities of ours or a third party, including the conversion or exchange rate, as applicable, or how it will be calculated, and the applicable conversion or exchange period. We will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option. We may include provisions pursuant to which the number of our securities or the securities of a third party that the holders of the series of debt securities receive upon conversion or exchange would, under the circumstances described in those provisions, be subject to adjustment, or pursuant to which those holders would, under those circumstances, receive other property upon conversion or exchange, for example in the event of our merger or consolidation with another entity.

### **Consolidation, Merger or Sale**

The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part do not contain any covenant which restricts our ability to merge or consolidate, or sell, convey, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets. However, any successor of ours or acquiror of such assets must assume all of our obligations under the indentures and the debt securities.

If the debt securities are convertible for our other securities, the person with whom we consolidate or merge or to whom we sell all of our property must make provision for the conversion of the debt securities into securities which the holders of the debt securities would have received if they had converted the debt securities before the consolidation, merger or sale.

### **Events of Default Under the Indenture**

The following are events of default under the indentures with respect to any series of debt securities that we may issue:

- if we fail to pay interest when due and payable and our failure continues for 90 days and the time for payment has not been extended or deferred;
- if we fail to pay the principal, or premium, if any, when due and payable and the time for payment has not been extended or delayed;
- if we fail to observe or perform any other covenant contained in the debt securities or the indentures, other than a covenant specifically relating to another series of debt securities, and our failure continues for 90 days after we receive notice from the debenture trustee or holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the applicable series; and

- if specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur.

If an event of default with respect to debt securities of any series occurs and is continuing, other than an event of default specified in the last bullet point above, the debenture trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series, by notice to us in writing, and to the debenture trustee if notice is given by such holders, may declare the unpaid principal of, premium, if any, and accrued interest, if any, due and payable immediately. If an event of default specified in the last bullet point above occurs with respect to us, the principal amount of and accrued interest, if any, of each issue of debt securities then outstanding shall be due and payable without any notice or other action on the part of the debenture trustee or any holder.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of an affected series may waive any default or event of default with respect to the series and its consequences, except defaults or events of default regarding payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, unless we have cured the default or event of default in accordance with the indenture.

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

Subject to the terms of the indentures, if an event of default under an indenture shall occur and be continuing, the debenture trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under such indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of the applicable series of debt securities, unless such holders have offered the debenture trustee reasonable indemnity. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the debenture trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the debenture trustee, with respect to the debt securities of that series, provided that:

- the direction so given by the holder is not in conflict with any law or the applicable indenture; and
- subject to its duties under the Trust Indenture Act, the debenture trustee need not take any action that might involve it in personal liability or might be unduly prejudicial to the holders not involved in the proceeding.

A holder of the debt securities of any series will only have the right to institute a proceeding under the indentures or to appoint a receiver or trustee, or to seek other remedies if:

- the holder has given written notice to the debenture trustee of a continuing event of default with respect to that series;
- the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made written request, and such holders have offered reasonable indemnity to the debenture trustee to institute the proceeding as trustee; and
- the debenture trustee does not institute the proceeding, and does not receive from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series other conflicting directions within 90 days after the notice, request and offer.

These limitations do not apply to a suit instituted by a holder of debt securities if we default in the payment of the principal, premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities.

We will periodically file statements with the debenture trustee regarding our compliance with specified covenants in the indentures.

### **Modification of Indenture; Waiver**

We and the debenture trustee may change an indenture without the consent of any holders with respect to specific matters, including:

- to fix any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the indenture;

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

- to comply with the provisions described above under “Consolidation, Merger or Sale”;
- to comply with any requirements of the SEC in connection with the qualification of any indenture under the Trust Indenture Act;
- to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment hereunder by a successor trustee;
- to provide for uncertificated debt securities and to make all appropriate changes for such purpose;
- to add to, delete from, or revise the conditions, limitations and restrictions on the authorized amount, terms or purposes of issuance, authorization and delivery of debt securities of any series;
- to add to our covenants such new covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions for the protection of the holders, to make the occurrence, or the occurrence and the continuance, of a default in any such additional covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions an event of default, or to surrender any of our rights or powers under the indenture; or
- to change anything that does not harm the interests of any holder of debt securities of any series.

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

In addition, under the indentures, the rights of holders of a series of debt securities may be changed by us and the debenture trustee with the written consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series that is affected. However, we and the debenture trustee may only make the following changes with the consent of each holder of any outstanding debt securities affected:

- extending the fixed maturity of the series of debt securities;
- reducing the principal amount, reducing the rate of or extending the time of payment of interest, or reducing any premium payable upon the redemption of any debt securities; or
- reducing the percentage of debt securities, the holders of which are required to consent to any supplemental indenture.

### **Discharge**

Each indenture provides that we can elect to be discharged from our obligations with respect to one or more series of debt securities, except for obligations to:

- register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of the series;
- replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities of the series;
- maintain paying agencies;
- hold monies for payment in trust;
- recover excess money held by the debenture trustee;
- compensate and indemnify the debenture trustee; and
- appoint any successor trustee.

In order to exercise our rights to be discharged, we must deposit with the debenture trustee money or government obligations sufficient to pay all the principal of, any premium, if any, and interest on, the debt securities of the series on the dates payments are due.

**Form, Exchange and Transfer**

We will issue the debt securities of each series only in fully registered form without coupons and, unless we otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. The indentures provide that we may issue debt securities of a series in temporary or permanent global form and as book-entry securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company or another depository named by us and identified in a prospectus supplement with respect to that series. See “Legal Ownership of Securities” for a further description of the terms relating to any book-entry securities.

At the option of the holder, subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the holder of the debt securities of any series can exchange the debt securities for other debt securities of the same series, in any authorized denomination and of like tenor and aggregate principal amount.

Subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the debt securities may present the debt securities for exchange or for registration of transfer, duly endorsed or with the form of transfer endorsed thereon duly executed if so required by us or the security registrar, at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by us for this purpose. Unless otherwise provided in the debt securities that the holder presents for transfer or exchange, we will make no service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange, but we may require payment of any taxes or other governmental charges.

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement the security registrar, and any transfer agent in addition to the security registrar, that we initially designate for any debt securities. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents or rescind the designation of any transfer agent or approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of each series.

If we elect to redeem the debt securities of any series, we will not be required to:

- issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any debt securities of any series being redeemed in part during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any debt securities that may be selected for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or
- register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt securities we are redeeming in part.

### **Information Concerning the Debenture Trustee**

The debenture trustee, other than during the occurrence and continuance of an event of default under an indenture, undertakes to perform only those duties as are specifically set forth in the applicable indenture. Upon an event of default under an indenture, the debenture trustee must use the same degree of care as a prudent person would exercise or use in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to this provision, the debenture trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers given it by the indentures at the request of any holder of debt securities unless it is offered reasonable security and indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that it might incur.

### **Payment and Paying Agents**

Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make payment of the interest on any debt securities on any interest payment date to the person in whose name the debt securities, or one or more predecessor securities, are registered at the close of business on the regular record date for the interest.

We will pay principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities of a particular series at the office of the paying agents designated by us, except that, unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may make interest payments by check which we will mail to the holder or by wire transfer to certain holders. Unless we otherwise indicate in a prospectus supplement, we will designate an office or agency of the debenture trustee in the city of New York as our sole paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series. We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement any other paying agents that we initially designate for the debt securities of a particular series. We will maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All money we pay to a paying agent or the debenture trustee for the payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on any debt securities which remains unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will be repaid to us, and the holder of the debt security thereafter may look only to us for payment thereof.

**Governing Law**

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, except to the extent that the Trust Indenture Act is applicable.

**Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities**

The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in priority of payment to certain of our other indebtedness to the extent described in a prospectus supplement. The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part do not limit the amount of indebtedness which we may incur, including senior indebtedness or subordinated indebtedness, and do not limit us from issuing any other debt, including secured debt or unsecured debt.



## Description of Common Stock

The Company has the authority to issue 100,000,000 shares of capital stock, of which 90,000,000 are common stock, par value \$0.01 per share. As of April 15, 2009, the Company had outstanding 18,619,612 shares of common stock.

The following description of the common stock sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the common stock to which any prospectus supplement may relate, including a prospectus supplement providing that common stock will be issuable upon conversion of debt securities or preferred stock of the Company or upon the exercise of the warrants issued by the Company. The statements below describing the common stock are in all respects subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to the applicable provisions of the Company's Amended Articles of Incorporation (the "Articles") and Bylaws.

### *General*

Subject to the preferential rights of any other class or series of stock, holders of the Company's common stock will be entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by the Board of Directors of the Company, out of funds legally available therefor. Payment and declaration of dividends on the common stock and purchases of shares thereof by the Company will be subject to certain restrictions if the Company fails to pay dividends on the preferred stock. See "Description of Preferred Stock." Upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, holders of common stock will be entitled to share equally and ratably in any assets available for distribution to them, after payment or provision for payment of the debts and other liabilities of the Company and the preferential amounts owing with respect to any outstanding preferred stock or senior debt securities.

The common stock will possess ordinary voting rights for the election of directors and in respect of other corporate matters, each share entitling the holder thereof to one vote. Holders of common stock will not have cumulative voting rights in the election of directors. Upon receipt by the Company of lawful payment therefor, the common stock will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable, and will not be subject to redemption except (as described in the Articles) as necessary to preserve the Company's status as a REIT. A stockholder of the Company has no preemptive rights to subscribe for additional shares of common stock or other securities of the Company except as may be granted by the Board of Directors.

Under Maryland law, a Maryland corporation generally cannot dissolve, amend its charter, merge, sell all or substantially all of its assets, engage in a share exchange or engage in similar transactions outside the ordinary course of business unless advised by the Board of Directors and approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders holding at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter unless a lesser percentage, but not less than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter, is set forth in the corporation's charter. Our charter does not provide for a lesser percentage in such situations.

### *Restrictions on Ownership*

For the Company to qualify as a REIT under the Code, the common stock must be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months (other than the first year) or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Also, not more than 50% of the value of the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Code to include certain entities such as qualified private pension plans) during the last half of a taxable year (other than the first year) or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year.

Because the Board of Directors believes it is essential for the Company to continue to qualify as a REIT, the charter, subject to certain exceptions, provides that no holder may own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Code, more than 9.8% (the "Ownership Limit") of the value of the issued and outstanding shares of the Company's stock. The Board of Directors may exempt a person from the Ownership Limit if evidence satisfactory to the Board of Directors and the Company's tax counsel is presented that the proposed transfer of stock to the intended transferee will not then or in the future jeopardize the Company's status as a REIT. As a condition of such exemption, the intended transferee must give written notice to the Company of the proposed transfer and must furnish such opinions of counsel, affidavits, undertakings, agreements, and information as may be required by the Board of Directors no later than the fifteenth day prior to any transfer which, if consummated, would result in the intended transferee owning shares in excess of the Ownership Limit. The foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership will not apply if the Board of Directors determines that it is no longer in the best interests of the Company to attempt to qualify or to continue to qualify as a REIT. Any transfer of shares of common stock that would: (i) create a direct or indirect ownership of shares of stock in excess of the Ownership Limit; (ii) result in the shares of stock being owned by fewer than 100 persons; or (iii) result in the Company being "closely

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

held” within the meaning of Section 856(h) of the Code, shall be null and void, and the intended transferee will acquire no rights to the shares.

