

## DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS CHECKLIST

**PRIVATE OPEN SPACE** – *Every home should have its own private outdoor space.*

### **Private Outdoor Space for All Dwelling Units**

Provide each household in the project with some form of private open space: patio, porch, deck, balcony, or yard. In certain instances, consider shared entry porches and/or shared balconies. Avoid building layouts where front yards face back yards.

### **Access**

Ensure that private open space is easily accessible – physically and visually - from individual units.

### **Adequate Size**

Ensure that private open space is large enough so that it can actually be used. Avoid spaces, particularly balconies, decks and porches, that are too narrow to accommodate furniture.

### **Balconies**

Attempt to locate balconies adjacent to living rooms. Avoid screening balconies with solid walls. Instead, consider screening materials that provide privacy but also allow residents, particularly small children, to look out. Avoid horizontal railings and other designs which enable children to climb up. Carefully consider how and where balconies will drain.

### **Fencing**

Consider providing fencing around all yards and patios to provide privacy and to help define boundaries between public and private open space.

### **Storage**

Provide outdoor storage for outdoor tools, equipment and furniture.