PEOPLE & PUBLIC SPACES

Study for the City of Munich

Usage Patterns of Public Spaces in Munich

Summary

Gehl
WEEBER+PARTNER

Gehl   WEEBER+PARTNER

Contents

Foreword

Since the publication of my first book, Life Between Buildings, in 1971, I have spent my professional life trying to understand how people use public spaces and how public spaces can help improve the quality of life in cities. I am pleased to see that these issues remain a top priority in a vibrant, historic and important city like Munich.

Cities that put people first in their urban planning practices- cities that place a high priority on public life, sustainable mobility, local community, and social health - are simultaneously addressing a number of important and complex challenges of the 21st century.

This study forms the basis for a "people-first" approach in Munich. By analyzing usage patterns and creating ten user profiles, people are placed first in the planning process and an important component of the city's overall strategic framework is added.

My suggestion for Munich is to have the courage now to implement this analysis on the ground. Respond to what we have learned from the usage patterns and develop local solutions. Continuously analyze and measure at different levels how people use the city, and continue to test and promote improvements in public spaces. Some initiatives will fail. But if people are kept at the heart of planning, Munich will succeed in remaining a livable city.

Jan Gehl, Copenhagen 2023

Jan Gehl, Photo: Ashley Bristowe
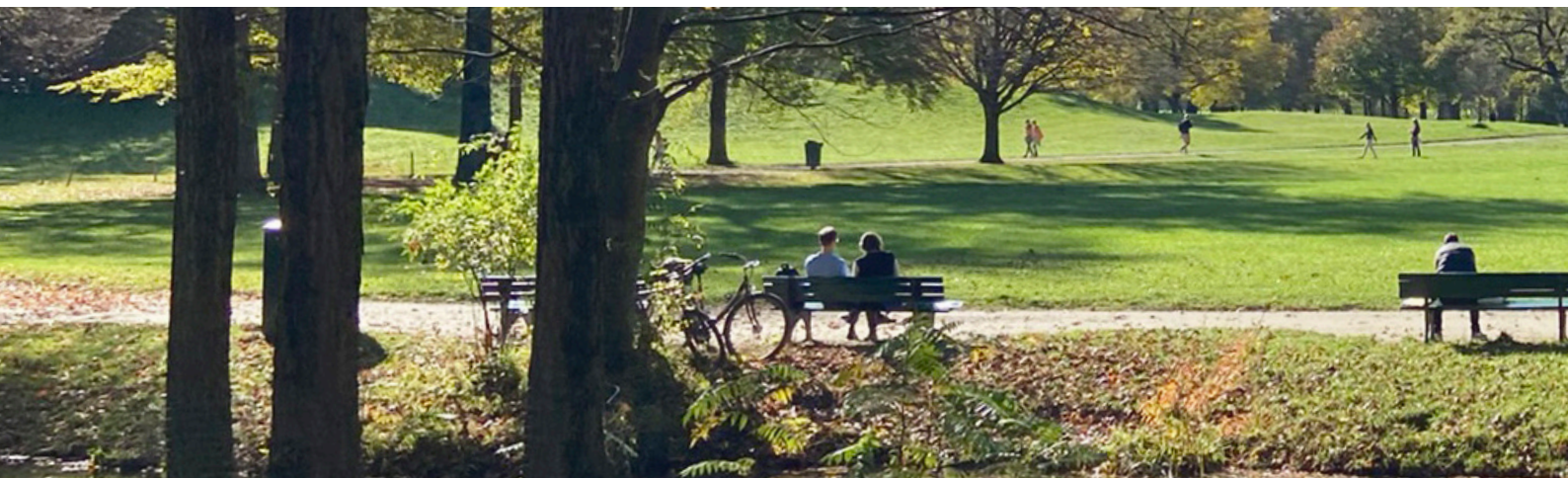
Prologue

Whether the Isar, English Garden, Olympic Park or Marienplatz - Munich is characterized by a great variety of public spaces. The green belt around the city, regional landscape parks, green corridors, lakes, river and canal areas as well as large and small parks form a network of public spaces. These are complemented in individual neighborhoods by squares, street spaces, and private open spaces in close proximity to where people live. Public spaces are essential for the quality of life and good coexistence in Munich.

But how and by whom will Munich's public spaces be used now and in the future? What demands and needs do people have in these spaces? What are the current favorite places of Munich residents? Which user groups and user profiles exist? Gehl wants to get to the bottom of these and other questions with this socio-spatial study on behalf of the City of Munich. This document is the shortened version of a 170-page final report.

Why does Munich need this study?

Today, Munich is already the most densely populated city in Germany, with about 1.5 million inhabitants living in an area of about 310 km². By 2040, the population will increase to about 1.85 million (LHM 2021a). Munich is growing in all age groups, becoming more international and more diverse. Social and demographic change, current fashions and trends, immigration, and technological innovations modify user interests, usage patterns, and change the meaning of public spaces. The changed framework conditions require that public spaces and open spaces remain accessible, usable and livable for all generations and user groups.

In order to maintain a livable and attractive city with diverse public spaces for residents and users, precautions must be taken now. The city and the planning of its sustainable development face enormous challenges in the coming years. These include adaptation to a changing climate, rising population numbers, housing and commercial space shortages, rising living costs, diminishing land resources, and increasing social and political polarization. This development can currently be observed in many cities in Germany and around the world.

Barcelona has shown with its Superblock concept how streets and squares can become attractive public spaces when car traffic is restricted. In Paris, work is currently underway to turn the Seine into an accessible public space and even allow swimming. And in New York City, the famous 5th Avenue was recently redesigned to turn narrow sidewalks into valuable public spaces with a high quality of stay.

This socio-spatial study on usage patterns of accessible public spaces in Munich is a key project of the conceptual report "Freiraum München 2030" (Munich Public Space 2030) and is intended to make an important contribution from the perspective of users within the framework of a strategy for long-term public space development in Munich. On the one hand, the concept shows the needs, priorities, activities and conflicts of the users that already prevail in the accessible public spaces; on the other hand, solution attempts and recommended actions for the development and improvement of the usage patterns are given.

The present study on usage patterns is a key project of the conceptual report Freiraum München 2030

1. Methodology

In the context of this study, usage patterns are defined as behavioral patterns of people in public spaces and are differentiated in terms of frequency, type (activity performed) and location of use. In order to shed light on usage patterns in accessible public spaces from different levels of observation, a comprehensive method mix with qualitative elements (observations, on-site interviews, thematic walks and in-depth group interviews) and quantitative elements (standardized surveys in selected neighborhoods) was applied. The different methods are briefly presented on this double page spread. A detailed description of the different methods can be found in the appendix of the downloadable version of this study.
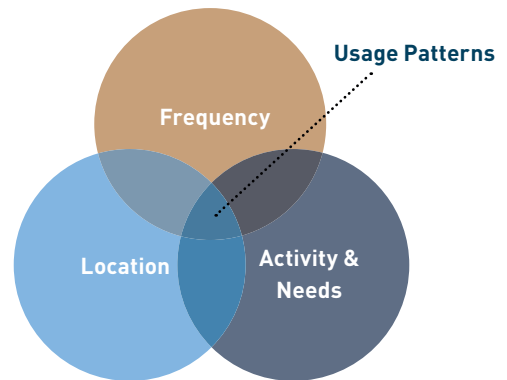
Graphic 01: Visualizing the concept of usage patterns

Qualitative Analysis

Observations

A total of 1,167 observation forms were completed at 102 observation sites in 38 different public spaces. Observations were made over the course of just under a year - between July 2019 and June 2020 - and were conducted over the course of all days of the week and at different times of the day and year.

On-site Interviews

From summer 2019 to summer 2020, 1,200 on-site interviews took place. People who were in 38 selected public spaces were interviewed about their usage patterns, requirements and needs. Of the 1,200 total interviews, 900 were conducted from July 2019 to March 2020, prior to the Covid 19 pandemic. 300 interviews were supplemented with Covid-19-related questions beginning in May 2020 to determine any change in public space use due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Group Interviews and Walks

There are certain groups whose perspectives could not be captured by the quantitative surveys, namely minorities, underprivileged groups, and groups not reached by surveys because, for example, they have no official residence or spend little time in public spaces. The perspectives of these groups were integrated into the study through group interviews and city walks between summer 2019 and July 2022.

1,167
Observations

1,200
On-site-Interviews
of which 900 conducted before and 300 conducted during the Covid-19 pandemic

9 Walks and
7 Group Interviews

Topics of the Group Interviews

- " Connectivity, accessibility, mobility of people with and without disabilities"
- "Seasonal flexibility, public space and seasons in the context of fashion."
- "(Lack of) Safety from a diversity point of view"
- "Density, Heterogeneity, Tolerance."
- "Ambiguities"
- "Homelessness - the city as a home".
- "Climate and Gender Perspectives."

Spatial Context

17 Study Areas in

6 Neighborhood Types

10 Public Space Types

9 Public Space Density Types

102 Observation Sites in
38 Public Spaces

People First

10 user profiles

Quantitative Analysis

2,954
Resident Survey
with citywide and residential area maps
(14 Years and up)

including 324 answered questionnaires
in a special survey for people with
physical and sensory disabilities
(GdB* from age 50 ; 18 - 75 Years)

* The degree of disability (GdB) is an assessment that
determines the severity of a disability from both medical
and social perspective (social factors that may limit
their social integration). The GdB degree is expressed in
percentages.

Resident Survey

The more qualitative methods of interviews, observations and walks were supplemented by an extensive quantitative resident survey. For the survey, 17,208 people aged 14 and older with their main residence in one of the 17 study areas were randomly drawn from the population register and asked by mail to participate in the online survey. The online survey was offered in eight languages (German, English, French, Italian, Croatian, Polish, Turkish, Greek). Respondents aged 65 and over were additionally given the opportunity to participate in writing. This sample, referred to below as the main sample, was supplemented by a sub-sample in order to better examine the perspective of people with severe disabilities.

For the sub-draw (full survey of 2,437 people), all people from the 17 study areas with an officially recorded disability were contacted, provided they had one of the selected impairments (physical and sensory disabilities) and were from the 18-75 age group. However, the main sample also includes people with impairments if they do not meet the criteria (type and degree of disability, age) or if the degree has not been officially determined.

The results of the resident survey are primarily representative of the study areas. A generalization is made in terms of the transferability of the results of the individual neighborhood types to neighborhoods of the same type. When the analysis refers to 'the people of Munich', it means the respondents. The goal of the study is also less to make general statements about how often, for example, all Munich residents use the parks, but rather to determine differences and patterns between different socio-demographic groups, neighborhood types and public space types.

Who Participated in the Surveys?

Resident Survey (Main Sample n = 2,632)

Gender

Women
49 %
1.290 People

Men
48 %
1.252 People

Other
0,001 %
3 People

Not specified
3 %
87 People

Nationality

3 % Dual

15 % Other

82 % German

Size of Household

3 % 5 People

1 % 6 People

13 % 4 People

23 % 1 Person

15 % 3 People

43 % 2 People

Age

100 Years

Women   **Men**

24 % 65 +

38 % 40 - 64

27 % 25 - 39

7 % 18 - 24

4 % 14 - 17

Education*

2 % Other degree

8 % Secondary School - Stream 1 (Volks- / Haupt- / Mittel-schulabschluss)

16 % Secondary School - Stream 2 (Mittlere Reife, Realschulabschluss, Fachschulreife, Polytechnische Oberschule)

1 % No degree

3 % Currently still Pursuing education

70 % Secondary School - Stream 3 (Abitur, Hochschulreife, Fachhochschul-reife, Fachabitur, erweiterte Oberschule)

*The differentiated Bavarian school system: At the end of primary school, pupils transfer to a secondary school. The different types of secondary schools can be classified into three streams, Mittelschule, Realschule and Gymnasium.

Response Over Time (Main and Sub-sample)

Dispatch reminder card

Response: 2.956 (Response rate: 13 %)
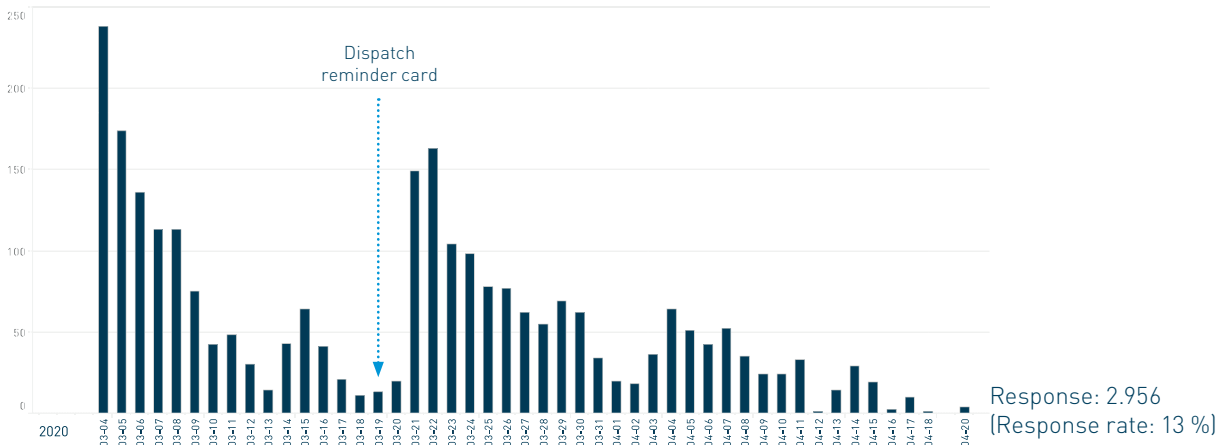
Resident Survey with a Focus on Disabilities (Sub-sample n = 324)

Age

2 %
18 – 24

9 %
25 – 39

32 %
40 – 64

57 %
65 +
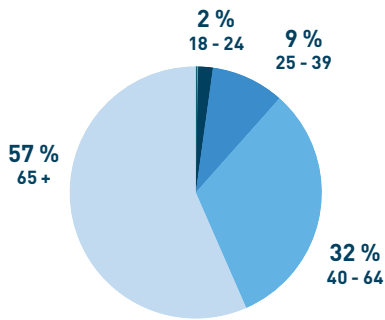
Type of Severe Disability
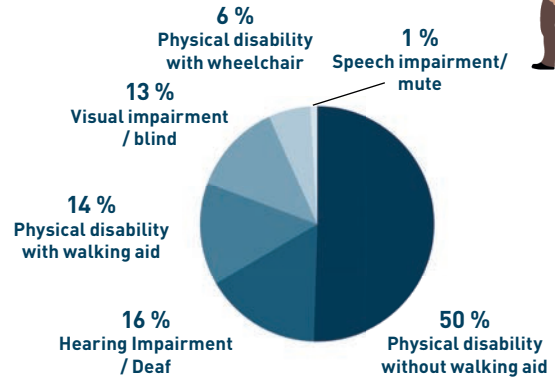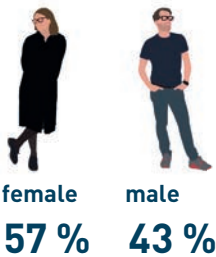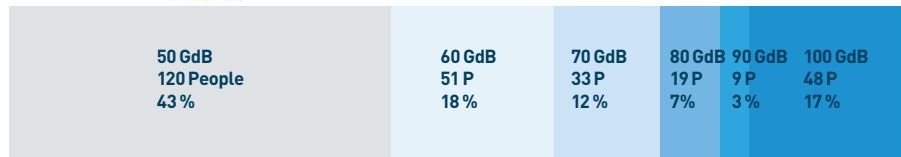
6 %
Physical disability
with wheelchair

1 %
Speech impairment/
mute

13 %
Visual impairment
/ blind

14 %
Physical disability
with walking aid

16 %
Hearing Impairment
/ Deaf

50 %
Physical disability
without walking aid

Gender

female **male**
57 % **43 %**

Degree of Disability(GdB)

| 50 GdB 120 People 43 % | 60 GdB 51 P 18 % | 70 GdB 33 P 12 % | 80 GdB 19 P 7 % | 90 GdB 9 P 3 % | 100 GdB 48 P 17 % |

* The degree of disability (GdB) is an assessment
that determines the severity of a disability from both
medical and social perspective (social factors that
may limit their social integration). It is expressed in
percentages.

On-site-Interviews (n = 1,200)

Gender

female **male**
51 % **49 %**
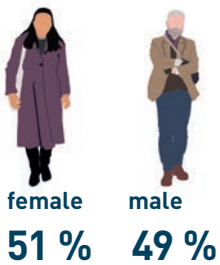
Second Generation Immigrants

13 %
Yes

87 %
No

Age

13 %
65 +

9 %
10 – 17

16 %
18 – 24

27 %
40 – 64

35 %
25 – 39
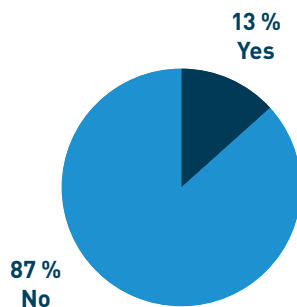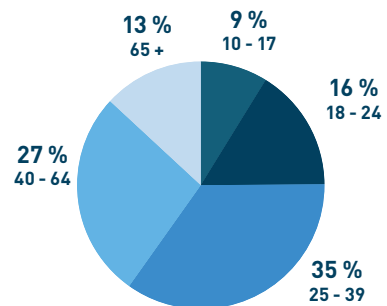
Spatial Context of the Study

The study is based on the idea of forming exemplary types of residential neighborhoods and public spaces which characteristics can be transferred to other spaces of the same type. In addition, differences in use between residential neighborhoods and types of public spaces can be shown in this way.

For the resident survey, 17 study areas were selected within Munich, each of which can be assigned to one of six neighborhood types. The evaluations of the resident survey are carried out on the basis of both the neighborhood types and the 17 study areas. In addition to the neighborhood types, 38 public spaces were selected for closer examination as part of the study. These public spaces can be assigned to nine so-called public space density types (see legend below). On the one hand, the 38 public spaces could be examined through the on-site interviews and observations; on the other hand, they were also the subject of the resident survey. There, the respondents were asked to evaluate specific public spaces in their living environment. In addition, individual public spaces and study areas were also examined as part of the nine walks.

