

Nature Sacred as an Advisor to Your Design Process

Nature Sacred exists to inspire, inform and guide communities in the creation of public greenspaces—called Sacred Places—designed to improve mental health, unify communities and engender peace. The Nature Sacred Design Process forges a partnership between a community leader and a landscape architect to guide community members through a visionary charrette process to achieve a welcoming Sacred Place. As each community imagines its own space, the design becomes a unique reflection of its culture, story and place—making it inherently sacred to them.

Why work with Nature Sacred?

1. **Our process centers on community-led design.** Through canvassing and design charrettes, Nature Sacred’s visioning process emphasizes the intentional inclusion of a wide range of stakeholders to maximize the diversity of perspectives and feedback we gain, and we will work with you to ensure the design achieves this same sense of understanding of your community’s desires.
2. **Connect with Sacred Place landscape design experts.** Our team of Design Advisors is trained in landscape architecture, design, and planning and highly experienced in Nature Sacred’s work and mission. From asking insightful questions about your community’s needs to helping craft a maintenance plan for your space, our Design Advisors are there to breathe a spark into your community’s vision.
3. **Experience our signature bench.** Its curved lines offer comfort, and its ample proportions provide space for both individuals seeking solitude or small groups seeking to gather. With a journal stored in a holder underneath the seat, this bench invites people to pause—to sit, breathe, be present, reflect, enjoy space in nature and each other.
4. **Gain access to the Nature Sacred Firesoul Network.** Firesouls are the stewards who champion these Sacred Places, and the Firesoul Network exists to cultivate collaboration and alliance between Firesouls across cities and states. Through education sessions, inspirational speakers, career development tools, gatherings, and access to enhancement and enrichment grant funding, Firesouls and their partners never have to feel that they are “in it alone.”

Ready to get started? Contact Erin Robertson (erobertson@naaturesacred.org) or Neha Srinivasan (nsrinivasan@naaturesacred.org).



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How will we work with you? Ask yourself the following questions:

Has any community input or canvassing occurred already? This should have included a wide intentional, and inclusive range of stakeholders to provide thoughts on what they wanted to see on the site, and should have occurred in a way that encouraged and invited feedback.

- **If yes:** Great! If you have survey results, meeting recordings, notes, and/or other documentation of participant feedback, please share those with us.
- **If no:** We'll work with you to assemble a short survey to provide to stakeholders.

Have any community meetings or charrettes been held already? This should have invited a wide intentional, and inclusive range of stakeholders to provide feedback on specific designs or design elements proposed for use on the site, and should have occurred in a way that interactively engaged participants and creatively encouraged feedback.

- **If yes:** Great! If you have recordings of these meetings, and/or documentation of how this feedback guided the proposed design, please share those with us.
- **If no:** We'll work with you to facilitate a charrette.

Guiding Principles for a Sacred Place

Each Sacred Place is intended to reconnect people with nature—to restore our minds. Find balance. Renew ourselves. This is the ethos that makes them impactful—and we'll help you bring that to your site.

Open: Physically open and accessible to visitors regardless of race, creed, background or beliefs—all are welcome.

Nearby: Located within the neighborhood it serves—close by.

Sacred: Designed to bring respite, encourage mindful reflection, engender peace.

Community-led: Built for and by the community it serves; reflective of place, story and culture.

The Nature Sacred Design Elements

Aligned with research on healing nature spaces, Nature Sacred's practice of including these four elements in every Sacred Place ensures that your space will be intentional, restorative, and engaging for your users.



Portal: A marker that denotes a clear transition from the everyday hustle to a reflective nature space.



Destination: A defined point or points toward which someone moves along the path.



Path: A means to have one's feet on the ground while connecting to a greater reality.



Surround: A means to provide an encompassing sense of boundary, safety, and enclosure.