Using Photovoice to Tell a Story

Community residents use photos to explore environmental hazards in Atlanta's Proctor Creek Watershed

What did we want to know?

What factors do community residents believe affect environmental health and quality of life in the Proctor Creek Watershed?

What did we do?

Recruitment and Training of Watershed Researchers

Research ethics, photovoice ethics, and photography techniques

Data Collection

Community researchers took photos of environmental health concerns and assets of the watershed

Photo Selection, Analysis and Sharing

Each researcher selected top 10 photos, analyzed and discussed using SHOWeD Framework (see side panel)

Data Analysis

Common themes identified and prioritized by the watershed researchers

SHOWeD Framework
(Wang, 1999)

S: What do you **See**?
H: What is **Happening**?
O: How does this affect **Our** lives?
W: **Why** are things this way?
e: How could this photo **Educate** people?
D: What can we **Do** about it?

What did we find?

4 major themes emerged

Threats to the natural environment

"This photo shows me what little respect people that don't live here have for our community...outsiders that feel that they can just dump their trash here and drive away."

Built environment stressors that influence health
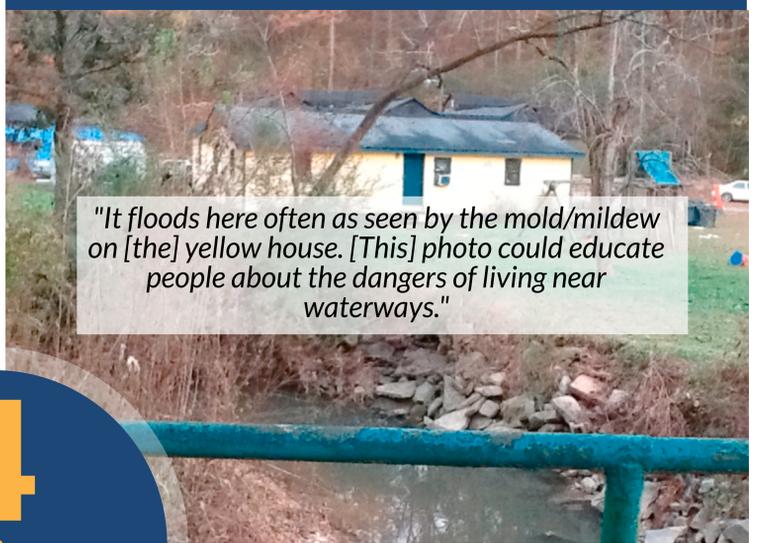
"It floods here often as seen by the mold/mildew on [the] yellow house. [This] photo could educate people about the dangers of living near waterways."

### Neglect and divestment of public resources

"Our community's historical houses that sits on Proctor Creek [are] deteriorating from mold, mildew, and asbestos. They are not trying to save the historical value, rather they want to tear down and gentrify."

Hope for the future of the watershed
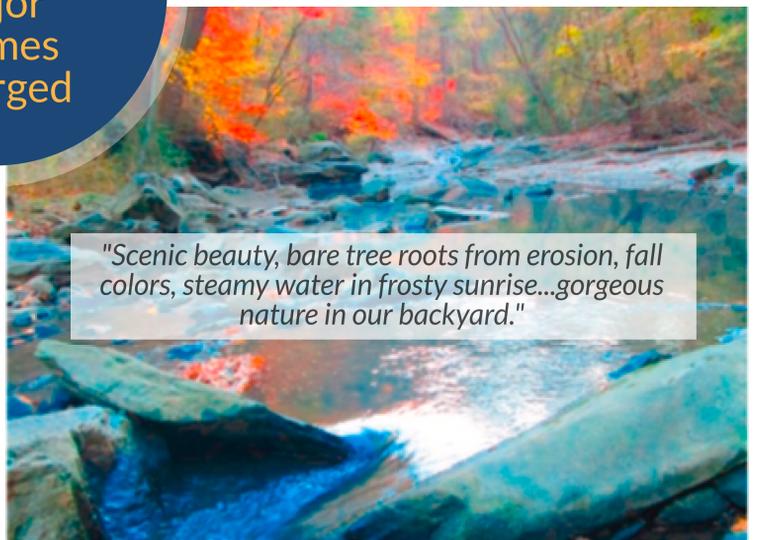
"Scenic beauty, bare tree roots from erosion, fall colors, steamy water in frosty sunrise...gorgeous nature in our backyard."

What does this mean for you?

Photovoice can be a useful tool for communities to share their local knowledge and identify areas of interest, problems, and possible solutions that benefit the community.

If you would like more information:

Photovoice Worldwide: https://rb.gy/chp2it

EPA Story Mapping Resources: https://www.epa.gov/web-policies-and-procedures/web-standard-storymaps

HERCULES
EXPOSOME RESEARCH CENTER

@EmoryHERCULES   @EmoryHERCULEScenter   elebows@emory.edu   http://emoryhercules.com/