

Buying Land With an Eye Toward Retirement

OBERT AND REVA RASCHKE LOVE THEIR NEIGHBORS in Houston, but when they retire in three or four years, they would like a buffer between them and the folks next door. So they bought two lots — 3.4 acres total — in a master-planned community in Iola, TX, where they plan to build their retirement home.

Robert and Reva Raschke bought in SouthStar's King Oaks property in Iola and plan to move there in about four years when he retires from Exxon Mobil Corp. and she retires from Edward Jones.

Their advice about buying land: Don't make a quick decision. Look at lots of different places. "When we first started out, I was interested in bigger pieces of property — up to 50 acres," Robert says. "But the more we thought about it, the more we decided we would like it better if we would be in a development where you have some control about what goes in around you, as opposed to being out by yourself where you never know what's going to come in next to you."

The Raschkes stockpiled cash for several years to buy the property. They looked for three years before finding what Reva calls their "wow spot." Then they discussed their plans with their financial adviser. They were fairly sure they made the right decision when he bought land a few lots down from theirs.

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