5 Crucial Design Factors for Inviting Community Spaces

Community spaces are crucial to the health of small towns, suburbs, and cities. In every single community, it's important to have public spaces where people can gather. If you reside in the City of Winston, Oregon, getting involved in local government such as the park board, meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month @ 5:00 PM contact the City of Winston for more details

Determine the Purpose of a Space

How can you determine the best design features for a particular space? First, you'll need to think about how a place will be used. Often, a community space serves more than one purpose. For example, people might visit a public park to exercise, relax with friends, or attend cultural events. People can use a co-working space to focus on their individual projects, meet with clients, or network.

Networking spaces can help people practice their conversational skills and gain more confidence in their professional paths. If you're creating a venue that will be used for networking, Endless Events recommends installing large and small tables to facilitate comfortable group conversations. Make sure there's plenty of room for people to move around so that they don't feel cramped.

Adequate Lighting

In designing indoor and outdoor spaces, lighting should be a key consideration in your plans. Lighting is essential for every space, especially spaces that include parking garages or lots since both drivers and pedestrians need good visibility to feel safe. And lighting isn't just for spaces that are out in the open - LED lights for canopies, tunnels, and garages are important. Overall, the more light you can shine on a space, the better, as bright lighting deters criminality.

Accessible Design

Accessible design choices benefit people with disabilities, senior citizens, young children, and those who find themselves temporarily disabled or ill. Basically, accessible design is for everyone - yet many communities don't invest in accessible features for public spaces. How can you ensure that the public spaces in your town are truly accessible? The Blind Guide recommends implementing a few key features, such as clear signage, entrances with ramps, and plenty of space between outdoor furniture or other infrastructure so as not to impede the movement of people with mobility aids.

Security Features

Lighting and accessible design features are important for ensuring safety in public spaces. But you'll also want to invest in some tools that are specifically intended for security purposes.

Which security tools will you need? That all depends on the space itself. For instance, to secure a public park, Security101 recommends installing visible security cameras and using access control systems to prevent unauthorized visitors from entering the park after hours.

Aesthetics and Atmosphere

Finally, you can get creative when it comes to designing public spaces! While aesthetics might not be your number one priority, creating a space that genuinely looks inviting is a lot of fun. People want to live in beautiful places - and with the right approach, you can bring out the beauty in every area. You may want to plant native flowers, invite local artists to paint murals or put up sculptures, or install fountains.

Designing community spaces where everyone can feel welcome will make your town a better place to live. From lighting to security to aesthetic appeal, there are so many ways to make a space feel comfortable for all visitors. Whether you're involved with an urban planning project through your local government, or you simply want to advocate for improved public spaces in your area, these tips will help you transform your town.

Want to get involved in local planning projects? Check out the resources from the City of Winston, Oregon! Visit our website today to learn more about exciting community developments.

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