Graphic 03: The study area

Legend

Public Space Density Types

- The Traffic Heavy Square
- The Central, Urban Square or Pedestrian Strip
- Pop-up spaces
- The Small Relaxed Park
- The Sports- and Movement Corridor with Play, Sport and Seating areas
- The (Green) Entrée of Public, Cultural or Commercial Amenities
- The Large Park by the River, Canal or Lake
- The Pole of Tranquility with Lively Edges
- Green Belt

Walks

- - - Routes of the Thematic Walks

Spatial Base

- Building Blocks
- Body of Water
- Green Areas

Neighborhood Types

Historic Cores
Altstadt, Maxvorstadt, Platzfolge Haidhausen, Solln Ensembles

Wilhelminian era areas (1870 - 1918)
Sendling, Schwabing-West

Settlements 1900 - 1960
Laim, Neuaubing

Large Housing Estates (1960 - 1989)
Neuperlach, Olympiadorf und Olympia-Pressestadt

Newly Built Areas from 1990
Messestadt Riem, Nordhaide

Young Quarters
Domagkpark mit Parkstadt, Schwabing, Arnulfpark

Single, Double and Row House Areas
Moosach-Neuhausen

Garden City Areas
Harlaching-Geiselgasteig, Fürstenried-Holzapfelkreuth

A People First Perspective

Gehl specializes in studying and working with urban public life. By taking this approach, Gehl is able to centralize the planning and design approach around a diverse group of users and perspectives. An important part of this process is working with user profiles.

Main Sample:
2.632

Sub-sample:
324

Unassigned People:
271

Total Sample:
2.956

Graphic 04: Proportions of user profiles in the total sample. The size of the circles shows the proportion of user profiles. Overlaps of profiles are shown by overlapping circles.

User Profiles

By creating user profiles based on various data sources, the reviewer and planning team was able to empathize with and understand the people behind the data.

For the study on usage patterns, user profiles offer the possibility to illustrate several user perspectives, to understand them and to differentiate the everyday life of Munich residents according to their life situation, life phase and other conditions. User profiles make it possible to focus on people's perspectives when identifying patterns of use of public spaces.

Eight profiles were defined from the main sample of the resident survey. Six profiles represent different phases of life and thus of use. These profiles are described using the variables age, occupation and leisure.
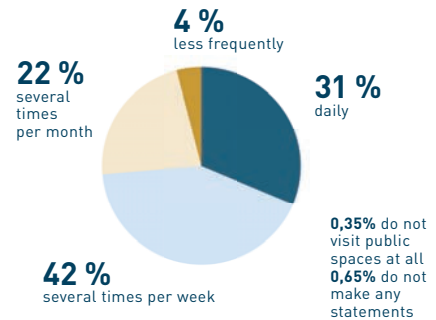
In addition, two special profiles were created, derived from the analyses of conflicts and needs: one for dog owners and one for people seeking peace and quiet. In addition to the eight user profiles from the main sample of the resident survey, two further user profiles for people with severe disabilities were defined on the basis of the sub-sample.

2. The Munich Portrait

How Often Do Munich Residents Use Green and Public Spaces?

The Munich Portrait is a city-wide portrayal using the collected Public Life data
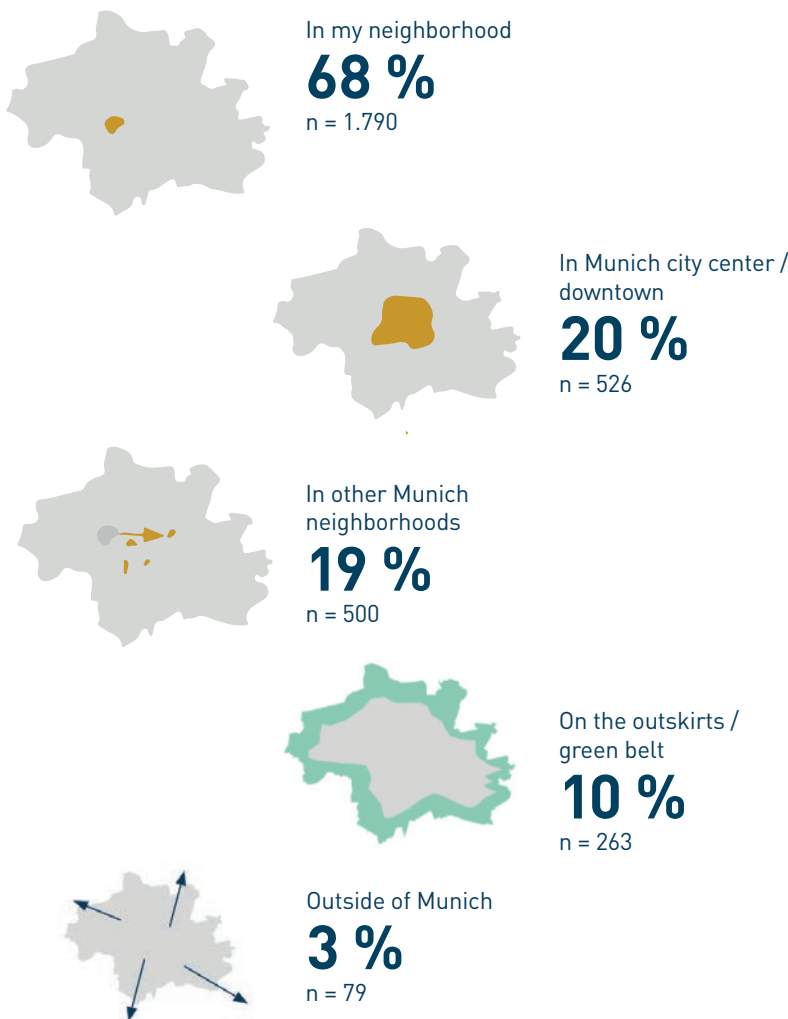
The frequency of use of green and public spaces is an essential component of usage patterns. It shows how often and where Munich residents (the respondents) visit green and public spaces. In the context of the resident survey, respondents were asked how often they had used public spaces in the last twelve months. Respondents were asked whether they used public spaces in their own neighborhood, in the city center, in other neighborhoods, on the outskirts of Munich, or outside Munich on a daily basis, several times a week, several times a month, less frequently, or not at all.

4 % less frequently

22 % several times per month

31 % daily

42 % several times per week

0,35% do not visit public spaces at all
0,65% do not make any statements

Graphic 05: Resident survey (main sample), question G1: On average, how often have you used public spaces in and around Munich in the last twelve months? n = 2.556 – 2.617

Frequency of Use of Various Public Spaces

(Share of use: daily and several times a week)

In my neighborhood
68 %
n = 1.790

In Munich city center / downtown
20 %
n = 526

In other Munich neighborhoods
19 %
n = 500

On the outskirts / green belt
10 %
n = 263

Outside of Munich
3 %
n = 79

Graphic 06: Resident survey (main sample), question G1: On average, how often did you use public spaces in and around Munich in the last twelve months? Cumulative responses: Daily and several times a week. n = 2.561 - 2.617 question G1.

Munich Residents Like to Stay in Their Own Neighborhoods

Here, green and public spaces are used most frequently (by 30% of respondents daily, by 38% several times a week). Public spaces in Munich's city center are used second most frequently (by 4 % daily, by 16 % several times a week). The public spaces on the outskirts of the city and in the green belt are not used at all by 18% of the respondents - the highest value of non-users.

Women Use Public Spaces More Frequently Than Men

In all age groups, women use the public spaces in their own neighborhood more often than men. In their own neighborhood, 34% of women and only 26% of men use the public spaces on a daily basis.

Older People Use Public Spaces Most Often in Their Own Neighborhoods

In the 65+ age group, the green and public spaces in one's own neighborhood are used most often compared to the other age groups. Over a third (34%) use the public spaces in their own neighborhood daily, and 39% of respondents use them several times a week. In comparison, in the 14-17 age group, only 18% of youths use the public spaces in their own neighborhood daily, and 32% use them several times a week.

Young Age Groups Take On Further Distances

Younger respondents are much more mobile and travel further distances to public spaces in other parts of the city. These are visited by 4% of young people (14 - 17 years) daily, by 11% several times a week and by 43% several times a month. In the 65+ age group, green spaces in other neighborhoods are never used on a daily basis, but was reported by 12% of the group several times per week, and by 29% several times per month.

Most Visited Destinations

One section within the resident survey had respondents pinpoint on a map their five most visited places within the previous year. In 1st place, 2,314 places were indicated, in 2nd place: 2,099, in 3rd place: 1,773. in 4th place: 751 and in 5th place: 619 places. On the map, the top five most visited places are shown as dots and below them as a heat map.

A total of 7,556 points are located on the map. This heat map illustrates very clearly where the hotspots of public space use are located in Munich. Places with a large number of points are shown darker. This makes the display of individual points in combination with a heat map suitable for showing hotspots of points located on top of each other.

Heatmap of the Most Visited Places

● A place identified within a respondents' top five (7.556 Places)

🔴 Hotspot-Areas

▨ Survey Areas
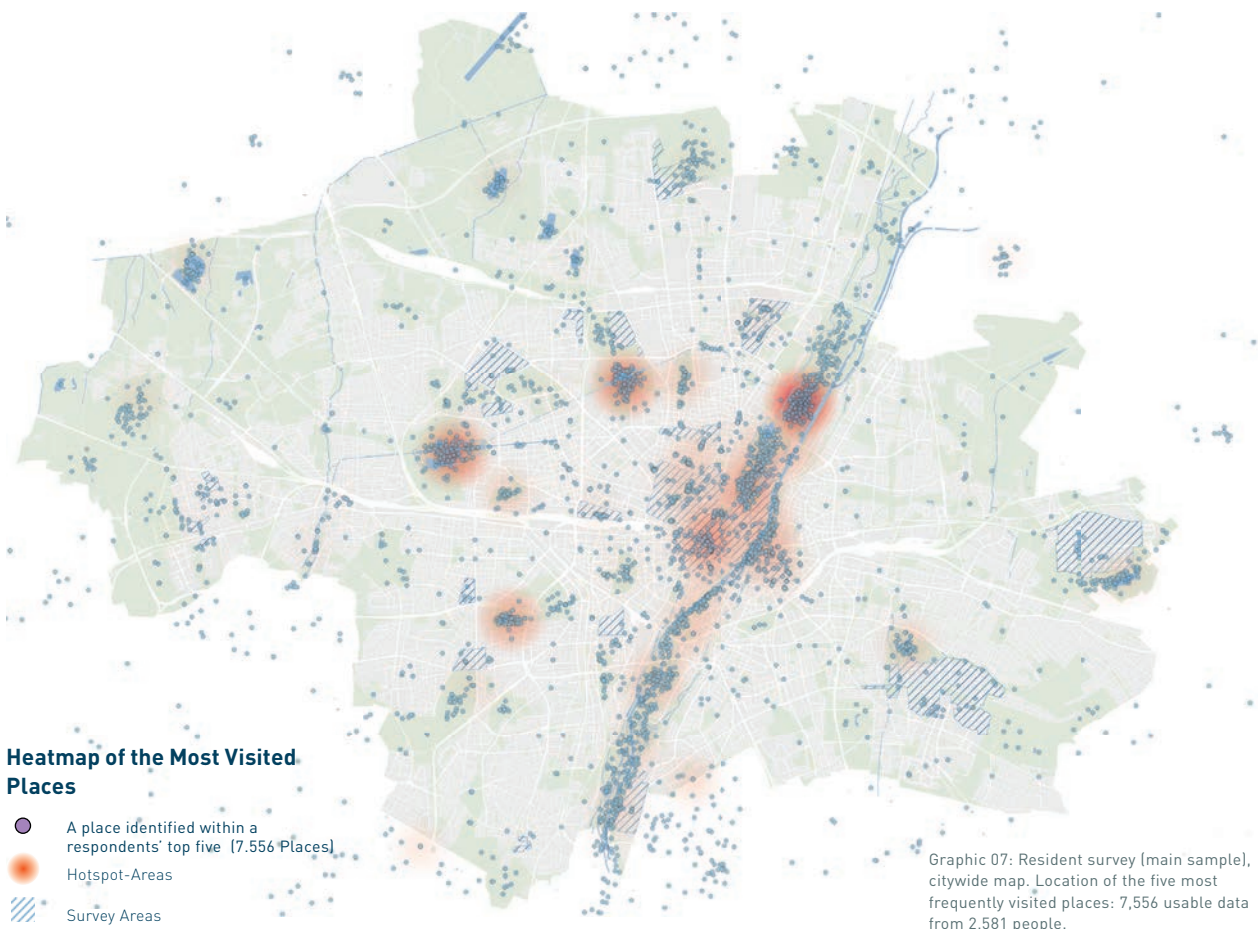
Graphic 07: Resident survey (main sample), citywide map. Location of the five most frequently visited places: 7,556 usable data from 2,581 people.

People with Lots of Free Time Use Public Spaces Slightly More Often
People with lots of free time use public spaces more often. 33% of all respondents have 1 - 2 hours of free time on weekdays and 27% of these respondents use public spaces in their own neighborhood on a daily basis. Among respondents with 3 - 4 hours of free time (39% of all respondents), the figure is 30%; among respondents with 5 - 8 hours (21% of all respondents), the figure is 33%; and among respondents with 9 - 12 hours of free time (5% of all respondents), 35% use public spaces in their own neighborhoods daily. People with lots of free time are also more likely to use public spaces on the outskirts and outside of Munich.

New Residents of Munich Use Public Space Less than Long-term Residents
On average, 25% of the respondents who have moved to Munich in the past five years (2015 - 2019) reported using public spaces on a daily basis. In contrast, people who have lived in Munich since the 1960s and -70s use public spaces more frequently than the average. This can be partially explained by the difference in the age of the respective groups. People who have lived in Munich for a shorter period of time are significantly younger; 80% of this group is under 40 years old.

Income Has Little Effect On Frequency of Use
Daily open space use is slightly higher in households with a monthly income of less than €3,000 per capita than in households with more per capita income. However, if one adds up the uses that take place several times a week and daily, it is noticeable that households with higher per capita incomes use public spaces somewhat more frequently. Overall, income has little effect on frequency of use.
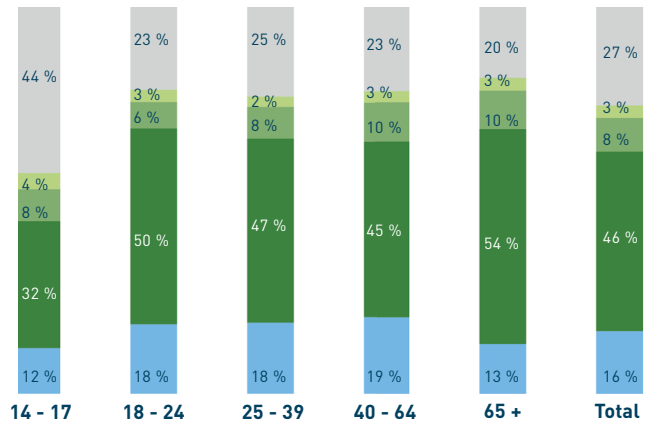
Which Places Do Munich Residents Visit?

In order to make statements about the characteristics and qualities of the open spaces most frequently visited by the respondents, four open space typologies from the *Freiraum München 2030* report on public space were used. These four typologies were: green corridors, green belts, parks and green spaces, and river and canal areas. It is worth noting that the *Freiraum München 2030* open space typology set did not account for urban spaces.

Of the 7,556 locations pinpointed by respondents in this study as being a favorite destination, 73% fell within the predefined four open space typologies. 27% were in a fifth category, urban spaces.

The most frequently visited open space typology is parks and green spaces, namely Munich's large central parks including the English Garden, Westpark, Olympiapark, Schlosspark Nymphenburg and Riemer Park. The second most frequently visited open space type is urban spaces, mostly in the city center. The third most frequently visited open space type is river and canal areas, followed in fourth place by the green belt The green corridors are visited by even fewer people.

With the exception of the youngest and oldest groups, there are only minor differences between the age groups. Young people are mainly drawn to the smaller and more urban public spaces, especially in the center of Munich. The green belt is most frequently visited by respondents aged 65 or older.

Most Frequently Visited Open Space Typologies Based on Freiraum München 2030 by Age Group

	14 – 17	18 – 24	25 – 39	40 – 64	65 +	Total
Urban Spaces	44 %	23 %	25 %	23 %	20 %	27 %
Green Corridors	4 %	3 %	2 %	3 %	3 %	3 %
Green Belt	8 %	6 %	8 %	10 %	10 %	8 %
Parks and Green Spaces	32 %	50 %	47 %	45 %	54 %	46 %
River and Canal Areas	12 %	18 %	18 %	19 %	13 %	16 %

Legend

- Favorite Places of All Respondents (7.556)
- Survey Areas
- Urban Spaces
- Green Corridors
- Green Belt
- Parks and Green Spaces
- River and Canal Areas

Graphic 08,09: Resident survey (main sample), citywide map. Location of the five most frequently visited places, count within the public space settings of Freiraum München 2030: 7,556 usable statements from 2,581 people, public space settings according to Freiraum München 2030.

In the concept report Freiraum München 2030, Munich's public spaces were assigned to six public space settings across the entire city area. Urban places such as squares and street spaces were not categorized.

