

# WHOSE CITY IS IT?

**How to Achieve Socio-Spatial Justice By Using  
Citizen Participation Systems  
Focus Area: Rotterdam South, Tarwewijk**



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How to Achieve Socio-Spatial Justice by Using Citizen Participation Systems

Focus Area: Rotterdam South, Tarwewijk

## P5 Report

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In this report, a *community* or a *citizen community* is a group of local inhabitants who form a group and define different goals and tasks, from defining and holding various group activities and events in the neighbourhood to being actively involved in the decision making processes.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Motivation

## 1.2. Context

## 1.3. Problem Field

## 1.4. Aim of the Project

### 1.1. Motivation

In 2018, 55.3 per cent of the world population lived in urbanised areas; this number is predicted to increase by the year 2030, up to 60 per cent (United Nations, 2018). However, some destinations seem to attract a more significant portion of this human flow, from both national and international scales. This phenomenon results in several advantages but also negative externalities. Nowadays, in most cities, it is easy to locate “rich” and “poor” neighbourhoods, which means the difference between the economic classes of the inhabitants and a vast difference in the urban structure and the neighbourhood itself.

As an urbanism student, I believe the most crucial purpose of any city is serving people. Therefore, all the proposals, including urban policies, strategies, and design, should emphasise this goal. When we talk about people, it is essential to acknowledge both the “visible” groups of society and the “invisible” ones or minorities as equals to the first groups.

In the Netherlands, many of the inhabitants deal with issues of poverty and social segregation, especially the low-skilled immigrants in the core cities like Amsterdam or Rotterdam, which has been the destination of several migrants from both inside and outside the borders (Entzinger & Engbersen, 2014)

Zooming in Rotterdam, there is a clear division between the south part and the north part. While Rotterdam is known as a modern international city, it still faces many socio-spatial issues, especially in the southern part; nowadays, many people in Rotterdam south still live in poverty, facing safety, social and physical issues in their neighbourhoods (Municipality of Rotterdam, 2018). This fact creates a dual face of the city, of which one of them is a well known modern city and the destination for tourists, job seekers, and young people, while the other one is an unknown and neglected one, which serves the needs of the north part of the city (Entzinger, 2018).

*“Any city however small, is in fact divided into two, one the city of the poor, the other of the rich. These are at war with one another”  
\_Plato, 360 B.C.E\_*

## 1.2 Context

By 2018, around 55 per cent of the world's population lived in an urban area; it is predicted that this number will rise to 60 per cent by 2030 (United Nations, 2018). More people are moving to the core cities on both national and international scales, resulting in diverse and multicultural societies. As Lee elaborates, "in the developed countries, one of the main sources of population diversity is international migration, while in the developing countries, it is most likely internal migration". As an example, Rotterdam has been a destination for immigrants from rural areas in the Netherlands and other countries, making Rotterdam the city with the highest percentage of foreigners in the Netherlands and non-industrial countries (Entzinger, 2018). However, a large portion of these immigrants still lives in poverty and substandard conditions. For example, by 2018, due to rapid population growth and migration from rural areas to the cities, 863 million people globally have lived in an informal settlement, which is a massive trend in many parts of the world (Niva et al., 2019). Meanwhile, poor urban settlements often function as waiting rooms for arriving migrants in low-income countries (Niva et al., 2019).

In *Arrival City*, Saunders discusses this phenomenon more deeply. The so-called ex-rural population mostly settle or even create poor and underdeveloped fragments in the cities, with a distinctive and specific pattern in physical structure and institutions, customs, and conflicts, which he called transitional spaces, or arrival cities (Saunders, 2009). Moreover, he illustrates that this human flow will have a noticeable effect on society. As a fact, these places might be the context of the next economic and cultural boom, or the subsequent explosion of violence, resulting from spatial inequalities and neglecting these areas: "The catastrophes of mismanaged urbanization—the human miseries and revolutionary uprisings and wars—were often a direct result of this blindness: We failed to account for this influx of people, and in the process created urban communities of recent arrivals who became trapped, excluded, resentful. Much of the history of this age was the history of deracinated people, deprived of franchise, making urgent and sometimes violent attempts to gain a standing in the urban order" (Saunders, 2009).

Acknowledging the neglected groups of society as equals and considering their needs in different aspects of governance increases the level of justice and reduces the negative externalities of the migration phenomena and can benefit the whole society. However, it is important to define different aspects of justice and democracy in relation to society and urbanization processes, to understand the power and role

of urban design and urban planning in tackling the issues of injustice.

### 1.2.1 Democracy and social cohesion

The origin of the word democracy comes from the two Greek terms: *Demos* meaning people, and *Kratos*, meaning power (Ober, 2007). Therefore, democracy can be defined as the power of the people. Nowadays, democracy can be considered a political, governmental structure in which the rulers are elected directly or indirectly. However, the meaning goes further than politics and the governmental structure, inside the families, small groups, communities, associations, and so on. All the different types of democracy share the same values: Equality, justice, Liberty (ushistory, 2020).

As Cuellar elaborates, "a basis for stable democracy is social cohesion – consolidation of the plurality of citizenship and reducing inequality and socio-economic disparities and fractures in the society". Stanley defines social cohesion "as the willingness of members of a society to cooperate with each other in order to survive and prosper". The lack of social cohesion and collective identity (which Whooley describes as "the shared definition of a group that derives from its members' common interests, experiences, and solidarities") can cause several problems for individuals and society. As an example, research done by *World Health Organization* in 2007 shows a strong relationship between enhancing social cohesion and mental health. In the report, some of the mentioned risk factors for mental disorders in children and youngsters are social exclusion, peer rejection, and isolation, which results from the absence of social interaction and, therefore, lack of social cohesion (WHO, 2007).

In addition, the results of the same research show the fact that the migration processes can increase the risk of mental disorders in both countries of destination and origin. In the report, it is indicated that "Young people with a positive sense of mental well-being possess problem-solving skills, social competence and a sense of purpose that can help them rebound from setbacks, thrive in the face of poor circumstances, avoid risk-taking behaviour and continue to a productive life" (WHO, 2007). Meanwhile, the same exercise also shows the importance of social cohesion for individuals' well being and society's functioning.

One of the main essences of social cohesion is citizen participation (Dekker & Van Kempen, 2009). As Kleinhans elaborates, "psychologists define empowerment as a process in which individuals gain control of and influence over their lives and become democratically

enabled to participate in society. This can raise your chances of climbing the social ladder and the way you utilize opportunities". Several projects (such as Citizenlab, Citizenproject, Actionproject, and official policies in various countries such as the Netherlands and England) are going on worldwide to increase citizen participation and therefore social cohesion. For example, place-making projects are being initiated in several countries such as Netherlands, Turkey, Australia, and Ghana, with the central aim of initiating or increasing community-based participation (PPS, 2018). The results of these projects illustrate how creating a common goal and engaging people increases social interaction, trust, and, therefore, social cohesion. While most of the world's populations live in urban areas, the concepts of citizen participation, communicative planning, and citizen empowerment could be considered important elements in urban development projects to achieve social cohesion and, therefore, more democratic societies.

Cities have been known as complex spatial and social systems during the past decades, and the level of this complexity is rising due to the appearance of more complex societies and the issues within them (Batty, 2009). According to *The New Urban Agenda* by the United Nations' Human Settlement Program (UN Habitat), "cities can be the source of solutions to, rather than the cause of, the challenges that our world is facing today. If well-planned and well-managed, urbanization can be a powerful tool for sustainable development for both developing and developed countries". That means, with the right urban design and urban policies, achieving democracy and justice can be easier. However, how can an improvement of a physical space affect the human lives as social beings, in both individual and collective contexts, and increase the level of justice within the societies?

*Space is not a container of human activity, but an active force shaping human life*  
\_Soja, (2009)\_

From Soja's point of view, there is a two-sided relation between social life and space. That means space can affect social activities, while social activities can also shape the space, and this space can be defined in different scales, from a house to the global one. Besides Edward Soja, a lot of theoreticians such as Fran Tonkiss, David Harvey, and Henry Lefebvre, emphasized the importance of space in social interactions and, in general, human life. That also means space can have both positive and negative effects on society and people as individuals.

Since nowadays, most of the world population is living in an urban area (United Nations, 2018), the city is the main space in which human life and social interactions are being shaped and defined. Therefore, knowing this relationship between the quality of space and human life, what is the relationship between justice, urban spaces, and urban development projects?

### 1.2.2. Why do we need justice in the cities?

To be able to answer the above-mentioned question, it is essential to first define the meaning of justice in the context of space and elaborate on the importance and urgency of this issue. The concept of justice has different meanings in different positions, such as individuals, humans vs inhumans, and so on. Miller defines justice regarding each individual's claim as "how individual people are treated. Issues of justice arise in circumstances in which people can advance claims – to freedom, opportunities, resources, and so forth – that are potentially conflicting, and we appeal to justice to resolve such conflicts by determining what each person is properly entitled to have". Moreover, justice contains aspects, such as distributional, recognitional, and participatory, which will be explained later in this project.

Social Justice defines the fair relation between an individual and society, which means that each individual has a social role in society, including duties and benefits (Likita, 2018). In order to have social justice, all individuals have to be considered equals. However, the idea of social justice is far away from reality (Betts & Collir, 2017). Nowadays, different countries all around the globe are dealing with social injustice issues in different scales and different contexts: racial, sexual, economic, environmental and so on.

Harvey says the main principle of social justice is the "fair distribution", which raises two questions in the way:

\_What are we distributing?

\_Among whom or what are we distributing?

Each society's economic, political, and social frameworks define the distribution of benefits and duties in that society. Based on these frameworks, the fair distribution can regard different files, such as income, wealth, opportunities, jobs, and utilities, among different classifications in society, such as different societal classes, groups of people, or individuals (Lamont, 2012).

Knowing the effect of space in human life, could the meaning of fair distribution be also translated in the context of space, and more specifically, the context of a city?

Living in an urbanized area provides the opportunity to benefit from different resources in the city, such as healthcare, education, mobility and housing. Michel and Ribardi re define these resources as "urban resources – that is, not just as a sum of services but also in terms of their specific spatial distribution over urban space, mutual interaction and conditions of access." The unfair distribution of the urban resources results in social injustice. In addition to these services, based on the purpose, space itself can also act as an urban resource, such as a public square or a public transport system, with the purpose of providing accessibility for people in different locations (Michel & Ribardi re, 2017). Based on the relation between the fair distribution of urban resources and social justice with the above-mentioned arguments, the essential role of space in enhancing social justice is undeniable.

Spatial justice is a term, which defines the link between social justice and space. As Soja elaborates more on the concept of spatial justice, "it involves the fair and equitable distribution in the space of socially valued resources and opportunities to use them". In other words, spatial justice creates a more extensive framework for controlling the process and the result of creating a space, considering social justice; this control is not only defined as a duty and right for the official stakeholders but also the inhabitants of the area, which means citizen empowerment is a goal and also a tool in this process (Kleinhans, 2012).

Talking about citizen empowerment brings up the concept of communities for citizen participation, which also share a relationship with social cohesion (Speer, 2002); as Speer mentions from a psychological perspective, "The concept of social cohesion embraces participation but expands this behavioural emphasis to incorporate notions of trust, connectedness, and civic engagement. The cohesive nature of participation is related to interactional and intrapersonal empowerment. Findings support and extend previous findings, reliably cluster residents by the degree of connectedness in their participatory experiences, and reveal that social cohesion is related to intrapersonal empowerment."

The importance of social cohesion and citizen participation in achieving democratic cities has been discussed earlier in this chapter. Social cohesion is a social process in which individuals of society cooperate

as a whole, aiming to reduce inequality with two main dimensions: the sense of belonging within a community and the relation between the individuals themselves (Manca, 2014). The idea of a society working as a whole might be more sensible during times of crisis in some specific cases (such as natural disasters), when different members of the society are experiencing the same difficulty or distress, and they feel the need and duty to work as a whole in order to be able to deal with the situation (Lalot et al., 2021). In simple words, social cohesion can be defined as "the glue that holds society together" (United Nations, 2012).

As mentioned, citizen empowerment is a tool and a goal in achieving spatial justice, which shares the same elements of community and participation with social cohesion, which also share the aim of fairness and equality in societies. However, what does participation and community mean, and how can these concepts be implemented in urban design and increasing socio-spatial justice?

### 1.2.3 The just city Framework

In order to be able to understand what makes a city or a neighbourhood more just, the just city framework has been developed during the past years, offering a set of values for measuring well-being considering different aspects of it. As it is explained more in Veld Academie's report, "The Just City Index was developed by the Just City Lab under the guidance of Toni L. Griffin, during the 2016 – 2017 academic year. This index aims and fifty values that can be used to reflect on the unjust nature of our cities". The purpose of this index is to define the role of urban planning and urban design, in achieving socio-spatial justice within the urban areas, in different scales, from the city, to the neighbourhood and public spaces.

This framework offers a value-based method to clarify the goal of an urban project within a value-based design process. In this framework, "Community" and "Participation" are considered two of the subset values of Engagement:



### Community

A group of individuals or collective groups having shared or common interests

### Cooperation

The process by which individuals or collective groups work together to do something

### Participation

The active engagement of individuals and community members in matters, both formal and informal, affecting social and spatial wellbeing

### Togetherness

A sense of solidarity within and across populations

# ENGAGEMENT

### Community:

In simple words, a community can be defined as a group of individuals with a common interest (Simon, 2016). However, the meaning of community is more complex than what it sounds like. First of all, it is important to emphasize the fact that community is not a place, but it is about the people. Within the community, the people share the senses of trust and belonging. They have a collective sense while preserving their individualities, with the ability to affect on each-other, other people, and their environment. The physical places, such as religious buildings, schools, and community centres, are the contexts and environments favouring these communities (Chavis & Lee, 2015).

### Participation:

Apgar and Thorpe define participation as a process in which "people are being involved in decisions that affect their lives. Through participation, people can identify opportunities and strategies for action and build solidarity to effect change". Regarding the urban development and urban planning processes, a city can both give the opportunity for participation in communities by providing the physical environment and use the citizen participation in the process of planning and developing. In fact, Enyedi refers to citizen participation as a "dialogue between decision-makers and local inhabitants, which is a pre-requisite for sustainable urban development".

Figure 1: Just City Values: Engagement  
Source: The Just City Lab by Veld Academy, (2017)



Figure 2: Just City Values worksheet customised for urban development in Rotterdam,  
Source: The Just City Lab by Veld Academy, (2017)

Besides the meanings of community and participation, de la Cal elaborates more on the relation between these concepts and urbanization processes: “the idea that ‘it is the people who make the city’ has been remarked on by many authors such as Churchill, Jacobs, Alexander, Gehl, and others, who considered that human scale and the conduciveness of a determined space to sociality should be the main ingredients of urban design. The mobilization of an organized civil society, establishing its own networks for information, decision-making, and strategic alliances, and the activation of urban life are needed to guarantee the survival and success of our cities”.

From the author’s point of view, engaging people in the decision-making process can be considered as the key element of moving towards achieving socio-spatial justice. Urban designers should be aware of the fact that people will use our end product. Moreover, the long-time experience of space gives a more realistic overview of the conditions, missing points, and required improvements. Creating communities for citizen participation and activating local decision-making modules provide the opportunity to use this valuable experience. Proving the point, The Connective Cities association elaborates that “formal participation processes, such as those required by law in Germany for urban land use planning, have proved valuable. They should, however, be supplemented by informal processes and cooperation, so that guiding principles can be developed and put into practice with the active involvement of citizens, clubs, associations, and businesses.”

### 1.3. Problem Field

Nowadays, most of the world’s population are living in cities at an increasing rate. The migration flow to the core cities on national and international scales has resulted in the appearance of multicultural and diverse societies. Meanwhile, many of these immigrants live in substandard conditions, such as informal settlements, which is more visible in poor countries (Niva, et al. 2019). However, the developed countries also deal with this issue, meaning they also house these specific groups of society in specific parts of the cities with substandard conditions, as Saunders names them Arrival Cities. In addition, neglecting this groups of society and the fragments of urbanized areas results in negative externalities, such as lack of collective identity, urban loneliness, and radicalised actions, which will have a major effect on the whole society (Saunders, 2010). Rotterdam is the second-largest city in the Netherlands. Since “it is home to the largest port in Europe (which is also one of the biggest in the world), as well as home to headquarters for corporations including Unilever, Eneco,

and Roboco, many people come to the city for job opportunities” (World Population Review, 2020). In addition, there are other reasons for people to move to Rotterdam, such as the advantages of living in a major city and also its famous educational institutions. Nowadays, Rotterdam “has the highest percentage of foreigners in the Netherlands and non-industrial countries” (De La Bleue Fox, 2017).

However, the concentrated settlement of specific different ethnic groups in some of the neighbourhoods is obvious (CBS, 2018), more specifically in the neighbourhoods of Rotterdam south, which has been a destination for the significant amount of low-skilled immigrants from the lower economic classes (Entzinger & Engbersen, 2014). Comparing Rotterdam’s northern and southern parts, the south part occupies more surface than the north part, placing 40% of the total population; this part of Rotterdam has been neglected from the beginning of its existence, around 150 years ago (STAR study association, 2019).

### 1.4. Aim of The Project

The main goal of this project to understand the advantages and disadvantages of diverse and multicultural societies in order to be able to propose a way to reduce the negative externalities of this phenomenon and operationalize the potentialities of this diversity to move towards enhancing social cohesion and eventually socio-spatial justice within the cities.

