

Grand Xi-Chuan Community, Taichung City: Strengthening Riverbank Neighborhoods with a Cultural and Natural Heritage

(Population: 23,179 , Category B)

~ Summary ~

Grand Xi-Chuan community consists of Xichuan, Chonglun, Dazhong and Tuku villages, which are located along the Liu and Mayuantou rivers in Taichung City. These rivers have diverse eco-systems and beautiful landscapes along their banks. The original settlers lived along Liu River formed the “Ban Pin Cu” community, whose site is now occupied by Xichuan and Chonglun villages. Others made their homes along the Mayuantou River and formed the “Tukuzi” community where Dazhong and Tuku villages are today located.

Over the past 50 years, booming economic development and a rapidly changing urban environment have drastically transformed once-agricultural landscapes in Grand Xi-Chuan community, as rice paddies have been replaced with tall modern buildings whose residents have moved in from neighboring villages and towns. Many people are seeking opportunities in this economically-vibrant region. The resulting consolidation of the existing local community culture and newly-arriving elements has created a refreshing metropolitan cultural landscape.

Residents of Grand Xi-Chuan community have committed themselves to the happiness by creating care for senior citizens, cultural heritage preservation, environment protection and other community-development programs. In addition, as the community’s pool of talent has grown, the prosperity of its cultural establishments and safe living environment have been further boosted. This community has consolidated both government and private-sector resources to ensure that local residents have the power and access to participate in local art, culture and heritage related developments. It also strives to advocate the importance of environmental preservation and endeavors to improve the community’s natural and social environments. The results of its strenuous efforts have proved successful.

I. Improving Natural and Cultural Landscapes

The people living on both sides of the river have ingeniously integrated concepts of eco-preservation, environmental protection and “green living” in the development of their natural and cultural landscapes.

- (1) Initiating and Creating Lush Green Community Parks
- (2) Restoring an Abandoned House and Beautifying Public Spaces



II. Arts and Cultural Heritage

This community is committed to promoting traditional culture by organizing cultural performances, integrating traditional totems and pictures into public spaces all over the community. The historical background of former American military residences and artistic atmosphere have made them well-known, popular landmarks in the Art Museum Parkway shopping district.

- (1) Dedicated Adults, Children Endeavor to Preserve Traditional Wedding Ceremonies
- (2) Reinvigorated with Art and History



III. An Ideal Environmental Preservation Case Study

Residents take pride in their environmental preservation efforts, which includes a regular recycling program, a carpentry studio utilizing waste wood as a material, bikeways, walkways, and the Mayuatou River preservation program.

- (1) Reusing Recycled Wood for Homemaking Materials
- (2) Recycling Shows Love for the Environment and Its Preservation
- (3) Green, Carbon-Reducing Bikeway
- (4) Building a Foundation for Environmental Education from Home



IV. Community Resident Participation and Empowerment

Grand Xi-Chuan community has been active in designing a series of community development projects, including the organizing of folk events and renovating of unused spaces, which help motivate village residents to take interest in the community's public affairs.

- (1) Participating in Taichung City Community Planning Consultation Program
- (2) Setting up Various Community Social Clubs



V. Healthy Lifestyles

Several community care centers and neighborhood-watch teams are set up to promote proper health awareness and safeguard the community.

- (1) Enhancing Community Health Concepts
- (2) Neighborhood-Watch Teams Safeguard Community Security

A strategic planning based on the cultural, social, geographic, economic along with security considerations aspects is provided for Grand Xi-Chuan community, continuing to promote as well as creating solidarity and recognition among its residents who, after all, are the key to providing the substance and energy for building a quality living environment.