Water as an Attraction in the Use of Public Space
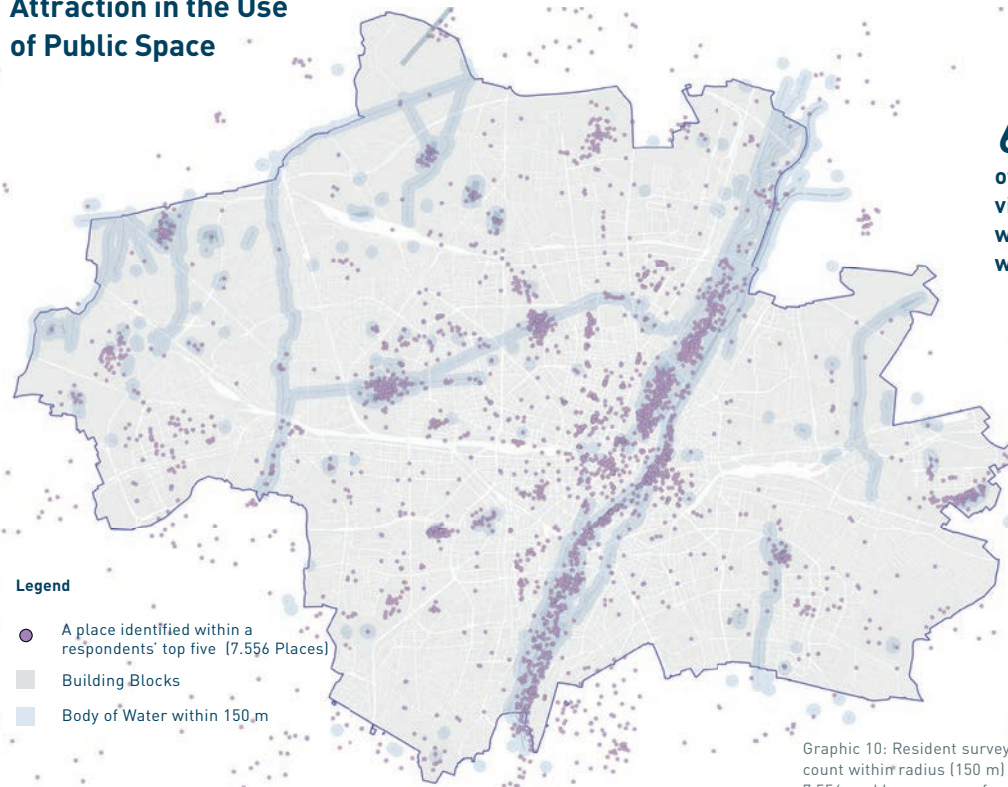
60 %
of the most frequently visited locations are within 150 m of a body of water

Legend

● A place identified within a respondents' top five (7.556 Places)

▢ Building Blocks

▢ Body of Water within 150 m

Graphic 10: Resident survey (main sample), count within radius (150 m) of water bodies: 7,556 usable responses from 2,581 individuals.

Places with Permeable Surfaces are the Most Popular
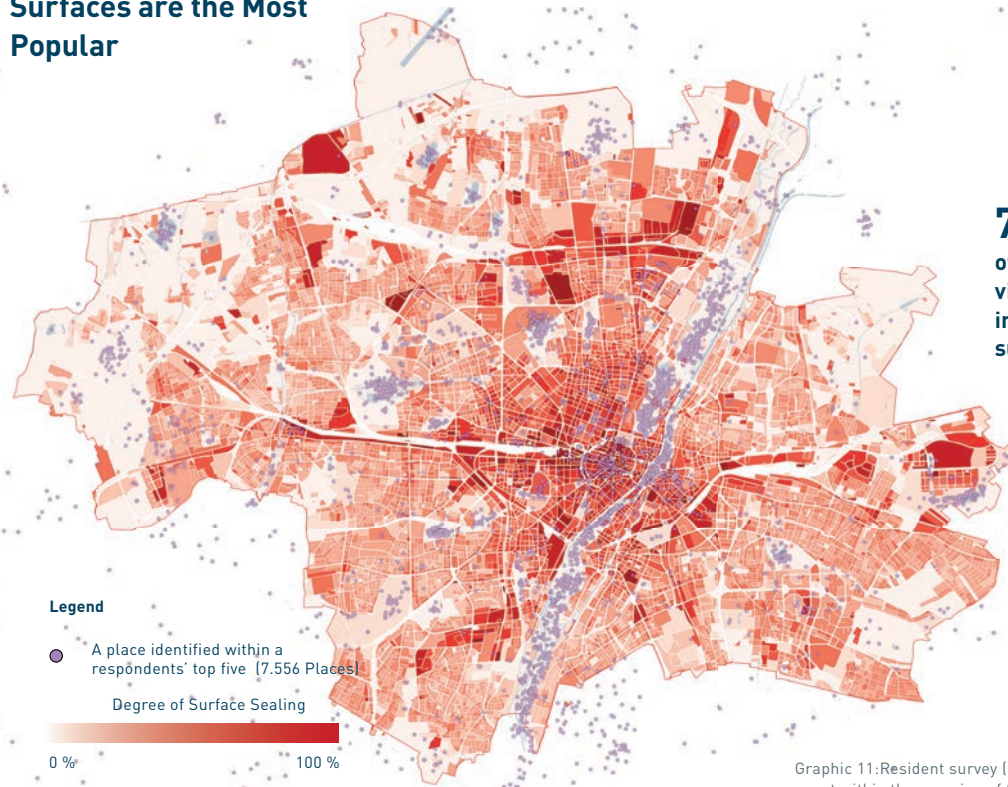
72 %
of the most frequently visited places are in areas with a hard surface of less than 20%

Legend

● A place identified within a respondents' top five (7.556 Places)

Degree of Surface Sealing

0 %   100 %

Graphic 11:Resident survey (main sample), count within the mapping of the degree of surface sealing: 7,556 usable responses from 2,581 people. Sealing degree per building block of the City of Munich - Department for Climate and Environmental Protection, 2019.

Munich Residents Use Public Spaces Throughout the Region

Since the location of the most frequently visited places was not restricted to Munich, it was also possible to specify places outside the city limits. Of the 7,556 locations most frequently visited in the last twelve months, 6,286 or 83% are located within the city limits. 1,270 locations (17%) are outside of Munich. Graphic 12 shows these hotspots of park and green space provision, in particular the lakescapes to the south of Munich and the course along the Isar River.

The analysis shows that the perception and actual use of urban and public space extend beyond the city limits. Munich is increasingly growing together with its agglomeration not only in terms of construction and economy, but also in the use of public space. This can have an impact on the planning of mobility services that are already available or need to be created in the vicinity of public spaces. Public spaces outside the city limits are most often used by people over 40 years of age.

● Top 5 Most Visited Places (7.556 Places)

■ Body of Water

■ Green Areas

Localization of the Most Frequently Visited Places
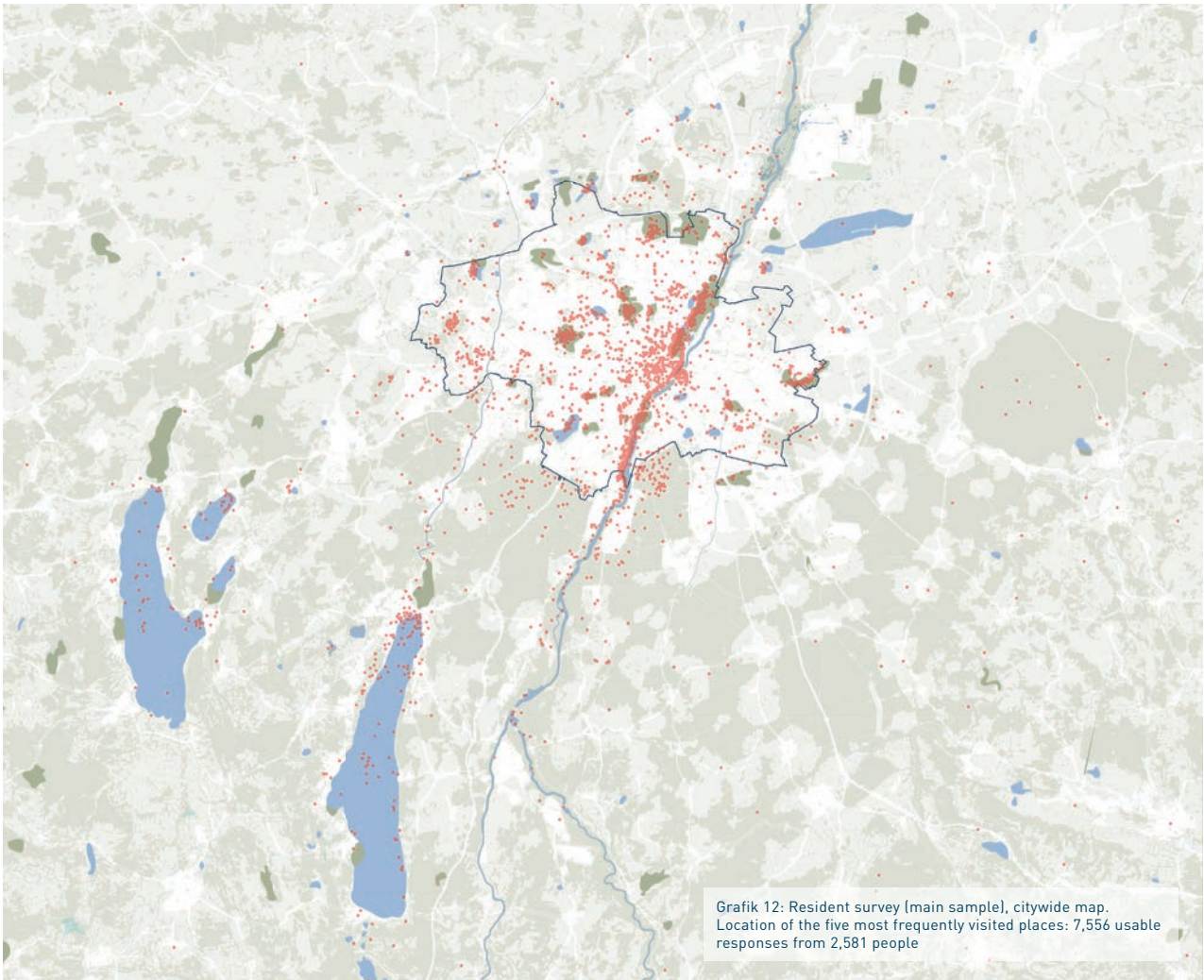
Grafik 12: Resident survey (main sample), citywide map. Location of the five most frequently visited places: 7,556 usable responses from 2,581 people

Favorite Places Through the Seasons

In addition to locating the most frequently visited places on a map, respondents were also asked to indicate their favorite places in writing. As favorite places for winter, 1,359 places are located within the city limits, compared to 1,525 in the summer. Many other favorite places are located outside Munich's city limits. In summer, these are in particular the lakes south of Munich and in winter, the ski resorts in the Alps.

A comparison of winter and summer locations shows that the favorite places differ relatively little between the seasons. Both in summer and winter, the English Garden and the Isar River are the most commonly identified favorite places of Munich residents. Small differences between the favorite places in winter and summer are due to seasonal activities such as swimming or sledding.

In line with the results presented, Munich residents most frequently visit the public spaces of their own neighborhood. Thus, their favorite places are often located in the immediate vicinity of a study area, for example the Ostpark, the Riemer Park, the Panzerwiese or the Perlacher Forest.

Favorite Places in Summer
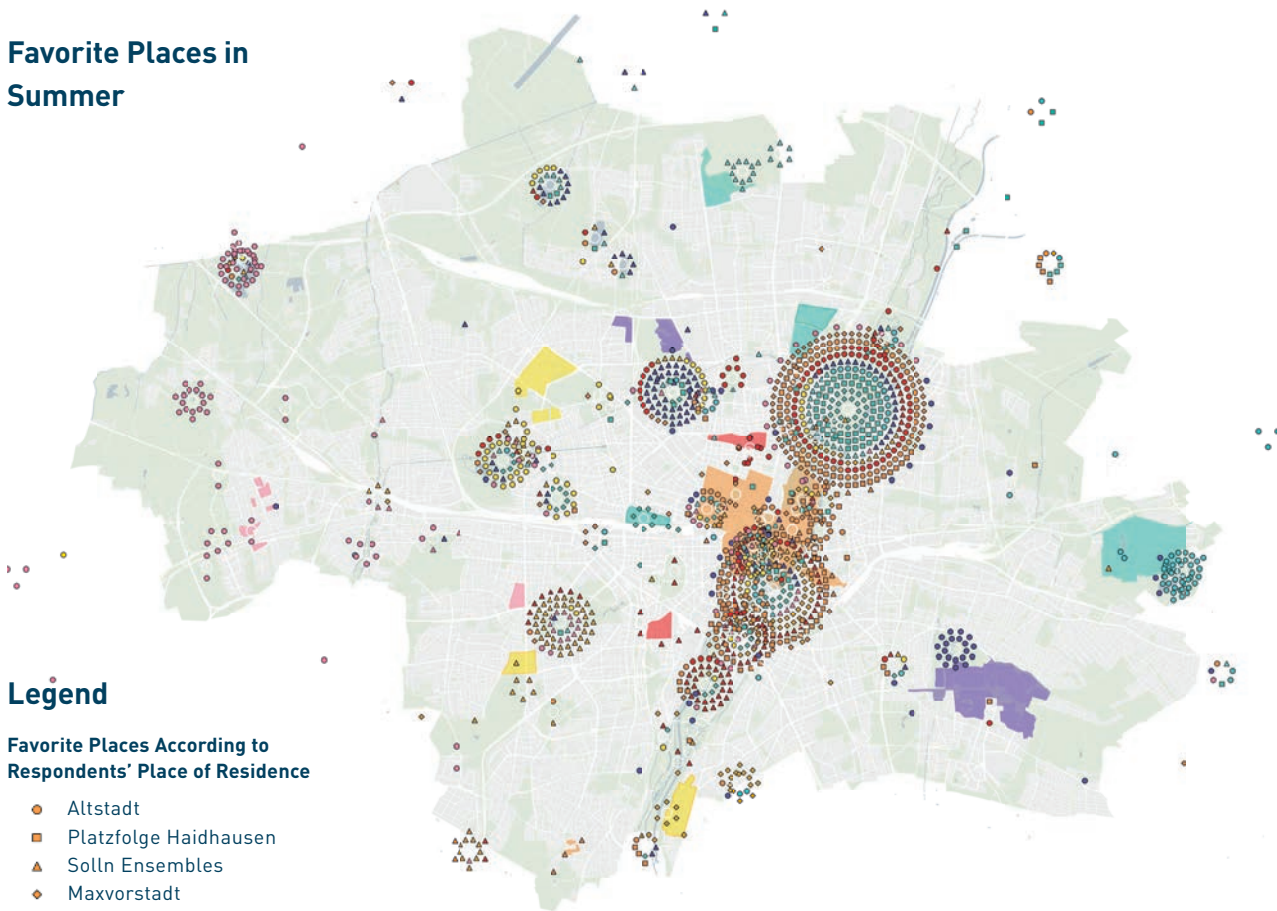
Legend

Favorite Places According to Respondents' Place of Residence

- Altstadt
- Platzfolge Haidhausen
- Solln Ensembles
- Maxvorstadt
- Sendling
- Schwabing-West
- Laim
- Neuaubing
- Neuperlach
- Olympiadorf und Olympia-Pressestadt
- Moosach-Neuhausen
- Harlaching-Geiselgasteig
- Fürstenried-Holzapfelkreuth
- Messestadt Riem
- Nordhaide
- Domagkpark mit Parkstadt Schwabing
- Arnulfpark

Neighborhood Types

- Historic Cores - Suburbia
- Wilhelminian era areas (1870 - 1918)
- Settlements 1900 - 1960
- Large Housing Estates (1960 - 1989)
- Newly Built Areas from 1990
- Young Quarters
- Single, Double and Row House Areas
- Garden City Areas

Graphic 13: Resident survey (main sample), citywide map. Localization of favorite places in summer, differentiation by study area (symbol) and neighborhood type (color): n = 1,525. Not all places are within the city area.

How do Munich Residents Use their Public Spaces?

The resident survey asked how often public spaces in and around Munich were used for different activities on average over the last twelve months. Twelve activities were specified and asked whether they were carried out daily, several times a week, several times a month, less frequently or not at all. In addition, further activities could be added.

Use of Public Spaces (daily / several times a week)

Walking, strolling	Sports, play, fitness, exercise	Spending time outdoors, passing time, chilling	Meeting with friends/ family	Experience nature / enjoy landscape	Taking a (lunch) break	Participate in city life, get among people	Going to the playground with children / childcare (Right: respondents from households with children, n=604)		Walking the dog / Stoll with dog (Right: respondents with dog, n=165)		Sunbathing, use sunbathing lawn	Bathing, Surfing, Swimming, Watersport
38%	35%	28%	23%	22%	18%	18%	11%	38%	9%	91%	8%	7%

Graphic 14: Resident survey (main sample), question G2: On average, how often did you use public spaces in and around Munich for the following activities during your free time in the last twelve months? Answer: daily / several times a week. n = 2,516 - 2,586 (multiple answers possible)

Top 5 Activities in Different Age Groups

From the age of 18 people enjoy taking walks and exercising

Between 25 - 39 years children and nature become more important

From the age of 40, sport becomes more important and meeting friends less frequent

From the age of 65, people take a lot of walks
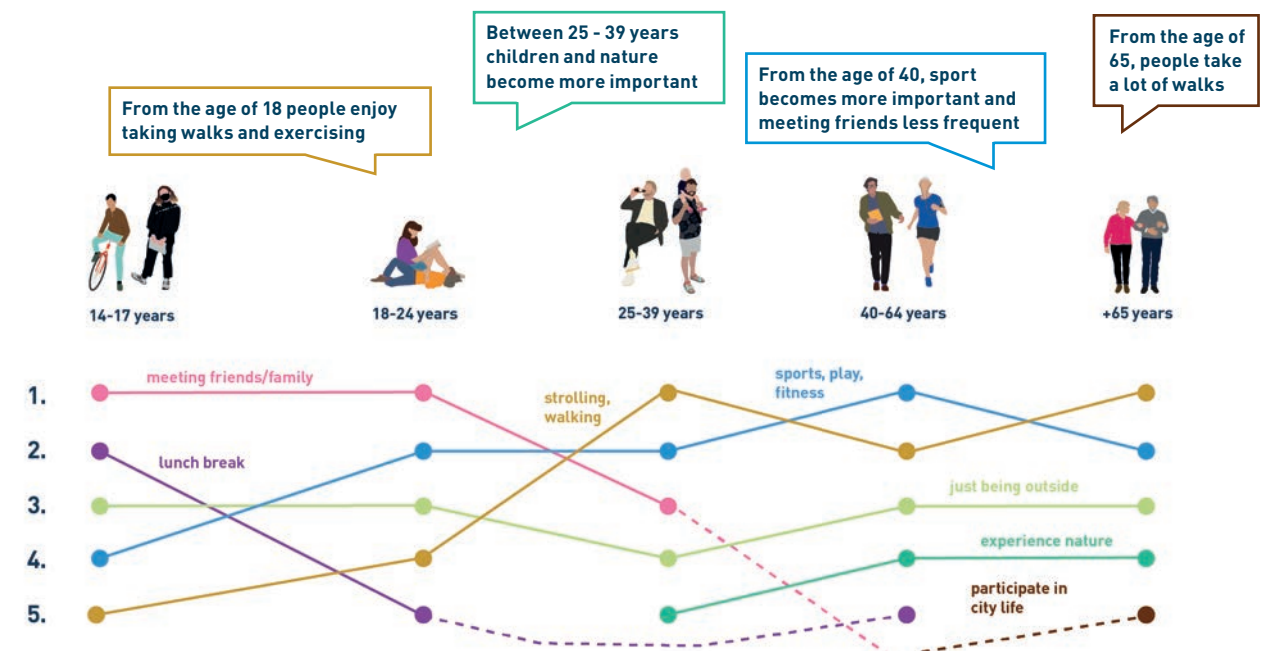
Graphic 15: Resident survey (main sample), question G2: In your free time, how often on average did you use public spaces in and around Munich for the following activities in the last twelve months? Response: daily / several times a week in correlation with respondent's age. n = 2,516 - 2,586

What is Important to Munich Residents When Visiting Public Spaces?