The importance of activating citizen participation systems within communities in increasing social cohesion and socio-spatial justice resulted in considering community and participation as two main elements in achieving the main goal of this project. Therefore, this project aims to provide the necessary infrastructure for citizen participation systems and encourage the inhabitants to get involved in the decision-making process in the communities by developing an alternative strategic framework, which offers a step-by-step community activation system that can be implemented in different locations as well.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1. Problem Statement

### 2.2. Research Questions

### 2.3. Intended Outcome

### 2.4. Conceptual Framework

### 2.5. Methods

### 2.6. Methodological Flowchart

### 2.7. Analytical Framework

### 2.8. Overview of Sub-research Questions' Answers in the Report

### 2.1. Problem Statement

The migration phenomenon on national and international scales has resulted in diverse societies in the destination locations (mostly the core cities) and significant population growth. Moreover, as Saunders mentions that a large portion of these immigrants settle or create poor and underdeveloped neighbourhoods in the cities. Neglecting these parts of the cities and societies might end up in the next great explosion of violence by these people, which can affect the individuals and the whole society.

Rotterdam is one of the so-called arrival cities Saunders speaks about, especially the south part of the city, which has been housing many low-skilled immigrants from both rural parts of the Netherlands and outside the country's borders (Entzinger & Engbersen, 2014). Several neighbourhoods in Rotterdam south, such as Tarwewijk, are facing physical, social, and safety issues. The socio-spatial segregation of these migrant groups impacts the deprivation of the areas and their inhabitants, resulting in a lack of social cohesion and a collective identity.

Tarwewijk is one of the problematic neighbourhoods of Rotterdam south, which has been a destination for low-skilled immigrants and houses various ethnic groups. Based on reports from the municipality of Rotterdam, there is an in and outflow of about one-third of the whole neighbourhood's population. What is more, the lack of collective identity and sense of belonging and a lower rate of life satisfaction compared to other neighbourhoods of Rotterdam are some of the other issues the neighbourhood is facing (Municipality of Rotterdam, 2018).

### 2.2. Research Questions

#### 2.2.1. Main research question:

How to move towards achieving socio-spatial justice in Rotterdam as a city with a multicultural population by urban public space regeneration while considering community creation and participation as two essential elements in the process?

#### 2.2.2. Sub-research questions:

The sub research questions are categorised in three different groups, in order to move towards answering the main research question,

which leads to the main intended outcome. The sub research question groups are:

### 1. Demographics:

- 1-1. What groups of society have been marginalized?
- 1-2. What are the specific particularities of these groups (economic condition, cultural background, etc..)
- 1-3. What are the needs of these groups that are not being provided?
- 1-4. Who is eligible to participate in decision making, and in what scales it is possible to do so?

### 2. Policies and urban spatial infrastructure (urban resources):

- 2-1. Does the urban policies and infrastructure prevent or reduce the alienation of these specific groups?
- 2-2. If so, what are the missing spatial structures and policies?
- 2-3. To what extent is that possible to increase social interaction and, therefore, social cohesion by improving public spaces?

### 3. Co-creation and co-participation:

- 3-1. Who is eligible to participate in decision making, and at what scales it is possible to do so? How can a community attract different people to participate?

## 2.3. Intended Outcomes

The main intended outcome of the project is to offer an alternative strategic framework to activate citizen participation in communities through regeneration of public spaces since the physical space and infrastructure is the backbone for the development of more just social organizations that can foster social cohesion and provide the opportunity to initiate and enhance citizen participation systems.

Because a city is meant to be the place for people, it is important to see how people can claim their right to the city (which Lefebvre defines as an action to reclaim the city as a co-created space, and later on, Harvey defines it as a common right upon the exercise of a collective power to reshape the processes of urbanization) and, provide the opportunities and prerequisites for activating local decision-making processes within citizen communities in order to co-create the city. The location of this project is Rotterdam south, Tarwewij, as the main research and implementation area. However, the proposed framework is aimed to be applicable in different locations with different

Contexts.

Another essential issue in this project is to create a balance between the rights of the inhabitants to the city and involving them in the decision-making processes, and providing the proper supervision over the citizen participation in urban development projects, to gain the best result from a process in which the inhabitants are included in a logical framework with the presence and guidance of professionals.

*Based on my experience and my knowledge, The bottom-up system doesn't work. There has to be some supervision and starters. Therefore, it is better to use a top-led, bottom-fed system.  
\_Organizer of Cultuurwerkplaats, interviewed at 2020\_*

## 2.4. Conceptual Framework

Migration to core cities results in multicultural and diverse societies, as well as overpopulation in the destination cities. Without the needed urban infrastructure and strategies, this phenomenon can cause several problems, both to the immigrants, and the society as a whole, such as lack of collective identity, unequal access to urban resources, socio-spatial segregation, and eventually, radicalised acts from the marginalized and neglected group of society (Saunders, 2010).

This project aims to propose an alternative strategic and design framework for activating citizen participation in citizen communities while considering urban public space redevelopment as a tool to provide the needed spatial infrastructure of the communities. These concepts (community, participation and urban public space regeneration) are considered as the main guidelines of this project, to lessen the negative externalities of the migration phenomenon and strengthen the advantages of multicultural societies, and eventually achieve the final goal of the project, which is increasing social cohesion and socio-spatial justice.

The conceptual framework illustrates the relations between the Problem statement and its context, the final aim of increasing socio-spatial justice, and the concepts used to achieve the goal (Figure 3).

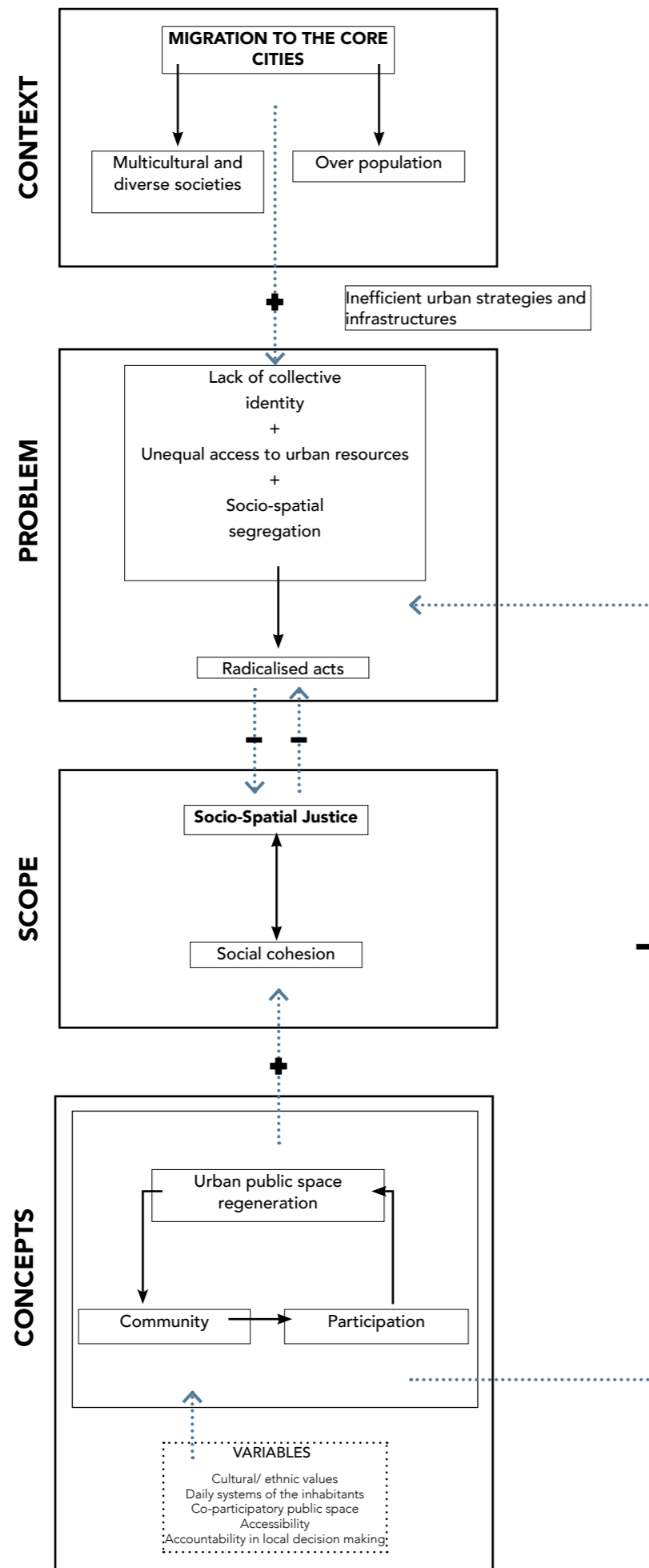


Figure 3: Conceptual framework  
Source: Made by Author

The concepts of socio-spatial justice and social cohesion were explained earlier in this report (see section 1.2). As Michel and Ribardière explain the relationship between social justice and space in identifying urban resources to read socio-spatial inequalities, the unfair distribution of urban resources results in social injustice. Soja refers to spatial justice as a framework that monitors the process and the result of urban development projects while considering social justice as an important value to achieve. Besides Soja, other theoreticians (such as David Harvey, and Henry Lefebvre) have been studying socio-spatial justice and the importance of its implication.

However, many of the theories and different governmental plans based on the concepts of socio-spatial justice seem to be neglecting today's complex societies or even fail to address the issues derived from this complexity (Subendran, 2021). Nowadays, there are many critics about the theories and practical actions in the socio-spatial justice field and the practicality of the concepts. For example, socio-spatial justice includes equity, collective identity, diversity, community and citizen empowerment (Griffin, 2017). However, the specifications and the complexity of marginalized societies (race, gender, religion, culture, etc.) seem to be neglected in many cases, which results in the incapability and inefficiency of the urban policies and projects to address the issues (Subendran, 2021). An example of this statement is the study location of this project (Tarwewijk), in which there have been some unsuccessful attempts to improve the neighbourhood (see section 3.2.1).

Considering "recognition" in the concept of justice is a possible way to fill in the gap in the theories and practices. Only focusing on the fair distribution of benefits and harms in the concept of justice usually results in neglecting the cultural values and diversity of the society, and basically, the reasons behind this misdistribution (Carr & Preston, 2019). As Preston and Carr elaborate more, "looking more carefully at those structures opens up questions of power and vulnerability that are integral to a complete picture of justice". Schlosberg also suggests that recognition is an essential element in the concept of justice. Preston and Carr analyse this idea further and state that acknowledging the diverse values of individuals or specific social groups (especially the marginalised and neglected ones) is necessary for the participation of different groups in the decision making participatory processes and address the distributional injustice.

To acknowledge marginalised societies' diverse values and specifications, this project defines some variables, which will be considered in different phases of the project (data analysis, fieldwork, and proposal



phases). Co-participatory public space (meaning the ability of a public space to be reshaped in co-participatory processes, and offering desired needs of different groups of users), accountability in local decision-making (meaning considering the inhabitants in the decision making process and include them) and accessibility (meaning considering everyone as equals in accessing urban resources\_ in this case public spaces) focus on the main concepts of community, public space regeneration and participation, and are directly related to them. That means it is aimed to involve the local inhabitants (from different social groups) through the process of regenerating public spaces in early phases and encourage them to initiate and participate in the decision-making process while providing the prerequisites for this action. Meanwhile, the other two variables of cultural/ ethnic values (later on translated into the usage of public space by different groups) and daily systems of the inhabitants (the way the inhabitants use the public spaces and their facilities during different times) are going to be considered in different phases to understand the specifications of different social groups, their values, and how they use their living environment. To explain more, acknowledging these variables helps with a stronger analysis of the study location and its social life, the diverse values of the inhabitants and their preferences, and what they want from their living environment. Eventually, the results can help find common ground between different social groups and propose an alternative solution to activate the concept of the project more collectively.

Figure 4 illustrates the sequence of the way each section of the conceptual framework has been used in this project. First of all, the issues of migration phenomenon are analysed on global and local scales to understand the negative externalities and their roots on deeper level. after that, the variables are going to be used as the key elements for further analysis and proposals, and eventually, based on the collective results of all the analysis and data collection, the strategic and design framework is going to focus on activation the concepts, in order the achieve the final goals of the project represented in the scope section.

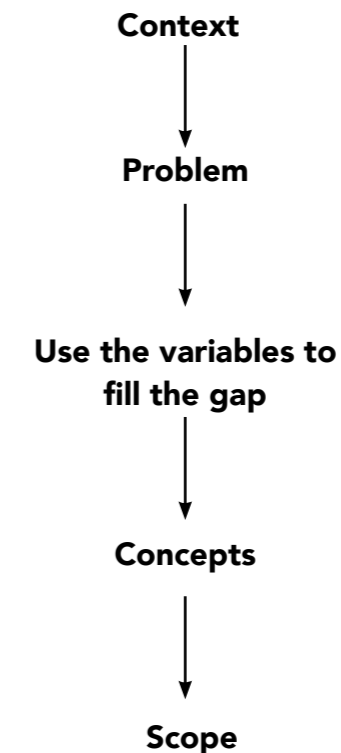


Figure 4: The sequence of Conceptual framework's sections  
Source: Made by Author

## 2.5. Methods

In this thesis project, analysing the current social and spatial situation in the focus site of the project and past and current policies regarding solving the issues is considered as the starting point, which will be continued during the strategy-making process. What is more, it is aimed to look at the context from both theoretical frameworks and also the inhabitants' point of view in order to get a more realistic overview of the condition.

In order to answer the research questions, the below steps are proposed:

### 1. Define the problem:

- 1-1 Analyse the global problem by researching different theories and data collection
- 1-2 Zoom into the location, classify the problems by site visit, demographic analysis, interviews with both professionals and the inhabitants

### 2. Analyse the current policies regarding the problem :

- 2-1 Analyse the previous policies and their results
- 2-2 Analyse the ongoing policies and define the gaps between the current policies and the previous ones.

2-3 Define the shortcomings and inefficiencies of the current policies

### 3. Map the problems

### 4. Strategical framework, leading to a design framework

### 5. Test the framework by a design

The steps define the main process of the project. However, the whole project is a continuous process of these steps, which means there might be a need to take the previous steps again or overlap them.

The methods are proposed based on the variables in the conceptual framework, using the different steps to answer the sub-research questions and eventually the main research question. For each one of the methods, a set of literature reviews is needed in order to understand the concepts defined as the variables better and achieve a more comprehensive analysis:

#### •Assessment of current policies:

By analysing the current policies and the efficiency rate of the already implemented ones, it is possible to define the missing point and start to improve them/ offer an alternative solution. In this project, the municipal policies of Rotterdam will be assessed, focusing on community making and citizen participation.

#### •Assessment of existing urban infrastructure:

The unequal access to urban resources derives from the poorly planned urban infrastructure. Lack of suitable housing, accessibility, social facilities, and enough public greenery are some of the results of this issue. At this project, analysing the current public places and the inhabitants' daily systems, and locating the physical inefficiencies, and connecting them to the social problems will be done as an essential step for improvement.

#### •Demographic analysis:

Knowing the inhabitants of a neighbourhood helps to understand their needs. By analysing the characteristics of each group, such as cultural and ethnic background, job status, and financial conditions, it is possible to understand society as a whole while considering the minorities. Moreover, by analysing the statistics during the past years, it is easier to be prepared for the upcoming trend.

#### •Assessment of current and previous practices:

While every country, city, or neighbourhood has a unique situation, there might be several similarities between different cases. Since testing the new framework and design can cause various problems, analysing similar cases could be a helpful tool to observe the outcomes of a similar idea, in reality, get inspired and prevent repeating the same mistakes in a new proposal.

#### •Interview with the city residents/visitors:

The residents of a neighbourhood know their living environment the best. That means they know the strengths and weaknesses of the area and might already have ideas about the possible improvements. While the citizens see their neighbourhood/ city as their home, the visitors use a different lens. Therefore, it is also valuable to know the different experiences, comments, and ideas to have a more comprehensive overview of the situation. In addition, connecting with the citizens and knowing their preferences helps activate local decision-making modules since they are supposed to be the future actors of the communities.

#### •Assessment of public spaces:

An efficient and inclusive public space increases satisfaction and living standards in a neighbourhood. But also, it creates the opportunity for the users to interact with each other, know new people, and create groups and communities. Therefore, a successful public space would help the improvement of the neighbourhood, increase social cohesion, create a sense of belonging in the residents, and attract other people to the area. Moreover, at this project, a public space will serve as the physical structure for communities and tries to foster different aspects of justice, which needs a new definition in required values.



## 2.6. Methodological Flowchart

### MOTIVATION

Socio-spatial cohesion in Rotterdam south/ Tarwewijk, by creating communities for citizen participation

### PROBLEM FIELD

Global context	Migration to the core cities, on national and international scales, resulting in significant growth of the population of these cities and the appearance of diverse and multicultural societies.
City context (Rotterdam)	<p>_The existing urban structure and the current planning policies and operability seem not to be considering the values and voices of living in diversity</p> <p>_A large number of Rotterdammers still live in poverty</p> <p>_Spatial segregation by different income groups</p> <p>_The threat of gentrification in lower-income neighbourhoods</p> <p>_The risk of the appearance of issues such as urban loneliness and chronic diseases due to the ageing population.</p> <p><i>+Lack of collective identity, the risk of the enhancements of radicalism</i></p>
Subregional context (RZ)	More concentration of the neighbourhoods with physical, social and safety indexes below the average of Rotterdam (Clear division between north and south of Rotterdam)
Local context (Tarwewijk)	<p>_Concentration of lower-income</p> <p>_Concentration of immigrants</p> <p>_Lower quality housing</p> <p>_Social segregation</p> <p>_Higher range of crime</p> <p>_Low rate of life satisfaction</p>

### Aims

Understand the advantages and disadvantages of diversity in the society, operationalize the potentialities of this phenomenon, in the case of Rotterdam south, in order to achieve a just city and social cohesions.