The Company’s charter excludes Gary Shiffman, the Milton M. Shiffman Spouse’s Marital Trust and the Estate of Robert B. Bayer from the Ownership Limit. These persons may acquire additional shares of stock through the redemption of OP Units, through the Stock Option Plan, from other stockholders or otherwise, but in no event will they be entitled to acquire additional shares such that the five largest beneficial owners of the Company’s stock hold more than 50% of the total outstanding stock.

Shares purported to be transferred in excess of the Ownership Limit that are not otherwise permitted as provided above will constitute excess shares (“Excess Shares”), which will be transferred by operation of law to the Company as trustee for the exclusive benefit of the person or persons to whom the Excess Shares are ultimately transferred, until such time as the intended transferee retransfers the Excess Shares. While these Excess Shares are held in trust, they will not be entitled to vote or to share in any dividends or other distributions. Subject to the Ownership Limit, the Excess Shares may be retransferred by the intended transferee to any person who may hold such Excess Shares at a price not to exceed the price paid by the intended transferee, at which point the Excess Shares will automatically be exchanged for the stock to which the Excess Shares are attributable. In addition, such Excess Shares held in trust are subject to purchase by the Company. The purchase price of any Excess Shares shall be equal to the lesser of the price paid for the stock by the intended transferee and the fair market value of such shares of stock reflected in the closing sales price for the shares of stock, if then traded on the New York Stock Exchange, or the last reported sales price for the shares of stock on any exchange or quotation system over which the Shares may be traded, or, if such quotation is not available, the fair market value as determined by the Board of Directors in good faith, on the last trading day immediately preceding the day on which notice of such proposed purchase is sent by the Company. From and after the intended transfer to the intended transferee of the Excess Shares, the intended transferee shall cease to be entitled to distributions, voting rights, and other benefits with respect to such shares of the stock except the right to payment of the purchase price for the shares of stock or the transfer of shares as provided above. Any dividend or distribution paid to a proposed transferee on Excess Shares prior to the discovery by the Company that such shares of stock have been transferred in violation of the provisions of the Company’s charter shall be repaid to the Company upon demand. If the foregoing transfer restrictions are determined to be void or invalid by virtue of any legal decision, statute, rule, or regulation, then the intended transferee of any Excess Shares may be deemed, at the option of the Company, to have acted as an agent on behalf of the Company in acquiring such Excess Shares and to hold such Excess Shares on behalf of the Company.

All certificates representing shares of stock will bear a legend referring to the restrictions described above.

All persons who own, directly or by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Code, more than 5% of the value of the outstanding shares of stock of the Company must give a written notice to the Company containing the information specified in the Company’s charter by January 31 of each year. In addition, each stockholder shall upon demand be required to disclose to the Company in writing such information with respect to the direct, indirect and constructive ownership of shares of common stock as the Board of Directors deems necessary to comply with the provisions of the Code applicable to a REIT, to comply with the requirements of any taxing authority or governmental agency or to determine any such compliance.

These ownership limitations could have the effect of discouraging a takeover or other transaction in which holders of some, or a majority of, shares of common stock might receive a premium for their shares over the then prevailing market price or which such holders might believe to be otherwise in their best interest.

The registrar and transfer agent for the common stock is Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

### Description of Preferred Stock

The following description of the terms of the preferred stock sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the preferred stock to which any prospectus supplement may relate. Certain other terms of any series of the preferred stock offered by any prospectus supplement will be described in such prospectus supplement. The description of certain provisions of the preferred stock set forth below and in any prospectus supplement does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the Company's Articles (including the Articles Supplementary relating to each series of the preferred stock) which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part at or prior to the time of the issuance of such series of the preferred stock.

*General*

The Company is authorized to issue 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of which no shares of preferred stock were outstanding as of the date of this prospectus. The Company currently has authorized two classes of preferred stock: Junior Participating Preferred and 9.125% Series A Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Stock.

Under the Company's Articles, the Board of Directors (without further stockholder action) may from time to time establish and issue one or more series of preferred stock with such designations, powers, preferences or rights of the shares of such series and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereon.

The preferred stock shall have the dividend, liquidation, redemption and voting rights set forth below unless otherwise provided in a prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of the preferred stock. Reference is made to the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of the preferred stock offered thereby for specific terms, including: (i) the designation and stated value per share of such preferred stock and the number of shares offered; (ii) the amount of liquidation preference per share; (iii) the initial public offering price at which such preferred stock will be issued; (iv) the dividend rate (or method of calculation), the dates on which dividends shall be payable and the dates from which dividends shall commence to accumulate, if any; (v) any redemption or sinking fund provisions; (vi) any conversion rights; and (vii) any additional voting, dividend, liquidation, redemption, sinking fund and other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions. The preferred stock will, when issued for lawful consideration, be fully paid and nonassessable and will have no preemptive rights.

*Junior Participating Preferred Stock*

In connection with the Board of Directors' adoption of a rights agreement, the Company designated 1,000,000 shares of its preferred stock as Junior Participating Preferred Stock. At this time, no person has the right to acquire any Junior Participating Preferred Stock. Upon the occurrence of specific events, holders of common stock will have the right to purchase shares of Junior Participating Preferred Stock. Each preferred share will have a quarterly dividend rate per share equal to the greater of \$1.00 or one hundred (100) times the per share amount of any dividend, if any, declared per share of common stock. In the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, the holders of Junior Participating Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive a preferred liquidation payment per share of \$1.00 (plus accrued and unpaid dividends) or, if greater, an amount equal to one hundred (100) times the payment to be made per share of common stock, subject to certain adjustments.

Generally, each share of Junior Participating Preferred Stock will vote together with the common stock and any other series of cumulative preferred stock entitled to vote in such manner and will be entitled to one hundred (100) votes, subject to certain adjustments. In the event of any merger, consolidation or other transaction in which shares of common stock are exchanged, each share of Junior Participating Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive one hundred (100) times the aggregate amount of stock, securities, cash and/or other property received per share of common stock.

*9.125% Series A Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Stock*

The Company has designated 2,000,000 shares of its preferred stock as 9.125% Series A Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Stock. These preferred shares have specific preferred rights over the common shares with regard to dividends, conversion and liquidation. At this time, no person has the right to acquire any Series A Preferred Shares and none are outstanding.

*Preferred Stock Purchase Rights*

In June 2008, the Company's Board of Directors adopted a Rights Agreement. In connection with the agreement, the Board of Directors declared a dividend of one preferred share purchase right for each outstanding share of common stock. The rights are designed to assure that all of the Company's stockholders receive fair and equal treatment in the event of any proposed takeover of the Company and to guard against partial tender offers, open market accumulations and other abusive tactics to gain control of the Company without paying all stockholders a control premium. The rights will cause substantial dilution to a person or group that acquires 15% or more of the Company's common stock on terms not approved by the Board of Directors.

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

Each right will entitle the registered holder, after the rights become exercisable and until June 9, 2018 or the earlier redemption, exchange or termination of the rights, to purchase from the Company 1/100th of a share of Junior Participating Preferred Stock at a price of \$100.00 per 1/100th of a preferred share, subject to certain adjustments. Until a right is exercised, the holder will have no rights as a stockholder of the Company beyond those as an existing stockholder. Each right is evidenced by its respective common stock certificate until after specific events occur in which:

- a person or group of persons acquires or has the right to acquire beneficial ownership of 15% or more of the common stock, or
- a person or group of persons commences or announces an intention to make a tender offer for 15% or more of the common stock.

If the Company were the surviving corporation in a merger with an entity or any affiliate or associate of an entity causing one of the above events, and the common stock were not changed or exchanged, each holder of a right, other than rights that are or were acquired or beneficially owned by the entity in question, will have the right to receive upon exercise that number of common stock having a market value of two times the then current purchase price of one right. In addition, if after one of the above events occurred, the Company were acquired in a merger or other business combination transaction or more than 50% of its assets or earning power were sold each holder of a right will have the right to receive, upon exercise of the right at the then current purchase price of the right, that number of shares of common stock of the acquiring entity which at the time of the transaction would have a market value of two times the then current purchase price of one right.

After one of the above events occurs, separate certificates evidencing the rights will be mailed to holders of record of the common stock and these separate certificates will evidence the rights. The rights are transferred with and only with the common stock until the above events occur or the rights are redeemed or expire. Until one of the above events occurs, the Board of Directors may redeem the rights in whole, but not in part, at a price of \$.001 per right. Moreover, the Board of Directors, subject to specific restrictions, may amend any provision of the rights agreement. The rights will expire on June 9, 2018, unless earlier redeemed, exchanged or terminated.

Computershare Trust Company, N.A. is the rights agent.

### *Rank*

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, the preferred stock will, with respect to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, rank (i) senior to all classes or series of common stock and to all equity securities ranking junior to such preferred stock; (ii) on a parity with all equity securities issued by the Company the terms of which specifically provide that such equity securities rank on a parity with the preferred stock; and (iii) junior to all equity securities issued by the Company the terms of which specifically provide that such equity securities rank senior to the preferred stock. The rights of the holders of each series of the preferred stock will be subordinate to those of the Company's general creditors.

### *Dividends*

Holders of shares of the preferred stock of each series shall be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by the Board of Directors of the Company, out of assets of the Company legally available for payment, cash dividends at such rates and on such dates as will be set forth in the

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

applicable prospectus supplement. Such rate may be fixed or variable or both. Each such dividend shall be payable to holders of record as they appear on the stock transfer books of the Company on such record dates as shall be fixed by the Board of Directors of the Company, as specified in the prospectus supplement relating to such series of preferred stock.

Dividends on any series of the preferred stock may be cumulative or non-cumulative, as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. Dividends, if cumulative, will be cumulative from and after the date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. If the Board of Directors of the Company fails to declare a dividend payable on a dividend payment date on any series of the preferred stock for which dividends are noncumulative, then the holders of such series of the preferred stock will have no right to receive a dividend in respect of the dividend period ending on such dividend payment date, and the Company will have no obligation to pay the dividend accrued for such period, whether or not dividends on such series are declared payable on any future dividend payment date. Dividends on shares of each series of preferred stock for which dividends are cumulative will accrue from the date on which the Company initially issues shares of such series.



## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

So long as the shares of any series of the preferred stock shall be outstanding, the Company may not declare or pay any dividends, make a distribution, or purchase, acquire, redeem, pay monies to the holders of in respect of, or set aside or make funds available for a sinking or other analogous fund for the purchase or redemption of, any shares of common stock of the Company or any other stock of the Company ranking as to dividends or distributions of assets junior to such series of preferred stock (the common stock and any such other stock being herein referred to as junior stock), whether in cash or property or in obligations or stock of the Company, other than junior stock which is neither convertible into, nor exchangeable or exercisable for, any securities of the Company other than junior stock, unless (i) full dividends (including if such preferred stock is cumulative, dividends for prior dividend periods) shall have been paid or declared and set apart for payment on all outstanding shares of the preferred stock of such series and all other classes and series of preferred stock of the Company (other than junior stock, as defined below); and (ii) all sinking or other analogous fund payments and amounts for the repurchase or other mandatory retirement of any shares of preferred stock of such series or any shares of any other preferred stock of the Company of any class or series (other than junior stock) have been paid or duly provided for.

