

GREENER VILLAGE BLUEPRINT

Try even a few items in each category below. They will make your neighborhood greener, friendlier, and better prepared for disasters and recession. Does it seem challenging? Maybe so, when you're just reading and thinking about it. But once you start getting to know the people around you and building a dream together, it's really fun. Do this in any order you like, filling in the blanks as you come up with new ideas.

Commons

- Map the shared elements of your neighborhood such as fruit trees, informal hangouts, libraries, parks, streets, sidewalks, shared gardens, water features and ...
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- Find or create common ground: one or more inviting places to stop, rest and talk. These need to be in well-trafficked areas or in view of a residence. They can be benches, shelters, pocket parks or...
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- Then go there and start discussions. Ask people:
 - “How do you like the neighborhood?”
 - “Are you planning to stay or leave? Why is that?”
 - “What would make it better?”
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- Start dreaming about how to expand the commons. **This is the biggie, because, by sharing amenities, you can FACTOR them out of personal living spaces. This reduces waste, clutter, maintenance and cost.** Some things that could be factored into the commons include:
 - Neighborhood Garden, Tool library, Car/truck/van sharing,
 - Neighborhood shuttle, Solar covered parking, Electric microgrid, Neighborhood center with a kitchen, Guest housing
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- ❑ Strengthen Existing Ecology
 - ❑ restored creek beds, ❑ floral rain gardens, ❑ food forests,
 - ❑ stocked ponds, ❑ habitat for: ❑ birds, ❑ pollinators, ❑ amphibians,
 - ❑ bats, ❑
 - ❑
 - ❑
 - ❑

Activities

- ❑ Choose activities that are **frequent**, **fun** and **useful** (otherwise, people remain strangers and meet mainly in conflict). Some ideas:
 - ❑ art projects, ❑ dance nights with or without an instructor, ❑ gardening parties, ❑ guest speakers, ❑ ice cream socials, ❑ neighborhood cleanups, ❑ parades, ❑ parties (seasonal/themed), ❑ regular potlucks ...
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 - ❑

Partnerships

- ❑ Theme the village: a green/social justice mission endows the community with purpose, which defuses petty feuds. It also attracts neighbors who want to live these values.
- ❑ Make it official with the city (takes a year or two)
- ❑ Write grant proposals for neighborhood ❑ cleanup, ❑ art, ❑ signage, ❑ commons and
 - ❑
- ❑ Partner with schools so that students can earn credit for green design, events and implementation. This channels otherwise destructive energy to constructive ends, and recruits sustainability-minded residents.
- ❑ Partner with local businesses, who can sponsor or even host events such as an ice cream social. It's hard to find a better marketing channel than direct community involvement.
- ❑ Host ❑ films, ❑ speakers and ❑ activities for ❑ neighbors, ❑ local officials and ❑ planners about sustainable development including ❑ mixed use , ❑ cohousing, ❑ apartments and townhouses, ❑ car-free zones, ❑ pattern languages, ❑ permaculture, ❑ [city repair](#) and ...
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