

Neighborhood MAPPING

If you have not yet determined *where* your missional community development work will take place, please visit epicenter.org/missional and download the [Congregation Mapping .pdf](#) to help you make this determination.

After you have determined who you already know and what you hope to learn about the community it's time to prioritize two tasks: information meetings and neighborhood mapping. Details on information meetings can be found at epicenter.org/missional. This sheet is designed to guiding you towards collecting information about the community by listening to God, observing the neighborhood and continue meetings with individuals you meet. Always go in groups of two to three. As you pay attention to the community, consider answering questions such:

- What do you notice about the physical environment?
- What do you notice about the social environment?
- What do you notice about the individuals you know, meet or observe?

And don't forget: *What do you see God doing in the community?*

After you complete your prayer walks and mapping it is important to determine how will collect data and who will be responsible for this. Its helpful to designate one person to collect the information and manage the progress. This may be someone passionate about this effort yet unavailable to participate in prayer walks or mapping due to schedule or physical limitation.

When you have completed the mapping effort, debrief together, determine:

- With whom you will be inviting to build missional community?
- Where you will be gathering on a regular basis?
- How you will work together with neighbors for the goodwill of the broader community?

CREATING A MAP

Creating a map is helpful for tracking your progress. Decide on the size of paper you want to work with. It's easier to draw with markers on flip chart size newsprint, which you would then photograph and post. Alternatively, you could use smaller markers to work on an 8.5 X11" sheet of plain paper, which you would then scan into a PDF format and upload. Mark your map to clarify which blocks or parts of the community you have already assessed and those you still need to.

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COLLECTING INFORMATION

Observers: _____

Weather: _____ Temperature: _____

City: _____ Neighborhood: _____

Day/Date/Time: _____

<u>What to bring:</u>	
camera	survey form
water	clipboard
cell phone	pens/pencils

<p>Neighborhood Boundaries</p> <p>What are the boundaries of the neighborhood? Are there commercial streets or areas? Does the neighborhood have an identity, a name visible?</p>	
<p>Housing</p> <p>What is the age of the houses, type of architecture, construction material of houses? How many stories? Are there single, multifamily dwellings, mobile homes? Do houses have space/lawns around them? Are they well groomed? What is the general condition of the houses? Are there signs of disrepair (broken doors, windows, railings?) Are there cars in the driveway? Does it appear everyone is at work? Are there vacant houses, boarded up or dilapidated buildings? Are there many houses for sale? Are there streetlights, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, open drainage ditches?</p>	
<p>Open Spaces</p> <p>How much open space is there? Are there parks and recreational areas in the neighborhood? Are they lighted? Is the open space public or private? Who uses it? Is there trash, rubble, or abandoned cars in the open spaces?</p>	
<p>Shopping Areas</p> <p>What types of stores are in the area (shopping centers, neighborhood stores, grocery stores, drug stores, laundries, etc.)? How are these resources distributed in the area? Are they spread throughout? Are there ethnic stores, ones that display other than English language? Do signs advertise tobacco, alcohol?</p>	
<p>Schools</p> <p>Are there schools in the neighborhood? Public or private? Play areas, sports fields connected to the schools? Is graffiti evident in the schools? Are school grounds appear well-kept? School bus stops or crossing guards?</p>	

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<p>Religion</p> <p>What churches do you see? Who uses the churches? Do you see evidence of their use for other than purely religious purposes?</p>	
<p>Human Services</p> <p>Where are hospitals and health services located in relation to the neighborhood? Are there physician offices, health clinics or centers, dentist offices? Are there alternative medicine centers (acupuncture, massage, etc.)? Are spiritualists advertised? Are social agencies (welfare, WIC, social services) available? Are there senior centers and child care facilities?</p>	
<p>Transportation</p> <p>How do people get in and out of the neighborhood (car, bus, train, bike, walk)? Are the streets and roads conducive to good transportation and to community life? Are the streets in good condition? Are they paved? Gravel? Brick? Dirt? Are formal bus stops or public transportation signs visible? Is public transportation available? If so, how frequently? Is this a high-traffic area? Are speed limit signs or speed zones posted? Is there a major highway near the neighborhood? Whom does it serve?</p>	
<p>Protective Services</p> <p>What evidence do you see of police, fire, and emergency services? Are there fire station houses, fire hydrants? Do houses have security systems? Is there evidence of Neighborhood Watch programs? Are there emergency shelters for neighborhood use (e.g., tornado shelters)?</p>	
<p>Neighborhood Life</p> <p>Whom do you see on the streets (women, men, mothers with children, teenagers, elderly)? What ethnic groups are part of the neighborhood? Bilingual signs? Are there informal gathering places/hangouts? What are they? For whom (teens, men, etc.)? Are there social clubs or cultural organizations? Is there evidence of interaction among neighbors? Is there evidence of homelessness? What animals do you see (stray dogs, watch dogs)? Are there parks or other recreational facilities in the neighborhood? Public or private?</p>	

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Additional notes