Any dividend payment made on shares of a series of preferred stock shall first be credited against the earliest accrued but unpaid dividend due with respect to shares of such series which remains payable.

### *Redemption*

A series of preferred stock may be redeemable, in whole or from time to time in part, at the option of the Company, and may be subject to mandatory redemption pursuant to a sinking fund or otherwise, in each case upon terms, at the times and at the redemption prices set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such series. Shares of the preferred stock redeemed by the Company will be restored to the status of authorized but unissued shares of preferred stock.

The prospectus supplement relating to a series of preferred stock that is subject to mandatory redemption will specify the number of shares of such preferred stock that shall be redeemed by the Company in each year commencing after a date to be specified, at a redemption price per share to be specified, together with an amount equal to all accrued and unpaid dividends thereon (which shall not, if such preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, include any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods) to the date of redemption. The redemption price may be payable in cash or other property, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. If the redemption price for preferred stock of any series is payable only from the net proceeds of the issuance of capital stock of the Company, the terms of such preferred stock may provide that, if no such capital stock shall have been issued or to the extent the net proceeds from any issuance are insufficient to pay in full the aggregate redemption price then due, such preferred stock shall automatically and mandatorily be converted into shares of the applicable capital stock of the Company pursuant to conversion provisions specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

So long as any dividends on shares of any series of the preferred stock or any other series of preferred stock of the Company ranking on a parity as to dividends and distribution of assets with such series of the preferred stock are in arrears, no shares of any such series of the preferred stock or such other series of preferred stock of the Company will be redeemed (whether by mandatory or optional redemption) unless all such shares are simultaneously redeemed, and the Company will not purchase or otherwise acquire any such shares; provided, however, that the foregoing will not prevent the purchase or acquisition of such shares pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to holders of all such shares outstanding.

In the event that fewer than all of the outstanding shares of a series of the preferred stock are to be redeemed, whether by mandatory or optional redemption, the number of shares to be redeemed will be determined by lot or pro rata (subject to rounding to avoid fractional shares) as may be determined by the Company or by any other method as may be determined by the Company in its sole discretion to be equitable. From and after the redemption date (unless default shall be made by the Company in providing for the payment of the redemption price plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if any), dividends shall cease to accumulate on the shares of the preferred stock called for redemption and all rights of the holders thereof (except the right to receive the redemption price plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if any) shall cease.



*Liquidation Preference*

Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the Company, then, before any distribution or payment shall be made to the holders of any junior stock, the holders of each series of preferred stock shall be entitled to receive out of assets of the Company legally available for distribution to stockholders, liquidating distributions in the amount of the liquidation preference per share (set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement), plus an amount equal to all dividends accrued and unpaid thereon (which shall not include any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods if such preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend). After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distributions to which they are entitled, the holders of preferred stock will have no right or claim to any of the remaining assets of the Company. In the event that upon any such voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the available assets of the Company are insufficient to pay the amount of the liquidating distributions on all outstanding shares of preferred stock and the corresponding amounts payable on all shares of other classes or series of capital stock of the Company ranking on a parity with the preferred stock in the distribution of assets, then the holders of the preferred stock and all other such classes or series of capital stock shall share ratably in any such distribution of assets in proportion to the full liquidating distributions to which they would otherwise be respectively entitled.

If liquidating distributions shall have been made in full to all holders of shares of preferred stock, the remaining assets of the Company shall be distributed among the holders of junior stock, according to their respective rights and preferences and in each case according to their respective number of shares. For such purposes, the consolidation or merger of the Company with or into any other corporation, or the sale, lease or conveyance of all or substantially all of the property or business of the Company, shall not be deemed to constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company.

*Voting Rights*

Except as indicated below or in a prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of the preferred stock, or except as required by applicable law, holders of the preferred stock will not be entitled to vote for any purpose.

So long as any shares of the preferred stock of a series remain outstanding, the consent or the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66-2/3% of the votes entitled to be cast with respect to the then outstanding shares of such series of the preferred stock together with any Other Preferred Stock (as defined below), voting as one class, either expressed in writing or at a meeting called for that purpose, will be necessary (i) to permit, effect or validate the authorization, or any increase in the authorized amount, of any class or series of shares of the Company ranking prior to the preferred stock of such series as to dividends, voting or upon distribution of assets; and (ii) to repeal, amend or otherwise change any of the provisions applicable to the preferred stock of such series in any manner which adversely affects the powers, preferences, voting power or other rights or privileges of such series of the preferred stock. In case any series of the preferred stock would be so affected by any such action referred to in clause (ii) above in a different manner than one or more series of the Other Preferred Stock which will be similarly affected, the holders of such series of preferred stock will be entitled to vote as a class, and the Company will not take such action without the consent or affirmative vote, as above provided, of at least 66-2/3% of the total number of votes entitled to be cast with respect to each such series of the preferred stock and the Other Preferred Stock then outstanding, in lieu of the consent or affirmative vote hereinabove otherwise required.

With respect to any matter as to which the preferred stock of any series is entitled to vote, holders of the preferred stock of such series and any other series of preferred stock of the Company ranking on a parity with such series of the preferred stock as to dividends and distributions of assets and which by its terms provides for similar voting rights (the "Other Preferred Stock") will be entitled to cast the number of votes set forth in the prospectus supplement with respect to that series of preferred stock. As a result of the provisions described in the preceding paragraph requiring the holders of shares of a series of the preferred stock to vote together as a class with the holders of shares of one or more series of Other Preferred Stock, it is possible that the holders of such shares of Other Preferred Stock could approve action that would adversely affect such series of preferred stock, including the creation of a class of capital stock ranking prior to such series of preferred stock as to dividends, voting or distribution of assets.



*Conversion Rights*

The terms and conditions, if any, upon which shares of any series of preferred stock are convertible into common stock will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating thereto. Such terms will include the number of shares of common stock into which the preferred stock is convertible, the conversion price (or manner of calculation thereof), the conversion period, provisions as to whether conversion will be at the option of the holders of the preferred stock or the Company, the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price and provisions affecting conversion.

*Restrictions on Ownership*

See “Description of Common Stock -- Restrictions on Ownership” for a discussion of the restrictions on capital stock (common stock and preferred stock) ownership necessary for the Company to qualify as a REIT under the Code.

*Transfer Agent and Registrar*

The Transfer Agent and Registrar for the preferred stock will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

**Description of Securities Warrants**

The Company may issue securities warrants for the purchase of debt securities, preferred stock or common stock. Securities warrants may be issued independently or together with any other securities offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from such securities. Each series of securities warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between the Company and a warrant agent specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as an agent of the Company in connection with the securities warrants of such series and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of securities warrants. The following summaries of certain provisions of the securities warrant agreement and the securities warrants do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the securities warrant agreement and the securities warrant certificates relating to each series of securities warrants which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part at or prior to the time of the issuance of such series of securities warrants.

If securities warrants are offered, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of such securities warrants, including, in the case of securities warrants for the purchase of debt securities, the following where applicable: (i) the offering price; (ii) the denominations and terms of the series of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of such securities warrants; (iii) the designation and terms of any series of debt securities with which such securities warrants are being offered and the number of such securities warrants being offered with such debt securities; (iv) the date, if any, on and after which such securities warrants and the related series of debt securities will be transferable separately; (v) the principal amount of the series of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of each such securities warrant and the price at which such principal amount of debt securities of such series may be purchased upon such exercise; (vi) the date on which the right to exercise such securities warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire; (vii) whether the securities warrants will be issued in registered or bearer form; (viii) any special United States federal income tax consequences; (ix) the terms, if any, on which the Company may accelerate the date by which the securities warrants must be exercised; and (x) any other material terms of such securities warrants.

In the case of securities warrants for the purchase of preferred stock or common stock, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of such securities warrants, including the following where applicable: (i) the offering price; (ii) the aggregate number of shares purchasable upon exercise of such securities warrants, the exercise price, and in the case of securities warrants for preferred stock, the designation, aggregate number and terms of the series of preferred stock purchasable upon exercise of such securities warrants; (iii) the designation and terms of any series of preferred stock with which such securities warrants are being offered and the number of such securities warrants being offered with such preferred stock; (iv) the date, if any, on and after which such securities warrants and the related series of preferred stock or common stock will be transferable separately; (v) the date on which the right to exercise such securities warrants shall commence and the expiration date; (vi) any special United States federal income tax consequences; and (vii) any other material terms of such securities warrants.

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

Securities warrant certificates may be exchanged for new securities warrant certificates of different denominations, may (if in registered form) be presented for registration of transfer, and may be exercised at the corporate trust office of the securities warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Prior to the exercise of any securities warrant to purchase debt securities, holders of such securities warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the debt securities purchasable upon such exercise, including the right to receive payments of principal, premium, if any, or interest, if any, on such debt securities or to enforce covenants in the applicable indenture. Prior to the exercise of any securities warrants to purchase preferred stock or common stock, holders of such securities warrants will not have any rights of holders of such preferred stock or common stock, including the right to receive payments of dividends, if any, on such preferred stock or common stock, or to exercise any applicable right to vote.

### *Exercise of Securities Warrants*

Each securities warrant will entitle the holder thereof to purchase such principal amount of debt securities or number of shares of preferred stock or common stock, as the case may be, at such exercise price as shall in each case be set forth in, or calculable from, the prospectus supplement relating to the offered securities warrants. After the close of business on the expiration date (or such later date to which such expiration date may be extended by the Company), unexercised securities warrants will become void.

Securities warrants may be exercised by delivering to the securities warrant agent payment as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement of the amount required to purchase the debt securities, preferred stock or common stock, as the case may be, purchasable upon such exercise together with certain information set forth on the reverse side of the securities warrant certificate. Securities warrants will be deemed to have been exercised upon receipt of payment of the exercise price, subject to the receipt within five (5) business days, of the securities warrant certificate evidencing such securities warrants. Upon receipt of such payment and the securities warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the securities warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the Company will, as soon as practicable, issue and deliver the debt securities, preferred stock or common stock, as the case may be, purchasable upon such exercise. If fewer than all of the securities warrants represented by such securities warrant certificate are exercised, a new securities warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining amount of securities warrants.

### *Amendments and Supplements to Warrant Agreements*

In general, the warrant agreements may be amended or supplemented without the consent of the holders of the securities warrants issued thereunder to effect changes that are not inconsistent with the provisions of the securities warrants and that do not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the securities warrants.

### *Common Stock Warrant Adjustments*

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the exercise price of, and the number of shares of common stock covered by, a common stock warrant are subject to adjustment in certain events, including (i) payment of a dividend on the common stock payable in capital stock and stock splits, combinations or reclassification of the common stock; (ii) issuance to all holders of common stock of rights or warrants to subscribe for or purchase shares of common stock at less than their current market price (as defined in the warrant agreement for such series of securities warrants); and (iii) certain distributions of evidences of indebtedness or assets (including securities but excluding cash dividends or distributions paid out of consolidated earnings or retained earnings or dividends payable other than in common stock) or of subscription rights and warrants (excluding those referred to above).

