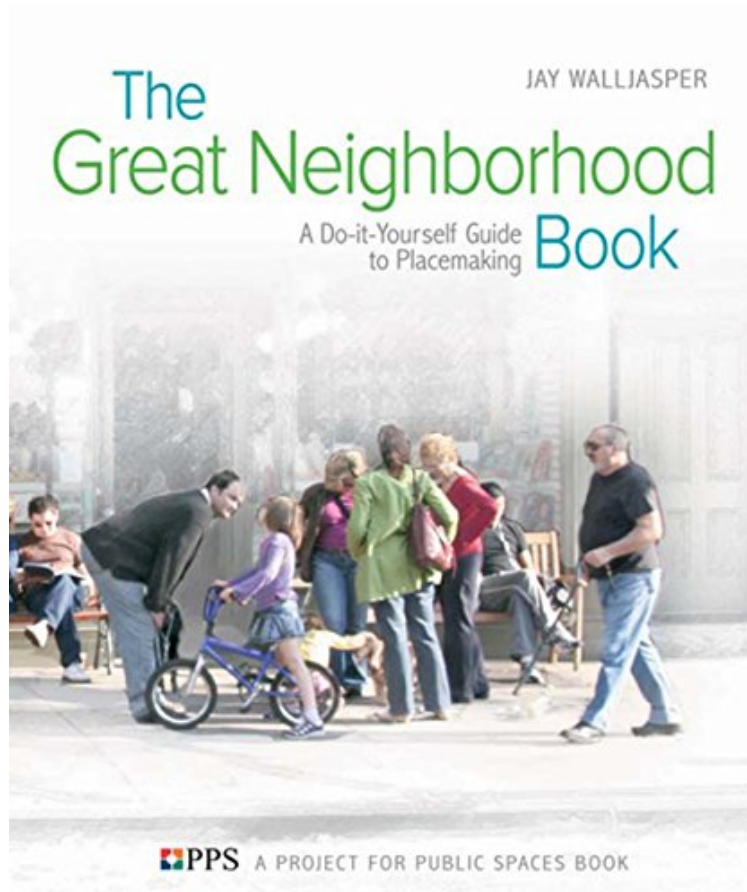


# The Great Neighborhood Book: A Do-it-Yourself Guide to Placemaking

Jay Walljasper

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**Jay Walljasper : The Great Neighborhood Book: A Do-it-Yourself Guide to Placemaking** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Neighborhood Book: A Do-it-Yourself Guide to Placemaking:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not too much energy went into writing this book By M. Heiss The Great Neighborhood Book has good ideas, but it seems like very little effort went into making it readable, eliminating redundancies, or expanding the case studies. It reads like a power point lecture from a library seminar. A few bullet points, a few paragraphs, a source citation, and that's all you get. It keeps pounding away on urban, urban, urban, as though all readers live in the same type of neighborhood. And the book is decidedly anti-car and snobby about people's choices for where to live. If people choose to live in suburbs, why should an author call that "sprawl?" Plenty of great neighborhoods in rural and suburban areas, too. I believe that sprawl is natural, cyclical, and good. Some ideas that I have participated in for making neighborhoods great were not included in the ideas, but the book works to get creative ideas flowing, so I will add some great, workable ideas of my own here: + Meet the bus: even if you don't have kids in school, meet the school bus in your neighborhood on Friday afternoons and welcome kids home by name. + Doggie

fashion show+ Bike parade where children decorate their bikes and awards are given+ Teen to tot read-along+ Preparedness classes+ Broadway musical sing along movie nights (or Disney musicals) - project the movie on a blank wall and set up seating+ Saturday morning walks: like a Volksmarch in Germany, set up a 10k route with a refreshment station midway and a cookout or sandwich share at the end. Provide booklets for completion stamps and a neighborhood shirt. The book does not much mention the benefits of: undoing zoning restrictions and historical site designations to free up entrepreneurialism+ the importance of private spaces (backyards) and cul-de-sacs for outdoor gatherings and play+ the idea to co-op purchase big items as a group: firewood, mulch, patio furniture, paper goods. Have them delivered and distribute to participating neighbors+ fruit and vegetable co-ops like Bountiful Baskets+ the benefits of homeschooling to reintroduce absent children into daytime activities and promote mentoring across generations+ neighborhood disaster preparedness: when to shelter in place, when to evacuate, who has needed skills, cooperative survival.+ rapid evacuation routes - the requirement for much wider freeways to assist in quick escapes+ bright bright lighting, and sidewalk level lighting, to reduce crime and stumbles+ installation of sidewalk trashcans for litter - with regular city pickups scheduled

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great idea book  
By P. Dang  
Great book, informative and inspires you to improve your neighbourhood by doing small actions. I highly recommend it if you want to do your part in making your community a better place.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars  
By elizabeth  
Needed for a course I'm taking and is easy to read

Abandoned lots and litter-strewn pathways, or rows of green beans and pockets of wildflowers? Graffiti-marked walls and desolate bus stops, or shady refuges and comfortable seating? What transforms a dingy, inhospitable area into a dynamic gathering place? How do individuals take back their neighborhood? Neighborhoods decline when the people who live there lose their connection and no longer feel part of their community. Recapturing that sense of belonging and pride of place can be as simple as planting a civic garden or placing some benches in a park. The Great Neighborhood Book explains how most struggling communities can be revived, not by vast infusions of cash, not by government, but by the people who live there. The author addresses such challenges as traffic control, crime, comfort and safety, and developing economic vitality. Using a technique called "placemaking"—the process of transforming public space—this exciting guide offers inspiring real-life examples that show the magic that happens when individuals take small steps and motivate others to make change. This book will motivate not only neighborhood activists and concerned citizens but also urban planners, developers, and policymakers. Jay Walljasper is a senior fellow of Project for Public Spaces (PPS), whose mission is to create and sustain enriching public places that build communities. He is a former editor of The Utne Reader and currently executive editor of Ode magazine. Inspired by European cities, The Great Neighborhood Book highlights practical solutions for the revitalization of North American cities.