The key element of this project is to provide the needed infrastructure for allowing the inhabitants to initiate and activate citizen communities for citizen participation as the starting point for increasing socio-spatial justice. Public places are considered as the physical structures which serve the communities and their participants.

### RESEARCH QUESTION

How to move towards achieving socio-spatial justice in Rotterdam as a city with a multicultural population by urban public place regeneration while considering community creation and participation as two essential elements in the process?

### SUB RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1-1. What groups of society have been marginalized?
- 1-2. What are the specific particularities of these groups (economic condition, cultural background, etc.)
- 1-3. What are the needs of these groups that are not being provided?
- 1-4. Who is eligible to participate in decision making, and in what scales it is possible to do so?
- 2-1. Does the urban policies and infrastructure prevent or reduce the alienation of these specific groups?
- 2-2. If so, what are the missing spatial structures and policies?
- 2-3. To what extent is that possible to increase social interaction and, therefore, social cohesion by improving public spaces?
- 3-1. Who is eligible to participate in decision making, and at what scales it is possible to do so? How can a community attract different people to participate?

### STEPS

1. Define the problem
2. Analyse the current policies regarding the problem
3. Map the problems
4. Strategical framework, leading to a design framework
5. Test the framework by a design

### CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

#### METHODS

- Assessment of current policies
- Assessment of existing urban infrastructure
- Demographic analysis
- Assessment of current and previous practices
- Interview with inhabitants/ Organizations (field work)
- Assessment of public space

#### VARIABLES

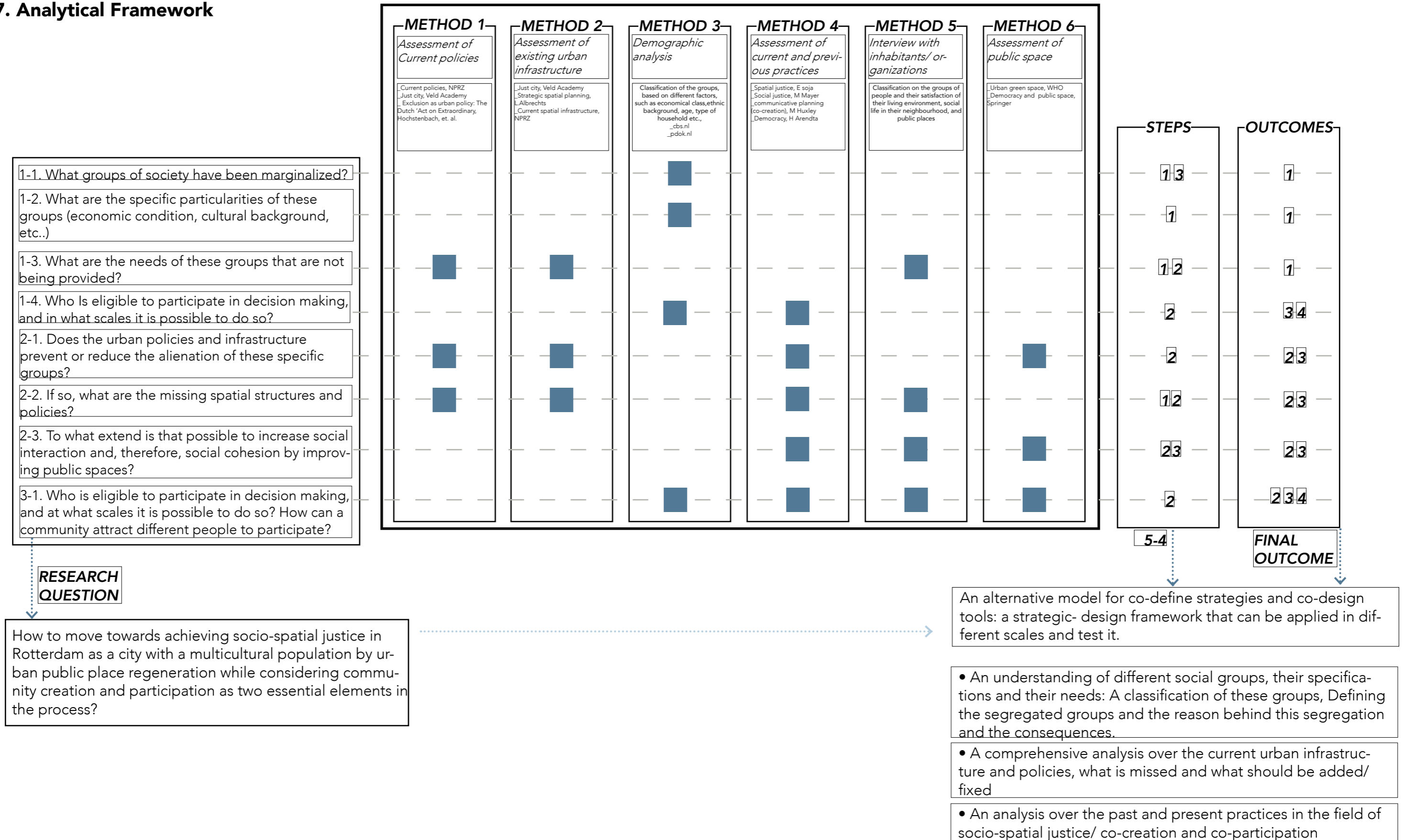
- Daily system of the inhabitants
- Accessibility
- Cultural values
- Accountability in local decision making
- Co-participatory public Space

#### INTENDED OUTCOMES

- An understanding of different social groups, their specifications and their needs: A classification of these groups, Defining the segregated groups and the reason behind this segregation and the consequences.
- A comprehensive analysis over the current urban infrastructure and policies, what is missed and what should be added/ fixed
- An analysis over the past and present practices in the field of socio-spatial justice/ co-creation and co-participation

An alternative model for co-define strategies and co-design tools: a strategic- design framework that can be applied in different scales and test it.

## 2.7. Analytical Framework



## 2.8. Overview of the Sub-research Questions' Answers in the Report

The table locates the related materials for each sub-question. At the end of each chapter, there is a conclusion section, which mentions the related sub-questions and the answers in relation with the chapters' content. At the final conclusion, the main research question will be answered.

Research question	Chapter(s)
1-1. What groups of society have been marginalized?	_3 _4
1-2. What are the specific particularities of these groups (economic condition, cultural background, etc..)	
1-3. What are the needs of these groups that are not being provided?	_3 _4
1-4. Who is eligible to participate in decision making, and in what scales it is possible to do so?	_6
2-1. Does the urban policies and infrastructure prevent or reduce the alienation of these specific groups?	_3 _4
2-2. If so, what are the missing spatial structures and policies?	
2-3. To what extent is that possible to increase social interaction and, therefore, social cohesion by improving public spaces?	_6 _8
3-1. Who is eligible to participate in decision making, and at what scales it is possible to do so? How can a community attract different people to participate?	_6
How to move towards achieving socio-spatial justice in Rotterdam as a city with a multicultural population by urban public place regeneration while considering community creation and participation as two essential elements in the process?	_9

## **3. ROTTERDAM SOUTH/ TARWEWIJK: ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT**

### **3.1. Rotterdam South**

### **3.2. Social Exclusion in Rotterdam and Policies**

### **3.3. Tarwewijk**

### **3.4. Public Spaces of Tarwewijk**

### **3.5. Towards a Solution: Just City Framework**

### **3.6. Conclusion**

This chapter focuses on analysing and assessing the characteristics of Rotterdam South, Tarwewijk, and its inhabitants. At the beginning, the migration phenomenon and the following issues are discussed in the context of Rotterdam South and Tarwewijk. Besides the effects of previously implemented policies and their results, and current policies are discussed in-depth to understand the gaps in the policies. This chapter also contains a demographic analysis of Tarwewijk's inhabitants and a spatial analysis of Tarwewijk's public spaces. Eventually, the chapter ends with discussing an alternative solution for Tarwewijk and other neighbourhoods with similar contexts, and a just public space framework is proposed as a tool to simplify the complex nature of socio-spatial justice regarding public space context.



### 3.1 Rotterdam South

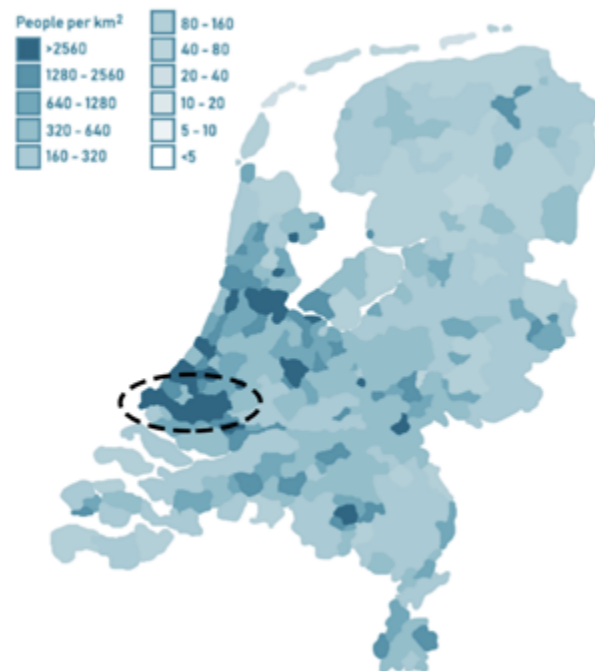


Figure 5: Netherlands population  
Source: citypopulation.de, 2020

Rotterdam is the second most populated city in the Netherlands (Figure 5). The internationally well-known city offers various activities and attraction points, which makes it a destination for tourists. The port of Rotterdam is the largest port in Europe, which creates a significant amount of businesses and direct and indirect jobs for people, and it has a significant effect on the Dutch economy (Port Technology International Team's report, 2020).

In Addition, Rotterdam has been housing a significant amount of immigrants from both rural areas in the Netherlands, and other countries, such as Turkey, Surinam, Morocco, and more (Entzinger, 2018). According to De La Bleue Fox, nowadays, Rotterdam "has the highest percentage of foreigners in the Netherlands and non-industrial countries. It has 80.000 Muslim citizens, making up 13% of its population. You can find representatives of the whole world here". By simply zooming out and looking at the ethnic origin map (Figure 6), the concentration of these different ethnic groups in some of the neighbourhoods is noticeable, specifically in the neighbourhoods of Rotterdam south, which has been a destination for a significant amount of low-skilled immigrants from the lower economic classes (Entzinger & Engbersen, 2014).

As mentioned before, a clear division between north and south exists due to the focus of the development projects on the north (STAR study association, 2019). The concentration of the migrants, spatial segregation of low-income class of society, and low safety, physical and social index are some of the problems the south has dealing with. Meanwhile, the south's development projects have not been at the same paste as the north parts.

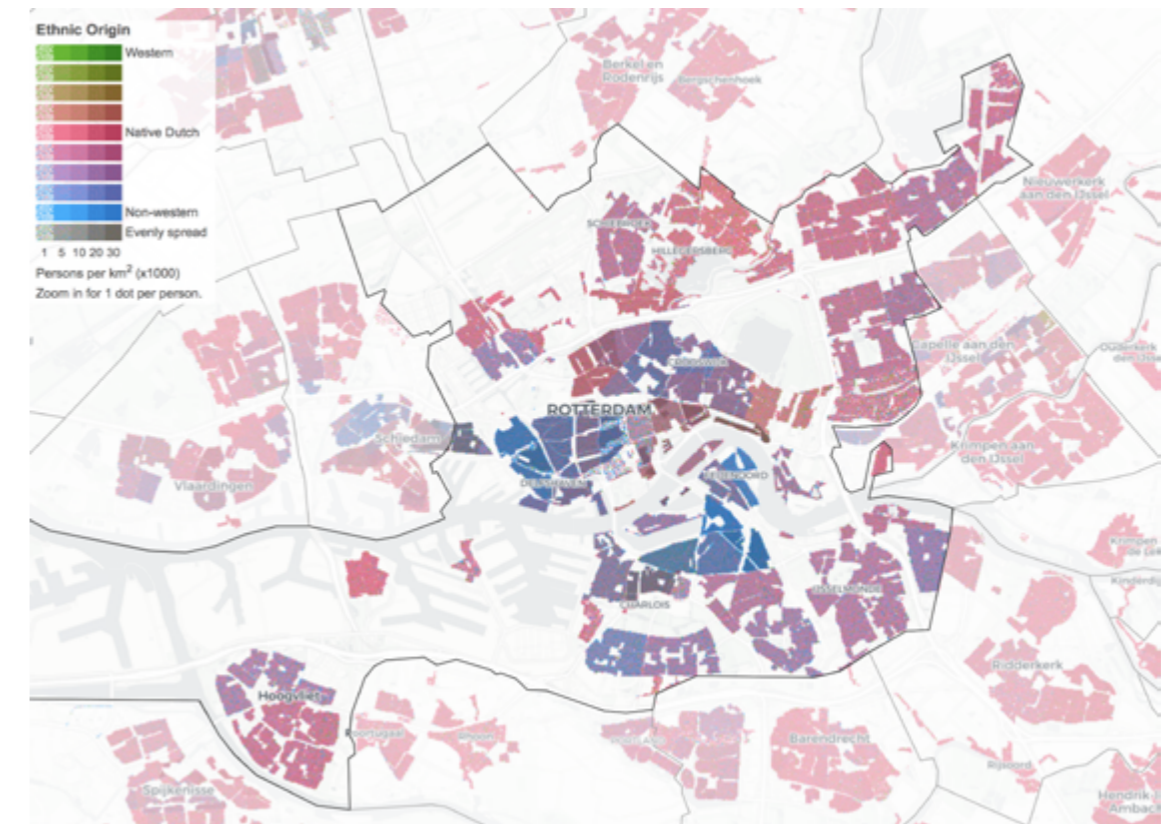


Figure 6: Ethnic map of Rotterdam  
Source: CBS

However, recently, there have been efforts to connect the sides. "While the north is more and more longing back to the good old times, Zuid remains the place where fresh ideas can be realized and become the cities architectural hotspot" (STAR study association, 2019). Recently, there have been lots of design and research projects going on in different neighbourhoods to improve the situation, increase life satisfaction and life quality, and even establish communities in the neighbourhoods to create a sense of belonging and increase social cohesion.

As an example, the *National Programme of Rotterdam Zuid* (NPRZ) is a national development project, with the partnership of several different governmental sectors and associations, to work together for a healthy future of Rotterdam south, with projects about various issues, such as housing, safety, school, work, and culture. In this program, the various problems of the neighbourhoods are mentioned and compared with other neighbourhoods in Rotterdam. The comparison results emphasize the lower quality of safety, physical and social indexes in Rotterdam south neighbourhoods (Figure 7)





Source: [www.arcadis.com](http://www.arcadis.com)



Source: [www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com)



Source: [www.woneninrotterdam.nl](http://www.woneninrotterdam.nl)



Source: [www.woneninrotterdam.nl](http://www.woneninrotterdam.nl)

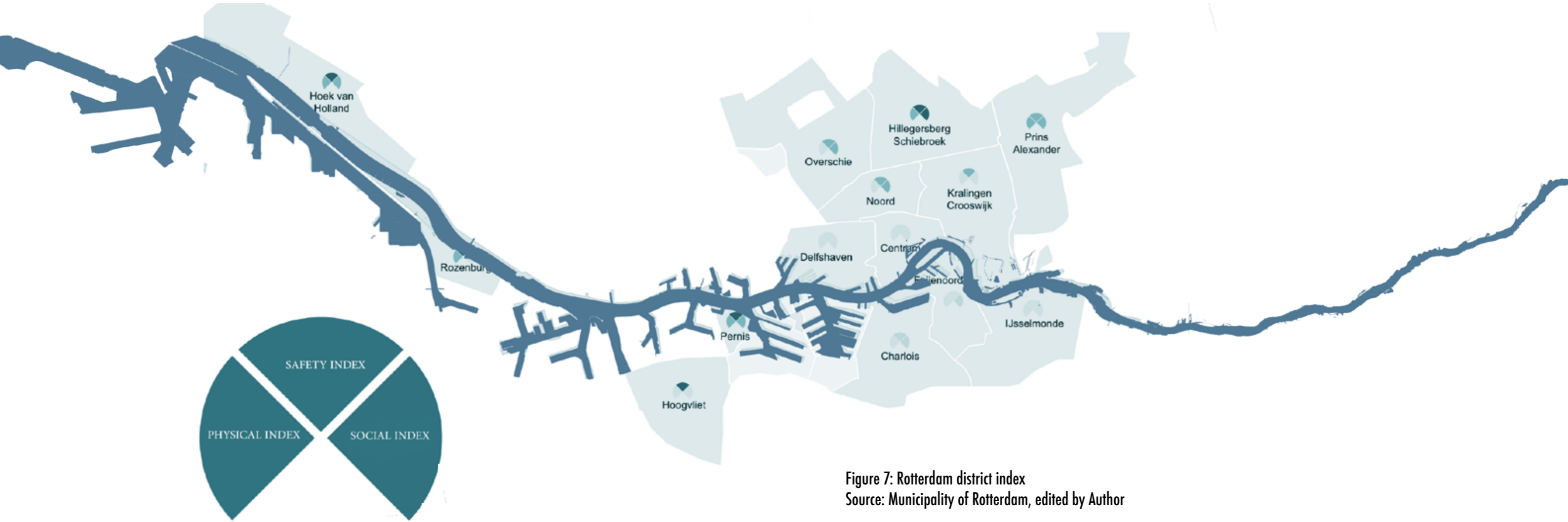


Figure 7: Rotterdam district index  
Source: Municipality of Rotterdam, edited by Author



Source: [www.urbandivercities.eu](http://www.urbandivercities.eu)



Source: [www.urbandivercities.eu](http://www.urbandivercities.eu)



Source: [www.urbandivercities.eu](http://www.urbandivercities.eu)



Source: [www.urbandivercities.eu](http://www.urbandivercities.eu)

### 3.2. Social Exclusion in Rotterdam and Related Policies

Social exclusion mainly refers to the welfare state. Most importantly, it refers to the concept of modern poverty, which regards financial problems, such as income, but also non-financial issues, like health, education, housing and paid employment (Kloprogge, 1998). Modern poverty will result in the segregation of the people who do not have access to the mentioned resources and, therefore, social exclusion.