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

No adjustment in the exercise price of, and the number of shares of common stock covered by, a common stock warrant will be made for regular quarterly or other periodic or recurring cash dividends or distributions or for cash dividends or distributions to the extent paid from consolidated earnings or retained earnings. No adjustment will be required unless such adjustment would require a change of at least 1% in the exercise price then in effect. Except as stated above, the exercise price of, and the number of shares of common stock covered by, a common stock warrant will not be adjusted for the issuance of common stock or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for common stock, or carrying the right or option to purchase or otherwise acquire the foregoing, in exchange for cash, other property or services.



## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

In the event of any (i) consolidation or merger of the Company with or into any entity (other than a consolidation or a merger that does not result in any reclassification, conversion, exchange or cancellation of outstanding shares of common stock); (ii) sale, transfer, lease or conveyance of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company; or (iii) reclassification, capital reorganization or change of the common stock (other than solely a change in par value or from par value to no par value), then any holder of a common stock warrant will be entitled, on or after the occurrence of any such event, to receive on exercise of such common stock warrant the kind and amount of shares of stock or other securities, cash or other property (or any combination thereof) that the holder would have received had such holder exercised such holder's common stock warrant immediately prior to the occurrence of such event. If the consideration to be received upon exercise of the common stock warrant following any such event consists of common stock of the surviving entity, then from and after the occurrence of such event, the exercise price of such common stock warrant will be subject to the same anti-dilution and other adjustments described in the second preceding paragraph, applied as if such common stock were common stock.

### **Federal Income Tax Considerations and Consequences of Your Investment**

The following discussion describes the material U.S. federal income tax consequences relating to our qualification as a REIT and the ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock and, to a lesser extent, our debt securities.

The federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of shares of our preferred stock and of our debt securities depend to a high degree on the specific rights and terms of the preferred stock or debt securities issued. If we offer one or more additional series of preferred stock or debt securities, information about any income tax consequences to holders of those particular shares of preferred stock or debt securities will be included in the documents pursuant to which they are offered to the extent required by applicable law.

Because this is a summary that is intended to address only material federal income tax consequences relating to the ownership and disposition of our common stock and, to a lesser extent, our debt securities that will apply to all holders, it may not contain all the information that may be important to you. As you review this discussion, you should keep in mind that:

- the tax consequences to you may vary depending on your particular tax situation;
- special rules that are not discussed below may apply to you if, for example, you are a tax-exempt organization, a broker-dealer, a non-U.S. person, a trust, an estate, a regulated investment company, a financial institution, an insurance company, or otherwise subject to special tax treatment under the Internal Revenue Code;
- this summary does not address state, local or non-U.S. tax considerations;
- this summary deals only with common stockholders and holders of debt securities that hold common stock or debt securities, as applicable, as "capital assets" within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code; and
- this discussion is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, tax advice.

You are urged both to review the following discussion and to consult with your own tax advisor to determine the effect of ownership and disposition of our securities on your individual tax situation, including any state, local or non-U.S. tax consequences.

The information in this section is based on the current Internal Revenue Code, current, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations, the legislative history of the Internal Revenue Code, current administrative interpretations and practices of the Internal Revenue Service, including its practices and policies as endorsed in private letter rulings, which are not binding on the Internal Revenue Service except in the case of the taxpayer to whom a private letter ruling is addressed, and existing court decisions. Future legislation, regulations, administrative interpretations and court decisions could change current law or adversely affect existing interpretations of current law. Any change could apply retroactively. We have not obtained any rulings from the Internal Revenue Service concerning the tax treatment of the matters discussed below. Thus, it is possible that the Internal Revenue Service could challenge the statements in this discussion, which do not bind the Internal Revenue Service or the courts, and that a court could agree with the Internal Revenue Service.

*Taxation of Sun Communities as a REIT*

We have elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. A REIT generally is not subject to federal income tax on the income that it distributes to stockholders if it meets the applicable REIT distribution requirements and other requirements for qualification.

We believe that we are organized and have operated, and we intend to continue to operate, in a manner allowing us to qualify as a REIT, but there can be no assurance that we have qualified or will remain qualified as a REIT. Qualification and taxation as a REIT depend upon our ability to meet, through actual annual (or in some cases quarterly) operating results, requirements relating to income, asset ownership, distribution levels and diversity of share ownership, and the various other REIT qualification requirements imposed under the Internal Revenue Code. Given the complex nature of the REIT qualification requirements, the ongoing importance of factual determinations and the possibility of future changes in our circumstances, we cannot provide any assurance that our actual operating results will satisfy the requirements for taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code for any particular taxable year.

In the opinion of Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, Professional Corporation, commencing with the Company's taxable year which ended December 31, 1994, the Company has been organized in conformity with the requirements for qualification as a REIT, and its method of operation enabled it to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Code. It must be emphasized that this opinion is based on various assumptions and is conditioned upon certain representations made by the Company as to factual matters. In addition, such qualification and taxation as a REIT depends upon the Company's ability to meet, through actual annual operating results, distribution levels, diversity of stock ownership, and the various qualification tests imposed under the Code discussed below, the results of which have not been and will not be reviewed by Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, Professional Corporation. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the actual results of the Company's operation in any particular taxable year will satisfy such requirements.

So long as we qualify for taxation as a REIT, we generally will not be subject to federal corporate income tax on our net income that is distributed currently to our stockholders. This treatment substantially eliminates "double taxation" (that is, taxation at both the corporate and stockholder levels) that generally results from an investment in a corporation. However, we will be subject to federal income tax as follows:

- We will be taxed at regular corporate rates on any undistributed "REIT taxable income." REIT taxable income is the taxable income of the REIT subject to specified adjustments, including a deduction for dividends paid;
- Under some circumstances, we may be subject to the "alternative minimum tax" on our items of tax preference;
- If we have net income from the sale or other disposition of "foreclosure property" that is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, or other non-qualifying income from foreclosure property, we will be subject to tax at the highest corporate rate on this income;
- Our net income from "prohibited transactions" will be subject to a 100% tax. In general, prohibited transactions are sales or other dispositions of property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business other than foreclosure property;
- If we fail to satisfy either the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test discussed below, but nonetheless maintain our qualification as a REIT because other requirements are met, we will be subject to a tax equal to the greater of (1) the amount by which 75% of our gross income exceeds the amount of our income qualifying under the 75% test for the taxable year or (2) the amount by which 95% of our gross income exceeds the amount of our income qualifying for the 95% income test for the taxable

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

year, multiplied by a fraction intended to reflect our profitability;

- If we fail to satisfy any of the asset tests (other than a failure by a de minimis amount of the 5% or 10% asset tests) and we qualify for and satisfy certain cure provisions, then we will have to pay an excise tax equal to the greater of (1) \$50,000 and (2) an amount determined by multiplying (x) the net income generated during a specified period by the assets that caused the failure by (y) the highest federal income tax applicable to corporations;

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

- If we fail to satisfy any REIT requirements other than the income test or asset test requirements and we qualify for a reasonable cause exception, then we will have to pay a penalty equal to \$50,000 for each such failure;
  
- We will be subject to a 4% excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the sum of amounts actually distributed and amounts retained for which federal income tax was paid, if we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of:
  - (1) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for the year;
  
  - (2) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for the year; and
  
  - (3) any undistributed taxable income from prior taxable years;
  
- We will be subject to a 100% penalty tax on some payments we receive (or on certain expenses deducted by a taxable REIT subsidiary) if arrangements among us, our tenants and our taxable REIT subsidiaries are not comparable to similar arrangements among unrelated parties;
  
- If we should acquire any asset from a “C” corporation in a carry-over basis transaction and we subsequently recognize gain on the disposition of such asset during the ten-year recognition period beginning on the date on which we acquired the asset, then, to the extent of any built-in gain, such gain will be subject to tax at the highest regular corporate rate. Built-in gain means the excess of (a) the fair market value of the asset as of the beginning of the applicable recognition period over (b) the adjusted basis in such asset as of the beginning of such recognition period;
  
- Income earned by our taxable REIT subsidiaries will be subject to tax at regular corporate rates; and
  
- We may be required to pay penalties to the IRS in certain circumstances, including if we fail to meet record-keeping requirements intended to monitor our compliance with rules relating to the composition of our shareholders.

### ***Requirements for qualification as a REIT***

We elected to be taxable as a REIT for federal income tax purposes for our taxable year ended December 31, 1994 and for all subsequent taxable years. In order to have so qualified, we must have met and continue to meet the requirements discussed below, relating to our organization, sources of income, nature of assets and distributions of income to stockholders.

The Internal Revenue Code defines a REIT as a corporation, trust or association:

- (1) that is managed by one or more trustees or directors;

Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

(2) the beneficial ownership of which is evidenced by transferable shares, or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest;

(3) that would be taxable as a domestic corporation, but for Sections 856 through 859 of the Internal Revenue Code;

(4) that is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;

(5) the beneficial ownership of which is held by 100 or more persons;

(6) during the last half of each taxable year not more than 50% in value of the outstanding shares of which is owned directly or indirectly by five or fewer individuals, as defined in the Internal Revenue Code to include specified entities;

(7) that makes an election to be taxable as a REIT, or has made this election for a previous taxable year which has not been revoked or terminated, and satisfies all relevant filing and other administrative requirements established by the Internal Revenue Service that must be met to elect and maintain REIT status;

30

---

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

(8) that uses a calendar year for federal income tax purposes and complies with the recordkeeping requirements of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations promulgated thereunder; and

(9) that meets other applicable tests, described below, regarding the nature of its income and assets and the amount of its distributions.

Conditions (1), (2), (3) and (4) above must be met during the entire taxable year and condition (5) above must be met during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a taxable year of less than 12 months. For purposes of determining stock ownership under condition (6) above, a supplemental unemployment compensation benefits plan, a private foundation and a portion of a trust permanently set aside or used exclusively for charitable purposes generally are each considered an individual. A trust that is a qualified trust under Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a) generally is not considered an individual, and beneficiaries of a qualified trust are treated as holding shares of a REIT in proportion to their actuarial interests in the trust for purposes of condition (6) above.

We believe that we have issued sufficient shares of common stock with sufficient diversity of ownership to allow us to satisfy conditions (5) and (6) above. In addition, our charter contains restrictions regarding the transfer of shares of common stock that are intended to assist us in continuing to satisfy the share ownership requirements described in conditions (5) and (6) above. These restrictions, however, may not ensure that we will be able to satisfy these share ownership requirements.

To monitor its compliance with condition (6) above, a REIT is required to send annual letters to its stockholders requesting information regarding the actual ownership of its shares. If we comply with the annual letters requirement and we do not know or, exercising reasonable diligence, would not have known of our failure to meet condition (6) above, then we will be treated as having met condition (6) above.

To qualify as a REIT, we cannot have at the end of any taxable year any undistributed earnings and profits that are attributable to a non-REIT taxable year. We do not believe that we have any non-REIT earnings and profits and believe that we therefore satisfy this requirement.

*Qualified REIT Subsidiaries.* If a REIT owns a corporate subsidiary that is a “qualified REIT subsidiary,” the separate existence of that subsidiary will be disregarded for federal income tax purposes. Generally, a qualified REIT subsidiary is a corporation, other than a taxable REIT subsidiary (discussed below), all of the stock of which is owned by the REIT. All assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit of the qualified REIT subsidiary will be treated as assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit of the REIT itself. A qualified REIT subsidiary of Sun Communities will not be subject to federal corporate income taxation, although it may be subject to state and local taxation in some states.

