

**Time frame**

Autumn 2015 – summer 2016

**Stakeholders**

Political executive  
Extra-curricular education  
Civil society  
Spatial and urban planners  
Landscape and environmental planners

**Typologies (space types)**

Outside space  
Living environment

**Institutional framework****Design quality criteria**

Accessibility  
Designability  
Opportunities to interact

**Structure-related quality criteria**

Strategic orientation  
Designing the provisions/  
living spaces  
Collaboration  
Participation and identification

**The starting point**

The SpielRaum agency carried out a participative play space analysis with the involvement of children and key adults in Steffisburg from September 2015 to May 2016 on behalf of the Steffisburg municipality. A play space concept was developed from the comprehensive analysis between spring and summer 2016. This serves to deliver decision criteria with the aim of achieving, upgrading or creating needs-appropriate play and recreation areas for children and families in the municipality. The play space concept delivers a specific catalogue of recommendations and provides implementation aids.

**Aims**

- The play space concept offers an overview of the quality, distribution and development of the existing play and recreation spaces in the Steffisburg municipality.
- The play space concept offers a sustainable and comprehensive strategy for the needs-appropriate development of the play and recreation spaces in the Steffisburg municipality.

**Target group**

- Primary target group: Children from 6 to 12 years of age
- Secondary target group: Parents of children from 2 to 12 years of age

**Costs**

The costs of a play space concept depend on how many existing play and recreation spaces the SpielRaum agency analyses for child-friendliness and how many potential spaces are available for the realisation of public play and recreation spaces. Around 20,000 to 45,000 Swiss francs.

### **Project progression**

The SpielRaum agency was commissioned by the Steffisburg municipality's Department for Civil Engineering and Environment to develop a play space concept. The agency's first step was to inspect all public play and break areas in Steffisburg in autumn 2015. They worked closely with local stakeholders when developing the concept. Various activities to determine the needs of the target groups were carried out with the Steffisburg children and youth work agency and with the municipality's education department, such as:

- A playful playground evaluation in autumn 2015, in which 120 children and 60 adults took part.
- A public participation activity on the village square in October 2015.
- An online survey in winter 2015.
- A survey in May 2016 on the quality of the school sites in terms of play and recreation.

The SpielRaum agency developed the analysis and the concept until summer 2016, and presented it to the Steffisburg local council (executive) in the September.

### **Success factors**

- Decision-makers made the commission, improving the quality of play spaces was specified as a municipal legislative aim.
- Inclusion of all residents.
- Expertise of the SpielRaum agency in carrying out the play space analysis.
- The initial selective measures were implemented very quickly, further measures followed after discussing the budget for them.

### **Challenges**

It is important that the collaboration with the schools involved is integrated and planned well in advance. The schedule was somewhat tight in this project in this respect.

### **Conclusion**

The existing play and recreation spaces were evaluated on technical criteria and specific recommendations made for each space. Areas with insufficient play and recreation spaces were also determined. The play space concept now serves the Steffisburg municipality as a guiding strategy when dealing with their public play and recreation areas. Initial implementation followed hot on the heels of the concept being finished. All public play and recreation spaces were listed as publicly accessible. In the most deprived area of the municipality, a varied and natural neighbourhood playground is currently being built and will open soon.

### **Contact details**

Anne Wegmüller,  
Fachstelle SpielRaum  
Quartiergasse 13, 3013 Bern  
anne.wegmueller@spielraum.ch  
www.spielraum.ch

