

Green

Community Features



Being aware of and promoting your neighborhood's green spaces not only benefits your health and well-being, it's also a powerful way to increase the vitality of your community and do your part to help the environment. So, what makes a neighborhood green?



PUBLIC GREEN SPACES WITH SHADE

Shared public green spaces can improve air quality and reduce noise pollution by providing car-free zones and promoting walking, sports, picnics, and community gatherings. Plus, the **Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health** says spending time outdoors improves your health. Green spaces with shade encourage being outdoors in various types of weather and regulate the area's temperature.



PEDESTRIAN ZONES, BICYCLE LANES

By prioritizing pedestrians over vehicles, these zones encourage people to explore the city or town on foot, fostering a healthier and more active lifestyle. Track your area's performance with metrics such as a walk score, air quality indices, water quality, and energy efficiency ratings. Check your local community's walk score.



WASTE & RECYCLING

Investigate the neighborhood's infrastructure for dealing with waste and recycling. Scope out comprehensive recycling programs, composting facilities, e-waste collection points, hazardous waste disposal options, zero waste initiatives, and food waste collection. All of these factors can assess the green values of your area.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Be on the lookout for the ways your community supports its members. Common programs include repair cafes, tool libraries, second-hand clothing swaps, composting workshops, and seed libraries. These initiatives focus on reusing materials and minimizing consumption.



BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION INITIATIVES

Biodiversity ensures the health of a wide range of animals, plants, and microorganisms. Community gardens and vegetable patches can help protect a neighborhood's natural land and ecosystem. They also encourage collective work, fresh food, and exercise.



LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Check for available programs and features that support fresh food and local suppliers and farmers. Supporting these initiatives with your money will boost your local economy and reduce your carbon footprint. Check local listings for farmer's markets, community-supported agriculture (CSA) pickup points, food co-ops, urban farms, and community gardens.



ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

Even if you don't have an electric charging station at home, see if your neighborhood has accessible stations. This can indicate a local area's priorities and commitment to the environment.