*Taxable REIT Subsidiaries.* A “taxable REIT subsidiary” of Sun Communities is a corporation in which we directly or indirectly own stock and that elects, together with us, to be treated as a taxable REIT subsidiary under Section 856(l) of the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, if one of our taxable REIT subsidiaries owns, directly or indirectly, securities representing 35% or more of the vote or value of a subsidiary corporation, that subsidiary will also be treated as our taxable REIT subsidiary. A taxable REIT subsidiary is a corporation subject to federal income tax, and state and local income tax where applicable, as a regular “C” corporation.

Generally, a taxable REIT subsidiary can perform some impermissible tenant services without causing us to receive impermissible tenant services income under the REIT income tests. A taxable REIT subsidiary also can recognize income that would be subject to the 100% prohibited transaction tax, or income that would be non-qualifying income under the gross income tests, if earned by a REIT. However, several provisions regarding the arrangements between a REIT and its taxable REIT subsidiaries ensure that a taxable REIT subsidiary will be subject to

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

an appropriate level of federal income taxation. For example, a taxable REIT subsidiary is limited in its ability to deduct interest payments in excess of a certain amount made to us. In addition, we will be obligated to pay a 100% penalty tax on some payments that we receive or on certain expenses deducted by the taxable REIT subsidiary if the economic arrangements between us, our tenants and the taxable REIT subsidiary are not comparable to similar arrangements among unrelated parties.

31

---



## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

*Ownership of Partnership Interests by a REIT.* A REIT that is a partner in a partnership (or a member in a limited liability company or other entity that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes) will be deemed to own its proportionate share of the assets of the partnership and will be deemed to earn its proportionate share of the partnership's income. The assets and gross income of the partnership retain the same character in the hands of the REIT for purposes of the gross income and asset tests applicable to REITs as described below. Thus, our proportionate share of the assets and items of income of any entity taxable as a partnership for federal income tax purposes in which we hold an interest, such as Sun Communities Operating Limited Partnership, will be treated as our assets and liabilities and our items of income for purposes of applying the requirements described in this prospectus. The assets, liabilities and items of income of any partnership in which we own an interest include such entity's share of the assets and liabilities and items of income with respect to any partnership in which it holds an interest.

*Income Tests Applicable to REITs.* To qualify as a REIT, we must satisfy two gross income tests. First, at least 75% of our gross income, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, for each taxable year must be derived directly or indirectly from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property, including "rents from real property," gains on the disposition of real estate, dividends paid by another REIT and interest on obligations secured by mortgages on real property or on interests in real property, or from some types of temporary investments. Second, at least 95% of our gross income, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, for each taxable year must be derived from any combination of income qualifying under the 75% test and dividends, interest, and gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities.

Rents received by us will qualify as rents from real property in satisfying the gross income requirements for a REIT described above only if several conditions are met. First, the amount of rent must not be based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. However, an amount received or accrued generally will not be excluded from the term "rents from real property" solely by reason of being based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales. Second, rents received from a "related party tenant" will not qualify as rents from real property in satisfying the gross income tests unless the tenant is a taxable REIT subsidiary and at least 90% of the property is leased to unrelated tenants and the rent paid by the taxable REIT subsidiary is substantially comparable to the rent paid by the unrelated tenants for comparable space, or the property leased to the taxable REIT subsidiary is a hotel and certain other requirements are satisfied. A tenant is a related party tenant if the REIT, or an actual or constructive owner of 10% or more of the REIT, actually or constructively owns 10% or more of the tenant. Third, if rent attributable to personal property, leased in connection with a lease of real property, is greater than 15% of the total rent received under the lease, then the portion of rent attributable to the personal property will not qualify as rents from real property.

Generally, for rents to qualify as rents from real property for the purpose of satisfying the gross income tests, we may provide directly only an insignificant amount of services, unless those services are "usually or customarily rendered" in connection with the rental of real property and not otherwise considered "rendered to the occupant." Accordingly, we may not provide "impermissible services" to tenants (except through an independent contractor from whom we derive no revenue and that meets other requirements or through a taxable REIT subsidiary) without giving rise to "impermissible tenant service income." Impermissible tenant service income is deemed to be at least 150% of our direct cost of providing the service. If the impermissible tenant service income exceeds 1% of our total income from a property, then all of the income from that property will fail to qualify as rents from real property. If the total amount of impermissible tenant service income from a property does not exceed 1% of our total income from the property, the services will not "taint" the other income from the property (that is, it will not cause the rent paid by tenants of that property to fail to qualify as rents from real property), but the impermissible tenant service income will not qualify as rents from real property.

We have not charged, and do not anticipate charging, rent that is based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. We have not derived, and do not anticipate deriving, rent attributable to personal property leased in connection with real property that exceeds 15% of the total rents.

We have provided and will provide services with respect to the manufactured housing communities. We believe that the services with respect to our communities that have been and will be provided by us are usually or customarily rendered in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and are not otherwise rendered to particular tenants, or, if considered impermissible services, income from the provision of such services with respect to a given property has not and will not exceed 1% of all amounts received by us from such property. Therefore, we believe that the provision of such services has not and will not cause rents received with respect to our communities to fail to qualify as rents from real

Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

property. We believe that services with respect to our communities that may not be provided by us directly without jeopardizing the qualification of rent as rents from real property have been and will be performed by independent contractors or taxable REIT subsidiaries.

32

---

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

We may in the future acquire equity stakes in additional taxable REIT subsidiaries, which do not constitute real estate assets. Gain from a sale or other taxable disposition of these interests will constitute income satisfying the 95% income test, but not the 75% income test. The need to satisfy the 75% income test may adversely affect the time at which we chose to sell or dispose of one or more of these investments, depending on the appreciation of these equity interests, if any.

We have earned and continue to earn amounts of non-qualifying income. For example, we earn fees related to the management of properties that are not wholly-owned by. We believe that the amount of non-qualifying income generated from these activities has not affected and will not affect our ability to meet the gross income tests.

Any gain realized by us on the sale of any property held as inventory or other property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business will be treated as income from a prohibited transaction that is subject to a 100% penalty tax, unless such property has been held by us for not less than two years and certain other requirements are satisfied or the gain is realized in a taxable REIT subsidiary. Under existing law, whether property is held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business is a question of fact that depends on all the facts and circumstances of a particular transaction. We generally intend to hold our properties for investment with a view to long-term appreciation, to engage in the business of acquiring, developing, owning and operating properties, and to make occasional sales of properties as are consistent with our investment objectives. We cannot provide any assurance, however, that the Internal Revenue Service might not contend that one or more of these sales are subject to the 100% penalty tax. We intend to hold assets developed or held for sale in taxable REIT subsidiaries. Although a taxable REIT subsidiary is not subject to the 100% penalty tax, it does pay tax on its taxable income and gains at regular corporate rates.

If we fail to satisfy one or both of the 75% or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, we may nevertheless qualify as a REIT for that year if we are entitled to relief under the Internal Revenue Code. These relief provisions generally will be available if our failure to meet the tests is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect and, following our identification of such failure for any taxable year, we file a schedule describing each item of our gross income described in the gross income tests in accordance with the applicable Treasury Regulations. It is not possible, however, to state whether in all circumstances we would be entitled to the benefit of these relief provisions. For example, if we fail to satisfy the gross income tests because non-qualifying income that we intentionally incur exceeds the limits on non-qualifying income, the Internal Revenue Service could conclude that the failure to satisfy the tests was not due to reasonable cause. If these relief provisions are inapplicable to a particular set of circumstances involving us, we will fail to qualify as a REIT. As discussed under “— Taxation of Sun Communities as a REIT,” even if these relief provisions apply, a tax would be imposed based on the amount of non-qualifying income.

Asset Tests Applicable to REITs. At the close of each quarter of our taxable year, we must satisfy four tests relating to the nature of our assets:

(1) at least 75% of the value of our total assets must be represented by real estate assets, cash, cash items and government securities.;

(2) not more than 25% of our total assets may be represented by securities other than those in the 75% asset class;

(3) except for investments in qualified REIT subsidiaries, taxable REIT subsidiaries, equity interests in REITs or other securities that qualify as “real estate assets” for purposes of the test described in clause (1): the value of any one issuer’s securities owned by us may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets; we may not own more than 10% of any one issuer’s outstanding voting securities; and we may not own more than 10% of the value of the outstanding securities of any one issuer; and

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

(4) not more than 25% of our total assets may be represented by securities of one or more taxable REIT subsidiaries.

Securities for purposes of the asset tests may include debt securities. However, certain debt of an issuer will not count as a security for purposes of the 10% value test, including: (1) debt securities that are "straight debt" as defined in Section 1361 of the Internal Revenue Code, as modified by Section 856(m); (2) debt from an issuer who is an individual; or (3) non straight debt, but only if the REIT possesses an aggregate value of not more than one percent of the value of the issuer's outstanding securities.

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

We believe that the aggregate value of our taxable REIT subsidiaries does not exceed 25% of the aggregate value of our gross assets. With respect to each issuer in which we currently own an interest that does not qualify as a REIT, a qualified REIT subsidiary or a taxable REIT subsidiary, we believe that our pro rata share of the value of the securities, including debt, of any such issuer does not exceed 5% of the total value of our assets and that we comply with the 10% voting securities limitation and 10% value limitation with respect to each such issuer. In this regard, however, we cannot provide any assurance that the Internal Revenue Service might not disagree with our determinations.

After initially meeting the asset tests at the close of any quarter, we will not lose our status as a REIT if we fail to satisfy the 25%, 20% and 5% asset tests and the 10% value limitation at the end of a later quarter solely by reason of changes in the relative values of our assets. If the failure to satisfy the 25%, 20% or 5% asset tests or the 10% value limitation results from an acquisition of securities or other property during a quarter, the failure can be cured by disposition of sufficient non-qualifying assets within 30 days after the close of that quarter. We intend to maintain adequate records of the value of our assets to ensure compliance with the asset tests and to take any available actions within 30 days after the close of any quarter as may be required to cure any noncompliance with the 25%, 20% or 5% asset tests or 10% value limitation.

Moreover, if we fail to satisfy any of the asset tests at the end of a calendar quarter during a taxable year and such failure is not cured within 30 days as described above, we will not lose our REIT status if one of the following additional exceptions applies: (A) the failure is due to a violation of the 5% or 10% asset tests and is “de minimis” (for this purpose, a “de minimis” failure is one that arises from our ownership of assets the total value of which does not exceed the lesser of 1% of the total value of our assets at the end of the quarter in which the failure occurred and \$10 million) and we either dispose of the assets that caused the failure or otherwise satisfy any of the asset tests within 6 months after the last day of the quarter in which our identification of the failure occurred; or (B) the failure is due to a violation of any of the asset tests (other than a “de minimis” violations of the 5% or 10% asset tests) and all of the following requirements are satisfied: (i) the failure is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, (ii) we file a schedule in accordance with Treasury Regulations providing a description of each asset that caused the failure, (iii) we either dispose of the assets that caused the failure or otherwise satisfy the asset tests within 6 months after the last day of the quarter in which our identification of the failure occurred, and (iv) we pay an excise tax equal to the greater of (x) \$50,000 and (y) an amount determined by multiplying the net income generated during a specified period by the assets that caused the failure by the highest federal income tax applicable to corporations.

