How to be a healthy, thriving and unified community.

Hint: it's green. Other hint: it's obtainable!

What is a Sacred Place?

TKF's Sacred Places are public green spaces designed to reconnect people in nature in ways you may not expect. (As in, not for sports!)

How do I make one?

A simple, organic 4-step process.

What is a Sacred Place?

Ethos

Each Sacred Place is girded by two core principles. It must be:

Open

Physically open to welcome all visitors; philosophically open to all persons, of all races, beliefs, backgrounds. All are invited.

Sacred

A space set aside in nature purposely intended for respite—a means to "press pause"; reflect; reconnect with oneself and each other.

What is a Sacred Place?

Hallmarks

Bench

A signature bench that invites people to pause—to sit, breathe, be present, reflect, enjoy space in nature, and each other.

Journal

Tucked in each bench is a blank book and pen; available to any visitor to share thoughts and experiences on the page—a simple notion with a powerfully cathartic outcome.

Sense of Place

Each community has a unique story which can be conveyed via artifacts, design, art—stories that share its history; giving a sense of pride and place.

Vision

Every Sacred Place needs a Firesoul: an impassioned individual (or two!) who believes in the power of nature to unite, support and heal their community—in meaningful and lasting ways.

What is a Sacred Place?

Design Elements

Portal

An archway, gate, stand of trees, pergola or other marker that denotes a clear transition from the everyday hustle to a reflective space in nature.

Path

Whether straight or more meandering, a Path gives an individual a sense of safety in time and space—a means to have one's feet on the ground while connecting to a greater reality.

Sense of Surround

Shrubbery, fencing, trees, gardens, sculpture, or other means to provides an encompassing sense of boundary, safety, and enclosure within the Sacred Place.

Destination

A defined point or points toward which someone moves along the path—a kind of journey or pilgrimage of discovery from everyday life.

Sacred Places are varied to suit unique needs.
They can be small, modest—tucked in a city block as a pocket garden, or maybe on a vacant lot—to more extensive:

Community Park | Rooftop Garden | Labyrinth | Hospital Garden | Memorial Garden | Prison Garden

Step 1

Envision

You've got the fire. Maybe you've identified a perfect spot begging for an open, Sacred Place. Maybe you'd like to see your community come together more. Maybe you're a Firesoul!

- Proclaim thyself a Firesoul. And know that you're onto something really amazing.
- Identify the space. Is it publicly owned? Is there a source for water nearby? Get the scoop.
- Chat with your neighbors. Other community-minded residents + leaders: are they in?
- Grab an institutional partner. It can help to hook up with a school, spiritual organization or nonprofit to move things forward.
- Think on funding. Start exploring potential grant opportunities or other means to secure the funding needed.

Step 2

Create

- Research local landscape architects. Narrow down to at least two who align with your vision.
- Draw a plan. Your new friends above will help you draft and estimate creative concepts.
- Secure Funding. Grants, fundraisers, partnerships.
- Dream up uses + programming. What kinds of events would be amazing to keep things humming?

Step 3

Collaborate

- Invite the community in early! And often. Charrettes are helpful community sessions that ensure all voices are heard.
- Refine your plan. Finalize the Sacred Place budget and work with your landscape architect and your peers until its solid and acheiveable.

Step 4

Grow

- Launch with gusto! Celebrate this community event with flair. Invite everyone.
- Thrive. Maintain the gardens + keep the events coming! And explore our website for tips, ideas and inspiration.
- Listen & remain connected with neighbors & stakeholders as you go.
- Watch. Learn. Share. Evolve. Your Sacred Place is a living ecosystem that will grow and morph over the years in wonderful ways—and we're here to help you navigate this course.

See Nature in Action

Join the hundreds of forward-thinking communities across U.S. that have infused nature into their cities for improved health, renewed hope and neighborhood cohesion.

NatureSacred.org
NatureEffect.org
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