The usage types of public spaces are closely related to the needs of the users. In the context of the resident survey, 37 evaluation criteria for visiting or spending time in public spaces were queried on the basis of five topics (1. Social life, 2. Perception and sensory impressions, 3. Spatial design and amenities, 4. Mobility, 5. Safety and orientation). Respondents could rate the criteria from very important to com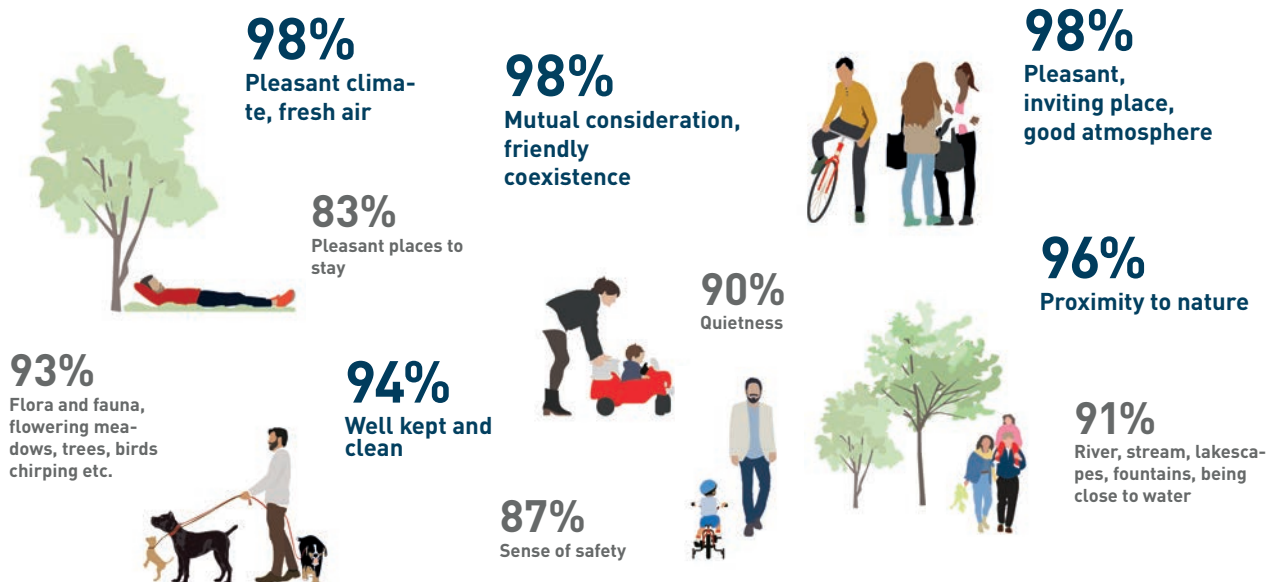pletely unimportant. The results provide valuable insights into the needs and requirements of public spaces. Below are the top five rated attributes from the resident survey. Additional findings on needs and evaluation criteria can be found in the long version of the study.

Top 10 Needs of All Respondents (rated very important and rather important)

98%
Pleasant climate, fresh air

98%
Mutual consideration, friendly coexistence

98%
Pleasant, inviting place, good atmosphere

83%
Pleasant places to stay

90%
Quietness

96%
Proximity to nature

93%
Flora and fauna, flowering meadows, trees, birds chirping etc.

94%
Well kept and clean

91%
River, stream, lakescapes, fountains, being close to water

87%
Sense of safety

Graphic 16: Resident survey (main sample), question: what is very important / somewhat important about using public space? Selection of the ten most important attributes. n= 2,613

Simple and Everyday Needs Are Essential

The results from the 1,200 on-site interviews conducted show that the needs and demands for public space in terms of amenities and spatial design in Munich are relatively simple and concrete. In response to the open-ended question about what is missing in public spaces, the most frequently mentioned items are benches, seating, trash cans, toilets, cleanliness, more green spaces, shade, a kiosk, lighting, trees, water features and fountains. Similar responses are given to the question of what is important in the use of public spaces. Again, seating, cleanliness, quiet and nature are mentioned most often.

What Is This Place Missing?

Schatten
Sauberkeit
Trinkwasserbrunnen
Toiletten
Bänke Kiosk
Mülleimer
Mehr Grünflächen
Wasserspiel/Brunnen
Beleuchtung
Bäume

Graphic 17: On-site interviews, question: Is there anything you miss in this place? Wordcloud of the on-site interviews conducted. n= 910
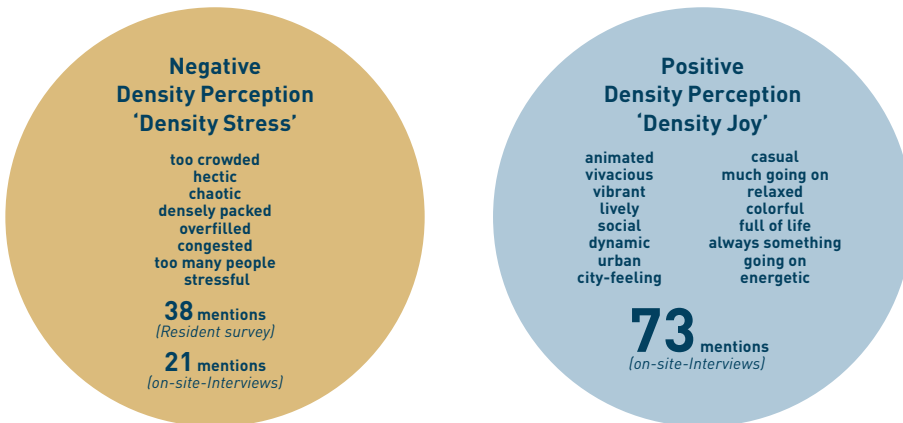Top 3 words mentioned: benches, toilets, trash cans

Positive and Negative Density Perceptions

For roads, sidewalks and bike lanes, there are approximate guidelines as to when a traffic space is used by too many people or vehicles, resulting in congestion, stress or discomfort. For public spaces such as parks and squares, on the other hand, there are no meaningful studies, as the perception of density within public spaces is very individual and situational. While a well-visited park in the summer with barbecues, ball games and groups constitutes the lively city life for some and is seen as an enrichment, others perceive such situations as rather constricting, unpleasant or disturbing.

### 'Density Stress' vs. 'Density Joy'

In the context of this study, negative density perception or 'density stress' is understood as a situation in which people are together in narrow or very crowded spatial conditions, resulting in conflicts, discomfort or disturbances. The opposite is called positive density perception or 'density joy'. It describes the situation where people seek out a public space precisely because of the amount of people, the liveliness and urbanity, and appreciate these qualities. The resident survey and on-site interviews did not explicitly ask about crowded green spaces or the sense of density. Nevertheless, to get a sense of whether the perception of density in public space tends to be positive or negative, the open-ended response options in the resident survey about disturbances and problems and the descriptions of the atmosphere of public spaces were examined for negative and positive attributes related to density. The results show that a positive perception of density or "density joy" predominates.

Negative Density Perception 'Density Stress'

too crowded
hectic
chaotic
densely packed
overfilled
congested
too many people
stressful

38 mentions
(Resident survey)

21 mentions
(on-site-Interviews)

Positive Density Perception 'Density Joy'

animated   casual
vivacious   much going on
vibrant   relaxed
lively   colorful
social   full of life
dynamic   always something
urban   going on
city-feeling   energetic

73 mentions
(on-site-Interviews)

Graphic 18: Resident survey (main sample), question K2: Are there situations or behaviors in public spaces that you personally find disturbing? (n = 1.207) On-site interviews: Question: how do you describe the atmosphere in this place? (n = 1,133); count of words corresponding to negative and positive density perceptions.

What Influence Do Living Conditions Have on The Pressure to Use Public Space?

The resident survey shows that people living above the 5th floor use public spaces less. Here, only 24% of respondents use public spaces on a daily basis, compared to 32% among respondents living on the 1 - 5 floor. Only 5% of respondents (130 people) live above the 5th floor. The more densely developed a neighborhood is, the more frequently public spaces are used; cramped living conditions, on the other hand, have no influence on public space use.
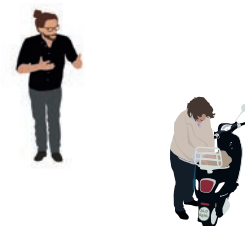
People With Severe Disabilities

At the end of 2019, around 7.9 million people with severe disabilities lived in Germany (Destatis, 2019). The proportion of people with severe disabilities among the total population in Germany was thus 9.5%. In Munich, 8% of the population also has a severe disability (ZBFS, 2018). Thinking about people with severe disabilities in public spaces is therefore an essential component of the present concept.
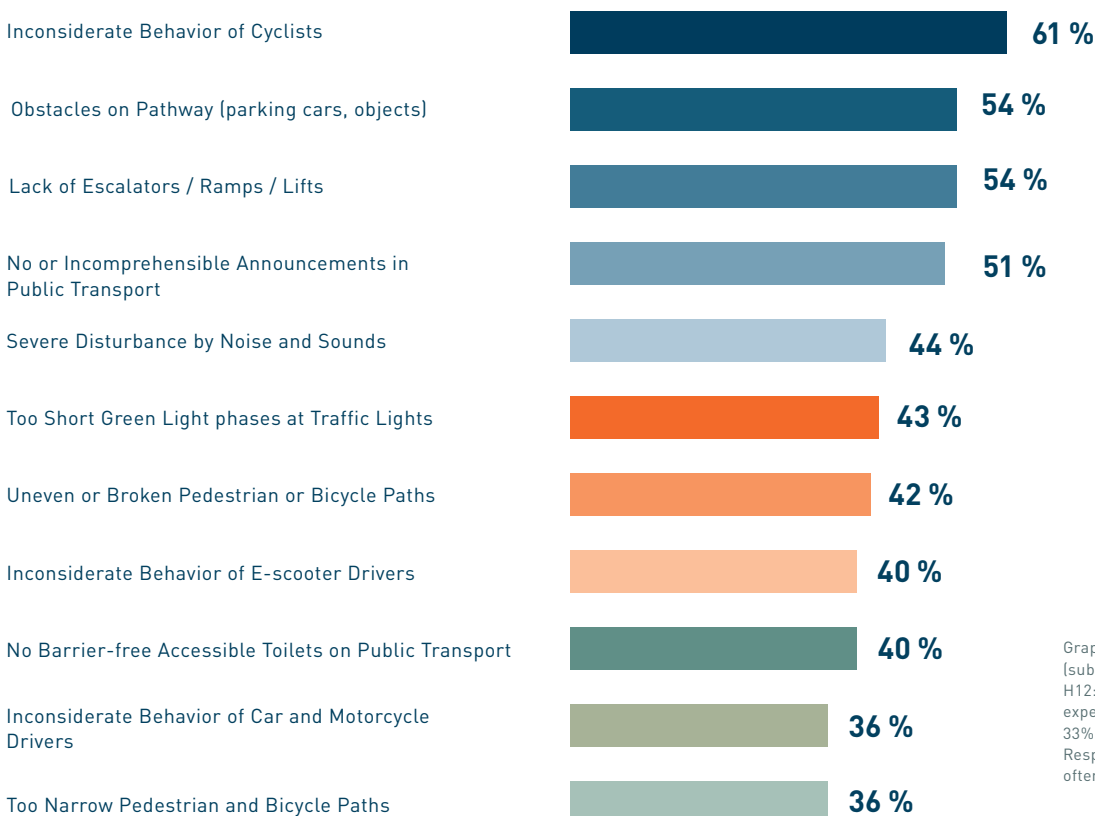
The analysis of the usage patterns of people with severe disabilities (severe disabilities with a degree of disability (GdB) of at least 50) is based on the sub-sample of the resident survey in which 2,437 people from 18 years to under 75 years of age with a main residence with a physical (loss / functional impairment of limbs) or sensory disability (speech / hearing, vision) in the context of "Munich becomes inclusive" were contacted by the Bavarian Center for Family and Social Affairs in Bayreuth. All persons contacted have a degree of disability (GdB) of 50 or more and live in one of the 17 study areas.

People with severe disabilities use public spaces in their own neighborhoods slightly less than people without severe disabilities, nevertheless public spaces in their own neighborhoods are most frequently used. Movement-oriented activities (walking, sports and exercise) and social activities such as meeting friends and family are reported

less frequently by people with severe disabilities than by people without severe disabilities.

What made this sub-sample of the resident survey noteworthy were 14 additional questions with valuable results about the challenges people with severe disabilities face when using public spaces. The graphic below shows the barriers that were mentioned by more than 33% of respondents that they encounter very often or often. It can be seen that there are strong differences in the evaluation of obstacles between the different types of disabilities (physically disabled with/without a walker, wheelchair, sensory impairment, etc.).

Barriers That Are Experienced Very Often or Frequently

Barrier	Percentage
Inconsiderate Behavior of Cyclists	61 %
Obstacles on Pathway (parking cars, objects)	54 %
Lack of Escalators / Ramps / Lifts	54 %
No or Incomprehensible Announcements in Public Transport	51 %
Severe Disturbance by Noise and Sounds	44 %
Too Short Green Light phases at Traffic Lights	43 %
Uneven or Broken Pedestrian or Bicycle Paths	42 %
Inconsiderate Behavior of E-scooter Drivers	40 %
No Barrier-free Accessible Toilets on Public Transport	40 %
Inconsiderate Behavior of Car and Motorcycle Drivers	36 %
Too Narrow Pedestrian and Bicycle Paths	36 %

Graphic 19: Resident survey (sub-sample), questions H7-H12: barriers and behavior experienced by more than 33% of respondents. Response: very often and often, n = 324

Underrepresented User Groups

The method mix carried out, with on-site interviews, observations and resident surveys, allows for different perspectives on the use of public spaces. However, there are groups such as children, the LGBTIQ community, and people experiencing homelessness that are not reached or are barely reached by the methods used here. Walks and focus groups were therefore justified complementary methodological components. This chapter attempts to outline the usage patterns of underrepresented or less privileged user groups.

People Experiencing Homelessness

- In 2012, the number of people experiencing homelessness in Munich was estimated at 550, but rising rents and the Covid 19 pandemic have likely increased this number in the meantime
- A special feature of the usage pattern of people experiencing homelessness is that the public space is used as a place to sleep or spend the night, an important criterion being the best possible protection from the weather. Additionally, there can be competition for places to sleep between members of this group
- Places to hide that protect against attacks are vegetation on central banks of the Isar River, bridges, underpasses, cemeteries, road construction sites
- The established no begging zone also affects mobility behavior and the choice of where to stay during the day and at night
- Many respondents already find the presence of people experiencing homelessness disturbing; increased alcohol and drug use in public, as well as noise, littering, and urinating in the open are cited as stressful factors

People with Mental Disabilities

- In the Health Department of the City of Munich, the study "Sichtbar" ("Visible") on people with mental disabilities has been conducted since 2021
- The aim is to identify specific barriers faced by people with mental disabilities in Munich and to develop recommendations for action
- Accessible public spaces and participation in public spaces are partial aspects

Results of the On-site Interviews

Inner city Isar:
*"When it's dark, I'm afraid here because of groups of men and **homeless people**".*

Odeonsplatz:
*"It bothers me that there are so many **homeless people** here"*

Glyptothek / Königsplatz:
*"What bothers me is the noise disturbance from **homeless people** and the urination in the open."*

People with Migration Background

- At 28.5%, Munich has one of the highest proportions of foreigners in Germany, and a further 16.6% have a migration background, meaning they are German citizens born in Germany with at least one parent born outside of the country.
- Needs, activities, locations and frequencies in the use of public spaces between people with and without migration backgrounds are indistinguishable
- Dismissive attitudes towards migrants, Muslims and Sinti and Roma are widespread
- People with migration backgrounds feel more insecure in public spaces than people without, this is especially true for women with migration backgrounds
- Presence of cameras can provide a sense of safety for certain groups of people or cultures, and increase discomfort for others
- Police presence or video surveillance are not per se support for marginalized groups, but they can still lead to improved safety through their deterrent effect

LGBTIQ-Community

- There is a large number of unreported cases of assaults or prejudice-related victim experiences in public spaces
- Criminal charges were filed in only about 9% of criminal offenses
- The reasons for not reporting are numerous and range from trivialization of the events to the perception of the hopelessness of reporting (e.g. in the case of unknown perpetrators) to the fear of not being taken seriously by the police (secondary victimization).
- Trans, inter and queer people, for example, are increasingly exposed to potential attacks if they openly display this. People who are visually identifiable as trans, inter and queer people regularly experience hostility.
- Representatives of interest groups describe a low level of trust in the police (due to negative experiences or secondary victimization).
- Low-frequented green spaces such as the Giesinger Hangkante can objectively be classified as safe - however, they trigger strong feelings of threat among many groups, so that they do not cross them after dark

## Children

- Public space has special significance for child development and growing up well, offering opportunities to play, experiment and develop motor skills
- Children are represented in this study only through parents, youth siblings, grandparents and representatives of interest groups
- Usage patterns of public spaces of children and youth should be investigated in depth in a separate study

Covid-19 Effects

The Covid-19 pandemic and the associated infection control measures (including distancing rules, mask requirement, contact restrictions, nighttime curfew, temporary closure of facilities, retail and food service, home office, and travel restrictions) had a significant impact on daily life. This page shows the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on usage patterns of public spaces.
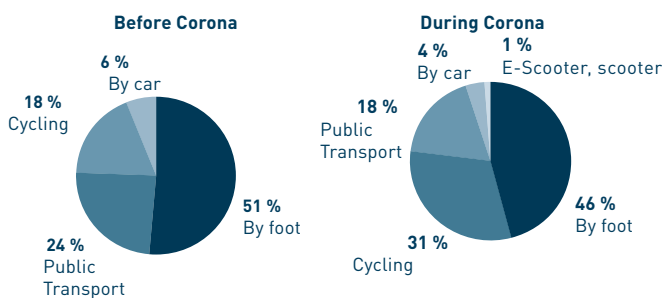
Data collection fell in the middle of the first 'lockdown' in the spring of 2020, with on-site interviews paused from March 10 to May 9, 2020. Interviews continued from May 10, 2020. Four Covid 19 pandemic-related questions were added to the questionnaire. 900 of the total 1,200 interviews were conducted from July 2019 to March 10, 2020, before the Covid 19 pandemic, while 300 interviews were conducted during the pandemic. This makes it possible to determine changes in public space and mobility behavior.