*Annual Distribution Requirements Applicable to REITs.* To qualify as a REIT, we are required to distribute dividends, other than capital gain dividends, to our stockholders each year in an amount at least equal to (1) the sum of (a) 90% of our REIT taxable income, computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction and our net capital gain, and (b) 90% of the net income, after tax, from foreclosure property, minus (2) the sum of certain specified items of noncash income. In addition, if we recognize any built-in gain, we will be required, under Treasury regulations, to distribute at least 90% of the built-in gain, after tax, recognized on the disposition of the applicable asset. See “— Taxation of Sun Communities as a REIT” for a discussion of the possible recognition of built-in gain. These distributions must be paid either in the taxable year to which they relate, or in the following taxable year if declared before we timely file our tax return for the prior year and if paid with or before the first regular dividend payment date after the declaration is made.

We believe that we have made and intend to continue to make timely distributions sufficient to satisfy the annual distribution requirements.

We anticipate having sufficient cash or liquid assets to enable us to satisfy the 90% distribution requirement. It is possible, however, that we, from time to time, may not have sufficient cash or other liquid assets to meet this distribution requirement or to distribute such greater amount as may be necessary to avoid income and excise taxation, due to timing differences between (a) the actual receipt of income and the actual payment of deductible expenses and (b) the inclusion of such income and the deduction of such expenses in arriving at our taxable income, or as a result of nondeductible expenses such as principal amortization or capital expenditures in excess of noncash deductions. In the event that such timing differences occur, we may find it necessary to arrange for borrowings or, if possible, pay taxable stock dividends in order to meet the dividend requirement.

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

Under some circumstances, we may be able to rectify a failure to meet the distribution requirement for a year by paying dividends to stockholders in a later year, which may be included in our deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. We will refer to such dividends as “deficiency dividends.” Thus, we may be able to avoid being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends. We will, however, be required to pay interest based upon the amount of any deduction taken for deficiency dividends.

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

To the extent that we do not distribute all of our net capital gain or distribute at least 90%, but less than 100%, of our REIT taxable income, as adjusted, we are subject to tax on these amounts at regular corporate tax rates.

We will be subject to a 4% excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the sum of amounts actually distributed and amounts retained for which federal income tax was paid, if we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of:

- (1) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for the year;
- (2) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for the year; and
- (3) any undistributed taxable income from prior taxable years.

A REIT may elect to retain rather than distribute all or a portion of its net capital gains and pay the tax on the gains. In that case, a REIT may elect to have its stockholders include their proportionate share of the undistributed net capital gains in income as long-term capital gains and receive a credit for their share of the tax paid by the REIT. For purposes of the 4% excise tax described above, any retained amounts would be treated as having been distributed.

*Record-Keeping Requirements.* We are required to comply with applicable record-keeping requirements. Failure to comply could result in monetary fines.

*Failure of Sun Communities to Qualify as a REIT.* If we fail to satisfy any REIT requirements (other than the income test or asset test requirements, to which specific cure provisions apply), we generally will be eligible for relief from REIT disqualification if the failure is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect and we pay a penalty of \$50,000 with respect to such failure. It is not possible to state whether in all circumstances we would be entitled to such statutory relief. For example, if we fail to satisfy the gross income tests because non-qualifying income that we intentionally incur exceeds the limit on such income, the Internal Revenue Service could conclude that our failure to satisfy the tests was not due to reasonable cause.

If we fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year and the relief provisions do not apply, we will be subject to tax on our taxable income at regular corporate rates, including any applicable alternative minimum tax. Distributions to stockholders in any year in which we fail to qualify will not be deductible by us nor will they be required to be made. In such event, to the extent of current or accumulated earnings and profits, all distributions to stockholders will be taxable as dividend income. Subject to limitations of the Internal Revenue Code, corporate stockholders may be eligible for the dividends-received deduction and non-corporate stockholders may be eligible to treat the dividends received from us as qualified dividend income taxable as net capital gains under the provisions of Section 1(h)(11) of the Internal Revenue Code, for taxable years beginning before January 1, 2011. Unless we are entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, we also will be disqualified from electing to be taxed as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which qualification was lost.

### *Taxation of U.S. stockholders*

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

When we refer to a United States stockholder, we mean a beneficial owner of a share of our common stock that is, for United States federal income tax purposes:

- (1) a citizen or resident, as defined in Section 7701(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, of the United States;
- (2) a corporation or partnership, or other entity treated as a corporation or partnership for federal income tax purposes, created or organized under the laws of the United States, any state or the District of Columbia;
- (3) an estate the income of which is subject to federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- (4) in general, a trust subject to the primary supervision of a United States court and the control of one or more United States persons.

Generally, in the case of a partnership that holds our common stock, any partner that would be a U.S. stockholder if it held the common stock directly is also a U.S. stockholder. A “non-U.S. stockholder” is a holder, including any partner in a partnership that holds our common stock, that is not a U.S. stockholder.



## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

*Distributions by Sun Communities.* So long as we qualify as a REIT, distributions to U.S. stockholders out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits that are not designated as capital gain dividends will be taxable as dividend income and will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction generally available for corporations and generally will not be eligible for treatment as qualified dividend income by non-corporate stockholders. Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will not be taxable to a U.S. stockholder to the extent that the distributions do not exceed the adjusted tax basis of the stockholder's shares. Rather, such distributions will reduce the adjusted basis of such shares. Distributions in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits that exceed the U.S. stockholder's adjusted basis in its shares will be treated as gain from the sale or exchange of such shares taxable as capital gains in the amount of such excess if the shares are held as a capital asset. If we declare a dividend in October, November or December of any year with a record date in one of these months and pay the dividend on or before January 31 of the following year, we will be treated as having paid the dividend, and the stockholder will be treated as having received the dividend, on December 31 of the year in which the dividend was declared.

We may elect to designate distributions of our net capital gain as "capital gain dividends." Capital gain dividends are taxed to stockholders as gain from the sale or exchange of a capital asset held for more than one year, without regard to how long the U.S. stockholder has held its shares. If we designate any portion of a dividend as a capital gain dividend, a U.S. stockholder will receive an Internal Revenue Service Form 1099-DIV indicating the amount that will be taxable to the stockholder as capital gain. Corporate stockholders, however, may be required to treat up to 20% of capital gain dividends as ordinary income.

Instead of paying capital gain dividends, we may choose to retain all or part of our net capital gain and designate such amount as "undistributed capital gain." We will be subject to tax at regular corporate rates on any undistributed capital gain.

A U.S. stockholder:

(1) will include in its income as long-term capital gains its proportionate share of such undistributed capital gains; and

(2) will be deemed to have paid its proportionate share of the tax paid by us on such undistributed capital gains and receive a credit or a refund to the extent that the tax paid by us exceeds the U.S. stockholder's tax liability on the undistributed capital gain.

A U.S. stockholder will increase the basis in its common stock by the difference between the amount of capital gain included in its income and the amount of tax it is deemed to have paid. Our earnings and profits will be adjusted appropriately.

We will classify portions of any designated capital gain dividend or undistributed capital gain as either:

(1) a 15% rate gain distribution, which would be taxable to non-corporate U.S. stockholders at a maximum rate of 15%; or

(2) an "unrecaptured Section 1250 gain" distribution, which would be taxable to non-corporate U.S. stockholders at a maximum rate of 25%.

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

We must determine the maximum amounts that we may designate as 15% and 25% rate capital gain dividends by performing the computation required by the Internal Revenue Code as if the REIT were an individual whose ordinary income were subject to a marginal tax rate in excess of 25%.

Distributions made by our Company and gain arising from the sale or exchange by a U.S. stockholder of shares will not be treated as passive activity income, and as a result, U.S. stockholders generally will not be able to apply any "passive losses" against this income or gain. In addition, taxable distributions from our company generally will be treated as investment income for purposes of the investment interest limitations. A U.S. stockholder may elect to treat capital gain dividends and capital gains from the disposition of shares as investment income for purposes of the investment interest limitation, in which case the applicable capital gains will be taxed at ordinary income rates. We will notify stockholders regarding the portions of distributions for each year that constitute ordinary income, return of capital and capital gain. U.S. stockholders may not include in their individual income tax returns any net operating losses or capital losses of our company. Our operating or capital losses would be carried over for potential offset against our future income, subject to applicable limitations.

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

*Sales of Shares.* Upon any taxable sale or other disposition of shares, a U.S. stockholder will recognize gain or loss for federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference between:

- (1) the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received on the sale or other disposition; and
  
- (2) the holder's adjusted basis in the shares for tax purposes.

This gain or loss will be a capital gain or loss if the shares have been held by the U.S. stockholder as a capital asset. The applicable tax rate will depend on the stockholder's holding period in the asset (generally, if an asset has been held for more than one year it will produce long-term capital gain) and the stockholder's tax bracket. The Internal Revenue Service has the authority to prescribe, but has not yet prescribed, regulations that would apply a capital gain tax rate of 25% (which is generally higher than the long-term capital gain tax rates for noncorporate stockholders) to a portion of capital gain realized by a noncorporate stockholder on the sale of REIT shares that would correspond to the REIT's "unrecaptured Section 1250 gain." Stockholders are urged to consult with their own tax advisors with respect to their capital gain tax liability. A corporate U.S. stockholder will be subject to tax at a maximum rate of 35% on capital gain from the sale of our company's shares. In general, any loss recognized by a U.S. stockholder upon the sale or other disposition of shares that have been held for six months or less, after applying the holding period rules, will be treated as a long-term capital loss, to the extent of distributions received by the U.S. stockholder from us that were required to be treated as long-term capital gains. All or a portion of any loss realized upon a taxable disposition of shares may be disallowed if other shares are purchased within 30 days before or after the date of disposition.

### *Taxation of tax-exempt stockholders*

Provided that a tax-exempt stockholder has not held its common stock as "debt financed property" within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code, the dividend income from our company will not be unrelated business taxable income, referred to as UBTI, to a tax-exempt stockholder. Similarly, gain from the sale of shares will not constitute UBTI unless the tax-exempt stockholder has held its shares as debt financed property within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code or is a dealer in the shares.

However, for tax-exempt stockholders that are social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts and qualified group legal services plans exempt from federal income taxation under Sections 501(c)(7), (c)(9), (c)(17) and (c)(20) of the Internal Revenue Code, respectively, income from an investment in our company will constitute UBTI unless the organization properly sets aside or reserves such amounts for purposes specified in the Internal Revenue Code. These tax-exempt stockholders should consult their own tax advisors concerning these "set aside" and reserve requirements.

Notwithstanding the above, however, a portion of the dividends paid by a "pension held REIT" are treated as UBTI if received by any trust which is described in Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, is tax-exempt under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and holds more than 10%, by value, of the interests in the REIT.

Tax-exempt pension funds that are described in Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code are referred to below as "pension trusts."

