

# Checklist of Community-Enhancing Features

*See reverse for how to achieve these features in your neighborhood.*

## SOCIAL INTERACTION

Activities for all ages and stages of life

- Public green with benches
- Pavilion
- Stage for outdoor theatre and concerts
- Place for dancing, with paved area & bandstand
- Volleyball court
- Picnic area
- Place to play horseshoes
- Adventure playground – wood, rope, grass, water
- An outdoor place to build a fire and gather
- Beautiful place to sit
- High place to sit
- Basketball court
- Softball field
- Soccer field
- Tennis courts
- Baseball field
- Swimming pool
- Swimming beach
- Recreation located next to major walkways and in view of roads to encourage participation and spectators
- Library

## ENVIRONMENT

Enhance existing assets of project site and neighborhood

- Important trees and stone walls
- Historic resources
- Pond for boating, skating, fishing, and wildlife
- Habitat for diverse wildlife
- Wildlife corridors to adjacent parks
- Wilderness area – any size (not to be disturbed)
- New building architecture in the best character of the existing neighborhood
- New building ornamentation in the best character of the existing neighborhood

## SERVICES

Desirable within walking distance

- Neighborhood center – kitchen, meeting room, workshop, guest rooms
- Corner grocery
- Cafe or restaurant
- Farm produce stand
- Place for a community-supported vegetable garden
- Daycare center
- Affordable housing for all ages and stages of life

## TRAFFIC REDUCTION

Volume and Congestion

- Walkways/bikeways with benches, wide and paved, from adjacent neighborhoods directly through project site to:
  - School
  - Supermarket
  - Recreation fields
  - Post office
  - Workplaces
  - Retail stores
  - Church
  - Cemetery
- Major pedestrian promenade between two most used area destinations, with spectator benches to view adjacent recreation activities.
- Walkways and foot-bridges along streams and ponds
- Bus stop
- Cul-de-sac, dead end road
- Bypass road
- Service road
- Mixed residential, commercial and recreational uses
- Night-lit activities close to each other

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# How to Achieve Community-Enhancing Features in Your Neighborhood

*Copy this page on the reverse side of the checklist.*

Any time there is a development proposed near where you live, there is a chance to design the project so that it enhances life in your neighborhood. This kind of design work is best done by a collaborative team that includes neighbors of the project, the developer, the city planner, and other interested citizens. Here is a small sampling of questions that could help the design:

Where could walkways/bikeways through the project be placed to best help people living on one side of the project get to the school, playground, library, parks, or shopping on the other side of the project?

Are there practical recreation facilities that could be built in the proposed project that would improve life for children and families in the surrounding neighborhood?

Is there a way that traffic congestion in the surrounding community could be reduced with a bypass road or bikeway connected through the proposed development?

Are there natural areas on the proposed development site or in the surrounding neighborhood that could be enhanced with pathways as part of the project?

Is there an appealing historic identity, character, or detail in the architecture of your neighborhood that could be reflected in the architecture of the proposed project?

Although the developer is not responsible for adding public facilities on his or her property, the facilities that improve life in your neighborhood will also usually improve the marketability of the project. In addition, philanthropic funding for neighborhood development is frequently available when the neighborhood has a clear vision of its needs and the neighbors, developer, environmentalists, and town officials are in agreement.

The list on the reverse side of this sheet is a collection of ideas that can make your current neighborhood a better place to live. Some of these ideas will be practical and helpful for your particular neighborhood. As you work through each item on the list, think about whether it would make the area surrounding and including the proposed project a better place to live by bringing people together, by providing facilities for people of all ages and stages of life, or by enhancing the environment. Check the items on the list that you think might benefit life in your neighborhood. Don't concern yourself with the expense of building them at this time.

Designing the new project can also be a catalyst for improving the neighborhood in other ways. Use the opportunity to discuss other possible neighborhood enhancements:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Block parties                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation watch  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car-pooling                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable swap  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Litter patrol                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Package receiving                | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling bins  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watching children                |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child care swapping              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flower planting                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Care of sick & aging             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Softball league                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community spirit & pride         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood get-togethers, etc. |  |

Experience over the past ten years shows that neighbors, developers, city planners, and environmentalists can work together in a friendly, constructive, creative way. Projects and neighborhoods can both be enhanced through this kind of team effort. Good luck! Your participation in project design at this time can make a real and lasting difference in your neighborhood.