Have You Rediscovered This Public Space Through Corona or Through the Corona Outdoor Restrictions?

Yes **(4 %)**

No **(96 %)**
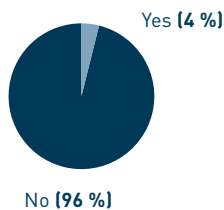
Graphic 20: On-site interviews, question: did you rediscover this public space through Corona or through Corona outdoor restrictions?
n = 300

How Do You Usually Get Here?

Before Corona

6 % By car
18 % Cycling
18 % Public Transport
24 % Public Transport
51 % By foot

During Corona

4 % By car
1 % E-Scooter, scooter
18 % Public Transport
31 % Cycling
46 % By foot

Graphic 21: On-site interviews, question: How do you get here most of the time? Comparison of interviews before Corona and during Corona. Before Corona n = 900, during Corona n = 300.

Did You Come Here Spontaneously?

Before Corona

No **(52 %)**
Yes **(48 %)**

During Corona

Yes **(26 %)**
No **(74 %)**
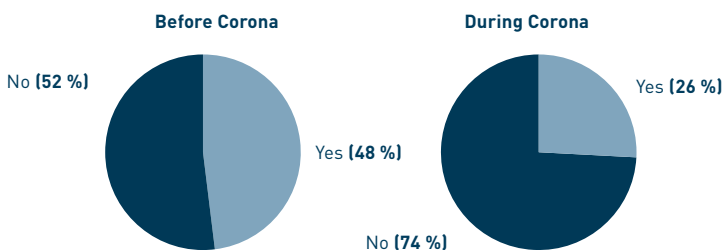
Graphic 22: On-site interviews: Question: did you come here spontaneously? Before Corona n= 900, during Corona n= 300

Has Your Personal Use of Public Spaces Changed in The Last Two to Three Months?

Yes **(38 %)**

No **(62 %)**
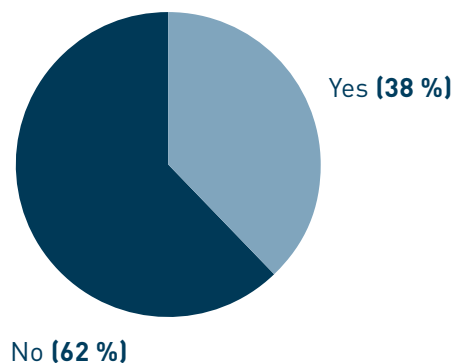
If so, how?

"Going out more"
"Was not out at all because of Corona"
"Other routes used"
"Went for walks with other people less...."
"More jogging, discovered Westbad, otherwise spent a lot of time in the garden"
"Other parks used, only those close to home, where there is less of a crowd"
"More gymnastics exercises at home; Daily walking tour of Nederling; You always meet familiar people."

What of it will stay / What will you keep?

"Maintain sports & outdoor activities"
"Other walking paths"
"More use of green space"
"Slowing down is kept along, more conscious use of green space"
"Could remain so that family gatherings are held more often outdoors in Riemer Park"

Graphic 23: On-site interviews, question: has your personal use of open space changed in the last 2 - 3 months? *If so - what of it will remain?*

3. User Profiles

The core of the Gehl approach is to further bring to life the Munich Portrait by looking at user profiles. The user profiles take the perspective of Munich's residents and emphasize the strong "people-first" focus of the approach of this report. The profiles are defined on the basis of the evaluation of the various data sets and through Gehl's experience from other projects.

The analysis of the Munich Portrait has made it clear that age, gender and the available leisure time and related life situation have a significant influence on the usage patterns of public spaces. It can be seen that the intensity and type of activities as well as frequently visited places differ greatly between different population groups and life phases. In order to further deepen the analysis of the Munich Portrait, ten user profiles were defined based on different variables.

In the following, the usage patterns of the ten user profiles are presented on one page each by means of a fact sheet. The graphic below shows the defining characteristics of the user profiles. The results of the user profiles are based to a large extent on the evaluation of the resident survey. In addition, results of the on-site interviews and observations of people who correspond to a specific profile are added.

#9 Severely Disabled & Inactive
Do not use public space in own neighborhood at all, several times a month or less often; severe disability from GdB 50 onwards

#10 Severely Disabled & Active
Use green spaces in their own neighborhood daily or several times a week; severe disability as from GdB 50

#1 Teenagers
Age between 14 and 17

#3 Young parents
Age between 25 and 39, living with child

#2 The Young & Free
Age between 18 and 24, more than 4 h free time

#5 Employed & Little Free Time
Age between 40 and 64, free time between 0 and 2 h

#6 Seniors
Age 65+

#4 Employed & Lots of Free Time
Age between 40 and 64, free time 3 to 8 h

#7 Peace Seekers
Women, quiet / no noise very important

#8 Dog owners
People with dogs

#1 Teenagers

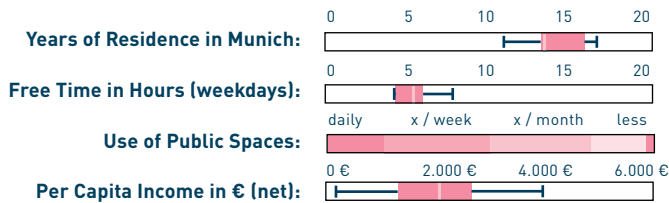🚶 **Age: 14 - 17**   🏠 **Live predominantly with their parents**   📖 **Student**

Amount:
126
5 % of respondents

USAGE PATTERNS

Teenagers use public space the least of all user profiles. They use public spaces primarily to meet friends and acquaintances or as an extended playground. Special offers such as skateparks, basketball courts, retail and food and beverage destinations are highly valued and are points of attraction. Young people often use public spaces in groups and are perceived by others as disturbing or causing them fear.

	0	5	10	15	20
Years of Residence in Munich:					

	0	5	10	15	20
Free Time in Hours (weekdays):					

	daily	x / week	x / month	less
Use of Public Spaces:				

	0 €	2.000 €	4.000 €	6.000 €
Per Capita Income in € (net):				

PROFILE DEFINING DATA POINTS

97 % find **clean and well-maintained public spaces** important or very important

96 % consider a **healthy climate and fresh air** important or very important

79% use p**ublic transport daily or several times a week**

75 % find it important or very important that there are opportunities for **sports and play**

72 % view **smoking people nearby as disturbing** or very disturbing

TOP-5-ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting friends / family
2. Lunch break
3. Staying outdoors
4. Sports, play and fitness
5. Walking and strolling

FREQUENCY OF USE OF PUBLIC SPACES

20 %
daily

40 %
several times a week

DISTURBING // What disturbs teenagers in public space

Alkoholkonsum
Streitereien
Konflikt zwischen unterschiedlichen Nutzungsgruppen   Scherben
Jugendliche
obdachlose Menschen

Top 4 words mentioned: Teens, homeless people, quarrels, alcohol

NEEDS // What teenagers lack in public space

Fußballplatz   Schaukeln   Wiesen
Basketballplatz   Grünflächen   Sauberkeit
Spielplatz   Sitzgelegenheiten
Einkaufsmöglichkeiten
Sicherheit   Skaterplatz   Freunde
ÖPNV
Spielmöglichkeiten   Wege Anbindung
Gastronomie   Natur   Schatten   Ruhe
Tischtennis

Top 4 words mentioned: seating options, shopping possibilities, skatepark, cleanliness

ACCESSIBILITY // Which modes of transport are most important for this profile

83 %
81 %
77 %

„It bothers me that there are so few places where we are among ourselves."

„We most enjoy walking along the Isar river or in the park around the corner from our school."

„I like to ride my bike to the park, but there is always trouble with others."

„Smoking people and disrespect bother me the most."

Youths Love The City Center
Of all groups, youths use the city center most often

Prefer Groups
Youths are more likely to be found in groups than alone

#2 Young & Free

Age: 18 - 24   55 % live with their parents, one third in a shared apartment   Apprenticeship or study

USAGE PATTERNS

This user profile is already very different from that of the younger age group. Public spaces are used for other activities and serve as an extended living room. Many use the public space to switch off, find peace and quiet, or to play sports. The activities within this user profile are very diverse and range from exercise, walking and strolling to chilling, hanging out and playing.

Amount: **127** 5 % of respondents

Years of Residence in Munich:	(0 – 30 scale)
Free Time in Hours (weekdays):	(5 – 20 scale)
Use of Public Spaces:	daily / x / week / x / month / less
Per Capita Income in € (net):	(0 € – 4.500 €)

PROFILE DEFINING DATA POINTS

97 % consider **pleasant places to stay** as important or very important

97 % find a **healthy climate and fresh air** important or very important

77 % find it important or very important that there are **opportunities for sports and play**

71 % view **smoking people** nearby as disturbing or very disturbing

60 % find it important or very important **to see different people**

25 % lack benches and trash cans in public space

TOP-5-ACTIVITIES

1. Sports, play und fitness
2. Meeting with friends/family
3. Walking, strolling
4. Staying outdoors
5. Lunch break

FREQUENCY OF USE OF PUBLIC SPACES

27 %
daily

43 %
Several times a week

DISTURBING // What disturbs the young and free in public spaces

obdachlose Menschen
Jugendliche
Konflikt zwischen unterschiedlichen Nutzungsgruppen
Scherben
Streitereien
Alkoholkonsum
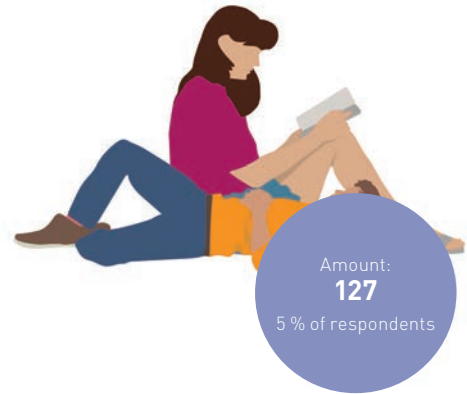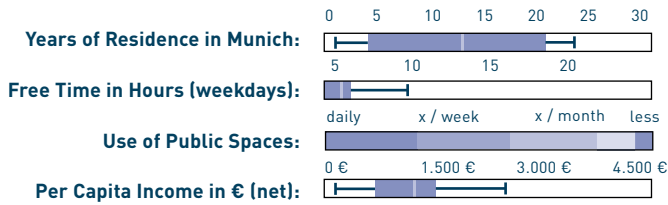
Top 4 words mentioned: Teens, homeless people, quarrels, alcohol

NEEDS // What young people with lots of free time are missing in public spaces

Lage   Spielplatz   Gastronomie   Welle   Natur   Supermarkt   Nähe zu Wohnort   Radweg   Basketballplatz
Wege Fußballplatz
Park Schatten Wiesen   Sicherheit
Einkaufsmöglichkeiten
Anbindung Wasser Grünflächen Vielfalt
Bushaltestelle   Sportangebote
nicht überfüllt   Mülleimer Ruhe
Zugänglichkeit Architektur   Leute
Frischluft

Top 4 words mentioned: Safety, shopping possibilities, green areas, quiet

ACCESSIBILITY // Which modes of transport are most important for this profile

93 %
86 %
86 %

"There is a lack of seating in the parks."

"The teens with their loud music from the boombox are annoying and too loud."

"It's important to me that the parks are kept natural."

"We are in the English Garden a lot. Here, all the trash is disturbing and sometimes there are conflicts between different groups."

Sports and Exercise in the Public Space
Public spaces are sought out for a wide variety of exercise opportunities

Love the Large Parks
The parks by the water are the most popular public spaces

#3 Young Parents

Age: 25 - 39

Living with their own child and predominantly with a partner

61 % are employed, 20 % are on parental leave or are housewives / househusbands

Amount:
153
6 % of respondents

USAGE PATTERNS

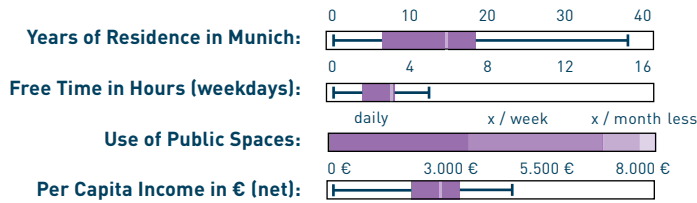This profile is a very present user group in public space.

Local public spaces in the neighborhood with good play facilities for children are particularly important. The public spaces must be easily accessible on foot, by stroller and by bike. The public space is used to 'experience something' with the children. This regularly leads to conflicts of use with other users such as dog owners, young people or inconsiderate cyclists.

	0	10	20	30	40
Years of Residence in Munich:					

	0	4	8	12	16
Free Time in Hours (weekdays):					

	daily		x / week		x / month less
Use of Public Spaces:					

	0 €	3.000 €	5.500 €	8.000 €
Per Capita Income in € (net):				

PROFILE DEFINING DATA POINTS

97 % find **proximity to nature** important or very important

97 % find it important or very important that public spaces are **family-friendly**

95 % reach public spaces **on foot** and live in the **immediate** area

93 % find **well-kept and clean public spaces** very important or important

78 % find **access to public toilets** important or very important

44 % wish to have their own **allotment garden**

TOP-5-ACTIVITIES

1. Going to the playground with kids
2. Walking, strolling
3. Meet friends / acquaintances
4. Sport, play, fitness, exercise
5. Experience nature

FREQUENCY OF USE OF PUBLIC SPACES

44 %
daily

42 %
several times a week

DISTURBING // What disturbs young parents in public space

Lärmbelästigung
freilaufende Hunde **Alkoholkonsum**
Konflikt zwischen Zufußgehenden und Radfahrenden
Konflikt zwischen unterschiedlichen Nutzungsgruppen **dreckig** Scherben
Müll **feiernde/trinkende Jugendlichen**
Jugendliche Drogenkonsum

Top 4 words mentioned: partying Teens, trash, dirty, fights between different user groups

NEEDS // What young parents are missing in public space

Klettergerüst **Wege** **Grün** Schaukel
Ruhe **Anbindung Natur** kinderfreundlich
keine obdachlosen Menschen
Spielmöglichkeiten Lage **Sicherheit**
See **Einkaufsmöglichkeiten** Platz
Kinderfreundlichkeit **Schatten** Toiletten
Kinderspiel
Trampolin Weitläufigkeit **Grünflächen**
Garten **Wiesen** Tischtennis

Top 4 words mentioned: safety, shade, shopping possibilities, green areas

ACCESSIBILITY // Which modes of transport are most important for this profile

98 %

87 %

72 %

"There is a lack of a public toilets at the playground and not enough secure parking for our cargo bike."

Stroller, Cargo bike, Running wheels
With children one is often out and about on wheels in public space

"We're in this park because it's right around the corner and there's a small but nice playground."

"The big kids are too old for the playground and disturb the little kids. Teenagers who don't respect the place bother me."

With Kids You Stay in the Neighborhood
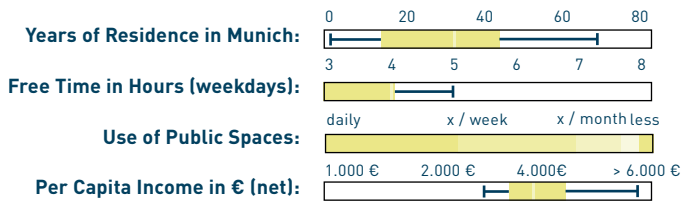Local public spaces in the neighborhood are increasingly used

#4 Employed & Lots of Free Time

Age: 40-64

89% live with a (spouse) partner, 47 % with child in one household

65 % are employed

USAGE PATTERNS

Professionals with lots of free time use public spaces throughout the city. They primarily use public spaces in their own neighborhoods, but also travel further distances to pursue specific activities or go for long walks. The length of stay in the public space is significantly longer than in the other user profile of the same age group.

Amount:
511
19 % of respondents

	0	20	40	60	80	
Years of Residence in Munich:						

	3	4	5	6	7	8
Free Time in Hours (weekdays):						

	daily	x / week	x / month	less
Use of Public Spaces:				

	1.000 €	2.000 €	4.000€	> 6.000 €
Per Capita Income in € (net):				

PROFILE DEFINING DATA POINTS

99 % find a **healthy climate and fresh air** important or very important

83 % find it important or very important that there is **quiet and no noise**

82 % find a **pleasant quality of stay** important or very important

75 % consider **public toilets** important or very important

71 % find that people **celebrating and playing loud music** are disturbing or very disturbing

61 % consider **people smoking nearby** as disturbing or very disturbing

42 % use the **car** daily or weekly

TOP-5-ACTIVITIES

1 Walking, strolling

2 Sports, play und fitness

3 Staying outdoors

4 Experience nature

5 Lunch break

FREQUENCY OF USE OF PUBLIC SPACES

33 %
daily

42 %
several times a week

DISTURBING //
What disturbs employed people with lots of free time in public space

Streitereien
hohes Verkehrsaufkommen
Konflikt zwischen unterschiedlichen Nutzungsgruppen
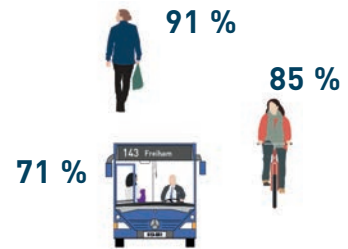unangeleinte Hunde
überfüllt dreckig

Top 4 words mentioned: dirty, dogs off-leash, overcrowded, quarrels

"If it wasn't so noisy here due to traffic, I would use the park more often for lunch."