The Netherlands is one of the richest countries in the world (Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2019). However, the country has been dealing with poverty resulting in social exclusion, officially since 1995, when the government started to use the already existed data in order to tackle these increasing issues (Kloprogge, 1998). By 2020, Rotterdam has the highest rate of poverty in the Netherlands (Geofroy, 2020). Demographic analysis on the poorest postcode areas determine some data about the inhabitants of these locations:

1. A large amount of these people are low-skilled immigrants (mostly Moroccan and Turkish)
2. There is a significant amount of unemployed people shaping this group of society. Moreover, single parents, self-employed and the elderly also shape this figure.

Moreover, the appearance of diverse societies in Rotterdam have been increasing recently, resulting in a high level of social exclusion to the point which even highly skilled immigrants in Rotterdam need to be more integrated with society (Entzinger & Engbersen, 2014)

There are also other factors that help within increasing the level of poverty and social exclusion. Kloprogge explain these factors in his research, of which culturally related factors are separated and mentioned below:

- Development of a pluralist society and increase of immigrants with unfavourable prospects of work
  - Increase of labour offered with stable demand (married women and immigrants)
  - International competition, globalization (strategic operation of multinational Corporations, the disappearance of jobs due to transfer of production to cheap-labour countries or countries with the favourable fiscal regime)
  - Insufficient management of social organizations.
  - Attitude towards ethnic minorities against the background of the multicultural society

- Attitude towards vulnerable groups in general (social stigma leading to rights not being exercised)."

By the year 2002, The local politics believed that the previous efforts did not show good results due to the settlement of poor immigrants within these locations (Uitermark & Duyvendak, 2008), and therefore, unconventional measures needed to be taken. "Ultimately, national government parties (Christian Democrats, conservative liberals and the liberal democrats) and several opposition parties – including the social democrats – agreed on national legislation that would halt this influx: the Act on Extraordinary Measures for Urban Problems." (Van Gent et al., 2018).

The aim behind these policies was to improve the problematic neighbourhoods by "actively countervail existing income segregation in the city in the short term, and, as such, improve the living environment in designated areas" (Tweede Kamer, 2005: 12). The solution within this policy was to prevent poor newcomers from settling in these neighbourhoods to balance the population with employed people with a stable financial situation.

This act was implemented in four neighbourhoods in Rotterdam as a starting point: Hillesluis, Carnisse, Oud-Charlois and Tarwewijk, where the rates of unemployment and the non-native population were noticeably high.

The policy increased the exclusion of this already segregated group of society. It was expected that the social, economic and physical problems within these neighbourhoods would be under control since the origin of the problems was being erased. However, as explained in *Exclusion as urban policy: The Dutch Act on Extraordinary Measures for Urban Problems* by Van Gent et al., "from 2004 to 2008 we see a steady drop in the number of excluded residents in the region. However, after the 2008 economic crisis, their number rises again and stabilises in 2012 and 2013 to nearly 19,000 individuals". The results show the proposed strategy's inefficiency and lack of flexibility, which demonstrated a need for an alternative strategy.

Besides, despite the implemented prohibiting measures, in 2013, Rotterdam has been still the most important destination for these newcomers. Only a small portion of them settled in Schiedam, which shares a border with Rotterdam. The fact that some of the newcomers moved to another city illustrates that the problem (the problematic immigrants, as defined in the strategies) was not erased but moved to another location.



Moreover, the act was not as successful as expected. The newcomers had to settle in other neighbourhoods; however, the empty houses were filled with other unemployed people. In addition, the results determined a negative outcome on cleanliness, nuisance and traffic issues in the designated neighbourhoods, which are the factors targeting the concept of liveability (Van Gent et al., 2018). The results show the effect on both the target group, which were unemployed newcomers, the problematic neighbourhoods, and again, illustrates the inefficiency of the policy and a need for an alternative solution.

The *National Program of Rotterdam South* (NPRZ) is a relatively recent national program focusing on increasing liveability and decreasing poverty and unemployment in the neighbourhoods of Rotterdam south. The three main pillars of this program are working, housing and education. Within this national program, various organizations other than the government cooperate with each other and the public sector, such as school boards and care institutions (Municipality of Rotterdam, 2019). In addition, the partners of NPRZ have been in contact with residents and trying to include the local communities in the policy, which is a positive step to take the inhabitants' various opinions into account. However, as mentioned in the NPRZ report, this program again aims to attract more middle-class households to the neighbourhoods. In addition, besides the cultural plans at this program, which focuses on increasing cultural activities and programs, NPRZ misses a specific strategy for activating communities in the problematic neighbourhoods.

### 3.2.1. Gaps in the policies

The previous and existing national policies have had different approaches towards the social problems in Rotterdam south. In the earlier policies, the main strategy was to erase the problem: move the low-skilled immigrants to other neighbourhoods by prohibiting strategies to balance the society in designated neighbourhoods and increase safety (Tweede Kamer, 2005: 12). However, after an assessment over time, this set of policies did not improve the neighbourhoods as much as expected and resulted in more exclusion of this "problematic" and already alienated social group, and migration of this social group to other places, such as some neighbourhoods in Schiedam (Van Gent et al., 2018).

The later strategies, the *National Program of NPRZ*, aim for less radical actions by focusing on the improvement of three main pillars: working education and housing (Municipality of Rotterdam, 2019). Another alternative strategy in this set of policies is trying to include

local organizations and citizens into the problem-solving team. However, the recognitional aspect of justice is still missing in these policies, and the main focus is still on the distribution of urban resources, activities. While there is a plan for increasing cultural activities in the neighbourhood, understanding the diverse values of different social groups is not considered in this proposal. There have been failed attempts to include the inhabitants in the decision making meetings, as Tarwewijk's neighbourhood manager [2020] said during an interview.

This project aims to use the recognitional aspect of justice by considering the diverse values of the inhabitants and their daily systems, to address the shortcomings of the current policies and have a better and more complete solution to increase socio-spatial justice, and acknowledge these specific social groups, their rights, use the benefits of seeing the cities from the point of view of the citizens, and use the advantage of today's complex and multicultural societies. The concepts of community, participation and urban public space regeneration are fostered to improve the cities while considering all the different social groups as equals. In other words, this project aims to analyse the routes of the issues, specifications of different social groups (including marginalised groups) and propose a more inclusive alternative solution to solve these issues, acknowledging different values of the diverse society.

Citizen communities can be a safe space for including individuals from different social groups, knowing their opinions and needs, and using their point of view as daily users of the cities (Chavis & Lee, 2015). Strong communities can be used in urban development projects and increase the social trust between the citizens and the local governments (Lord, 2019). It can be a useful tool in today's complex cities and societies to solve the problems, which is missing in the current and previous policies and plans. Therefore, this project aims to bring the attention of policymakers to this issue and consider the diversity of the values, as an alternative solution to the mentioned problems by offering a strategic framework with the core aim of providing the infrastructures for initiating citizen communities for and by the inhabitants.

### 3.3. Tarwewijk

Tarwewijk is one of the neighbourhoods of Rotterdam south, which was built around 1930 to house the working class. The naming of the district was based on its location next to the Maashaven, where the grain ships used to be loaded.

Nowadays, Tarwewijk has around 65,000 inhabitants, of which only 38% are Dutch. The district has a young population, in combination with many families with children and only 6% of the population are older than 65.



Figure 8: Tarwewijk  
Source: Municipality of Rotterdam

Like the rest of the southern part of Rotterdam, Tarwewijk has been facing many problems during the time, including a high range of crime and a lack of suitable housing stock. The recent development programs focused on increasing safety and renovation of the houses, which successfully tackled many issues. However, there are still many opportunities to improve the lives of its inhabitants.

#### 3.3.1. General Issues

Nowadays, Tarwewijk still faces many problems, such as poverty, safety issues, unemployment, and low quality of physical structures and

maintenance.

This neighbourhood has been a destination for low-skilled immigrants. However, according to Rotterdam municipality, many of these immigrants usually live in the neighbourhoods for three years, and then move out to the neighbourhoods with higher qualities in terms of urban resources; there is an in-and-out flow of residents, with the rate of one-third of the whole neighbourhood population per year, which shows the low level of life satisfaction in this neighbourhood. Moreover, people from Tarwewijk are usually low educated (Municipality of Rotterdam, 2018).

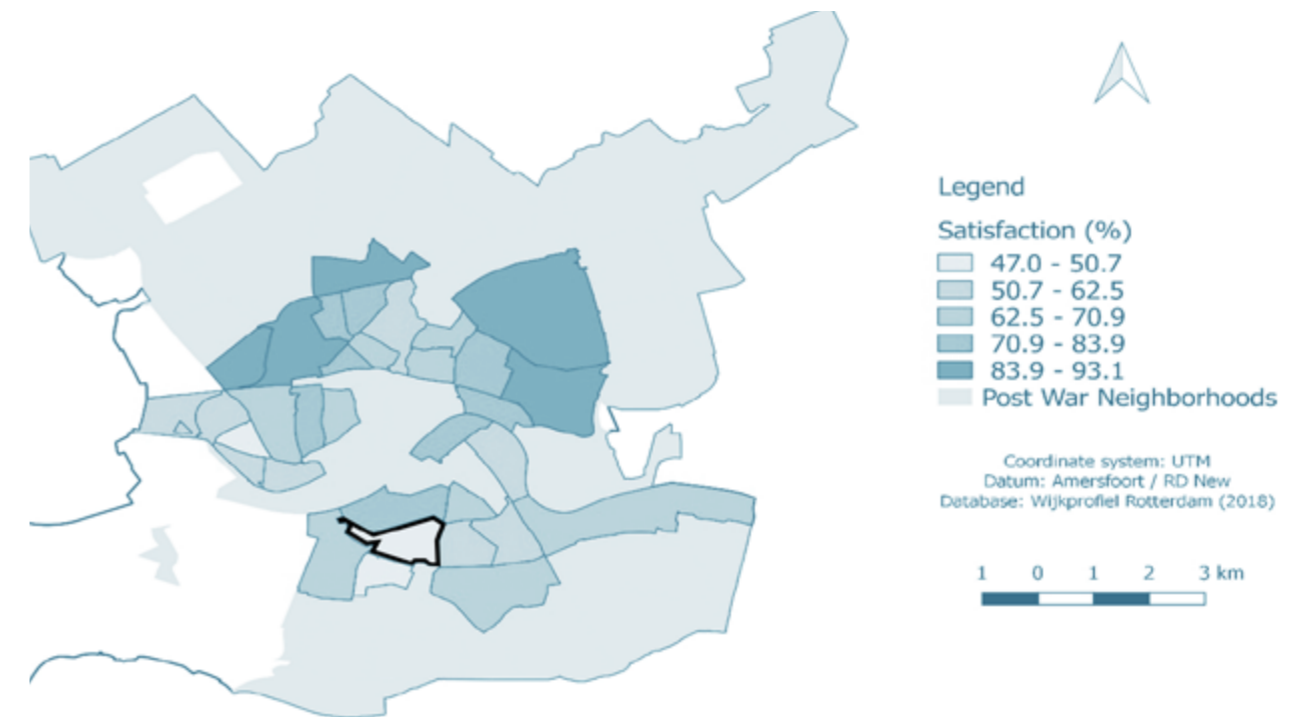


Figure 9: Life Satisfaction in pre war neighbourhoods.  
Source: Municipality of Rotterdam, 2018

As a destination for international immigrants, Tarwewijk houses different ethnic groups. During interviewing the inhabitants and local experts, various stories were told about the division between the people of Tarwewijk, and the other neighbourhoods in Rotterdam, (especially the north part). There is clearly a barrier between these groups of society and the others, resulted from cultural differences, language barriers, and the bad image of Tarwewijk and the people who live there. Moreover, this division is happening not only on the city scale but also between the different ethnic groups in Tarwewijk itself.

*People are integrated within their own culture; they have closed groups. I didn't feel welcomed when I arrived in Tarwewijk  
\_Palestinian woman, Resident (27)\_*



### 3.3.2. Demographic Analysis

Comparing to Rotterdam, Tarwewijk has been housing a relatively younger population. Moreover, the majority of Tarwewijk's inhabitants are non-western immigrants, originally from countries like Surinam, Morocco and Turkey. Moreover, the general income level of the people in Tarwewijk is noticeably lower than the general income level of people living in Rotterdam.

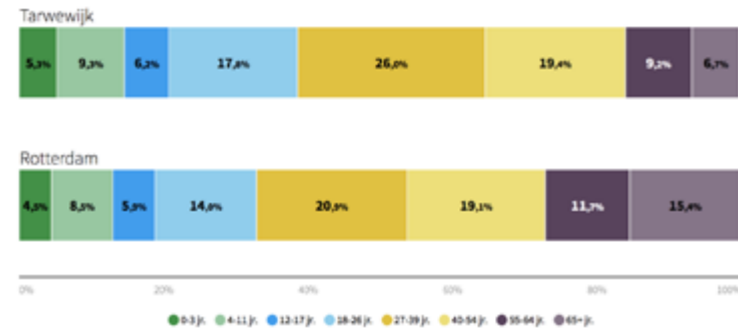


Figure 10: Age distribution  
Source: Municipality of Rotterdam

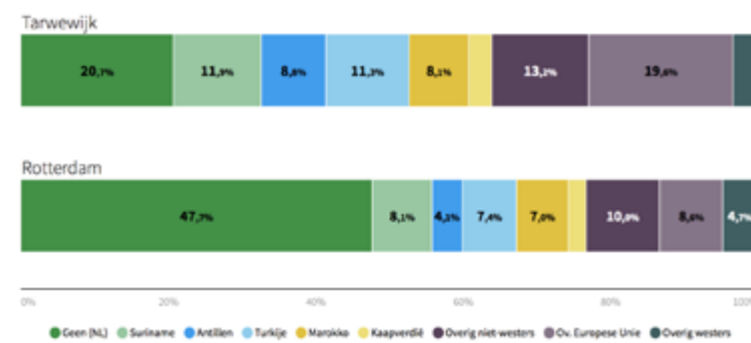


Figure 11: Age Ethnic background distribution  
Source: Municipality of Rotterdam

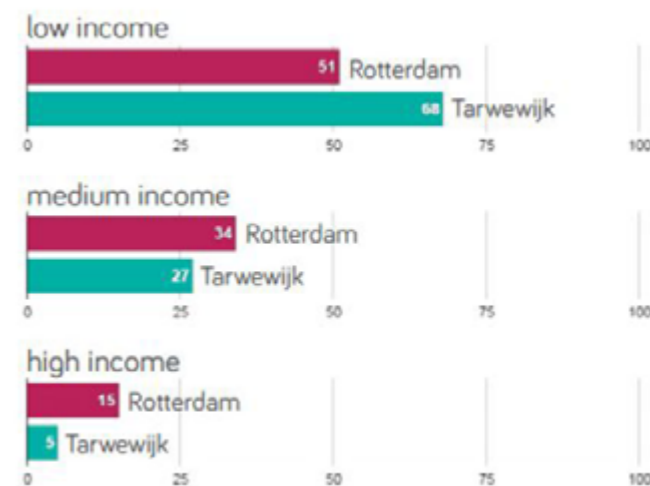


Figure 12: House hold income  
Source: ATELIER ROTTERDAM

As mentioned earlier in this chapter, the more concentrated settlement of specific ethnic groups in different neighbourhoods of Rotterdam is noticeable. Rotterdam South has been housing a significant amount of low-skilled immigrants from countries outside the EU. As one of the neighbourhoods of Rotterdam south, Tarwewijk itself is also a diverse and multicultural neighbourhood. Based on the observations and interviews with the inhabitants (see chapter 4), some of the inhabitants of Tarwewijk have interactions with their neighbours with different ethnic backgrounds. However, there are still people who do not feel welcomed in the neighbourhood. They are not a part of a culturally diverse friendship group in Tarwewijk, and only interact with other inhabitants with a similar cultural background. The demographic analysis on the scale of Tarwewijk illustrates that some specific groups of the inhabitants prefer to live in some specific locations or have to do so based on the circumstances.

