Hot By Design: Neighborhood Mapping

Map Key:
- Industrial Facility
- Scrap Yard
- School
- Recreation Center
- Supermarket
- Green Space
- Streets
Hot by Design: Neighborhood Mapping Exercise

This mapping activity is designed to show us how our environments can impact our everyday lives. Elements in our built environments, like street lights, buildings, parks, community centers, and benches can impact our sense of safety and connection to our neighbors. Elements in our built environments can also make existing health issues worse, cause new health issues, and increase indoor and outdoor temperatures in our neighborhoods.

The following is a simplified map of the Hunting Park neighborhood in Philadelphia, the site of the first Beat the Heat project. The black lines represent streets. Where 2 or more streets intersect, assume that those are areas high in car and truck traffic. The green shaded areas represent green space like parks and playing fields.

Materials:

- Scissors
- Pen or pencil
- Red, blue, and green coloring pencil

Instructions:

1. Cut out the multi-colored squares
2. Place a star where you would like to live on the map
3. As a group, use the colorful squares to map the following:
   - industrial facilities (purple)
   - scrapyard / waste dump (yellow)
   - schools (orange)
   - recreation center (pink)
   - supermarket (blue)
4. Use the color blue to circle all the cool / shady areas on the map
5. Use the color red to circle all the hotter areas on the map

Debrief:

1. How did your group decide on the placement of the colorful squares?
2. How did your group determine the hottest parts of the map?
3. How did your group determine the coolest parts of the map?
4. What could be added to the map to make this neighborhood cooler?
5. Are there areas of high heat in your community?
6. Who might be most vulnerable to extreme heat in your community?