

Photo Sampling

Summary

Photographic data is fun for citizens of all ages to collect and can be designed as a simple or very technical task. The technique provides great visual representation of parks and trails in your community.

Activity

The directions and methodology you design including the time given to take photos, the area covered, and demographics of the individuals and groups of constituents you involve will determine the type of photographic data you will gather and the types of analysis you will be able to complete.

For today's activity, please take 15 pictures of unique features in the Conference Center or surrounding area. Provide a list with a brief picture description and briefly explain why the feature is unique.

Supplies

- Cameras or phones with cameras
- Cords to download pictures
- Response sheets
- Clip Boards
- Pens

Strengths

- People enjoy the experience.
- The data provides visual documentation of places or features in parks or along trails.
- Can sometimes provide more specific spatial information regarding what is perceived as valuable and what needs attention-- more so than text in a transcript of a discussion.
- Quiet people can often have an "equal" voice.

Limitations

- Often difficult to know what angle/exact location a picture is taken unless map or reference is provided.
- Thick skin and a response plan is needed if photographs of unattractive places are included the process.
- If photographs are to be taken over time or beyond a reasonable distance of the meeting site, a follow-up meeting or submission plan is required.
- May need to be modified for people of varying abilities.

Adaptions to Consider

- Photographic data can also be mapped.
- The activities can be used in social media outlets (as long as a representative sample is not a concern).
- The directions and methodology you design for what to photograph, where, and when can provide various types of data and feedback.
- The process can be completed in coordination with GPS and computer maps.
- Some communities have the tools to allow constituents to load pictures directly to a map or to an online photo mapping tool such as Flickr.
- The tool can be used to explore parks through seasons if activities are conducted throughout the year.



Mapping Special Places

Summary

Provides maps of attractive or unattractive places within parks and trails (or for today in/or near the Conference Center).

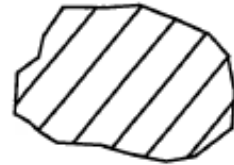
Activity

Using the map and corresponding logs, identify those places in the conference center or surrounding area that are especially attractive to you. Think of places that you closely associate with this community. What makes it a distinctive place that is special to you? These places may be small points, larger view areas, or viewpoints. Please use the following symbols on your maps. Use a red pen for unattractive places and a blue pen for attractive places. Please number the place, list it on your log, and describe it.

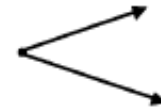
POINTS: Use the symbol at the right to identify a point. Points are small sites that are easily seen from one location. Examples are the home of a local historic figure, the oldest tree in the region, or the park in front of city hall.



AREAS: An area is a larger district not visible from a single location. It is normally special because of some shared feature or characteristic. Examples include a nature preserve or the regional junk yard. Use the symbol at the right to indicate areas.



VIEWS: Some places provide an especially good vantage point from which to view your community. In this activity, it is the vista or panorama that is special to you. Mark where the viewer stands with a circle, and use the arrows to indicate the direction and extent of the view.



Supplies

- Maps of park or trail
- Inventory Response Sheets
- Red & Blue Pens
- Clip Boards

Strengths

- Provides a visual depiction of perceptions.
- Provides location of concerns and valued spaces instead of list of concerns (not enough shade).
- Can be done on-site or in a meeting setting.
- Quiet individuals may get an equal "voice".

Limitations

- People might struggle identifying places on the map or using map space proportionately.
- Non users may not have as much to contribute or may not be able to express their constraints/concerns as well.
- Mapping skills are not required but some constituents can feel overwhelmed or under qualified.
- You will need a plan for responding to negative perceptions.

Adaptions to Consider

- Can be captured on trail as well as parks
- Can look at park system, community, or individual parks
- Can combine with photographic data
- Can also look at connectivity or gateways to parks (or lack thereof)



Visualizing Change

Summary

Visualize prospective changes in landscape management techniques and brainstorm how various user groups and proximate residents will be impacted by the change.

Activity

Take a field trip to two parks or open spaces, one that is primarily manicured that will soon change and one that has already been managed using more natural techniques (they should fit the context of what will impact the constituents from which you are seeking input). Have participants keep brief lists/logs of what they see in each park.

Using their logs and large post it note pads or paper on walls, list the pros and cons they perceive between both management practices. Discuss these with the group. (It may help if you provide some reminder photos and maps of both sites).

Supplies

- Vans for field trips (unless in walking distance)
- Log sheets
- Clip Boards
- Pens
- Post it Pads or Paper large enough to hang on walls
- Markers

Strengths

- Creates dialog with citizens about proposed changes
- Identifies preferences and concerns related to potential changes
- Identifies possible changes in use/ experience
- Quiet individuals may get an equal “voice”

Limitations

- Change can be difficult for some
- Groups with opposing views may engage in heated discussions
- Some may struggle with ability to envision the actual changes in their parks

Adaptions to Consider

- Great tool to use when maps or plans are available for parks being updated or revitalized.
- Can also be used to look at changes in built features.
- Can be combined with mapping or identifying special places.



Adapted from Oh Say Can You See (Scenic America) and Planning Tool Exchange.

Copies available at <http://agriflife.org/urbanparks/home/educational-resources/select-presentations/>

Name of Place

Brief Description

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

16. _____

17. _____

18. _____

19. _____

20. _____

| Site One | Site Two |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| General Description | General Description |
| Pros | Pros |
| Cons | Cons |

Picture

Brief Description

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

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