URBAGING
age-friendly public space

MANAGEMENT

Governance
The city for the elderly is a city for everyone.
Considering the diversity of needs of older people benefits several other groups (children, young people, families, workers, entrepreneurs, ...).
A renewed governance improves the quality of life and prevents ghettos and exclusions.

Partecipation
The city for the elderly is built with the elderly.
Elders actively take part in the definition of priorities and projects.
"Being old" is very loosely defined, and implies a multiplicity of conditions; by keenly involving the elderly we avoid using stereotypes and simplifications.

Trasversality
Coordinated small-scale interventions give coherence to public action.
The performers of urban management (construction, planning, services) consider the needs of older people in the application of sectoral policies (health services, public vegetation management, public transport, construction, ...).
The quality of life of the elders results from the combination of personal circumstances, public policies, and private enterprise.

CONTEXT

Accessibility
The different parts of the city are easily accessible by means of public transport and safe pedestrian ways.
The accessibility of public spaces results from the absence of architectural barriers and the presence of facilitated pedestrian crossings.
The construction or renovation of public spaces, buildings or roads must consider the needs of people with reduced mobility (pavements, slopes, ramps, signs for the visually impaired, flooring, handrails, pedestrian crossings, obstacles, ...).
Clear information allows people with reduced mobility to confront foreseeable difficulties by means of their own resources or the aid of other people (family, volunteers, public agencies, ...).

Connectivity
A good connectivity between public spaces can add value to the individual units of the urban system.
A dense and valuable network of routes promotes pedestrian mobility and leisure.
Routes are attractive if they are safe and spotted with clean and pleasant spaces (benches, water, vegetation, shadow, ...) suitable for a break or a meeting.

Intensity
The desirable intensity of a public space depends on the diversity of its functions and from its position in the urban context.
The intensity degree of use of a public space can be stimulated according to its characteristics (context, type, ...).
In a virtuous circle, the intense use of space motivates further attendance.

SPACE QUALITY

Conviviality
Places that encourage meeting and socialization become attractive and encourage people of all ages to attend them.
A friendly space presents high security conditions.

Flexibility
Public spaces and their furnishing are designed to allow the organization of temporary events (markets, concerts, shows).

Security
The perceived sense of security in an area depends on structural conditions (promiscuity among means of transport, cars or bicycles, dark and narrow alleys, hidden corners, safe pedestrian crossings, ...), on the individual experience (perceived number of criminal acts) and on the presence of preventive measures (video surveillance, patrols, objective information, ...).

Comfort
Adequate furnishing of a public spaces permits its appropriate, safe, and pleasant use.
The number and quality of benches needs to be sufficient and their exposure must consider weather variations (sun, wind, ...) and their context.
The organization of public space considers the impact of environmental pollution (noise, air quality).
The presence of drinking water is encouraged, along with the possibility of using it for playing games.
Toilets of quality and free of charge are available.

www.urbaging.ch