At the following maps, the locations in which the population is formed by more than 50% of a specific social group are determined.

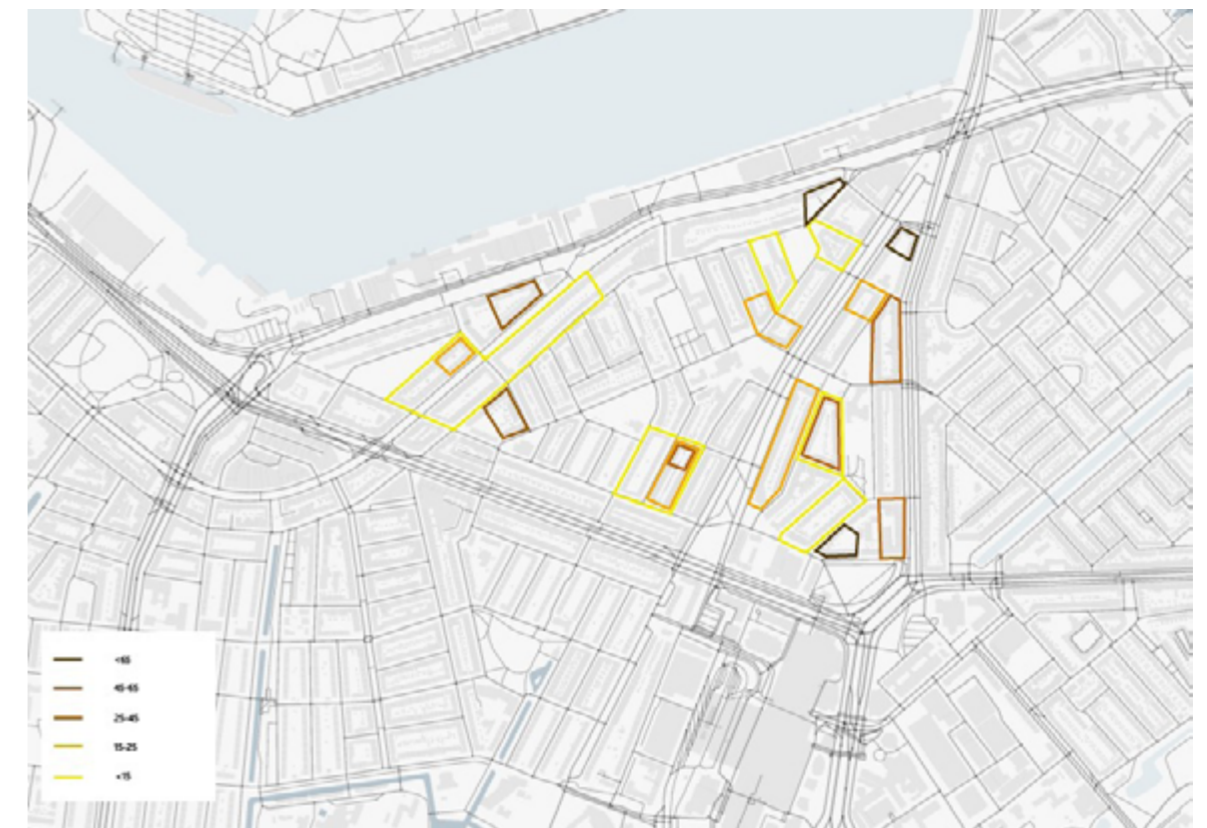
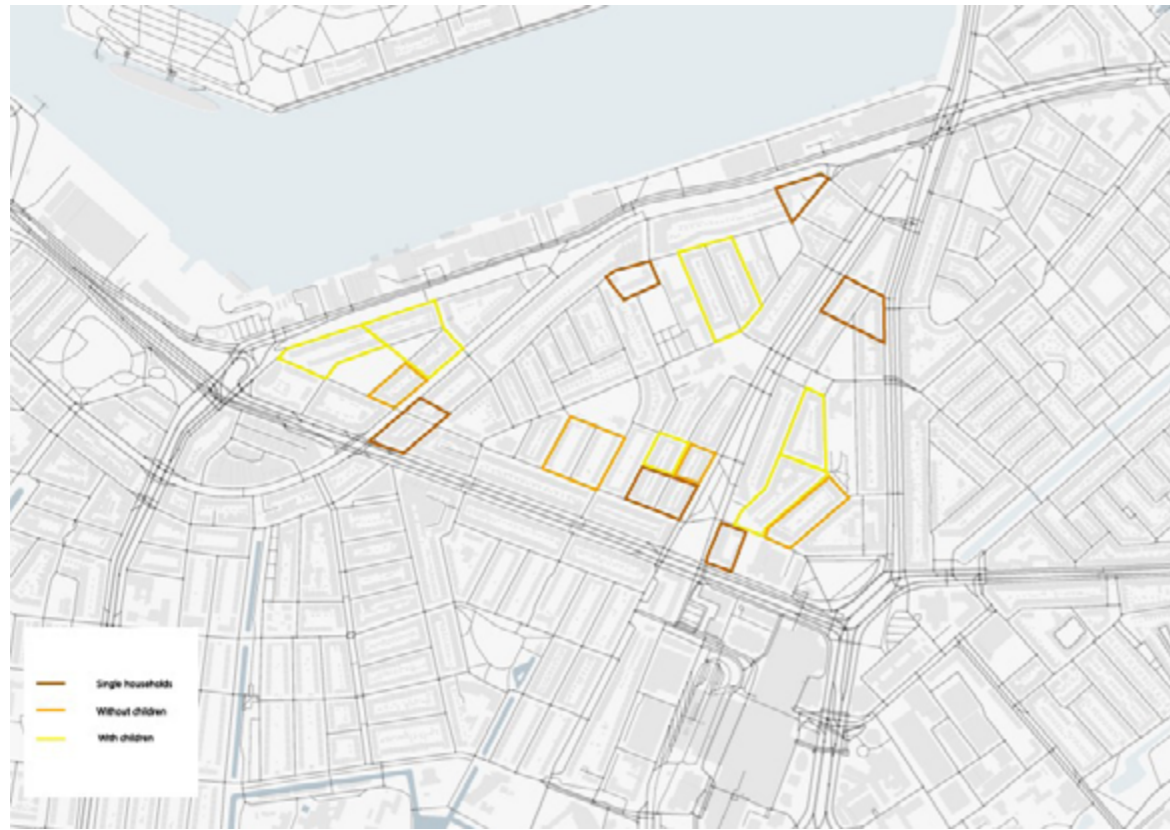
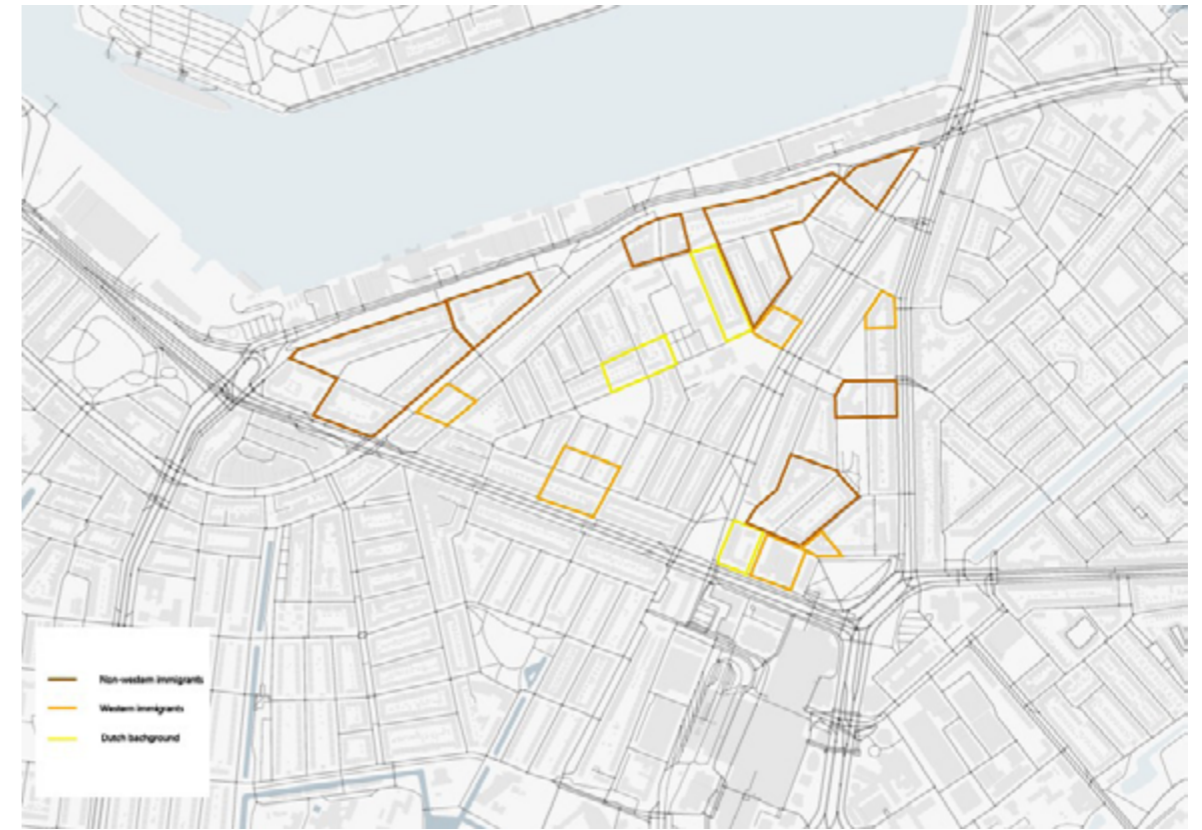


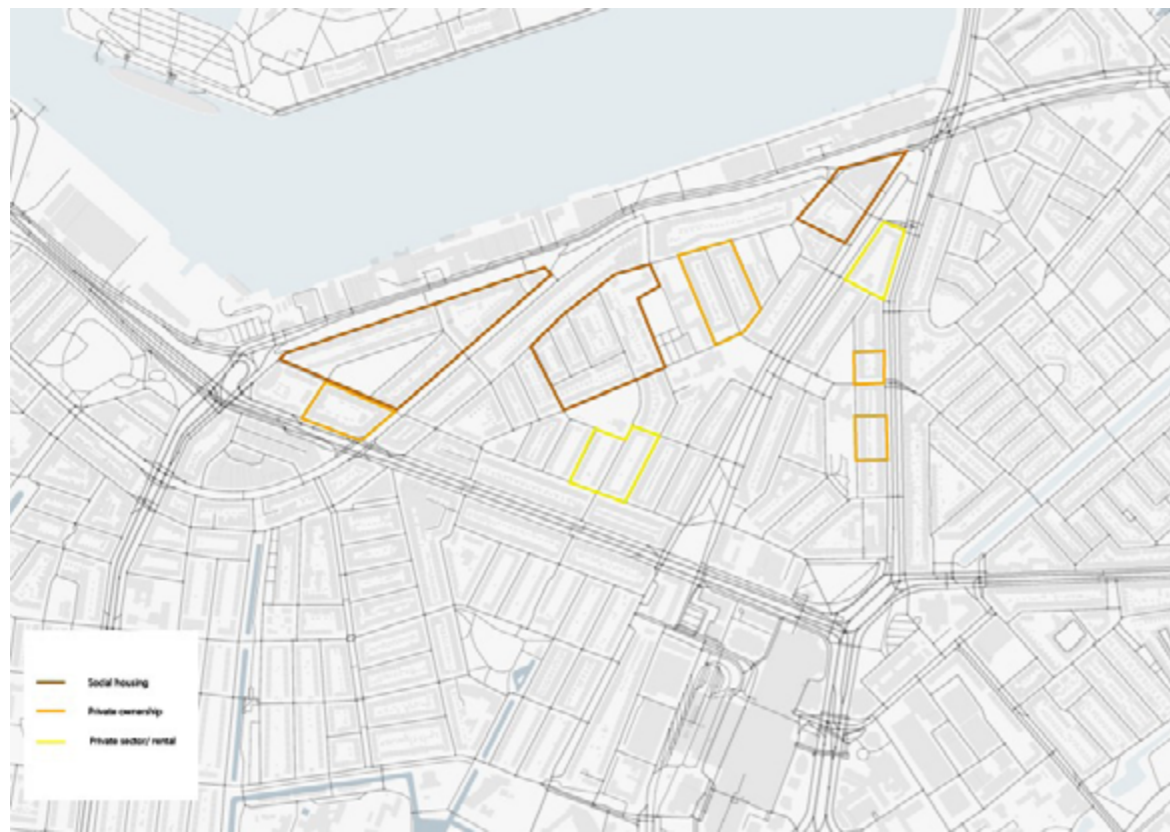
Figure 13: Concentration of age groups  
Source: CBS, edited by Author



**Figure 14: Concentration of household type**  
Source: CBS, edited by Author



**Figure 16: Concentration of ethnic backgrounds**  
Source: CBS, edited by Author



**Figure 15: Concentration of house ownership**  
Source: CBS, edited by Author

Figure 15 illustrates the uneven distribution of social housing in the neighbourhood. Moreover, there is more concentration of inhabitants at some locations with specific ethnic backgrounds classified into three categories: native Dutch, none western immigrants, and western immigrants (figure 16). By reviewing these four maps and connecting them, it is possible to recognize their relation. In the north-western part of Tarwewijk, more families with children, with a non-western ethnic background, dwell in social housing. This can be a result of housing policies, such as the development of the social housing sector in specific segments of the neighbourhood. However, it will also define the more immediate neighbours of the inhabitant, the neighbours they might see on a regular basis since they live close by. Therefore, it can affect the social circle of people. Moreover, this form of settlement can result in the usage of public places. For example, the north-western part's playground is mostly being used by non-western immigrants, more specifically children and their parents (figure 17). This playground is also one of the public places in Tarwewijk of which the inhabitants (mostly non-western women with children) use to meet and interact with each other. However, this interaction is not happening within a diverse group, but mostly between people with the same ethnic background.





Figure17: Usage of public places by different ethnic groups  
Source: CBS, edited by Author

However, if the inhabitants use a public space regularly, it does not necessarily reflect the high quality of the public space. As Gehl illustrates in *Cities for People*, people use a public spaces for necessary activities. But a public place can also offer optional and social activities. In figure 18, Gehl explains the relationship between these three types of activity and the quality of public places. The high quality of a public place gives more opportunities for optional and social activities, besides being used for the necessary activities.

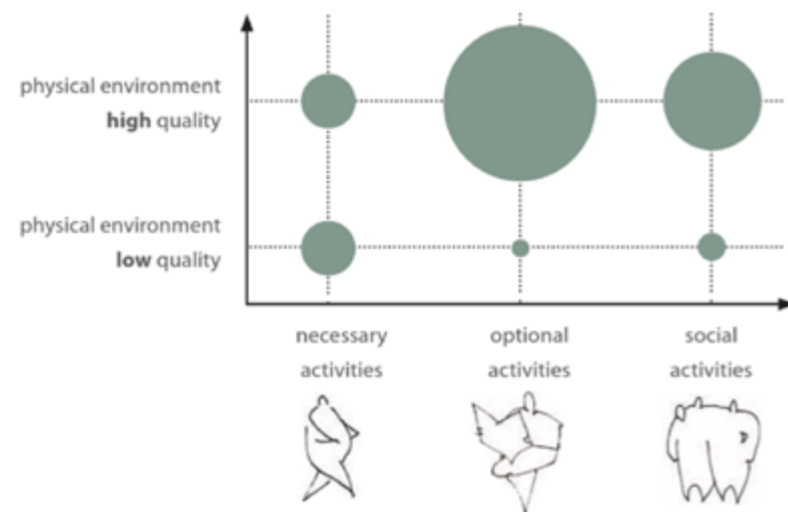


Figure18: Connection between outdoor quality and outdoor activity.  
Source: Jan Gehl

This project aims to regenerate public spaces as a tool to increase the social activities and social interactions between the inhabitants, and eventually, work as the physical context for the future citizen communities. The following section focuses on the public spaces of Tarwewijk, and afterwards, the way towards a solution will be discussed.

### 3.4 Public Spaces of Tarwewijk

Tarwewijk has various public places in different parts of the neighbourhood. As the organizer of *Cultuurwerkplaats* (a social organization in Tarwewijk) mentioned in an interview, comparing to other neighbourhoods in Rotterdam, Tarwewijk actually has more surface dedicated to public spaces. Apart from this advantage, the low quality of the public spaces does not offer many activities to different groups of inhabitants.

In the following pages, the Tarwewijk's the public spaces are briefly analysed and assessed, based on the preliminary observations. At chapter 4, the inhabitants opinions on the public places and their visions is going to be discussed .



