

Mapping Your Community for Age-Friendliness

Participatory Photo Mapping (PPM) allows communities to:

- Assess the social and physical environmental contributions to the age-friendliness of their neighborhoods
- Understand diverse perceptions of their community environments for aging populations
- Identify community supports for and barriers to aging in place
- Identify social and service factors that impact age-friendliness of a community
- Communicate this information to stakeholders and policy makers
- Make an informed call for action!

What are the benefits of Participatory Photo Mapping?

As explained by Dennis and colleagues (2009) in their study *Participatory photo mapping (PPM): Exploring an integrated method for health and place research...*

Our goal is to share Participatory Photo Mapping (PPM) as a platform for giving voice to people often left out of local policy decisions...it's all about reaching the goal of *Healthy People in Healthy Places*. Neighborhood environments provide both supports for and barriers to healthful behaviors. We developed PPM to work in partnership with communities to better understand the social and physical environmental factors that influence human health at the neighborhood scale.

The PPM process has four steps:

Step 1- Photography and GPS Tracking. Local residents document their experience of the community using photographs – taking pictures of their neighborhood.

Step 2 – Linking Photos to Narratives. Participants share their stories of place through interviews and focus groups. Open dialogue among community members creates a narrative, which is linked to particular images.

Step 3 – Mapping Photos and Narratives. Photographs and narratives are mapped using geographic information systems, which further links people experiences with the place.

Step 4 – Call to Action. New, shared knowledge emerges and is communicated to local groups and decision-makers, such as health professionals, business owners, community organizations, and policy makers.

Volunteers needed. Please contact Margaret McNamara at 503 650 5737 or by email at mmcnamara@co.clackamas.or.us.