

# Participatory Photo Mapping

**Participatory Photo Mapping (PPM)** is a tool for exploring the experience of place and for communicating this experience to community stakeholders and local decision-makers. Using PPM helps communities uncover supports for and barriers to well-being, especially those related to the built environment.

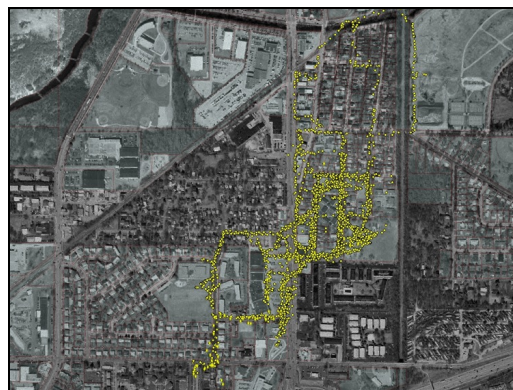
**Our goal** is to use PPM in collaborative projects to improve the health and well-being of communities. It's all about reaching the goal of "Healthy People in Healthy Places."

## The PPM method combines:

1. photographs
2. narratives
3. maps
4. presentations

## PPM allows you to:

1. **assess** the social and environmental determinants of health, safety and well-being,
2. **address** perceptions of neighborhood environments,
3. **identify community supports and barriers** to health, safety and well-being,
4. **call for action** by presenting information to stakeholders and decision-makers.



## The PPM process has four steps:

**Step 1:** Provide participants with digital cameras and GPS receivers for documenting routine use of community and recreation environments in their neighborhoods.

**Step 2:** Use photographs to guide narrative interview sessions during which emerging themes are attached to particular place images.

**Step 3:** Map images and narratives as part of a neighborhood-level geographic information system (GIS).

**Step 4:** Use insights gained to communicate information to community stakeholders and decision-makers in order to prompt action.

## Journal Article:

Dennis Jr S., Gaulocher S., Carpiano R., Brown D. Participatory photo mapping (PPM): Exploring an integrated method for health and place research with young people, *Health & Place*. 2009;15:466-473.