Figure 19: Tarwewijk Public spaces  
Source: Made by Author



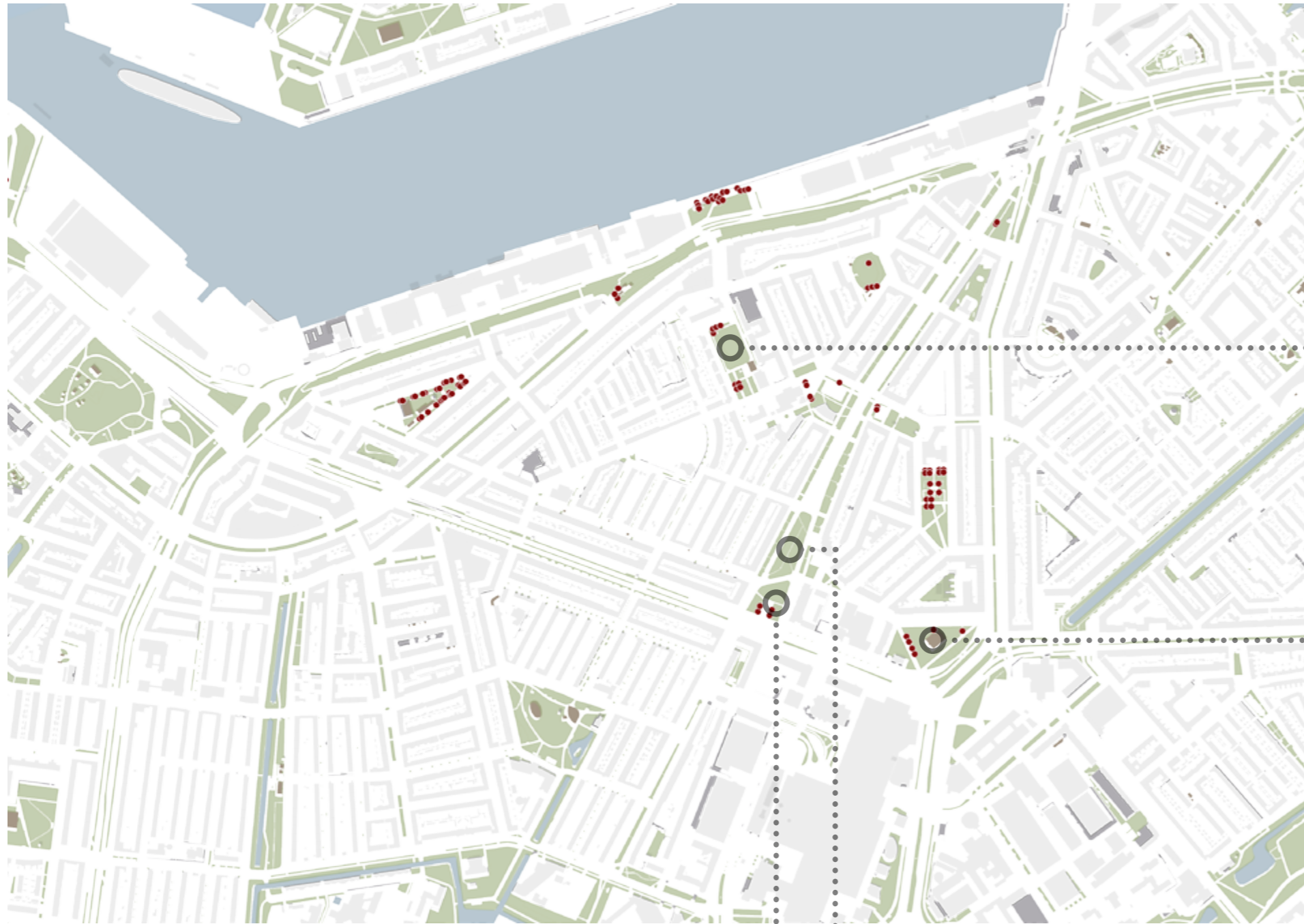


Figure 20: Tarwewijk Bench map

Source of the map: Made by Author

Source of the related images: Studio Tarwewijk Graduation Group, Veld Academie.



Compared to the other parts of Rotterdam with a higher physical index rate, the number of benches per inhabitant is really low and seems insufficient. Also, most of the benches are concentrated in the northern playground and the Millinix park, while some of the other green areas and sports fields don't have any benches.



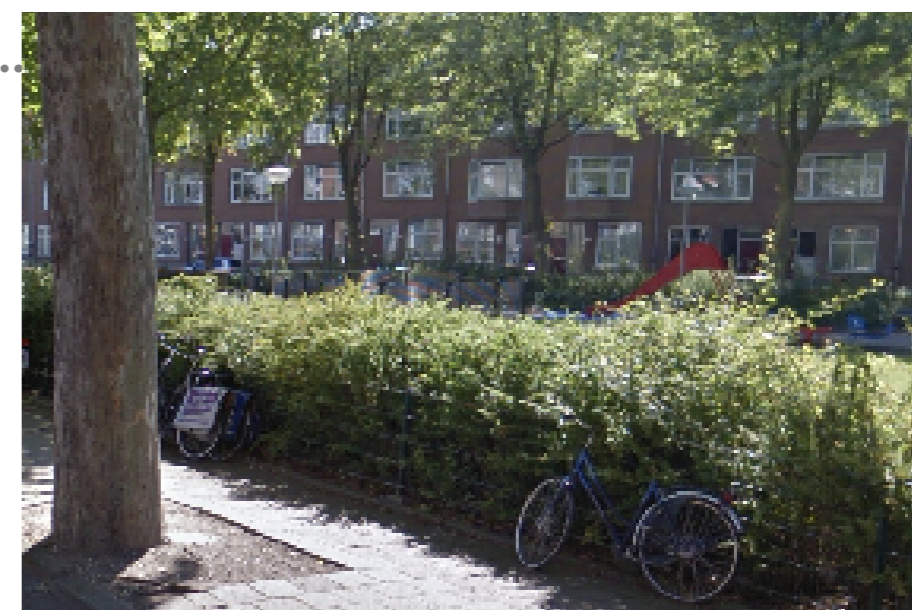


Figure 21: Tarwijk Bike rack map

Source of the map: Made by Author

Source of the related images: Studio Tarwijk Graduation Group, Veld Academie

Another issue (which is a problem lots of public spaces in other neighbourhoods deal with) is the lack of enough bike parkings, especially around the public areas. As an example, regarding the northern playground, there are no bike racks around the public space. Therefore, people have to lock their bikes to the street lights or fences. This reduces accessibility to these areas, but also the visual attraction of the space.





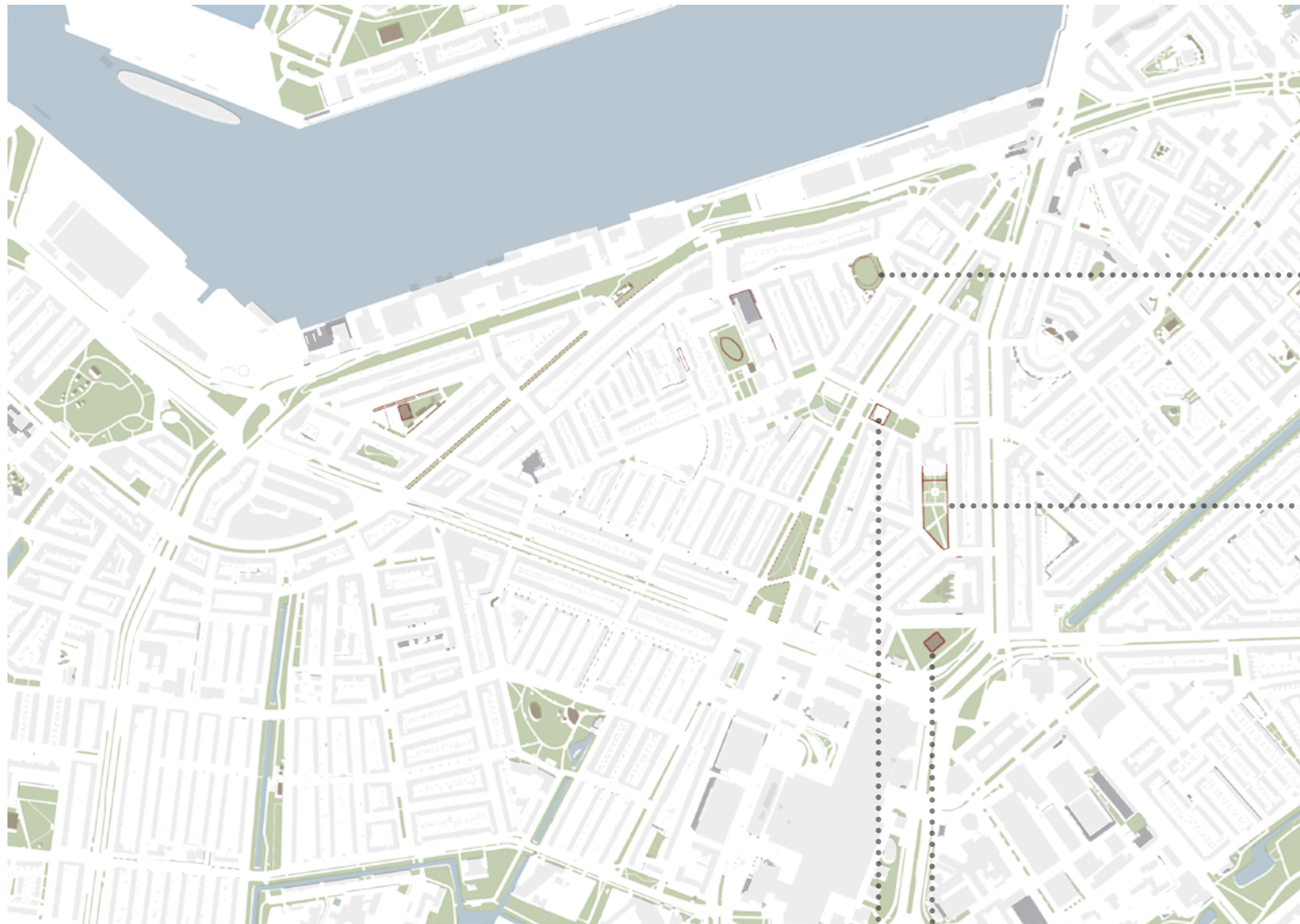


Figure 22: Tarwewijk gated public spaces

Source of the map: Made by Author

Source of the related images: Studio Tarwewijk Graduation Group, Veld Academie



Due to the safety issues, most of the public spaces in Tarwewijk are surrounded by gates or dense vegetation, reducing accessibility during certain hours and also visual attraction and the sense of being welcome.





Figure 23: Tarwewijk Public facility map

Source of the map: Made by Author

Source of the related images: Studio Tarwewijk Graduation Group, Veld Academie

There are several different facility buildings in the area at the moment. The small cafés and restaurants are mainly placed at the edges of the district. The supermarkets are small, and the closest chain supermarkets are in the surrounding neighbourhoods (except for Derk supermarket).

There are other facilities in the neighbourhood, such as primary schools, a health centre, churches, and a mosque.

However, The social service facilities seem not to be enough for the neighbourhood.

In general, based on the primary observations and generic spatial and social analysis of Tarwewijk and its public spaces, some simple issues can be noticeable right away. Tarwewijk includes a large portion of the public spaces. However, the public spaces do not hold a high quality in different aspects such as accessibility, and enough urban furniture and facilities. There are lots of green spaces in the neighbourhood, which are not usable at the moment. The quality and quantity of urban furniture and urban equipment are not at a satisfactory level, which prevents the public spaces from offering different usages and activities to the users. Moreover, the area can house more facilities and activities close to the public spaces. Lack of enough bike parking can reduce and harden accessibility for different groups. And eventually, due to safety issues, the majority of public spaces of Tarwewijk are surrounded by gates and are not accessible during the dark hours. Moreover, the majority of the residents around the public spaces seems to be affecting the social life in these public spaces, as it is visible in the most crowded playground in the neighbourhood, which non-western immigrants mostly use. This public space issues will be further discussed in the fieldwork.

### 3.5. Towards a Solution: The Just City Framework

The just city index was introduced earlier in this report. As it is more elaborated by Veld Academie, the Just City index offers a framework where the existing conditions of an urban context can be appropriated into an alternative future with potential tension between the three governing principles. Regarding Tarwewijk, with a small look at the condition of the neighbourhood and its inhabitants, it is possible to realize the absence of justice, especially comparing to other neighbourhoods of Rotterdam. The different issues of this area make it a problematic neighbourhood and show the sense of urgency for having innovative solutions. As Bourgon explained more about the situation, "in 2007, Tarwewijk was one of the neighbourhoods targeted for more interventions, receiving extra support and funding for housing, work, education, integration, and safety; the final purpose was to make different stakeholders, including the residents, work together. However, due to the huge issues, the rate of success was pretty low". Therefore, this project uses this framework to move towards increasing justice in Tarwewijk, focusing on enhancing participation and community values.



Figure 24: Just City Values worksheet customised for urban development in Rotterdam/ Focused values  
Source: The Just City Lab, Veld Academy, 2017

Encouraging local inhabitants to initiate their citizen communities for citizen empowerment and activating participatory processes, or even be a member of an existing community and participate in different activities comes up with challenges. While there have been some practices over activation of assemblies and different participation modules in various scales as a global issue (such as placemakers projects in different countries and official policies by governments), there is still not a solid process for this activation of citizen participation in various contexts. Each location has its unique qualities and issues, making it difficult to implement other practices the same. Most importantly, the inhabitants are the future organizers and participators of the communities, and therefore, their cultural and ethnic values needs to be taken into consideration. In an area such as Tarwewijk, where many of the inhabitants face social exclusion and modern poverty and other issues, people might not have the mental capacity to participate in the improvement process since they are dealing with many other issues in their daily lives.

#### 3.5.1. Just Public Space Values

The fair distribution of urban resources is one of the critical elements of spatial justice (Soja, 2009). As one of the urban resources and the main stage of social life and social interactions, public spaces play an essential role in increasing and enhancing social cohesion and socio-spatial justice (Aelbrecht & Stevens, 2019).

The just city framework offers an index to define urban planning and urban design in achieving socio-spatial justice within the urban areas, in different scales, from the city to the neighbourhood and public spaces. Inspired by this framework, this project aims to put more focus on the public spaces as their significant potential in increasing social cohesion resulted in considering public space redevelopment as one of the main concepts of the conceptual framework to move towards achieving socio-spatial justice.

Therefore, the Just public Space framework, inspired by the Just city framework, is proposed by the author to focus on the relation between socio-spatial justice and public spaces.

In order to simplify this relation, a set of values are proposed for democratic public space considering distributional, recognitional and participatory aspects of justice. The defined values are categories into three main groups:



### Policy Values

- \_ Top led, bottom fed Process
- \_ Inclusive and diverse atmosphere
- \_ Enhance a collective identity for the neighbourhood
- \_ Open for everyone
- \_ Answer the needs of society
- \_ Different activities for different social groups
- \_ Different communities
- \_ Freedom to speak

### Spatial Values

- \_ Combination of open, semi open and indoor spaces, (Based on different activities)
- \_ Suitable and enough urban furniture
- \_ Green (enough green space, usable green space)
- \_ Accessible for everyone
- \_ Visual attraction/ Visual connection
- \_ Lively

### Service Values

- \_ Safe
- \_ Clean
- \_ Well- maintained

The importance of acknowledging a recognitional aspect of justice in the spatial justice field was discussed before (see section 2.4). As Preston and Carr elaborate on this statement, in order to tackle distributional injustice and provide the opportunity for different groups to participate in the decision-making processes, considering the diverse values of individuals or even specific social groups (especially the marginalised and neglected ones) is necessary. Therefore, in this framework, it is tried to cover the different aspects of justice regarding public space, within the values.

A just public space should provide an inclusive and diverse atmosphere, which is open for everyone and can offer various activities for different social groups, in order to acknowledge the diversity of the society and values and consider the needs of the different social groups. Moreover, a just public space should serve the participatory processes, by providing the needed spatial infrastructures for communities, in which the local inhabitants can give their opinion in a safe space and think about deciding about their living environment development under supervision. Eventually, the spatial and service categories contain a set of values for understanding the spatial quality of the public space and mainly acknowledging the fair distribution of urban resources.

The values are divided into three main categories. However, these categories do not share a solid border with each other. It means that the values are not achievable only by policy, spatial design, or services. As an example to explain the idea more, safety is a sub-group of safety values, while the design interventions can be fostered to increase safety. Moreover, some values can not be achieved by design interventions at all, or they might need a strong policy to support and help the design interventions. As an example, one of the presented values is top-led, bottom-fed. This value represents the importance of public space users' right to reshape and form their living environment (in this case, the public spaces). This project tries to propose an alternative way to do so, under the supervision of the officials and experts, within the contexts of citizen communities. This value can only be achieved by a strategic framework, supported by a design. Figure 25 represents the linear location of each value in the policy making and spatial design line.