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

A REIT is a pension held REIT if it meets the following two tests:

(1) it qualified as a REIT only by reason of Section 856(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, which provides that stock owned by pension trusts will be treated, for purposes of determining if the REIT is closely held, as owned by the beneficiaries of the trust rather than by the trust itself; and

(2) either (a) at least one pension trust holds more than 25% of the value of the REIT's stock, or (b) a group of pension trusts each individually holding more than 10% of the value of the REIT's shares, collectively owns more than 50% of the value of the REIT's shares.

The percentage of any REIT dividend treated as UBTI is equal to the ratio of the UBTI earned by the REIT, treating the REIT as if it were a pension trust and therefore subject to tax on UBTI, to the total gross income of the REIT. An exception applies where the percentage is less than 5% for any taxable year.

*Taxation of holders of debt securities and potential tax consequences of their investment in the debt securities*

*Stated interest and market discount.* Holders of debt securities will be required to include stated interest on the debt securities in gross income for federal income tax purposes in accordance with their methods of accounting for tax purposes. This discussion assumes that the debt securities were not issued with original issue discount.

Purchasers of debt securities should be aware that the holding and disposition of debt securities may be affected by the market discount provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. These rules generally provide that if a holder of a debt instrument purchases it at a market discount and subsequently recognizes gain on a disposition of the debt instrument, including a gift or payment on maturity, the lesser of such gain or appreciation, in the case of a gift, and the portion of the market discount that accrued while the debt instrument was held by such holder will be treated as ordinary interest income at the time of the disposition. For this purpose, a purchase at a market discount includes a purchase after original issuance at a price below the debt instrument's stated principal amount. The market discount rules also provide that a holder who acquires a debt instrument at a market discount and who does not elect to include such market discount in income on a current basis may be required to defer a portion of any interest expense that may otherwise be deductible on any indebtedness incurred or maintained to purchase or carry such debt instrument until the holder disposes of the debt instrument in a taxable transaction.

A holder of a debt instrument acquired at a market discount may elect to include the market discount in income as the discount thereon accrues, either on a straight line basis or, if elected, on a constant interest rate basis. The current inclusion election, once made, applies to all market discount obligations acquired by such holder on or after the first day of the first taxable year to which the election applies and may not be revoked without the consent of the Internal Revenue Service. If a holder of a debt security elects to include market discount in income in accordance with the preceding sentence, the foregoing rules with respect to the recognition of ordinary income on a sale or particular other dispositions of such debt security and the deferral of interest deductions on indebtedness related to such debt security would not apply.

*Amortizable bond premium.* Generally, if the tax basis of an obligation held as a capital asset exceeds the amount payable at maturity of the obligation, such excess may constitute amortizable bond premium that the holder may elect to amortize under the constant interest rate method and deduct the amortized premium over the period from the holder's acquisition date to the obligation's maturity date. A holder who elects to amortize bond premium must reduce the tax basis in the related obligation by the amount of the aggregate deductions allowable for amortizable bond premium.

The amortizable bond premium deduction is treated as an offset to interest income on the related security for federal income tax purposes. Each prospective purchaser is urged to consult his tax advisor as to the consequences of the treatment of such premium as an offset to interest income for federal income tax purposes.

*Disposition.* In general, a holder of a debt security will recognize gain or loss upon the sale, exchange, redemption, payment upon maturity or other taxable disposition of the debt security. The gain or loss is measured by the difference between (a) the amount of cash and the fair market value of property received and (b) the holder's tax basis in the debt security as increased by any market discount previously included in income by the holder and decreased by any amortizable bond premium deducted over the term of the debt security. However, the amount of cash and the fair market value received excludes cash or other property attributable to the payment of accrued interest not previously included in income, which amount will be taxable as ordinary income. Subject to the market discount and amortizable bond premium rules above, any such gain or loss will generally be long-term capital gain or loss, provided the debt security was a capital asset in the hands of the holder and had been held for more than one year.

*U.S. taxation of non-U.S. stockholders*

*Distributions by Sun Communities.* Distributions by us to a non-U.S. stockholder that are neither attributable to gain from sales or exchanges by us of “U.S. real property interests” nor designated by us as capital gains dividends will be treated as dividends of ordinary income to the extent that they are made out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits. These distributions ordinarily will be subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax on a gross basis at a rate of 30%, or a lower rate as permitted under an applicable income tax treaty, unless the dividends are treated as effectively connected with the conduct by the non-U.S. stockholder of a U.S. trade or business. Under some treaties, however, lower withholding rates generally applicable to dividends do not apply to dividends from REITs. Dividends that are effectively connected with a trade or business will be subject to tax on a net basis, that is, after allowance for deductions, at graduated rates, in the same manner as U.S. stockholders are taxed with respect to these dividends, and are generally not subject to withholding. Applicable certification and disclosure requirements must be satisfied to be exempt from withholding under the effectively connected income exemption. Any dividends received by a corporate non-U.S. stockholder that is engaged in a

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

U.S. trade or business also may be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate, or lower applicable treaty rate.

Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits that exceed the non-U.S. stockholder's basis in its common stock will be taxable to a non-U.S. stockholder as gain from the sale of common stock, which is discussed below. Distributions in excess of our current or accumulated earnings and profits that do not exceed the adjusted basis of the non-U.S. stockholder in its common stock will reduce the non-U.S. stockholder's adjusted basis in its common stock and will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax, but will be subject to U.S. withholding tax as described below.

We expect to withhold U.S. income tax at the rate of 30% on any dividend distributions (including distributions that later may be determined to have been in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits) made to a non-U.S. stockholder unless:

(1) a lower treaty rate applies and the non-U.S. stockholder files an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN evidencing eligibility for that reduced treaty rate with us; or

(2) the non-U.S. stockholder files an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8ECI with us claiming that the distribution is income effectively connected with non-U.S. stockholder's trade or business within the U.S.

We may be required to withhold at least 10% of any distribution in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, even if a lower treaty rate applies and the non-U.S. stockholder is not liable for tax on the receipt of that distribution. However, a non-U.S. stockholder may seek a refund of these amounts from the Internal Revenue Service if the non-U.S. stockholder's U.S. tax liability with respect to the distribution is less than the amount withheld.

Distributions to a non-U.S. stockholder that are designated by us at the time of the distribution as capital gain dividends, other than those arising from the disposition of a U.S. real property interest, generally should not be subject to U.S. federal income taxation unless:

(1) the investment in the common stock is effectively connected with the non-U.S. stockholder's U.S. trade or business, in which case the non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. stockholders with respect to any gain, except that a stockholder that is a foreign corporation also may be subject to the 30% branch profits tax, as discussed above, or

(2) the non-U.S. stockholder is a nonresident alien individual who is present in the U.S. for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a "tax home" in the U.S., in which case the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's capital gains.

Under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act, which is referred to as "FIRPTA," subject to the exception discussed below for 5% or smaller holders of regularly traded classes of stock, distributions to a non-U.S. stockholder that are attributable to gain from sales or exchanges by us of U.S. real property interests, whether or not designated as a capital gain dividend, will cause the non-U.S. stockholder to be treated as recognizing gain that is income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. Non-U.S. stockholders will be taxed on this gain at the same rates applicable to U.S. stockholders, subject to a special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals. Also, this gain may be subject to a 30% branch profits tax in the hands of a non-U.S. stockholder that is a corporation.

We will be required to withhold and remit to the Internal Revenue Service 35% of any distributions to non-U.S. stockholders that are designated as capital gain dividends, or, if greater, 35% of a distribution that could have been designated as a capital gain dividend. Distributions can be designated as capital gains to the extent of our net capital gain for the taxable year of the distribution. The amount withheld is creditable against the non-U.S. stockholder's United States federal income tax liability. A non-U.S. stockholder whose U.S. federal income tax liability under FIRPTA exceeds amounts withheld by us will be required to file a U.S. federal income tax return for the taxable year.

A non-U.S. stockholder that owns no more than 5% of our common stock at all times during the one-year period ending on the date of the distribution will not be subject to 35% FIRPTA withholding with respect to distributions that are attributable to gain from our sale or exchange of U.S. real property interests, provided that our common stock is regularly traded on an established securities market. Instead, any distributions made to such non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to the general withholding rules discussed above which generally impose a withholding tax equal to 30% of the gross amount of each distribution (unless reduced by treaty).



## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

Although the law is not clear on the matter, it appears that amounts designated by us as undistributed capital gains in respect of the common stock held by U.S. stockholders generally should be treated with respect to non-U.S. stockholders in the same manner as actual distributions by us of capital gain dividends. Under that approach, the non-U.S. stockholders would be able to offset as a credit against their United States federal income tax liability resulting therefrom an amount equal to their proportionate share of the tax paid by us on the undistributed capital gains, and to receive from the Internal Revenue Service a refund to the extent their proportionate share of this tax paid by our company exceeds their actual United States federal income tax liability.

*Sale of Common Stock.* Gain recognized by a non-U.S. stockholder upon the sale or exchange of our common stock generally would not be subject to United States taxation unless:

- (1) the investment in our common stock is effectively connected with the non-U.S. stockholder's U.S. trade or business, in which case the non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to the same treatment as domestic stockholders with respect to any gain;
- (2) the non-U.S. stockholder is a nonresident alien individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a tax home in the United States, in which case the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's net capital gains for the taxable year; or
- (3) our common stock constitutes a U.S. real property interest within the meaning of FIRPTA, as described below.

Our common stock will not constitute a U.S. real property interest if we are a domestically controlled qualified investment entity. We will be a domestically controlled qualified investment entity if, at all times during a specified testing period, less than 50% in value of our stock is held directly or indirectly by non-U.S. stockholders.

Because our common stock is publicly traded, we cannot guarantee that we are or will continue to be a domestically controlled qualified investment entity.

Even if we are a domestically controlled qualified investment entity, upon disposition of the our stock, a non-U.S. stockholder may be treated as having gain from the sale or exchange of a U.S. real property interest if the non-U.S. stockholder (1) disposes of an interest in our stock during the 30-day period preceding the ex-dividend date of a distribution, any portion of which, but for the disposition, would have been treated as gain from sale or exchange of a U.S. real property interest and (2) acquires, enters into a contract or option to acquire, or is deemed to acquire, other shares of the Company's stock within 30 days after such ex-dividend date. This rule does not apply if the exception for distributions to 5% or smaller holders of regularly traded classes of stock is satisfied.

Even if we do not qualify as a domestically controlled qualified investment entity at the time a non-U.S. stockholder sells its common stock, our stock sold by such stockholder would not be considered a U.S. real property interest if:

- (1) the class or series of stock sold is considered regularly traded under applicable Treasury regulations on an established securities market, such as the NYSE; and

(2) the selling non-U.S. stockholder owned, actually or constructively, 5% or less in value of the outstanding class or series of stock being sold throughout the five-year period ending on the date of the sale or exchange.

If gain on the sale or exchange of our common stock were subject to taxation under FIRPTA, the non-U.S. stockholder would be subject to regular U.S. income tax with respect to any gain in the same manner as a taxable U.S. stockholder, subject to any applicable alternative minimum tax and special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals.