NEEDS //
What professionals with lots of free time miss in public spaces

Zentralität Café
Sportangebot Supermarkt Wiesen Natur
Veranstaltungen Toiletten Gemütlichkeit
Grünflächen Sauberkeit Bars
Einkaufsmöglichkeiten
Ruhe Sitzgelegenheiten
nicht überfüllt Grün Spielplatz
Eisbachwelle Wasser Leute

Top 4 words mentioned: cleanliness, seating options, playground, quiet

"I come out here more often for long walks; I live downtown."

ACCESSIBILITY //
Which modes of transport are most important for this profile

91 %

85 %

71 %

"Dogs run through the green spaces off leash; little understanding from dog owners. Suggestion: fence installation to protect green spaces."

New Leisure Activities
Public spaces are used for a variety of activities

Near to Nature and Enjoying the Landscape
People in this profile like near-natural public spaces

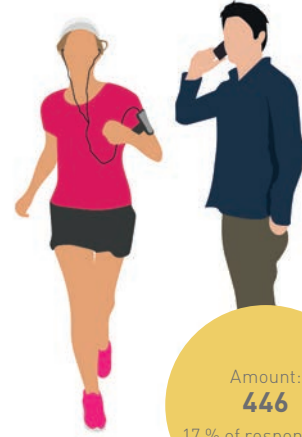# #5 Employed & Little Free Time

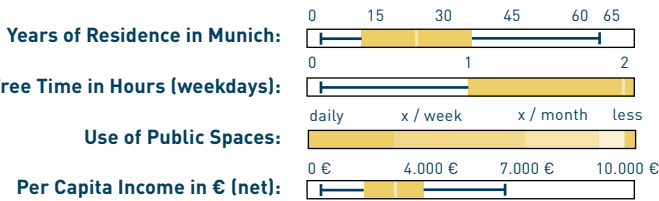**Age: 40-64** · 90 % live with (spouse) partner, 71 % with child in one household · 72 % are employed (56 % work 40 hours or more)

Amount: **446** · 17 % of respondents

USAGE PATTERNS

Employed people with little free time make efficient use of public space. They spend their lunch break with colleagues or later walk through a park together on the way home. Sports and exercise facilities are considered very important, and this is also the most frequent activity in public space. The demands in terms of cleanliness, equipment and quietness in the public space are greatest in this user profile.

Years of Residence in Munich:	0 15 30 45 60 65
Free Time in Hours (weekdays):	0 1 2
Use of Public Spaces:	daily x / week x / month less
Per Capita Income in € (net):	0 € 4.000 € 7.000 € 10.000 €

PROFILE DEFINING DATA POINTS

97 % find **clean and well-kept green areas** important or very important

96 % consider a **healthy climate and fresh air** important or very important

92 % find a **pleasant atmosphere** important or very important

75 % find it important or very important that there is possibility for **sport and fitness**

70 % find **smoking people** disturbing or very disturbing

69 % regard **celebrating or loud music as well as people playing** as disturbing or very disturbing

TOP-5-ACTIVITIES

1. Sports, play und fitness
2. Walking, strolling
3. Staying outdoors
4. Lunch break
5. Going to the playground with kids

FREQUENCY OF USE OF PUBLIC SPACES

29 % daily

41 % several times per week

DISTURBING //
What disturbs employed people with little free time in public space

Jugendliche Hundedreck Baustelle Müll schnelle/unvorsichtige dreckig Radfahrende Konflikt zwischen Zufußgehenden und Radfahrenden Lärmbelästigung überfüllt fehlende / unzureichende Radverkehrsinfrastruktur
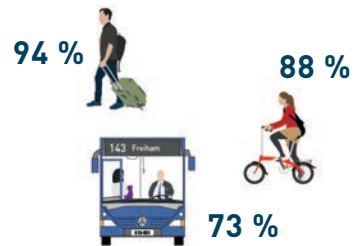
Top 4 words mentioned: Teens, uncareful cyclists, noise disturbance, overcrowded

"I like to go jogging in this park, but there are always conflicts with cyclists."

"After work, I like to ride my road bike, but it's too crowded and always causes trouble."

Public Space as a Gym
Public spaces are often used for sports and exercise

NEEDS //
What professionals with little free time miss in public spaces

Grün Ordnung Grünanlage Zentralität Natur nicht überfüllt Hundefreundlichkeit Sauberkeit Einkaufsmöglichkeiten Schatten Platz für Hund Bäume Wege Grünflächen Anbindung Wasser Wiesen Park Bach Radweg

Top 4 words mentioned: cleanliness, shopping possibilities, place for dog, shade

ACCESSIBILITY //
Which modes of transport are most important for this profile

94 % **88 %** **73 %**

"My work is just around the corner. I like to use the park for my lunch break with colleagues."

Rest and Switch Off
Quiet in public space is important to people of this profile

#6 Seniors

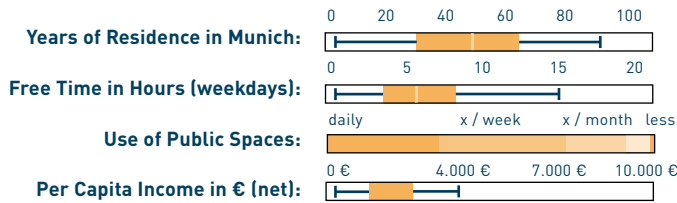🚶 **Age: 65 +**　　🏠 **92% live with their partner**　　📖 **87 % are retired**

Amount:
655
25 % pf respondents

USAGE PATTERNS

Seniors with lots of free time make up a large proportion of Munich's residents and, as a group, have one of the most intensive uses of public spaces. They are therefore a very present user group of public space. The most frequently visited places are the city's large parks, where they can take a walk or simply participate in city life.

	0　20　40　60　80　100
Years of Residence in Munich:	
	0　5　10　15　20
Free Time in Hours (weekdays):	
	daily　x / week　x / month　less
Use of Public Spaces:	
	0 €　4.000 €　7.000 €　10.000 €
Per Capita Income in € (net):	

TOP-5-ACTIVITIES

1. Walking, strolling
2. Sports, play und fitness
3. Staying outdoors
4. Experience nature
5. Participation in city life

FREQUENCY OF USE OF PUBLIC SPACES

36 %
daily

41 %
several times a week

PROFILE DEFINING DATA POINTS

98 % find a **healthy climate and fresh air** important or very important

95 % find **proximity to nature** important or very important

93 % find it important or very important that there is **quiet and no noise**

82 % find **public toilets** important or very important

83 % regard **loud music and people playing** as disturbing or very disturbing

69 % consider **people smoking nearby** as disturbing or very disturbing

55 % regard **people barbecuing** as disturbing or very disturbing

DISTURBING // What disturbs seniors in public space

überfüllt　Streitereien
fehlende / unzureichende　Bettler
Radverkehrsinfrastruktur　Jugendliche
Lärmbelästigung
schnelle / unvorsichtige
Radfahrende
Konflikt zwischen Zufußgehenden und
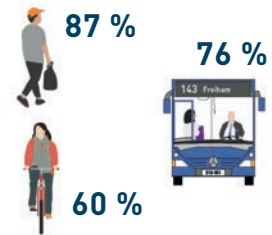Radfahrenden
Müll　unangeleinte Hunde
dreckig

Top 4 words mentioned: uncareful cyclists, trash, dirty, teens

"I get annoyed with people who don't appreciate this place and leave their trash!"

Close to Nature and Quiet
People over 65 find places close to nature and quiet very important

NEEDS // What seniors are missing in public spaces

Grünflächen
nicht überfüllt　Frischluft　Anbindung
Wege　Grün　Wiesen　Natur
Wasser　Wasserstellen　Grab
See　Einkaufsmöglichkeiten　Toiletten
friedliches Miteinander
Sicherheit
Hundefreundlichkeit
Gießkannen　wenig Leute
Radweg　Umweltschutz　Arzt
Gastronomie　Vielfalt
Schatten

Top 4 words mentioned: Green, water, nature, safety

"I love watching the hustle and bustle of this park. There's always something going on here!"

Classics Among the Public Spaces
People with this user profile value the old, venerable public spaces

ACCESSIBILITY // Which modes of transport are most important for this profile

🚶 **87 %**　　🚌 **76 %**
🚴 **60 %**

"From around 2 p.m. on, there are often youths here who are loud, fighting, then the granddaughter is scared and we have to leave."

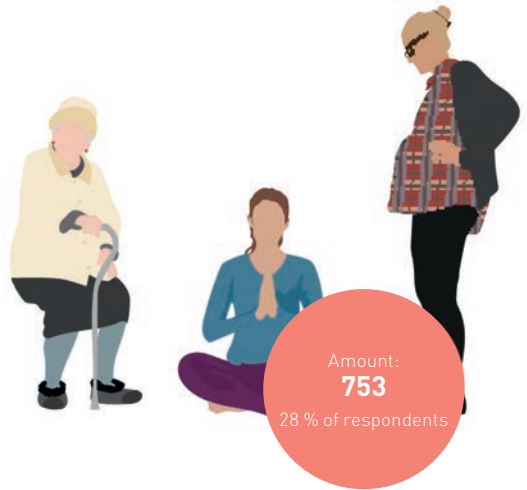# #7 Peace Seekers

Age: 14-99
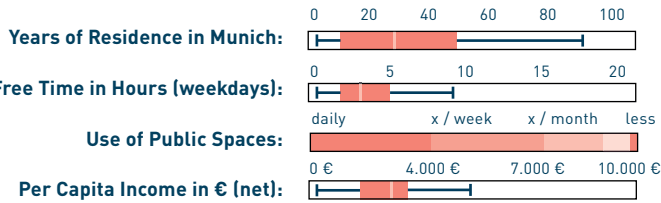**Gender: Female**

79 % live with partner

**41 % employed,
30 % in apprenticeship
or studying**

**Amount:
753**
28 % of respondents

USAGE PATTERNS

This user profile seeks out public spaces to find peace and quiet. The frequency of use of public spaces is above average. They seek out places in the green where there are few people and there is no noise. At the same time, these users feel the most unsafe of all respondents in public spaces, especially in the evening hours and at night, and therefore demand lighting and easily visible spaces.

	0	20	40	60	80	100
Years of Residence in Munich:						

	0	5	10	15	20
Free Time in Hours (weekdays):					

Use of Public Spaces:	daily	x / week	x / month	less

	0 €	4.000 €	7.000 €	10.000 €
Per Capita Income in € (net):				

PROFILE DEFINING DATA POINTS

100 % find a **healthy climate and fresh air** important or very important

99 % find **proximity to nature** important or very important

98 % consider **flora and fauna, flowering meadows, forest and birds** as important or very important

81 % find **good illumination** important or very important

77 % feel bothered or very bothered by **loud music**

75 % feel unsafe or very unsafe in green areas in the **evening or at night** and disturbed or very disturbed by **people smoking**

TOP-5-ACTIVITIES

1 Walking, strolling
2 Sports, play und fitness
3 Staying outdoors
4 Experience nature
5 Meet friends and acquaintances

FREQUENCY OF USE OF PUBLIC SPACES

38 %
daily

38 %
several times a week

DISTURBING // What disturbs peace seekers in public space

schnelle / unvorsichtige
Radfahrende
hohes Personenaufkommen
in Mittagspause
Kinderlärm

Top 4 words mentioned: children screams, uncareful cyclists, big crowds during lunch break

"What bugs me is the loud music. There's a lack of a few more quiet retreats in the city."

NEEDS // What peace seekers miss in public space

kein Verkehr
Sitzgelegenheiten
keine Radfahrer
Sauberkeit
wenig Leute
Entspannung   Natur
Sicherheit

Top 4 words mentioned: cleanliness, less people, nature, safety

"I love this place because of the quiet, the old trees and because there's not so much going on."

ACCESSIBILITY // Which modes of transport are most important for this profile

94 %
82 %
78 %

"I don't feel safe in this park, there is a lack of lighting."

Flora and Fauna
Flowering meadows, forest, chirping birds or even squirrels are important for this profile
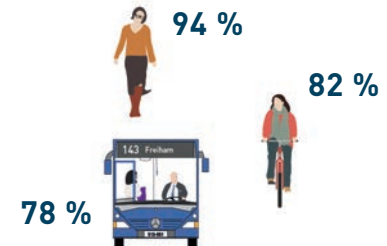
Feeling of Fear and Safety
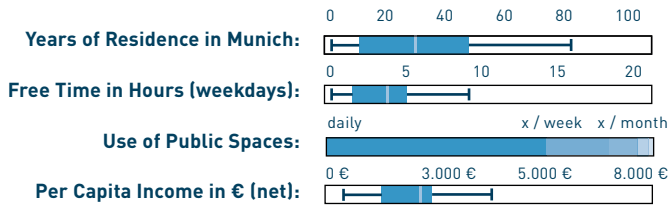Good lighting is considered very important

#8 Dog Owners

Age: 14 - 99 (53 % are 40 - 64 Years old)

75 % live with partner

45 % are employed, 17 % retired, 19 % in apprenticeship or studying

USAGE PATTERNS

People with dogs are a common sight in public spaces. Dog owners are by far the most regular users of public space. In order to get to nature or the green belt with the dog, the own car is still used very often. For other users, dogs and their owners are often a thorn in their flesh. They find it frightening when the dogs are not on a leash.

Amount: **165** 6 % of respondents

Years of Residence in Munich:	0 20 40 60 80 100
Free Time in Hours (weekdays):	0 5 10 15 20
Use of Public Spaces:	daily x / week x / month
Per Capita Income in € (net):	0 € 3.000 € 5.000 € 8.000 €

PROFILE DEFINING DATA POINTS

100 % find a **healthy climate and fresh air** important or very important

99 % find **proximity to nature** important or very important

98 % consider **flora and fauna, flowering meadows, forest and birds** as important or very important

93 % find it important or very important that there is **quiet and no noise**

77 % feel disturbed or very disturbed by **loud music**,

75 % feel disturbed or very disturbed by **people smoking** and feel **unsafe** or very unsafe in parks

55 % use the **car** daily or weekly

TOP-5-ACTIVITIES

1. Walking the dog
2. Walking, strolling
3. Sports, play und fitness
4. Experience nature
5. Staying outdoors

FREQUENCY OF USE OF PUBLIC SPACES

66 %
daily

23 %
several times a week

DISTURBING // What disturbs users with dogs in public space

obdachlose Menschen
Flaschensammler Konflikt zwischen unterschiedlichen Nutzungsgruppen
Hundedreck
Konflikt zwischen Zufußgehenden und
Müll dreckig Radfahrenden
schnelle/unvorsichtige
Radfahrende
Scherben Lärmbelästigung
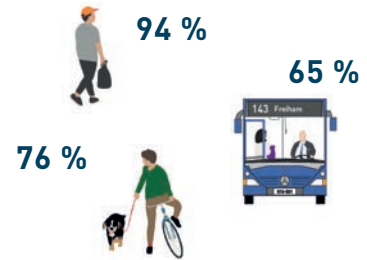Feiernde / trinkende Jugendlichen
Alkoholkonsum Jugendliche

Top 4 words mentioned: fast/uncareful cyclists, trash, teens, alcohol consumption

NEEDS // What users with dogs miss in public space

Grün Spielplatz
Grünflächen Ruhe Sauberkeit
Wasser Hund freilaufen lassen
Hundefreundlichkeit
Natur Platz für Hund
Sitzgelegenheiten Vielfalt Wiesen
Mülleimer Park Bach

Top 4 words mentioned: nature, dog-friendliness, cleanliness, water

ACCESSIBILITY // Which modes of transport are most important for this profile

94 %
65 %
76 %

"Dog owners are often rebuked, yet bicyclists are clearly more inconsiderate."

Conflicts with Cyclists
Conflicts with cyclists occur again and again on shared paths

"There's a good vibe here in the park, people know each other because we're here every day."

"I drive my car out here because there's plenty of room for my dogs."

Space to Run
With dog users prefer spacious green areas where their dogs can run without a leash

#9 Severely Disabled & Inactive

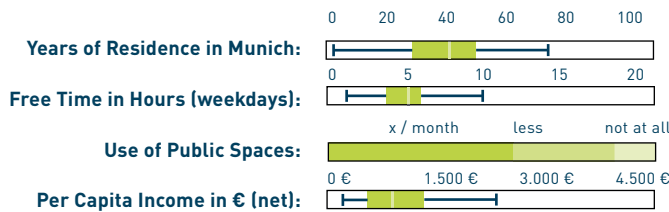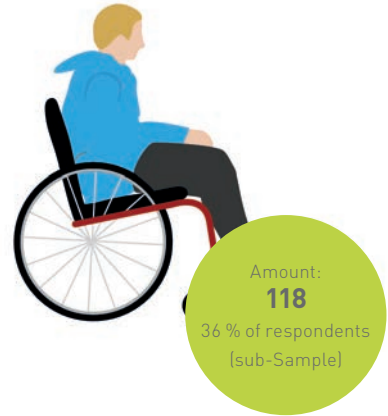🚶 **Age:** 53 % from 65, 33 % 40 - 64 Years

🏠 **81% live with partner**

📖 **54% retired, 21% in education**

USAGE PATTERNS
People with this user profile rarely use public spaces. When these people leave their homes, they do so for necessary errands such as shopping or doctor's appointments. There are a variety of reasons given for why being in public space causes fear. Most commonly cited are disrespect and inconsiderate behavior.

