

Which types of user groups can be expected to use the public spaces ?

- |  |   |    |                           |   |
|--|---|----|---------------------------|---|
|  |  | 1. | The every day users:      | People that live and work in the area or walk through.  |
|  |  | 2. | The visitors/customers:   | People that visit the functions in the area.  |
|  |  | 3. | The recreational visitors | People that visit the area because the public space is delightful or use the public space for recreation, pleasure, exercise, play etc. |
|  |  | 4. | The visitors to events:   | People that visit the public space because of special events.   |

## The good public space

The key to establishing lively and safe public spaces is pedestrian traffic and pedestrian activities.

The arrival into the public space will - in different combinations - happen via five forms of "traffic" - people will arrive on foot, by car, by train, by bus or on bicycles. Eventually everybody will be pedestrians leaving their mode of transport behind and entering the public spaces experiencing the surroundings at a slow walking speed and at eye level.

The movement in good public spaces will primarily be dominated by walking, cycling and limited vehicular traffic. How the traffic will be distributed depends on the quality of the public spaces.

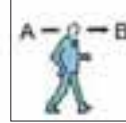



If good conditions are provided for pedestrians more people will walk and many recreational and interesting activities will be generated.

A public space of high quality will always be recognized by people opting to interrupt their walk or daily activities in order to rest, enjoy the city, the public spaces and be together with other people.

If on the other hand vehicular traffic is too dominant the public spaces will neither be exciting for people nor lively. Worldwide examples show how public spaces with unfortunate compromises for pedestrians result in unattractive and deserted public spaces.

Good conditions for walking and for life on foot, along with a possibility for stationary activities, for pauses and experiences are the key to attractive and lively public spaces.

What kind of activities can be expected in the public spaces ?

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|  | A | Daily necessary activity:<br>To walk to and from or walk through |
|  | B | Daily recreational activity:<br>Breaks and pauses                |
|  | C | Recreational activity:<br>Recreation and play                    |
|  | D | Planned activity:<br>To be spectator/participant                 |

## Focus

When planning public spaces the most important group are those people who visit the area because the public spaces are delightful and who use the public space for recreation, pleasure, exercise and play.

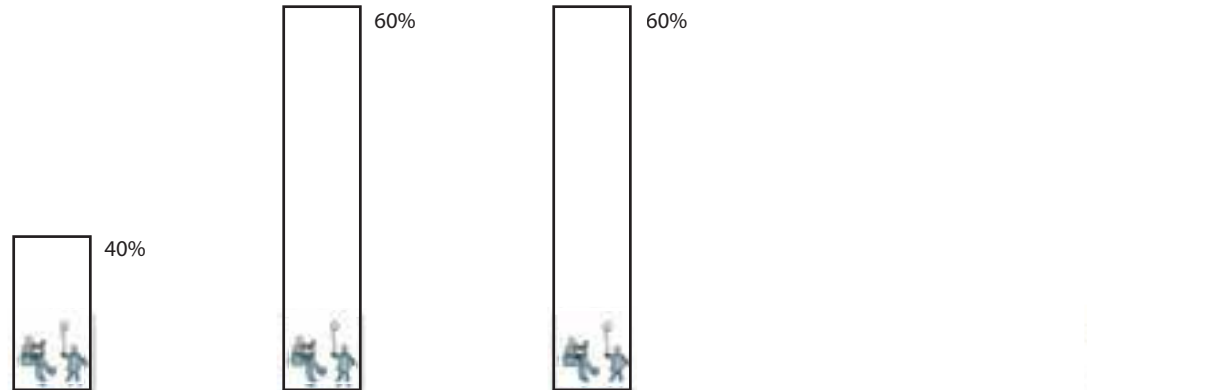
To ensure that public spaces are lively and popular this group of people must be provided with good conditions. This means that the public spaces must be highly attractive. Within this user group the focus can be on children, teenagers, adults or the elderly and the public spaces can be designed to meet the different needs of different groups.

**Visits to events**  
 - depend on the size  
 and character of the  
 planned event

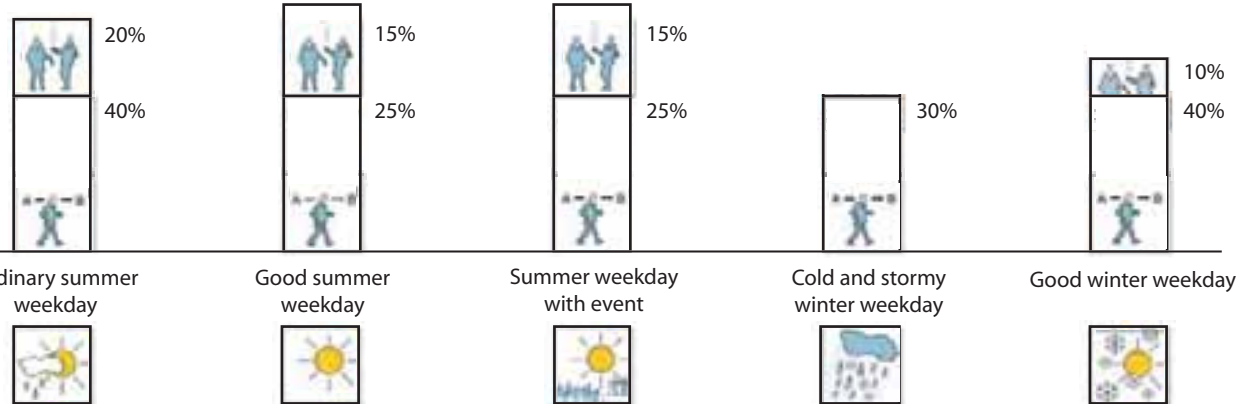


Depending on the character of the event, the number of people can vary between hundreds to thousands of participants.

**Optional activities**  
 - extent and character depend on the quality and design of the public space



**Necessary and predictable activities**



Ordinary summer weekday

Good summer weekday

Summer weekday with event

Cold and stormy winter weekday

Good winter weekday



City life barometer

The city life barometer illustrates the relationship between climate and various activities. The optional activities are the most sensitive to poor climate and low urban quality.