***Information reporting and backup withholding tax applicable to stockholders***

*U.S. Stockholders.* In general, information reporting requirements will apply to payments of distributions on our common stock and payments of the proceeds of the sale of our common stock to some stockholders, unless an exception applies. Further, the payer will be required to withhold backup withholding tax at the rate of 28% if:

(1) the payee fails to furnish a taxpayer identification number, or TIN, to the payer or to establish an exemption from backup withholding;

(2) the Internal Revenue Service notifies the payer that the TIN furnished by the payee is incorrect;

(3) the payee fails to certify under the penalty of perjury that the payee is not subject to backup withholding under the Internal Revenue Code.

Some stockholders, including corporations, will be exempt from backup withholding. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a stockholder will be allowed as a credit against the stockholder's United States federal income tax and may entitle the stockholder to a refund, provided that the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

*Non-U.S. Stockholders.* Generally, information reporting will apply to payments of distributions on our common stock, and backup withholding at a rate of 28% may apply, unless the payee certifies that it is not a U.S. person or otherwise establishes an exemption.

The payment of the proceeds from the disposition of Sun Communities common stock to or through the U.S. office of a U.S. or foreign broker will be subject to information reporting and, possibly, backup withholding unless the non-U.S. stockholder certifies as to its non-U.S. status or otherwise establishes an exemption, provided that the broker does not have actual knowledge that the stockholder is a U.S. person or that the conditions of any other exemption are not, in fact, satisfied. The proceeds of the disposition by a non-U.S. stockholder of our common stock to or through a foreign office of a broker generally will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding. However, if the broker is a U.S. person, a controlled foreign corporation for U.S. tax purposes or a foreign person 50% or more of whose gross income from all sources for specified periods is from activities that are effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, information reporting generally will apply unless the broker has documentary evidence as to the non-U.S. stockholder's foreign status and has no actual knowledge to the contrary.

Applicable Treasury regulations provide presumptions regarding the status of stockholders when payments to the stockholders cannot be reliably associated with appropriate documentation provided to the payer. Because the application of these Treasury regulations varies depending on the stockholder's particular circumstances, you are urged to consult your tax advisor regarding the information reporting requirements applicable to you.

#### *Other tax consequences for Sun Communities and its stockholders*

Our Company and its stockholders may be subject to state and local taxation in various state or local jurisdictions, including those in which it or they transact business or reside. The state and local tax treatment of our Company and its stockholders may not conform to the federal income tax consequences discussed above. Consequently, prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding the effect of state and local tax laws on an investment in our securities.

To the extent that we and the taxable REIT subsidiaries are required to pay federal, state or local taxes, we will have less cash available for distribution to stockholders.

#### **Plan of Distribution**

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

We may sell the securities in one or more of the following ways (or in any combination) from time to time:

- through underwriters or dealers;
- directly to one or more purchasers;
- through agents; or
- through any other methods described in a prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement will state the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

- the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;
- any underwriting discounts, commissions or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters' or agents' compensation;
- any public offering price;
- any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers;

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

- and any securities exchanges on which the securities may be listed.

Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

Securities may also be sold in one or more of the following transactions, or in any transactions described in a prospectus supplement:

- block transactions in which a broker-dealer may sell all or a portion of the securities as agent but may position and resell all or a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;
- purchase by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its own account;
- a special offering, an exchange distribution or a secondary distribution in accordance with the rules of any exchange on which the securities are listed;
- ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which a broker-dealer solicits purchasers;
- sales “at the market” to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market, on an exchange or otherwise; and
- sales in other ways not involving market makers or established trading markets, including direct sales to purchasers.

The securities we may sell by any of the methods described above may be sold to the public, in one or more transactions, either:

- at a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed;
- at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;
- at prices related to prevailing market prices; and
- at negotiated prices.

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

We may sell the securities through agents from time to time. The prospectus supplement will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities and any commissions we pay to them. Generally, any agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

We may authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers by certain purchasers to purchase the securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus supplement will set forth any commissions we pay for solicitation of these contracts.

Underwriters and agents may be entitled under agreements entered into with us to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, or to contribution with respect to payments which the underwriters or agents may be required to make. Underwriters and agents may engage in transactions with, or perform services for us and our affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

To comply with applicable state securities laws, the securities offered by this prospectus will be sold, if necessary, in such jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, securities may not be sold in some states unless they have been registered or qualified for sale in the applicable state or an exemption from the registration or qualification requirement is available and is complied with.

**Certain Legal Matters**

The validity of the securities we are offering will be passed upon for us by Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, Professional Corporation, Southfield, Michigan ("JRHW"). JRHW has also acted as counsel for the Company on tax and certain other matters. Arthur A. Weiss, who is a director of the Company, is a member of our Board of Directors and a shareholder of JRHW.

**Experts**

The financial statements incorporated by reference in this Prospectus have been audited by Grant Thornton LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as indicated in their report with respect thereto (which report expressed an unqualified opinion and contained an explanatory paragraph relating to the adoption of Statement of Financial Accounting Standard No. 123(R)), and is included herein in reliance upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing in giving said report.

No dealer, salesperson or other individual has been authorized to give any information or to make any representations not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus in connection with any offering to be made by the prospectus. If given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the Company. This prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, the securities, in any jurisdiction where, or to any person to whom, it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. Neither the delivery of this prospectus nor any offer or sale made hereunder shall, under any circumstance, create an implication that there has been no change in the facts set forth in this prospectus or in the affairs of the Company since the date hereof.

## Table of Contents

### Prospectus

	<u>Page</u>	
About This Prospectus	3	
Where You Can Find More Information	3	
Forward-Looking Statements	4	
Risk Factors	5	
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	13	
Use of Proceeds	14	
Description of Debt Securities	14	<b>Sun Communities, Inc.</b>
Description of Common Stock	20	
Description of Preferred Stock	21	
Description of Securities Warrants	26	
Federal Income Tax Considerations and Consequences of Your Investment	28	
Plan of Distribution	41	<b>Debt Securities</b>
Certain Legal Matters	43	<b>Common Stock</b>
Experts	43	<b>Preferred Stock</b>



**Securities Warrants**

---

**Prospectus**

---

---

, 2009

---

**Part II****Information Not Required in Prospectus****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The following table sets forth the expenses, other than underwriting discounts and commissions, payable by us in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered. All the amounts shown are estimates except the registration fee.

SEC Registration Fee	\$ 16,740
Legal Fees and Expenses	50,000
Accounting Fees and Expenses	25,000
Trustee's Fees	10,000
Transfer Agent Fees and Expenses	5,000
Printing Expenses	10,000
Rating Agency Fees	40,000
New York Stock Exchange Listing Fees	20,000
Miscellaneous	25,000
Total	\$ 201,740

**Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers**

The Company's charter authorizes the Company to obligate itself to indemnify its present and former directors and officers and to pay or reimburse expenses for such individuals in advance of the final disposition of a proceeding to the maximum extent permitted from time to time by Maryland law. The Company's bylaws obligate it to indemnify and advance expenses to present and former directors and officers to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law. The Maryland General Corporation Law ("MGCL") permits a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements, and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made a party by reason of their service to the Company in those capacities unless it is established that: (i) the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding; and (a) was committed in bad faith or, (b) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty; (ii) the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property, or services; or (iii) in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

The MGCL permits the charter of a Maryland corporation to include a provision limiting the liability of its directors and officers to the corporation and its stockholders for money damages, except to the extent that: (i) it is proved that the person actually received an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services; or (ii) a judgment or other final adjudication is entered in a proceeding based on a finding that the person's action, or failure to act, was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty and was material to the cause of action adjudicated in the proceeding. The Company's charter contains a provision providing for elimination of the liability of its directors or officers to the Company or its stockholders for money damages to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law.

The partnership agreement of the Operating Partnership also provides for indemnification of the Company and its officers and directors to the same extent indemnification is provided to officers and directors of the Company in its charter, and limits the liability of the Company and its

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

officers and directors to the Operating Partnership and its respective partners to the same extent the liability of the officers and directors of the Company to the Company and its stockholders is limited under the Company's charter.

### **Item 16. Exhibits**

The exhibits to the Registration Statement are listed in the Exhibit Index which appears elsewhere in this Registration Statement and is hereby incorporated by reference.

46

---

**Item 17.**

**Undertakings**

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table set forth in this registration statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this registration statement or any material change to such information in this registration statement;

provided however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) of this section do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-8, and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement; and

paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) of this section do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3 or Form F-3 and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser, each prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) as part of a registration statement relating to an offering, other than registration statements relying on Rule 430B or other than prospectuses filed in reliance on Rule 430A, shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the date it is first used after effectiveness. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such first use, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such date of first use.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

- (ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;
- (iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and
- (iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrants pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Southfield, State of Michigan, on April 17, 2009.

SUN COMMUNITIES, INC.,

a Maryland corporation

By: /s/ Karen J. Dearing  
Karen J. Dearing, Chief Financial Officer,

Secretary and Principal Accounting Officer

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each of the undersigned officers and directors of Sun Communities, Inc. hereby constitutes and appoints Gary A. Shiffman and Karen J. Dearing, or either of them, such undersigned's attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution for the undersigned in any and all capacities, to sign any or all amendments or post-effective amendments to this Registration Statement, and to file the same, with exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith or in connection with the registration of the shares of common stock under the Securities Act of 1933, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto each of such attorneys-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary in connection with such matters as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that each of such attorneys-in-fact and agents or their substitute or substitutes may do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

## Edgar Filing: SUN COMMUNITIES INC - Form S-3

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the date indicated.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>/s/ Gary A. Shiffman</u> Gary A. Shiffman	Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors	April 17, 2009
<u>/s/ Karen J. Dearing</u> Karen J. Dearing	Executive Vice President, Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Principal Accounting Officer	April 17, 2009
<u>/s/ Paul D. Lapidis</u> Paul D. Lapidis	Director	April 17, 2009
<u>/s/ Ted J. Simon</u> Ted J. Simon	Director	April 17, 2009
<u>/s/ Clunet R. Lewis</u> Clunet R. Lewis	Director	April 17, 2009
<u>/s/ Ronald L. Piasecki</u> Ronald L. Piasecki	Director	April 17, 2009
<u>/s/ Arthur A. Weiss</u> Arthur A. Weiss	Director	April 17, 2009
<u>/s/ Robert H. Naftaly</u> Robert H. Naftaly	Director	April 17, 2009
<u>/s/ Stephanie W. Bergeron</u> Stephanie W. Bergeron	Director	April 17, 2009





**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement (1)
4.1	Rights Agreement, dated as of June 2, 2008, between Sun Communities, Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as Rights Agent (filed with the SEC on June 3, 2008).
* 4.2	Form of Senior Indenture
* 4.3	Form of Subordinated Indenture
4.4	Form of Senior Debt Security (1)
4.5	Form of Subordinated Debt Security (1)
4.6	Form of Securities Warrant Agreement (1)
* 5.1	Opinion of Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, Professional Corporation as to the legality of securities
* 8.1	Opinion of Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, Professional Corporation, as to certain tax matters
* 12.1	Calculation of Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges
* 23.1	Consent of Grant Thornton, independent registered public accounting firm
23.2	Consent of Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, Professional Corporation (included in Exhibit 5.1)
24.1	Powers of Attorney (included in Part II of this Registration Statement)

**\*Filed herewith**

**(1) If applicable, to be subsequently filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a current report on Form 8-K or other applicable report filed with the SEC and incorporated herein by reference.**