Amount:
118
36 % of respondents (sub-Sample)

	0 20 40 60 80 100
Years of Residence in Munich:	
	0 5 10 15 20
Free Time in Hours (weekdays):	
	x / month less not at all
Use of Public Spaces:	
	0 € 1.500 € 3.000 € 4.500 €
Per Capita Income in € (net):	

PROFILE DEFINING DATA POINTS

96 % find **mutual consideration** important or very important

95 % find it important or very important that **green areas are maintained and clean**

95 % find it important or very important that **green areas are inviting places**

65 % use their **own balcony** daily or several times a week

51 % of the people concerned feel poorly or less well informed about **barrier-free accessibility and the local conditions** in Munich's public spaces

TOP-5-ACTIVITIES

1. Sports, play und fitness
2. Staying outdoors
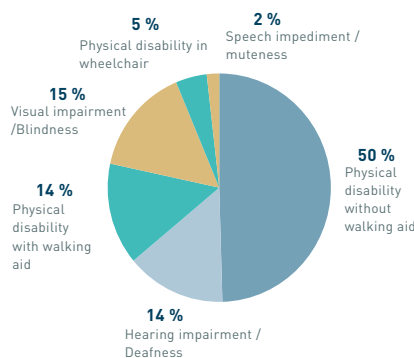3. Walking, strolling
4. Participation in city life
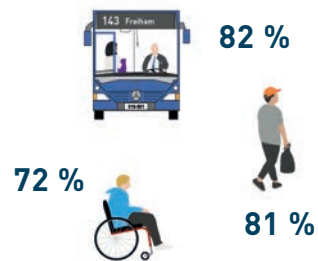5. Lunch break

FREQUENCY OF USE OF PUBLIC SPACES

12 % not at all

31 % seldom / week

57 % several times a month
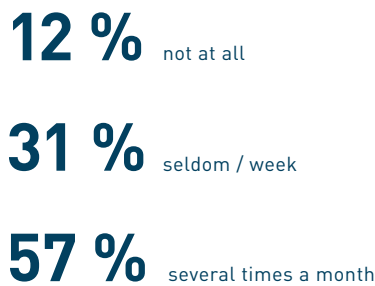
REASONS FOR NON-USE

1. Disrespect
2. Inconsiderate behavior
3. Fear of groups
4. Dogs running free
5. Alcohol, drugs, noise

TYPE OF DISABILITY

- 5 % Physical disability in wheelchair
- 2 % Speech impediment / muteness
- 15 % Visual impairment /Blindness
- 14 % Physical disability with walking aid
- 50 % Physical disability without walking aid
- 14 % Hearing impairment / Deafness

ACCESSIBILITY // Which modes of transport are most important for this profile

82 %

72 %

81 %

"I'm in a wheelchair, I'd be lost without help because there are hardly any people left to help get on the subway. Some stops don't have a lift."

"People run into my blind cane, are inconsiderate, and are always looking at their cell phones. It would make sense to have instructions on how to deal with disabilities: Please be considerate!"

"I haven't been able to get out of the house for 2.5 years because of my physical disability."

"I'm afraid of falling, then I can't get up without help."

"Announcements at train stations are poorly understood by people with hearing disabilities"

"In the park the benches are very low and towards the back the seat still is even lower. Some higher benches for the elderly and those with back and hip problems would be very appropriate."

#10 Severely Disabled & Active

♦ **Age:** 60 % from 65, 30 % 40 – 64 Years
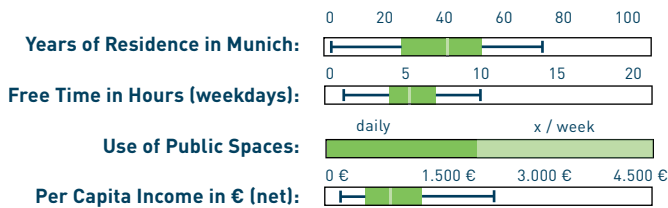
🏠 **91% live with a (spouse) partner**

📖 **70 % retired, 12 % in apprenticeship**

USAGE PATTERNS

Active people with severe disability use public spaces very regularly, although they often to very often encounter different problems and obstacles. The people in this user profile have a number of concrete suggestions on how everyday life can be made easier for them.

Amount: 199
61 % of respondents (sub-Sample)

	0	20	40	60	80	100
Years of Residence in Munich:						

	0	5	10	15	20
Free Time in Hours (weekdays):					

	daily	x / week
Use of Public Spaces:		

	0 €	1.500 €	3.000 €	4.500 €
Per Capita Income in € (net):				

PROFILE DEFINING DATA POINTS

96 % find **mutual consideration** important or very important

95 % find it important or very important that **green areas are maintained and clean**

95 % find it important or very important that **green areas are inviting places**

65 % very often or often experience that **cyclists behave inconsiderately**

53 % of the people concerned feel **poorly or less well informed about barrier-free accessibility** and the local conditions in Munich's public spaces

TOP-5-ACTIVITIES

1. Walking, strolling
2. Staying outdoors
3. Sports, play und fitness
4. Experience nature
5. Participation in city life

FREQUENCY OF USE OF PUBLIC SPACES
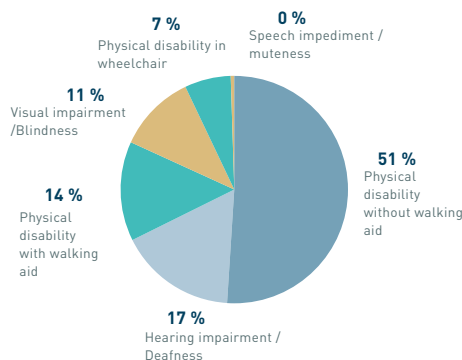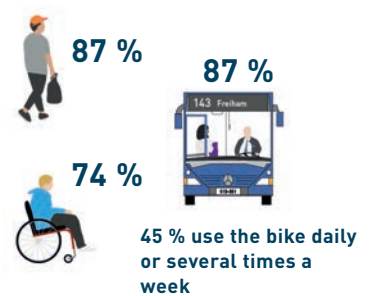
48 %
daily

52%
several times a week

DISRUPTION OF USAGE

1. Dogs running free
2. Inconsiderate behavior
3. Alcohol & drug use
4. Groups of teenagers
5. Poor lighting

TYPE OF DISABILITY

- **7 %** Physical disability in wheelchair
- **0 %** Speech impediment / muteness
- **11 %** Visual impairment /Blindness
- **14 %** Physical disability with walking aid
- **51 %** Physical disability without walking aid
- **17 %** Hearing impairment / Deafness

ACCESSIBILITY // Which modes of transport are most important for this profile

87 %

87 %

74 %

45 % use the bike daily or several times a week

"There are a lot of people in the same position with a walker, they take consideration and greet kindly."

"I feel the distances to the bus stop are too long, this is my assessment due to my walking disability. In subways there should be more seating options."

"Announcements are generally hard to understand, not just for the hearing impaired."

"Get bicyclists out of parks so those who walk can enjoy the parks."

"The cobblestones are very dangerous for the elderly and people with walking difficulties, and there have been quite a few falls."

"Flat steps or low sidewalks would often be a help. In very mobility-impaired phases, seating along the way as well."

4. Recommended Actions

The recommended actions are derived from the qualities and challenges identified in the analysis (Munich Portrait, user profiles) and are based on the needs of the respondents. Proposals are made to create and improve the quality of space and use as well as to promote the diversity of uses. Conflicts and disturbances are to be reduced as far as possible and the relationship of the residents to the public spaces and between the user groups is to be improved.

In the state capital of Munich, there are a large number of ongoing and planned projects that are being designed and implemented at different levels and scales. The aim of this study is not to provide detailed recommendations at the concrete project level. Rather, strategies are developed that should be taken into account in the further elaboration and roll out of projects in the course of action area concepts, preparatory studies, urban district development concepts or other urban development processes.

On the following pages, the recommended actions of the four action areas are presented and evaluated in the three categories "keep-going", "must-have" and "nice-to-have".

The Four Areas of Action

Participation & Activation

Quality & Design

Safety & Conflicts

Accessibility & Mobility

Keep-going
The City of Munich is working on these challenges.

Must-have
This recommended action should immediately be realised and implemented.

Nice-to-have
This recommended action is rather a valuable extra.

Urban development plan: citywide integrated visions

STEP 2040 ENTWURF

Citywide goals and visions: STEP 2040 and Perspective Munich

Sectoral expert opinions

Concept Report Freiraum München 2030

The study on usage patterns of accessible public spaces stands at the interface between the sectoral expert reports and the city-wide integrated development plans. It focuses on the perspective of use. The recommended actions serve as a basis for the further elaboration and implementation of measures in the context of urban redevelopment and / or in the Munich action areas.

Focus on the usage perspective

MENSCH IM MITTELPUNKT

Study on usage patterns in accessible public Spaces

Location-based Studies and Concepts

Implementation of projects (e.g. in the context of urban redevelopment and / or in the Munich action areas)
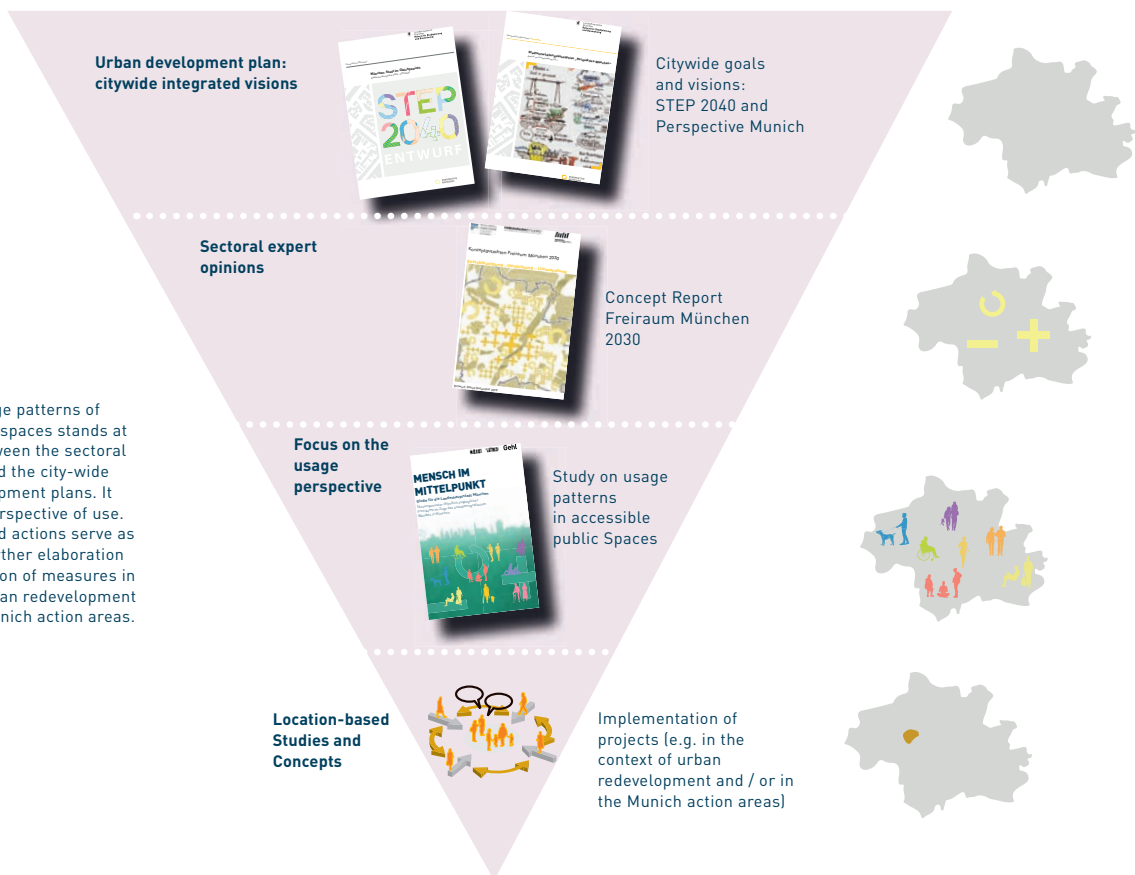
Participation and Activation

The analysis has shown that different user groups are less present in public space than others. The field of action Participation and Activation collects recommendations for action to address challenges of low use or exclusion in public space.

Photo: Kenneth Balfelt

ENHAVE MINI PARK, Copenhagen
Local alcohol consumers were included as specialists and experts, as they are in this place almost all day, all week, all year.

Munich Practice
Photo: Ruth Vesenbeckh

YOUTH CONTAINER, Am Gleisdreieck Munich
The shelters made of discarded containers are spread all over the city and are very well received.

Only 18% of youths use public spaces on a daily basis

Put the youth at the forefront of planning!

As trans, inter and queer (non-binary) recognizable people hardly or never use public spaces

Create safe spaces for trans, inter and queer people

New residents of Munich use public space less than longterm residents of Munich

Give more consideration to new residents of Munich, promote tourism acceptance and hospitality

Homeless people are stigmatized and perceived as a disturbance

Create outdoor lounging areas for homeless people, raise awareness to support homeless people

Mutual respect is rated as very important/important by 96% of residents

Strengthen mutual respect in public space

Increasing pressure on existing homeless facilities leads to more homeless people in public spaces

Create additional housing for homeless people

Inconsiderate behavior towards people with severe disabilities is experienced often to very often

53% of people with severe disability do not feel well informed about accessibility in Munich

Social function and importance of public space decreases strongly for older people

Create outdoor meeting spaces and opportunities for people 65 and older

36% of people with severe disability do not use public spaces at all or use them infrequently

Break down barriers, raise awareness about accessibility and optimize everyday life with severe disabilities

The usage patterns of children are underrepresented in the study

Analyze usage patterns of children and young people in accessible public spaces and focus on the interests and demands of children and young people, promote participation

Quality and Design

The quality and design of public spaces has a significant influence on the usage patterns of Munich residents and users in public open spaces. Within the framework of the analysis, a large number of challenges were identified, which are addressed with the following recommended actions in order to expand potentials.

Being by the water (river, stream, and lake landscapes, fountains) is rated as very important/ important by 91% of respondents

Activate water surface, fountains and drinking water dispensers in the city and create new ones

The most popular public spaces in Munich are multi-functional with options for different activities

Reorder diversity and hierarchy of streets and public spaces, promote multiuse of public spaces

Only 18% of youths use public spaces on a daily basis

Leave undefined spaces, allow appropriation

More benches, more trash cans, more public accessible restrooms are essential needs

Continuously check, adapt and, if necessary, expand basic facilities and equipment in public space; consider accessibility as well

A quarter of respondents would like to use an allotment garden

Create areas for urban gardening, protect allotment gardens, optimize areas

82% of respondents use their own smartphone or other digital devices outside in public space

Equip public spaces with WiFi

21% of respondents say they do not use their own courtyard at all, 35% rarely

Enhance private open spaces in the residential environment

A healthy climate and fresh air are very important/important for 96% of residents

Improve climate and air conditions in public space, reduce particulate matter pollution

72% of the most frequently visited locations are in areas with low sealed surfaces of less than 20%

Reduce further sealing of surfaces, introduce more permeable surfaces

Proximity to nature, flora and fauna are rated as very important/important by 93-96% of respondents

Maintain and develop diverse green spaces and natural diversity in the form of interconnected habitats, create awareness for biodiversity

Increasing pressure of use on existing public spaces

Appropriately activate existing public spaces such as cemeteries and school outdoor areas, increase quantity of public spaces

73% of respondents find retreat options very important

Establish quiet places and possibilities for retreat

The importance of public space for sports, play and exercise is increasing

Examine, adapt and, if necessary, expand sports, play and exercise facilities in public spaces

Conflicts and Safety

The analysis has shown that there are diverse areas of conflict in the public open space and that individual groups feel more insecure than others. The Conflicts and Safety field of action collects recommended actions to resolve conflicts and increase the sense of safety.

Foto: Susanne Nilsson

TALKING LAMP, Malmö
An installation wandering through the city brings light and atmosphere to dark corners of the city. The lamp is also a bench. Conversations and sounds in the environment are recorded and played back with a time delay.

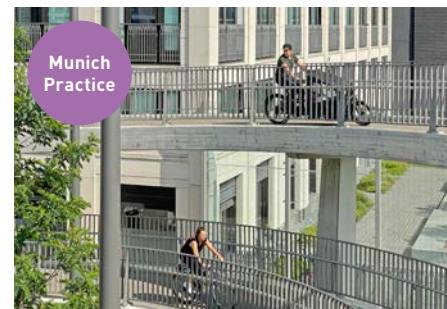**SEPARATION OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC, Copenhagen**
Separation along streets, as well as when crossing green spaces, results in fewer conflicts between the different user groups.

Free-roaming dogs are a big fear factor

(!) **Check the supply and quality of dog walking areas and expand them if necessary, promote respectful interaction with each other**

58% feel unsafe/ very unsafe in public green spaces at night

👍 **Take greater account of subjective feelings of fear, optimize lighting, promote nighttime activity**

66% are bothered by loud music, 67% are bothered by people smoking, 37% are disturbed by barbecues in parks

(!) **Launch campaign for mutual respect in public space**

Trash in the public space is perceived as very disturbing

(!) **Launch campaign for a clean Munich**

Inconsiderate cyclists disrupt

👍 **Separate routes of road users in public spaces where necessary, regulate bicycle traffic where necessary**

Women, trans and nonbinary people feel unsafe

👍 **Consider gender aspects and aspects of all identities of LGBTIQ people in urban planning**

Disrespect and quarrels in public space are perceived negatively

👍 **Strengthen local conflict management**

Accessibility and Mobility

The analysis has shown the hurdles that exist in the accessibility of public spaces. If approximately 80% of traffic is to be accommodated by 2025 using zero-emission motor vehicles, public transit, walking, or bicycling, comprehensive measures are needed. The recommended actions developed here address this challenge.

Munich Practice

Foto: Baureferat Tiefbau

SEPARATE CROSSINGS, Munich
In a pilot project, a separated crossing point with differentiated curb height (0 / 6 cm) was implemented for the first time in 2022 to meet the needs of blind and walking-impaired people.

Munich Practice

ARNULFSTEG, Munich
The construction of the Arnulfsteg creates an attractive and safe shortcut for bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

Accessibility on foot is rated as very important or important by 90% of residents

👍 **Improve pedestrian and barrier-free accessibility to public spaces**

Accessibility of public spaces by bicycle is rated as very important or important by 79% of residents

👍 **Expand cycling infrastructure and make it safer**

Residents in suburban areas use the car significantly more often

👍 **Optimize public transport and cycling network to surrounding regions**

Low awareness of mobility limitations of people with severe disabilities

⚠️ **Strengthen volunteerism, professionalize inclusion, show successes**

New mobility options are still a marginal feature of green space accessibility

👍 **Strengthen new mobility offerings as an additional service**

Lack of ramps, elevators, escalators often experienced as an obstacle

👍 **Promote barrier-free expansion of public transport**

There is a need for separate crossings at intersections

⚠️ **Create safe crossing points for blind and visually impaired people as well as wheelchair and walker users at busy intersections and main connections**

Obstacles on sidewalks as a danger zone

⚠️ **Raise awareness and remove barriers for people with severe disabilities**

Conclusion

The study showed that Munich's public spaces achieve a great deal and are highly valued and loved by their residents. **The green and public spaces in their own neighborhoods are used most frequently**: More than two-thirds of respondents visit them daily or several times a week. The smaller and more urban public spaces in one's own neighborhood are becoming increasingly important for the use of public space. There is still great potential here in Munich to somewhat curb the pressure of use on the existing large parks.