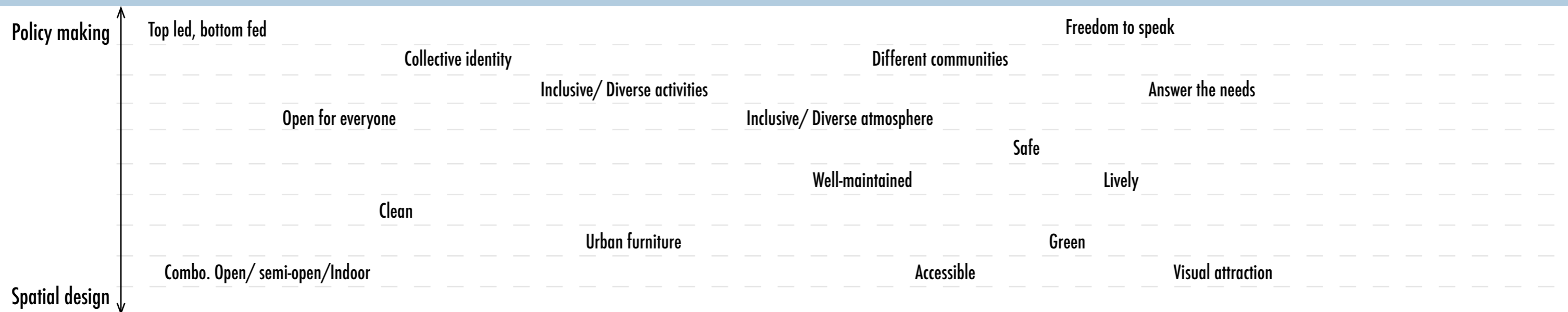


Figure 25: Just public space values, Location on the Policy-spatial line  
Source: Made by Author

As it was mentioned before, apart from the service and spatial values, which are in more direct relation with the distributional aspect of justice, the policy values focus more on the participatory and recognitional aspects, besides answering the needs of the society (what a final user might need from a public space), and the ability to offer different group activities. Top-led, bottom-fed process value focuses on the co-creation process of the public space, as well as a local management level with official supervision. The inclusive and diverse atmosphere and openness for everyone represent the ability of the public space to attract people with all the different values and cultural backgrounds and offer their desired activities. The public space also should be able to hold various community activities, in which everyone can speak freely and give their opinions about their living environment in a safe space. Eventually, a public space works to build and enhance a collective identity for the neighbourhood.

These values will be used later in the project, first to score the current situation of the public spaces and later on as a reference for the proposed design framework.

### 3.6. Conclusion

Rotterdam is the second most populated city in the Netherlands and has been a destination for many immigrants from both rural areas of the country and other countries (Entzinger, 2018). However, based on CBS's analysis, the different ethnic groups are not thoroughly mixed in Rotterdam, and some special social groups seem to be settled mainly in some specific neighbourhoods. As an example, Rotterdam South neighbourhoods have been housing many non-western immigrants from the lower classes of society (Entzinger, 2018). Besides, due to the focus of the development projects on the northern parts of Rotterdam, the neighbourhoods of Rotterdam south face many social, physical, and safety issues nowadays.

While the Netherlands is one of the wealthiest countries in the world (Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2019), it has been dealing with poverty, resulting in social exclusion (Kloprogge, 1998) and Rotterdam has the highest rate of poverty.

Due to the unsuccessful policies to tackle these issues, by 2002, Rotterdam's local government proposed an extreme alternative solution. Since it was believed that the reason behind the unsuccessfulness of the previous policies was poor immigrants settling in problematic locations, the new strategies proposed preventing poor newcomers from settling in the designated areas in order to balance the population (Tweede Kamer, 2005: 12). Implementation of these set policies in four neighbourhoods of Rotterdam (Hillesluis, Carnisse, Oud-Charlois and Tarwewijk) resulted in more exclusion of the already marginalized people and did not show a positive outcome in improving the situation in these locations. *The National Program of Rotterdam South* (NPRZ) was proposed by 2019 as an alternative solution to improve Rotterdam south and reduce poverty, focusing on housing, education, and working. This new policy takes less radical acts and even tries to cooperate with the inhabitants and local organizations during the development processes.

However, both policies have been neglecting the recognitional aspects of justice and still lack a comprehensive acknowledgement over the specifications of the inhabitants, the different groups and their diverse values. Therefore, many attempts to interacting with the marginalized groups and include them in the process have not been successful, as Tarwewijk's neighbourhood manager elaborated during an interview.

Tarwewijk is one of the designated and problematic neighbourhoods



in Rotterdam south, housing many low-skilled immigrants from the lower-income classes of society. Nowadays, Tarwewijk is dealing with many issues. Having inhabitants with different ethnic backgrounds has created many cultural and language barriers, resulting in social exclusion, even within Tarwewijk itself. Besides, the low quality of public spaces of Tarwewijk do not offer the inhabitants many opportunities to know their neighbours and participate in different activities.

This project aims to consider different aspects of justice (participatory, distributional and recognitional) in order to be able to propose an alternative solution to increase social interaction between different ethnic groups and social cohesion, enhance citizen empowerment by activating citizen communities and eventually, move towards achieving socio-spatial justice. Since the public spaces are considered the primary physical space in which the main social interactions occur, and since they are the spatial infrastructure for future communities, this project proposes a framework, including various values for a Just public space, which is a public place, which provides the basic needs of a public place, is meant for everyone, and most importantly, provides the physical context for initiation communities. The mentioned values try to include the mentioned aspects of justice in order to be able to first understand the shortcomings in the current situation and have a system to score the level of justice in public spaces by breaking the meaning into sensible values, and later improve the public spaces based on this framework.

In the next chapter, a set of methods for fieldwork and the results are represented, which were held in the process in order to have a complete understanding of the current situation considering the inhabitants' values and opinions, and eventually, the public spaces are scored under the just public space framework values.

### 3.6.1 Conclusion: Related sub-research questions

1-1. What groups of society have been marginalized?

1-2. What are the specific particularities of these groups (economic condition, cultural background, etc.)

Social exclusion mainly refers to the welfare state. Most importantly, it refers to the concept of modern poverty, which regards financial problems, such as income, but also non-financial issues, like health, education, housing and paid employment (Kloprogge, 1998).

In the case of the Netherlands and Rotterdam, the majority of this

group of society are low-skilled immigrants with non-western ethnic backgrounds. A large portion of this group consists of unemployed people and social assistance claimants. After that, self-employed and single parents, elderly have a significant impact on this figure. However, even the high-skilled immigrant's in Rotterdam need to be more integrated with society (Kloprogge, 1998).

1-3. What are the needs of these groups that are not being provided?

2-1. Does the urban policies and infrastructure prevent or reduce the alienation of these specific groups?

2-2. If so, what are the missing spatial structures and policies?

While the Netherlands is one of the wealthiest countries in the world (Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2019), it has been dealing with poverty, resulting in social exclusion (Kloprogge, 1998). This poverty is mainly concentrated in Rotterdam, the Hague and Amsterdam, the major cities housing many immigrants from lower-income classes of society (Entzinger, 2018). Moreover, the majority of the development projects have been focusing on the northern areas of Rotterdam and neglecting the neighbourhoods of the south, which resulted in social exclusion of the mentioned groups and many other social issues and physical and safety problems in the south (Municipality of Rotterdam, 2019).

In order to solve the issues, by 2002, Rotterdam's municipality offered a radical set of actions, aiming for balancing the society in the problematic areas by preventing the low-skilled immigrants from the lower classes of society in the problematic neighbourhoods (Uitermark & Duyvendak, 2008). These sets of actions were not as successful as expected since implementing these policies in 4 neighbourhoods did not significantly improve the situation, and the already marginalised people got even more excluded from society, as it is explained in *Exclusion as Urban policy: The Dutch' Act on Extraordinary Measures for Urban Problems*: "From 2004 to 2008 we see a steady drop in the number of excluded residents in the region. However, after the 2008 economic crisis, their number rose again and stabilised in 2012 and 2013 to nearly 19,000 individuals" (Van Gent et al., 2018).

Nowadays, The *National Program of Rotterdam South (NPRZ)* proposes a less radical solution for reducing poverty and social exclusion by improving the housing, working and education aspects of the problem. However, analysis of these policies elaborates that this new action still lacks a comprehensive solution for understanding the specifications of these marginalized groups of society, their values and their

lem. However, analysis of these policies elaborates that this new action still lacks a comprehensive solution for understanding the specifications of these marginalized groups of society, their values and their needs.

Besides, the low quality of public spaces of these designated areas (such as Tarwewijk) do not offer the inhabitants many opportunities to know their neighbours and participate in different activities, which reduces the opportunity for proposing a solution to increase social cohesion between different groups of society.

## 4. Fieldwork

### 4.1. Street Interview

### 4.2. Urban Social Game “Pleinbouwers”

### 4.3. Interview with Organizations

### 4.4. Personal Observations

### 4.5. Conclusion

This chapter represents different methods used in fieldwork to obtain more information about Tarwewijk and the point of view of the inhabitants and locally involved organizations. The results of street interviews and urban social games held in the elementary school of Tarwewijk, Interviews with organizations, personal observations and understanding the daily systems in the neighbourhood are the used methods explained in the coming chapters. Eventually, the results of different methods and their relation to the just public space values are analysed in an overall conclusion.

## 4.1. Street Interviews

In collaboration with Veld Academie and three other students, a day in the neighbourhood was arranged, choosing specific locations in Tarwewijk, including the most important public places, and asked people to give us their ideas about the current situation of public places, activities and their proposals and their needs. Apart from that, some individual interviews were held later on, due to lack of enough information from the inhabitants. What is more, the inhabitants were asked to talk on a printed map and point out the public places they use or like, and the ones they do not. Opposing the first expectations, some international inhabitants liked their neighbourhood, they are in contact with other nationalities, and they are wishing to continue living there. However, the social segregation and the issue of the noticeable rate of population in-and-out flow still exists.

The most important results are represented below:

- Public places are nice in summer
- Children are happy with this area
- The fences around the public places provide safety for children
  - Public places are not usable in winter
    - Fake/not usable greenery
  - Lack of enough functions and furniture for children
  - Not enough walking places for elderly
  - Lack of enough squares for children
    - Not clean
  - Not a child-friendly neighbourhood
    - The playgrounds are not safe
    - Poor quality of dog walk area
    - Not well-maintained walkways
    - Not well-maintained greenery
  - Fast traffic routes around the parks, eg: Millinix Park
    - The tram-line is a barrier
  - Not enough parking storages/ racks for bikes
    - Not enough plants in Public places
- People like the fences, although they don't think they are completely useful
- Immigrants that know people from other cultures and are willing to continue living in the neighbourhood
- Turkish people would like to have fruit/vegetable gardens in Tarwewijk \_less cohesion because of the new people and not enough activities

- Young lady with two kids used to live in Tarwewijk and liked it. She had to move to another neighbourhood since she needed a bigger house and she could not find it in Tarwewijk. However, she still comes to the neighbourhood, to the playgrounds.
- I wouldn't come to this neighbourhood at night. It does not feel safe.

### Main results:

1. In opposition to the expectation, some inhabitants like living in Tarwewijk, and they were able to connect with people from different cultures.
2. According to one of the interviewees, finding a suitable and yet cheap house is difficult in Tarwewijk. That is one of the reasons that the inhabitants move to other neighbourhoods.
3. Most of the inhabitants think the public spaces need some improvements, such as better maintenance, better playground pieces of equipment, more and better walkways, and more usable green.
4. All the interviewees believed the area is not safe, especially during dark hours.
5. Mothers with children think the area is not child friendly and needs more playgrounds, and there is a need to increase safety. Therefore, some of them liked the fences around the public places.
6. Some of the Dutch elderly interviewees did not like the changes the "newcomers" brought to Tarwewijk.





## 4.2. Urban Social Game 'Pleinbouwers'

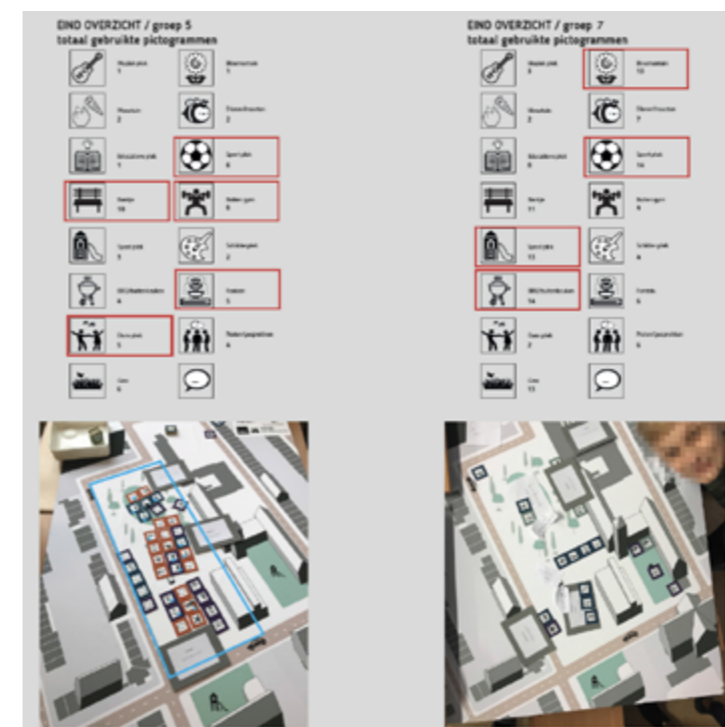
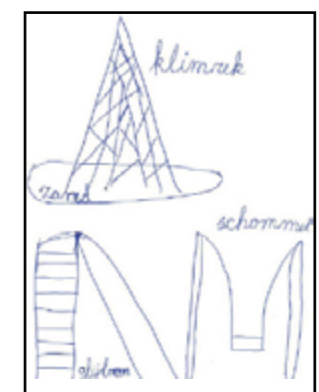
The purpose behind the simple board game was to ask the students to form groups of 4 or 5, choose a secret mission and design the green area in front of their school by using specific elements. Moreover, one week before the game day event, the students were asked to complete a minor homework assignment with simple questions regarding their neighbourhood.

The results of this method are represented below:

- Most of the children walk to school
- Most of the children go to school alone
- Most of the children play outside on some days after school. 4 of the 25 students never play outside after school.
- A majority (52%) of the students are not members of a club or association for extra-curricular activities. Activities that are done at an association or club are dance lessons (only by girls) and football (only by boys). A few are members of a riding school or sometimes swimming clubs.
- Group 7 plays on the square on the Gaesbeekstraat side. Here, boys and girls play around the table during the break. The indoor mouse / outdoor mouse game is also popular with both groups. Boys mainly play football. Girls dance, play in the jungle gym, or chat with the teacher and classmates. Compared to group 5 there is no tag or hide and seek in group 7.
  - Group 5 plays on the square on the side of the Tarwesterk gym (Blankenburgstraat). The boys only play football during the break. Girls do varied activities such as tag, hide and seek, run, mom/dad, chatting and vampire play. . Compared to group 7, no table tennis is played in group 5, despite the fact that there is a table on the square.
  - After school, the activities of the pupils are diverse, such as football, table tennis, cycling, basketball. 3 out of 25 are involved in games like Fortnite. 5 of the 25 students do not answer or do not often play after school. Group 7 also mentions activities such as chilling with friends and buying food.
- Urban places that are visited are the Zuidplein shopping centre and Zuiderpark.
  - Many of the students would like to see swings and climbing frames in the school-yard. A football field (with goals and a fence around it) is also popular. Street furniture is drawn in such as benches and waste bins. A few times a stage (for dancing) returns, including steps and seating for the audience

### Main results:

1. The children like to have more activities and pieces of equipment in public spaces
2. Most of the students use the spaces after school, to play, chill with friends or buy food
3. A majority of students are not a part of an after-school activity club comes" brought to Tarwewijk.
4. Most of the students walk to the school alone





### 4.3. Interviews with Organizations

In order to understand the dynamics of the neighbourhood and its social life to the highest level, some of the local organizers and experts were interviewed during the fieldwork phase. The following sections represent the most important results of the interviews, which were used in assessing the current situation:

#### 4.3.1. CultuurWerkplaats Tarwewijk

(An organization in Tarwewijk, with the purpose of holding social-cultural activities to increase social cohesion and social interactions, and inclusiveness in the neighbourhood)

- A couple of years ago, we did a kind of project. We went to a part of the neighbourhood, rang all the doorbells without saying anything. People came out and were confused about the situation and were asking what's going on. Eventually, they started talking to each other and realising they have friendly neighbourhoods.
- Most of the teachers of the schools are people from outside Rotterdam. How will they educate children about the city and their neighbourhood if they are not well-informed themselves?
- Some years ago, one of the teachers took a group of children for an invent in Rotterdam north. On the way back, the teacher decided to walk back to Tarwewijk instead of taking the metro. It was shocking how some of the students didn't even know there is a vast river in Rotterdam.
- There are so many public spaces in Tarwewijk, even comparing to the other sides of Rotterdam. It is a shame how they are not appropriately organised for people to benefit them and use them.

*The following sections are the results of Interviews held by Guus Speelberg, TU Delft Architecture student.*

#### 4.3.2. Playground Tarwewijk

(Playground Association, run by volunteers, mainly of Dutch descent)

- The playground is run entirely by about 40 volunteers. It is one of the official playground associations in Rotterdam. The volunteers are mainly of Dutch descent because, in other cultures, it is challenging to work voluntarily. They see it more as paid work.
- All cultures come together in the playground. The children, therefore, play a lot among themselves. The parents do have a bit more group formation at the tables and benches. However, for activities,

it is mainly Dutch and people from the dark community who join in. People from the Moroccan and Turkish community do that less.

- There is little room for young people, such as a community centre, club house or youth centre.
- It is necessary to place a Cruyff court in the centre of Tarwewijk because the football fields of the Verschoorbuurt and on the Weserhoek are inaccessible to children.

cause the football fields of the Verschoorbuurt and on the Weserhoek are inaccessible to children.

