



*Media Literacy
in Action:
The Community
Planning
Project*

Episode 2
Landscaping

What is a community?

People living in the same geographic place.



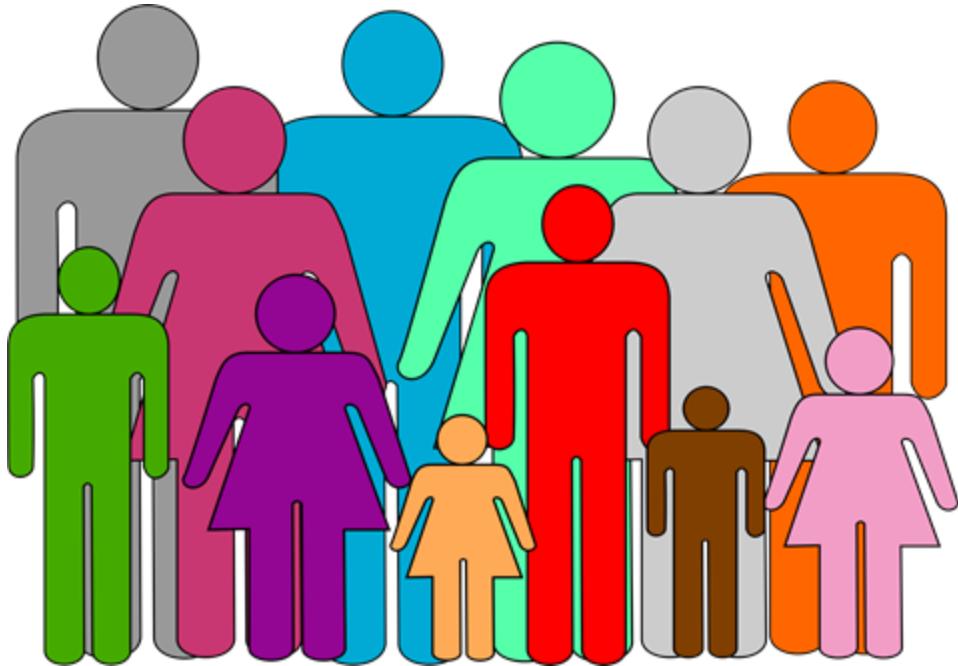
What makes a livable community?

People have many needs and wants in the community in which they live. They want to feel safe and enjoy the place where they live.

People want to live in neighborhoods where they know their neighbors. They want to shop where they can buy the things they need and want.

People also want public services that meet their everyday needs, like providing water and electricity, and police and fire departments that can send responders when there is an emergency.

Transportation is important in communities, whether it means sidewalks or forms of transportation that make it easy to get from place to place.



Schools and other learning centers are important too. Libraries, museums, and historical sites also provide places for learning.

Parks and recreation areas encourage people to enjoy the outdoors and exercise.

Art is important too, as are public spaces where people can gather for special events, which creates a sense of belonging and pride in the community.

Why is landscaping important to communities?

In a livable community, people want a pleasant place to live.

An important aspect of a community is the landscaping. Landscaping means to plant trees, shrubs, and flowers to make the community more beautiful. Trees are important because they can provide shade and make the community cooler in the summer.

Trees and plants also are important for the environment as they filter pollutants from the air and provide food and shelter for birds and bees and other wildlife.

A plaza is an open space in a community and can be a gathering place for people of all ages and can create a sense of community identity.

What kinds of trees and plants do you think you should have in your community? Where will you put them? Do you think you should have a plaza too?



Why is aesthetics important to a community?

When you plan your community, you will need to work closely with the aesthetics planners. They will be responsible for thinking about where to place art in the community.



Plaza



Plazas provide a place for people to gather. Sometimes plazas will have special events like musicians playing or street food for people to enjoy outdoors. Sometimes plazas will have markets where people can sell food and gifts. Plazas bring people together.



Different communities can have different kinds of gathering places.





Sometimes communities close streets to make space for special events.



Landscapers need to know the best trees and plants for their community.



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Community gardens bring people together. People can have a small area to plant their own vegetables, plants, and flowers. They share ideas and learn from each other. They also share what they grow.

They make friends with other gardeners as they work in a shared space. Gardening is good exercise, too, because you have to dig and prune and water the plants.

Where should we have trees and plants in our community?

Should we have a plaza?



Choices & Decisions

What kinds of trees and plants should we have in our community? Where should they be located?

