

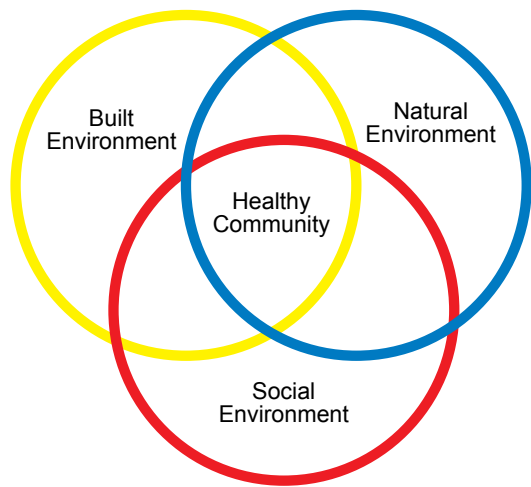
HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT CHECKLIST

A TOOL TO HELP GUIDE HEALTHY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



A collaborative resource developed by the Grey Bruce Health Unit and endorsed by the Planning Departments in Bruce County and Grey County. Together, we build healthy communities.





A HEALTHY COMMUNITY...

The way a community is constructed can positively impact health. Well designed communities support physical activity, have gathering places for people to socialize, are clean, safe and can increase an overall sense of wellbeing.

A healthy community includes components of the natural, social and built environment. This includes consideration for safe, affordable housing, active transportation options, nutritious foods and greenspace.

HOW DOES THE DEVELOPER BENEFIT?

- Proximity to cycling infrastructure, parks, trail heads and open spaces can increase property value
- Compact, walkable communities can provide economic benefits to developers through higher home sale prices, enhanced marketability and faster sales
- Communities designed using healthy community principles have lower crime rates making them more attractive to buyers

DEVELOPERS CAN CREATE HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENTS THROUGH THESE FEATURES:

NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN

- Supporting mixed land use by integrating a variety of residential development within 800 meters of retail, recreational centers, parks and public spaces
- Optimizing opportunities for infill, intensification and revitalization
- Maximizing safety and minimizing vandalism by including street lighting, clear sight lines, and designs that promote natural observation
- Addressing neighbourhood aesthetics to support mental health and wellbeing through landscaping, greenspace, urban art, and street furniture

HOUSING

- Including a variety of affordable housing options, prioritizing those available for low income households
- Designing every home with a front yard and porch to enhance opportunities for interactions between neighbours
- Locating units so exposure to environmental hazards and the elements are mitigated
- Units that support aging in place, exhibit no-step entrances and single floor living amenities



NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS/ FOOD SYSTEMS

- Locating development near greenspace that is accessible, safe and provides connecting links to other community amenities
- Committing to the preservation of the natural heritage system by maintaining existing trees, soil integrity and landscaping using native species
- Preserving urban forests and dedicating no less than 5% of the total proposed land area to outdoor public spaces
- Supporting natural features that reduce air pollution, water pollution and urban heat islands such as using porous and light coloured pavement materials and by planting trees and shrubs
- Using infrastructure and building materials that support energy conservation, storm water management and green buildings
- Allotting space for community gardens or other forms of urban agriculture



TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS

- Providing for sidewalks that are at least 1.5 meters wide, are separated from motorized traffic, have curb cuts at each intersection and are located on both sides of the street
- Including cycling infrastructure such as bike lanes, paved shoulders, bicycle parking and signage
- Including streetscape elements such as shade trees, planters, gardens and benches
- Locating development near and providing connective linkages to transportation options such as cycling paths, trails, sidewalks and transit that are convenient and safe for a range of ages.
- Avoiding the use of cul de sacs and crescent streets in order to promote active forms of transportation
- Designing neighbourhood blocks that are less than 250 meters in length
- Inclusion of traffic calming measures such as reduced lane widths, street parking, speed bumps and raised intersections





FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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