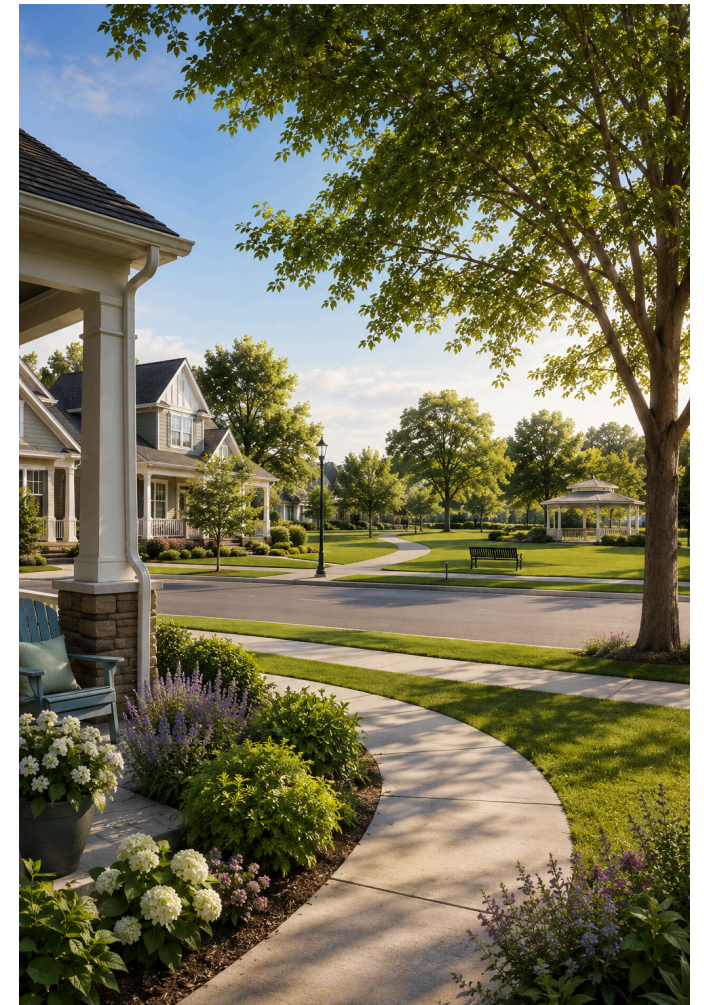


# Choosing a Senior-Friendly Community (Without 55+ Restrictions)

By Tom Sharp

**Lifelong living means choosing a place that works not just today—but over time.**



## Not every good long-term option comes with a 55+ label.

Many people assume that if they want a simpler, more manageable lifestyle, a 55+ community is the only path.

But that's not always the case.

There are many neighborhoods that offer:

- Comfortable layouts
- Convenient locations
- Lower-maintenance living

...without age restrictions.

The challenge isn't finding options—it's knowing what actually makes a place work well over time.

**You don't need a 55+ label to live comfortably long-term.**

## Sometimes the question isn't just: "Where should I move?"

it's,  
"What kind of place will continue to work for me?"

That's why the **Senior-Friendly Community Guides** look beyond the name of a neighborhood and focus on practical details, including:

- Home types (ranch homes, townhomes, and similar layouts)
- Distance to shopping, medical care, and everyday services
- HOA and maintenance considerations
- Home size, lot size, and typical price ranges

View/download the Community Guides at [www.TomSharpRealtor.com/55-living](http://www.TomSharpRealtor.com/55-living)

or scan the code



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## What Makes a Location Work

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What makes a community work over time?

### **Daily convenience**

How close you are to groceries, medical care, and everyday needs

### **Manageable home design**

Single-level living or layouts that are easy to navigate

### **Reasonable upkeep**

Yard size, maintenance demands, and overall effort required

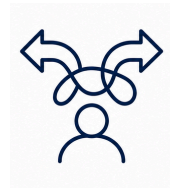
### **Predictable surroundings**

Quiet streets, consistent upkeep, and a sense of stability

A home can look perfect—and still be difficult to live in day to day.

The goal isn't just finding something appealing. It's finding something that continues to work.

**The right location often matters more than the label.**



## Where People Get Stuck

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Common traps to avoid

### **Assuming 55+ is the only option**

Overlooking neighborhoods that may fit just as well

### **Choosing based on appearance alone**

Focusing on finishes instead of function

### **Underestimating distance to essentials**

Short drives today can feel longer over time

### **Overlooking long-term upkeep**

What feels manageable now may not stay that way

When the focus is only on how a home looks, it's easy to miss how it actually lives.

**What works today should still work years from now.**



## A Simple Way To Evaluate

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A practical way to test a location

### **Drive the area at different times**

Traffic, noise, and activity can change throughout the day

### **Test real distances**

Drive to stores, medical offices, and places you visit often

### **Walk the layout**

Notice stairs, entries, and how the home flows

### **Think through a typical day**

From morning to evening—what would living here feel like?

### **A quick visit rarely tells the full story.**

Real-world use is what matters most.

**Daily life is the best test of a location.**