We were young once, too
Lessons learned that still matter
Think back to when you were a teenager

Think of a place that was important to you

Think of what this place looked like

Think of what you did when you were at this place

Think about who was at the place with you

Think about what made this place important to you
Without talking to anyone, draw a picture to represent this place

Don’t worry about accuracy or artistic quality
Once everyone is finished, go around the table and share your places.
Do this one more time for another place you remember from your teen years.
As a group, create a list of the characteristics that everyone remembered about their places

What were the important physical characteristics?

What were the important activities?

What were the important social characteristics?

What were the important psychological characteristics?
What are the lessons we can take away from our own experiences?

Important physical characteristics (responses generated by participants)

Outdoors
Wild
Natural
Structured
Unstructured
Isolated
Secret/hidden
Seclusion
Hang out spots
Not defined areas (non-purposely designed)

Places where you weren’t noticed
Fires
Physically away from home
Away from adults
Prospect refuge (where you could look out, but not be seen)
Large space
Elevation
What are the lessons we can take away from our own experiences?

Important activities (responses generated by participants)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent mobility</th>
<th>Fires</th>
<th>industrial waste</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private time</td>
<td>Drinking</td>
<td>Self defined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecting with outdoors</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Autonomous play</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pushing boundaries</td>
<td>The journey (walking train tracks, ravine, between houses, bike trips)</td>
<td>Shenanigans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Being rebellious</td>
<td>Pool</td>
<td>Imagination</td>
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<tr>
<td>At your pace</td>
<td>Camp</td>
<td>Dancing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drinking</td>
<td>Hanging out with friends</td>
<td>Creating cultural identities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>Socializing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gummy bear throwing</td>
<td>“adult” activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active/sport/recreational experiences</td>
<td>Some have play structures/some</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What are the lessons we can take away from our own experiences?

Important social characteristics (responses generated by participants)

Negotiating/agreeing (activity, place, rules)
Someone special
Some solitary
Practicing being an adult without judgment
With other people
Multi-aged in some places; same age in others
No parents or adults

Always with a friend or other peers
Gathering
Public space (even if it’s privately owned)
A kind of territory
Unstructured
Discrete age range
Organized by youth, for youth
What are the lessons we can take away from our own experiences?

Important psychological characteristics (responses generated by participants)

Safe
Safety as a group
Put things in order
Reflective
Self development
Confidence
Brave
Independence from adults
Risky activity
Testing limits
Positive memories

Express yourself and develop identity
Special places
Peaceful/calming
Fun/joy
Closeness/sisterhood
Insecurity – wanting to belong
Be yourself
Self-defined (activities, rules, autonomy)