In the **city center**, it is the iconic old and large green spaces and parks of the city as well as the Isar with its surrounding river landscape that determine the usage patterns of accessible public spaces in Munich and are visited daily or several times a week by about one fifth of the respondents and are citywide hotspots. The **green belt around Munich is currently still rarely visited** by users. Although Munich residents **use public spaces in the entire region**, including outside the city limits, they do so much less frequently than within the city limits.

Needs
Life circumstances and life phases influence the **activities** and **needs** and thus also the **usage patterns** of users in public spaces. When visiting and spending time in public spaces, the most important **needs in social life** are mutual consideration, friendly interaction, no consumption of drugs and alcohol, and opportunities for retreat.

With regard to **perception and sensory impressions** when visiting and spending time in public open spaces, a pleasant climate and fresh air are most important to Munich residents. Other important attributes in the area of perception and sensory impressions are a good atmosphere, proximity to nature, and quiet, well-maintained and clean public spaces.

In the topic area of **safety and orientation**, a general feeling of safety in public open spaces is rated most important. This is followed by sufficient lighting, secluded places that are not too remote and a good overview within public spaces. The attributes are rated more important by women and people with a migration background than by men or Germans without a migration background.

The **spatial design and amenities** of public spaces are given a high priority. For example, pleasant places to stay, public toilets and sanitary facilities, and opportunities for sports and play are rated most important. **Water** carries a special attraction in the use of public space. In addition, **places with a lower sealed surfaces** are the most popular.

Types of Use
The types of use of public spaces are closely related to needs. The most frequent **types of use** and **activities** in Munich's public spaces are walking and strolling, followed by sports, play, fitness and exercise, and the third most frequent activity is spending time outdoors. The fourth and fifth most frequent activities are meeting friends, acquaintances and family and experiencing and enjoying nature and the landscape.

The study shows that the most frequent activities in public spaces change with age. While the social functions of public space, such as meeting friends and acquaintances, are most frequently cited by young people, recreational functions, such as experiencing nature or walking and strolling, are more common among the over-65s.

Usage Pressure
The study showed that **the more densely a neighborhood is built**, the more frequently public spaces are visited. The location in the urban area and the age structure in a neighborhood are further influencing factors. People on higher floors, from the 6th floor up, use public spaces less, whereas cramped living conditions have no effect on the frequency of public space use. These results should be validated with a higher sample size.

"Density stress" as a negative perception of density is not yet as pronounced as it may be subjectively assumed and **"density joy" as a positive perception of density** predominates. It becomes apparent that the residents of Munich appreciate the urban and lively life in the public

spaces and would rather have a respectful interaction with each other than less frequented public spaces per se.

Conflicts and Barriers in Public Space
Behaviors perceived as **conflict or disruption** include trash left behind, loud music, people smoking, homeless people, alcohol, drugs, barbecues, groups of teenagers, bicyclists, and dogs running loose.

Through a special **focus of the study on people with severe disabilities** by means of a separate survey, it was possible to determine that people with severe disabilities encounter a variety of obstacles when using and accessing public open spaces. The most common obstacles experienced very often or often are inconsiderate behavior by bicyclists, obstacles on paths, lack of escalators, ramps, or elevators, and no or incomprehensible public transit announcements. The study also showed that there is a lack of respect and consideration for people with severe disabilities.

Through group interviews and thematic walks, it was possible to establish that **trans, inter and queer people**, if they show this openly, are increasingly exposed to potential attacks and belong to the groups of people who often avoid using public spaces due to a lack of safety.

User Profiles
A unique feature of the study is the creation of **10 user profiles** to identify differences between individual user groups. Six profiles reflect different life phases, two profiles show usage patterns of people with severe disabilities with different usage intensity and two special profiles represent the user groups "Dog owners" and " Peace seekers".

With the help of the user profiles, people are put first in the data analysis. As assumed, the usage patterns are further differentiated between the individual user profiles. The profiles are designed in such a way that one and the same person can be found in several profiles. There are different hot spots, activities and needs in the use of public space, which must be taken into account in the planning and design. On average, these are the simple and everyday needs.

Recommended Actions
In the final chapter of the study, recommended actions are made. These are derived from the qualities and challenges identified in the analysis and are based on the actual needs of the respondents. The recommendations correspond to the flight level of the city-wide study and are located in the four fields of action "participation and activation," "quality and design," "safety and conflicts," and "accessibility and mobility" and prioritized according to "must-have," "keep-going," and "nice-to-have." Best practices" and "Munich practices" are shown to illustrate the recommended actions.

Outlook

The study provides interesting results and recommended actions that can be used in the context of further urban development planning and by various departments of the City of Munich. In addition, the data collected can be analyzed in even greater detail for individual subareas, public open spaces or specific user groups.

But what can be changed in the coming years? The usual Gehl approach would be to test the recommended actions made on a smaller scale. The basic principle here is: **Measure, Test, Refine.** Measuring the status quo of usage patterns has been done very extensively with this study and at the level of the city as a whole. It is now time to test and implement the measures, but also to analyze and measure target group-related or location-specific usage patterns in more detail.

For the coming years, it is important to be even more courageous in some cases: Not every project has to be thought out and planned down to the smallest detail. Following the principle of measure, test, refine, the state capital of Munich can quickly move into implementation by means of pilot projects or real laboratories. The pilot projects then pave the way for formal urban planning processes. In the context of urban redevelopment and urban renewal, funding programs can have a supporting effect and initiate further concretization. Temporary projects can thus be made permanent. Not every place in the city has to be zoned and designed; undefined spaces that allow for appropriation should also be preserved or created. In the process, measurements should always be taken, tested and subsequently readjusted - and people should be put first in the planning process.

Keep going, Munich!

> "Cities that put people first in their urban planning practices are simultaneously addressing a number of important and complex challenges of 21st century."

Jan Gehl

Appendix

On the following pages, the methods of the study (cf. chapter 1.1) are outlined in more detail. The aim and the significance of the method are presented and the methodological procedure and the instruments are described in more detail.

A. Resident Survey incl. Citywide Map (Main and Sub-sample)

A.1 Aim / Significance of The Method

The aim of the resident survey was to conduct a representative survey on the use - but also non-use - of public spaces in the individual neighborhoods. For this purpose, residents from a total of 17 study areas were interviewed. Furthermore, within the framework of an additional random sample special focus was placed on people with severe physical and sensory disabilities. The resident survey is the heart of the study. The main part of the Munich Portrait (Chapter 2) and the definition of the user profiles (Chapter 3) are based on the resident survey.

A.2 Description of The Methodological Procedure (sampling, response, etc.)

In order to be able to map the use of public space in a representative manner for the individual study areas, a total of 17,208 people aged 14 and over with their main place of residence in Munich were drawn from the population register according to age group (main sample). In each area, 1,000 persons were drawn at random, with the exception of Solln, since a full survey of 280 persons was conducted here due to the small number of inhabitants. Another exception is the study area in Neuaubing with six different settlements. Here, the sample consisted of 2,000 people. The study can therefore be considered representative of the individual areas.

The selected individuals were contacted by mail in March 2020 and asked to complete the questionnaire online; for youths between 14 and 17 years, the parents were contacted. To reduce potential technical barriers, respondents aged 65 and older received the questionnaire in writing, but could also participate online if they wished. If individuals did not want to or could not complete the online questionnaire, they had the option of completing it in paper form. To reduce language barriers, respondents received a multilingual cover letter and the questionnaire was offered online in eight different languages: English, French, German, Italian, Croatian, Polish, Turkish and Greek. A total of 37 questionnaires were completed in a language other than German (English: 30, Polish: 2, Turkish: 2, Greek: 1, French: 1, Italian: 1).

To learn more about the public space use of people with disabilities, in addition to the main draw, people with severe disabilities were specifically selected in an area-based full survey (hereafter, sub-sample). Specifically, all 2,437 people with severe disabilities from 18 years of age to under 75 years of age (target group: severely disabled people with a degree of disability of 50 or more in the areas of physical disability (loss / functional impairment of limbs), sensory disability (speech / hearing / vision)), who had their main residence in one of the 17 study areas were contacted. In the sub-sample, a written questionnaire was enclosed with all respondents. The documents were sent out by the Zentrum Bayern Familie und Soziales in Bayreuth. All participants received cards and questionnaires in paper form and, analogous to all others, had the opportunity to participate in the survey online in eight languages.

Accordingly, the sub-sample includes people with an officially recorded disability, provided they have one of the selected impairments and are from the specified age group. The main sample also includes people with impairments if they do not meet the above-mentioned criteria of the sub-sample (type and degree of disability, age) or if the degree has not been officially determined.

In the main and sub-sample, it was possible that people with disabilities were selected in both samples. In this case, the questionnaire for the sub-sample was sent out before the other letter, with a note that respondents with disabilities should only fill out the questionnaire for the sub-sample.

Of the 17,208 people selected for the main sample, 2,632 took part in the survey. The response rate is therefore 15%. If we subtract the 855 letters that were undeliverable, the adjusted response rate is as high as 16 %.

Of the 2,473 people selected for the sub-sample (full survey), 324 took part in the survey. The response rate is therefore 13%. No information is available on the undeliverable letters from the sub-sample, as the returns were sent directly back to the ZBFS for data protection reasons and were not documented there. In two cases, the City of Munich was informed by telephone that the persons written to had died. However, it is not possible to assign these cases to the main or sub-sample.

A.3 Weighting of The Data and Representativeness

The project team was supported in the statistical data processing by Studio Analyse & Tal from Copenhagen. Due to the design of the study, information provided by the respondents is representative for the individual study areas. Extrapolation to the city as a whole is not possible (without further ado), as the sub-areas were selected as examples of neighborhood types and not representative in the statistical sense.

Furthermore, the response behavior in this study was also selective: More elderly people and fewer new residents participated in the study than their population shares in the respective study areas. If public space use behavior is dependent on age and nationality, the results may be biased if the groups are over- or under-represented. One way to offset this bias is to weight the data. Therefore, the data were weighted by the actual age distribution in each of the 17 study areas. Weighting by migration status or citizenship was omitted because the group of people with migration backgrounds were greatly underrepresented in the sample. This leads to high individual weights, which can lead to distortions if the (few) fellow residents with a migration background present in the data set do not respond in a way that is representative of all people with a migration background from the respective study area. Weighting can distort the data even more. Therefore, when interpreting the data, it must be taken into account that people with a migration background may be underrepresented.

The data from the sub-sample were analyzed separately. This allows us to take a more specific look at the use of public space by people with disabilities. No weighting was applied to the sub-sample itself, as the respondents are very heterogeneous in terms of disability: from hearing impairment to severe physical disabilities. Weighting here would require, on the one hand, data from the population with very specific information on the disabilities and, on the other hand, there could be the problem of bias due to weighting - especially if the use of open space also differs within a certain type of disability.

Overall, it must be emphasized at this point that the focus of the analysis was on the factors influencing the quantity and quality of public space use and less on providing representative estimates of public space use for all of Munich. For this purpose, the heterogeneity of the respondents with regard to the characteristics of interest is central. This was also achieved by the chosen approach.

A.4 Description of The Instruments (questionnaire / citywide map)

The questionnaire of the main sample consists of a total of 54 questions, of which one question was open and the rest closed. At the end of the survey, respondents were able to leave their contact information to be involved in further participation in the method mix through focus groups / interviews. In addition, there was an opportunity for expressions of interest in participating in another survey in 5 - 10 years.

The questionnaire of the sub-sample consists of the same questionnaire of the main sample and an additional questionnaire with 14 sets of questions specifically related to the use of public spaces by people with disabilities. The questionnaire of the sub-sample was filled out by 305 persons in analog form and by 21 persons digitally.

Part of the resident survey (main and sub-sample) was a map (in the following citywide map) on which the most frequently visited places in the past twelve months could be entered. In addition, it was possible to indicate the purpose for which the places were visited. The map could be filled out both online and analog. In the case of online mapping, the points could be set digitally; in the case of the analog map, points were glued and numbered consecutively. When indicating the location (whether set digitally or by sticky dot), it is unclear to the reviewers whether an exact location in the public space is meant or the entire public space. This is especially important for larger public spaces.

If the places were not located by click or glue dot, they could also be named. These named locations were spatially assigned and digitized (geocoded) as part of the data processing. However, this was not successful for all named locations, as information such as "home" or "own garden" could not be identified. Of the total of 7,556 location entries, 89% of the locations on the map could be identified as the most frequently visited location. A total of five places could be indicated as having been visited most frequently in the last twelve months (top 5). In 1st place, 2,314 places were indicated and located, 2nd place: 2,099, 3rd place: 1,773, 4th place: 751 and 5th place: 619 places.

Since the localization of the most frequently visited places and favorite places was not limited to Munich, it was also possible to specify places outside the city limits. Of the total of 7,556 places indicated, 6,286 are located within the city limits of Munich. Thus, 83% of the places most frequently visited within the last twelve months are within the city limits and 1,270 places (17%) are outside the city limits.

B. On-site-Interviews

B.1 Aim / Significance of The Method

From summer 2019 to summer 2020, people who spent time in a total of 38 public spaces were interviewed about their public space use patterns, demands, and needs. Of a total of 1,200 on-site interviews, 900 were conducted from July 2019 to March 2020 prior to the Covid 19 pandemic. 300 interviews were supplemented with Covid-19-related questions from May 2020 to July 2020 to determine any change in public space use due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On-site interviews are a valuable method for determining usage patterns within public spaces. It is particularly important that the interviews took place on site and that the topic could be discussed in the location. The focus of the interviews is thus on individual public spaces, from the perspective of all users of these very spaces. In contrast, only residents were interviewed in the resident survey. Especially in the case of public spaces with supra-local significance, on-site interviews can also provide the perspectives of users who do not live there. In particular, qualitative statements were made in the interviews, which were taken into account in the study by means of word clouds or example quotations. Results of the on-site interviews were also incorporated into the user* profiles (see Chapter 7). After the resident survey, the interviews are the second most important method and data source of the method mix in the study on usage patterns in Munich's public spaces.

B.2 Description of The Methodological Approach and The Instrument

The interviews were conducted in 38 public spaces. Interviews were conducted with those who were on site at the respective times. The interviews are snapshots. Different age groups, people with and without migration background or with and without severe disabilities were approached. The interviews were conducted over the course of a year at different times of the day, week and year, during and outside of vacations, and in different weather conditions.

The interview guide consisted of 19 questions about usage patterns and ten questions about the personal life situation that were asked. Twelve of the 19 questions were open-ended, seven were closed questions with predetermined answer options. In addition, six questions were answered by the interviewees themselves about the interview situation and atmosphere.

C. Observations

C.1 Aim / Significance of The Method

In addition to interviews and surveys, supplementary observations were conducted in the 38 public spaces. Observations have the general advantage that they are independent of the willingness of the public space users to provide information. Additionally, usage patterns can be observed that the users themselves are not aware of. Thus, the observations are a valuable addition to the method mix, as they allow a different view on the usage patterns than the methods already described. In this study, the observations were needed primarily to identify differences in the usage patterns of the nine public space density types. In addition, the observations were able to "underpin" the user profiles and provide further interesting insights.

C.2 Description of The Methodological Approach

A total of 1,167 observation forms were completed at 102 observation sites in the 38 different public spaces. Observations were made over the course of a year: between July 2019 and July 2020. Observations were made between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. over the course of all weekdays, weekends, and holidays. Observations were thus intentionally scattered to determine usage patterns at different times of the day, week, and year. This allowed changes in usage patterns within a day, as well as differences between seasons, to be identified.

On page 1 of the observation sheet, the observers selected from pre-formulated categories and characteristics. The following characteristics were observed: Number of people, proportion of women, current visitor frequency, presence of police or security personnel, special actions / events, age (appearance), special types (appearance), mobility, and activity.

On page 2 of the observation sheet, all activities, moods and happenings at the square were described by the observer in as much detail as possible. The following characteristics were recorded here: special groups, activities, types of sports and play, positive perceptions of the observer, daily restrictions in accessibility, perceived conflicts, negative perceptions and disruptive factors.

D. Thematic Walks and Focus Groups

D.1 Aim / Significance of The Method

In order to be able to include perspectives of minorities, underprivileged groups and groups not reached by surveys in the study, the methods already described were supplemented by focus groups and thematic city walks.

D.2 Description of The Methodological Approach

Spatially different types of neighborhoods and public space densities were included in the thematic city walks. A joint experience of the city by key persons with a thematic connection, from politics or administration, as well as residents, combined with small questions and discussion rounds at stops along the way, led to new insights that could be deepened in the focus groups..

In November and December 2019, six city walks took place in several neighborhoods and their surroundings. The walks were conducted under the leadership of STUDIO | STADT | REGION. The topics were:

- Homelessness - the city as a home
- (Un)safety from a diversity perspective
- Seasonal flexibility, public space and seasons in the context of fashion
- Density, heterogeneity, tolerance
- Ambiguities
- Networking, accessibility, mobility of people with and without physical and sensory disabilities

In November 2021, three additional city walks were conducted by Weeber+Partner on the following topics:

- Utilization pressure - Density perception - Density stress
- Climate: heat islands - cold islands - fresh air corridors
- Gender perspectives

In May and June 2022, seven group interviews were conducted to jointly concretize the findings from the walks and develop recommendations for action.

The group interviews took place in May and June 2022. Weeber+Partner organized, prepared, conducted and documented the group interviews; Gehl provided selected content from the evaluations as input. The following group interviews took place:

- Networking, accessibility, mobility of people with and without physical and sensory disabilities
- Seasonal flexibility, public space and seasons in the context of fashion
- (Un)safety from a diversity perspective
- Density, heterogeneity, tolerance
- Ambiguities
- Homelessness - the city as a home
- Climate and gender perspectives

Table of Figures

Download this study in both English and German:

www.muenchen.de/nutzungsmuster

Note: In the appendix of the download versions (English/German), the methods of the study (cf. chapter 1) are described in more detail. The aim and significance of the method are presented and the methodological procedure and instruments are described in more detail.