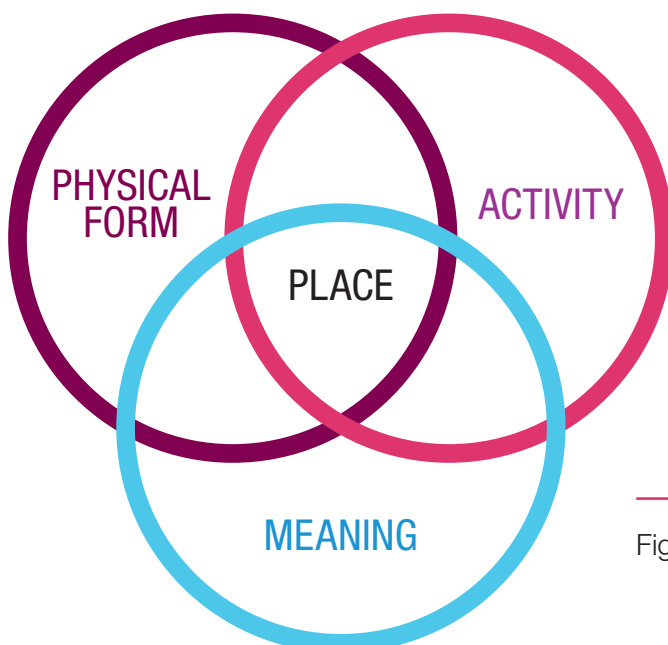




FACT SHEET 6 PLACE

The concept of place in an urban planning setting reflects the physical environment and the psychological impact it has on the people within the space. The physical form of the space, what activities take place and how the space is used, as well as the meaning that people attach to the space, all help to determine an area's sense of place and its place value (Figure 1).



Land use zoning can be used to indicate the physical form and activity components of place context. State and local governments share responsibility for land use zoning, depending on the region and scale of development being undertaken.

It is crucial that people's feelings and attitudes towards an area are also taken into consideration when contemplating an area's place. While this component is harder to measure, observation, interviews and other documents such as community plans can be used to get an indication. It is important that this aspect of place is assessed to ensure that how a place is functioning aligns to how it is intended to function.

Figure 1: Components of Place (Montgomery, 1998)