#### 4.3.3. Primary school De Akker & Primary school De Globe

- There must be a different surface for the children. It is easier to keep clean; it has a softer fall. The preference is, therefore, grass. But if there is no fence or lock around it, the entire lawn will be full of dog poo.
- Parents sometimes want to get rid of the children and that they are out of the house. You will notice that, especially now during corona. They also live in small houses and a spicy target audience. We are looking for a parent language activity, only that is only for the smallest participants.
- Parent involvement was very important to the municipality at first. Only it has little success in the neighbourhood. It remains difficult to reach parents. But that ambition is there. Activating parents is especially difficult. Unfortunately, that's the truth, but that's how it works in practice.
- So all activities are mainly indoors. Everything is inside. Hopefully there will be a safe outdoor space for children sometime. They go to the playground, but when there is an activity, it is always inside. That is a missed opportunity.
- Maybe you should come up with some kind of access system because people just have to be responsible for the space, that's actually the most important thing. Ownership is also a trendy term. But also control. A closed gate, with a card system. So that it is closed, but is and can be accessible to everyone. It therefore looks like a prison, but it is apparently necessary. I would like to see that differently. It is just a lot of words, little deeds in this district regarding management.

- You see activities ensure that children, boys and girls, for example in the street league that people bond with each other. This week you can also see that at the SSV. This plays an important role in friendships, but also with parents that you see that these activities ensure that parents get better contact. Parents who have never seen each other and then come into contact with each other through the activities.

- There is little room for young people, such as a community centre, club house or youth centre.

#### 4.3.4. House of Urban Arts

(Former school transferred to a cultural hotspot, providing lessons rap, dancing and singing)

- We really want a “performance square”. A floor where you can do everything, BMX, dance, roller skate, free run etc..

- What I notice is that it is so fixed that everything is pre-programmed. Here is a sandbox and a ping-pong table, etc.. Now it is a Cruyff square, and a football goal is being drawn, so you actually already force them to play football, while you can use such a square in so many different ways. Why can't you come up with a system so that it can be used multifunctionally.

- Parents also want to have a place, there has to be some kind of openness so that you can see your child while you are having a drink and meeting people. So that you can relax.

- We do urban arts sports, so that's BMX, 3x3 basketball, circus, free running, roller skates for the summer and indoors we do our four fixed disciplines. Visual arts, everything with multimedia, but also digital set productions, digital arts is about animation and making games, performing arts are classical dance vocal theatre, etc.. physical arts, is all you can grasp, but can also be food art, it is also about fashion design.

- In the width of what we do here from 2 to 35 years and we have programs for each component with its own target group, for the square, also for the elderly and parents, and open dance lessons that everyone can join. Boys, girls, everything, but also parents.

- It is very important to involve the parents. Through a conversation, through activities, through involvement or through the catering industry that they stay here when children are taking a lesson.

- People should especially enjoy doing their thing outside, but above all they should be free in what they do. All they should be free in what they do.

- Everything outside is freely accessible and can be offered for free, we do this in collaboration with parties located in the south, so that they can find talents. Otherwise we will become competitors in our own radius of action.

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- Everything outside is freely accessible and can be offered for free, we do this in collaboration with parties located in the south, so that they can find talents. Otherwise we will become competitors in our own radius of action.

#### Main results:

1. Lots of the inhabitants do not know their neighbours
2. Many of the children do not visit north of Rotterdam a lot, and do not know about other parts of the city
3. There need to be more activities and places for youth in the neighbourhood, as well as activities only for parents
4. There need to be safe and clean outdoor spaces for children, providing various activities
5. The already existing group activities show positive effects on social bonding between the participants, both among children and parents

#### 4.4. Personal Observations

To understand the way the inhabitants use the public spaces at the moment, a set of personal observations were made in the beginning phase of the fieldwork, by simply sitting in the public spaces or walking in the neighbourhood, and observe the surroundings and the way people use different spaces. The main results of the observations are represented below:

##### General observations:

1. There is a significant lack of enough benches in the public areas, playgrounds and parks. People were sitting on the edges of the flower boxes or stairs.
2. Most of the public areas were surrounded by gates or dense vegetation.
3. Around the public places, people were sitting by the windows and using the fresh air and sun for a long time, rather than using a perfectly green public place right in front of their houses.
4. The area didn't seem well maintained.
5. Children played outside, in the playgrounds, and also around tennis tables.
6. The mothers of the students interacted with each other at Ver-schoolstraat
7. At Millinix park, parents were sitting alone while children were playing
8. Dog shit on the streets, and also around the dog park area
9. There are some language barriers between different ethnic groups
10. Some parents interacted with each other when waiting for their children

The following images represent some of these observations; the ways the inhabitants use the public spaces for different activities. First of all, a lack of enough bike parking was noticeable, especially around the public spaces. Therefore, the users lock their bikes to the surrounding urban furniture, such as street lights. The area did not look clean as well (an issue the inhabitants mentioned as well).

The most interesting observation was the way people use the public spaces to spend their free time or interact with each other. Many people were sitting on the edges of the streets, stairs or flower boxes, and interacted with each-other.

Lastly, the parents (mostly mothers) interact with each other when their children are playing in the playground or when they are waiting for their children to finish school. The youth hang around at the edges of the playgrounds or streets. Eventually, the children use the tennis tables for some other games as well.



The inhabitants use the edges of green areas and sports fields, flower boxes, and their front door stairs, and even their windows as sitting options.





Parents interact with each other while they are waiting for their children



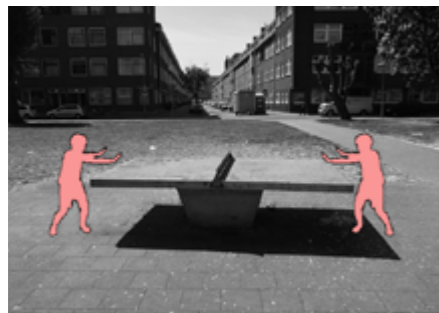
The area is not clean. Lots of garbage/ dog poop on the streets and green areas.



Lack of enough bike racks/ storages. Bikes are locked to street lights or fences .



Young people gather on the streets, or in the playgrounds



Children playing around the tennis tables with a ball.



Parents interact with each other, while their children are playing in the playground.

#### 4.4.1 Daily systems

At the later stage of the project, another set of observations was taken to understand the daily life of the inhabitants in the neighbourhood. The focus group were mainly women with children (mostly non-western).

During the primary personal observations, non-western women with children were one of the main groups who used the public spaces to interact with each other. Analysing their daily systems helped determine how they use the public spaces at the moment, the main locations they go to, and specific activities they take at each location. Besides knowing more about the daily and social life in the neighbourhood, these sets of observations aimed to better understand the values of these groups of society regarding their daily lives in the public spaces through interviewing this group more casually and openly, besides personal observations.

Based on the interviews, most of this social group (with their children) spend most of their time in Tarwewijk and barely go to other parts of Rotterdam. Moreover, the manager of *CultuurWerkPlaats* (an association in Tarwewijk) mentioned during an interview that lots of children in Tarwewijk had not seen Rotterdam north and during a walk with them, he realized that it was the first time most of the children even passed Mass river. According to the interviewees, the inhabitants like the small grocery stores in Tarwewijk and do their shopping in these stores and the Derk supermarket. Some of the women walk their children to the school (especially the younger ones) or ask for the neighbours to take their children. During the afternoon, they go to Verschoorstraat Playground and communicate with each other while their children are playing.

During the weekends, the area looks different. Partially on Saturdays and more visible on Sundays, the neighbourhood looks like the territory of young boys. All over the neighbourhood, by the streets, in front of the stores or the public spaces, groups of young boys are hanging out, talking, smoking and drinking. During these days, children are playing on the pavements in front of their houses, while the parents leave the doors open. According to one Moroccan woman, she prefers to stay home since her husband is home during these days, and she doesn't think the neighbourhood is safe enough to let her child go to a playground unattended. The only exception was the Verschoorstraat Playground, which was less crowded than usual. However, the nearby inhabitants still use it during the afternoon at weekends or let their children play there since they can watch them from their home.

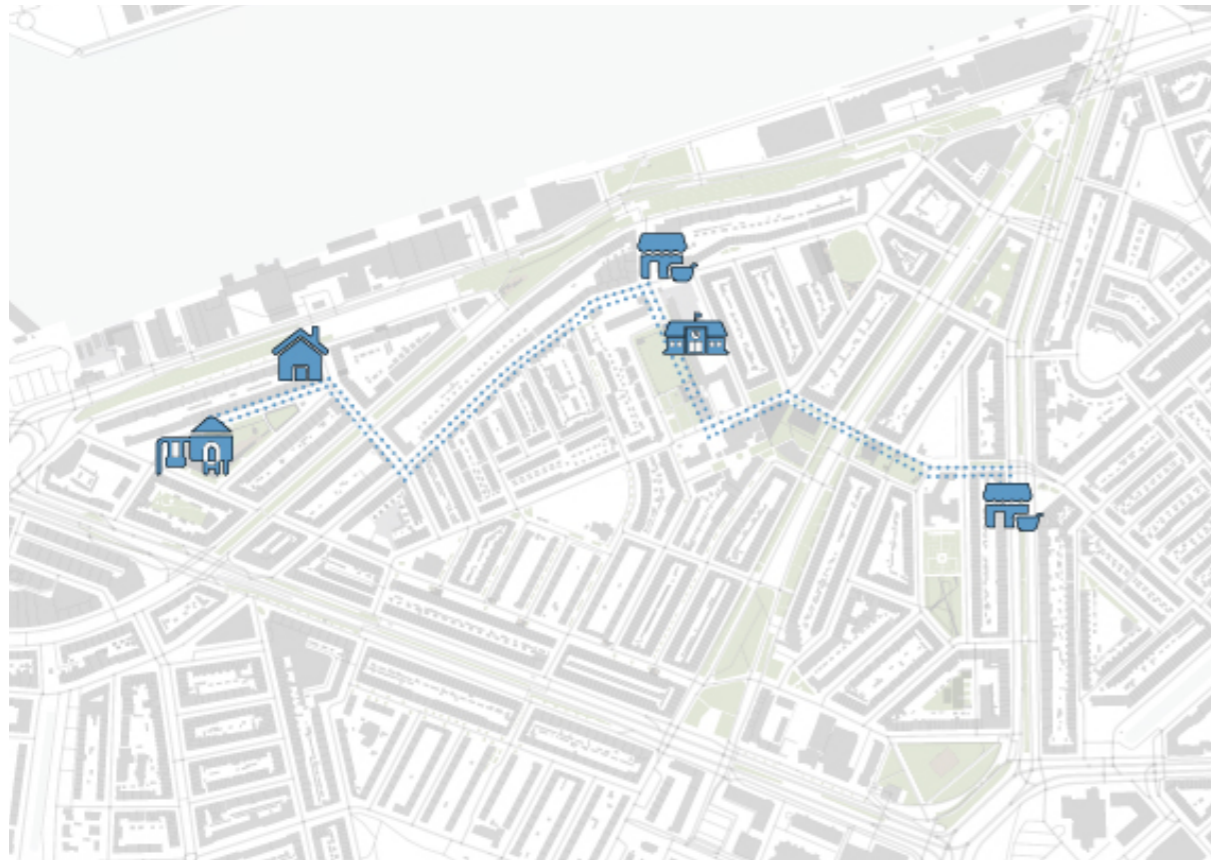


Figure 26: Daily system, non-western mothers  
Source: Made by Author

**Main results:**

1. Most of the women and children spend most of their time in Tarwewijk. They usually do not go outside of the Tarwewijk that much.
2. The mothers interact with each other when their children are playing at Verschoorstraat Playground
3. Some of the parents walk their children to the school or take each other's children as well
4. During the weekend the area looks different. Young guys hang out in public spaces and corners of the streets.
5. Some of the mothers prefer to stay home during weekends. They do not let their children go to the playgrounds alone, since they don't feel the area is safe enough.



Figure 27: The social life in neighbourhood during weekends, youth and children  
Source: Made by Author



## 4.5 Conclusion

### 4.5.1. Combination of the main results

In this chapter, different fieldwork methods (Interviews with the inhabitants and local organizations, urban social game, personal observations) were used to understand the specifications of the inhabitants from different ages and ethnic groups and their values and preferences regarding the public spaces. To be able to acknowledge the diverse values of the inhabitants, it was tried to include all the different social groups in different methods. Moreover, a set of interviews were held with local organizations since they have been involved in the neighbourhood for a while, and they could elaborate on the situation and the social life in the neighbourhood at a more collective scale. In the following, the sum of the main results of the different methods is represented.

1. In opposition to the expectation, some inhabitants like living in Tarwewijk, and they were able to connect with people from different cultures.
2. According to one of the interviewees, finding a suitable and yet cheap house is difficult in Tarwewijk. That is one of the reasons that the inhabitants move to other neighbourhoods.
3. Most of the inhabitants think the public spaces need some improvements, such as better maintenance, better playground pieces of equipment, more and better walkways, and more usable green.
4. All the interviewees believed the area is not safe, especially at dark hours.
5. Mothers with children think the area is not child friendly and needs more playgrounds, and there is a need to increase safety. Therefore, some of them liked the fences around the public places.
6. Some of the Dutch elderly interviewees did not like the changes the "newcomers" brought to Tarwewijk.
7. The children like to have more activities and pieces of equipment in public spaces
8. Most of the students use the spaces after school, to play, chill with friends or buy food

9. A majority of students are not a part of an after-school activity club comers" brought to Tarwewijk.
10. Most of the students walk to the school alone
11. Lots of the inhabitants do not know their neighbours
12. Many of the children do not visit north of Rotterdam a lot, and do not know about other parts of the city
13. There need to be more activities and places for youth in the neighbourhood, as well as activities only for parents
14. There need to be safe and clean outdoor spaces for children, providing various activities
15. The already existing group activities show positive effects on social bonding between the participants, both among children and parents
16. There was a significant lack of enough benches in the public areas, playgrounds and parks. People were sitting on the edges of the flower boxes or stairs.
17. Most of the public areas were surrounded by gates or dense vegetation
18. Around the public places, people were sitting by the windows and using the fresh air and sun for a long time, rather than using a perfectly green public place right in front of their houses.
19. The area didn't seem well maintained.
20. Children played outside, in the playgrounds, and also around tennis tables.
21. The mothers of the students interacted with each other at Verschoolstraat
22. At Millinix park, parents were sitting alone while children were playing
23. Dog shit on the streets, and also around the dog park area

24. There are some language barriers between different ethnic groups
25. Some parents interacted with each other when waiting for their children
26. Most of the women and children spend most of their time in Tarwewijk. They usually do not go outside of the Tarwewijk that much.
27. The mothers interact with each other when their children are playing at Verschoorstraat Playground
28. Some of the parents walk their children to the school or take each other's children as well
29. During the weekend the area looks different. Young guys hang out in public spaces and corners of the streets.
30. Some of the mothers prefer to stay home during weekends. They do not let their children go to the playgrounds alone, since they don't feel the area is safe enough.

The represented results can be generalized in the following fields:

\_ The majority believe that the public spaces need lots of improvements, in terms of maintenance, cleanness, and pieces of equipment

\_ The area is not safe. The fences seem to be necessary to increase safety

\_ There need to be more space and group activities for different groups, such as parents, children and youth

\_Some of the inhabitants like Tarwewijk, and interact with their neighbours with different ethnic backgrounds, while some only interact with people with the same ethnic background as them.

\_The area and the inhabitants seem to be disconnected from Rotterdam, and they only know their neighbourhood

\_A collective identity is missing in the neighbourhood

\_More specifically, the findings represent a willingness of the inhabitant's in having more group activities, more social interactions, and better quality of public spaces in different aspects.

The combination of the interviews and observations (including the daily systems) illustrates how the inhabitants use the neighbourhood for different activities. Apart from the negative results, there were some positive outcomes that can be enhanced to improve the public spaces.

The results of the fieldwork do not reflect the high quality of the mentioned public spaces, but due to the location and the provided activities inside and the building functions around these spaces, the inhabitants tend to use these spaces more than other public spaces in the neighbourhood. As an example, the Verschoorstraat Playground and the playground in front of the school are two of the public spaces that the inhabitants use and find the opportunity to socialize with each other. These locations can be used as the initiation point of the future in the project since some of the inhabitants already use these public spaces and are more open to communicating and participating in future initiatives and activities.

Moreover, the main reason behind this fieldwork was to understand the specifications of different social groups and their point of view about their neighbourhood and their needs, to be able to move towards achieving socio-spatial justice more practically.

Eventually, these fieldwork results are considered one of the key elements in the proposed vision and strategic framework. Knowing what the inhabitants want from their living environment and their preferred group activities creates a base for future development projects. Translating the inhabitant's opinions into spatial values, helps to propose an alternative strategy for increasing social interactions in the neighbourhood, knowing the demand for more group activities and more qualitative public spaces.

#### 4.5.2 Conclusion: SWOT Analysis

In order to understand the fieldwork results concerning socio-spatial infrastructure and understand the shortcomings and potentialities of the area better, the conclusion of the fieldwork analysis was translated into two SWOT tables regarding spatial and social contexts. Moreover, the just public space values were used in this analysis, regarding each point, to use the SWOT analysis method as a tool to assess the public spaces (under the defined values to determine the level of injustice).

The Just Public Space framework was proposed earlier in this project,

containing a set of values for defining the level of justice at each public space. The SWOT analysis tables represent the conclusion of the neighbourhood analysis and the fieldwork under this framework to be able to translate the results into these values and score these values for each public space in Tarwewijk.

It is important to mention that some values are missing in the SWOT analysis since there has not been any input from the fieldwork results. The top-led, bottom-fed, freedom to speak, open for everyone and different communities values trigger the participatory aspect of justice, which are not presented in the neighbourhood at the moment.

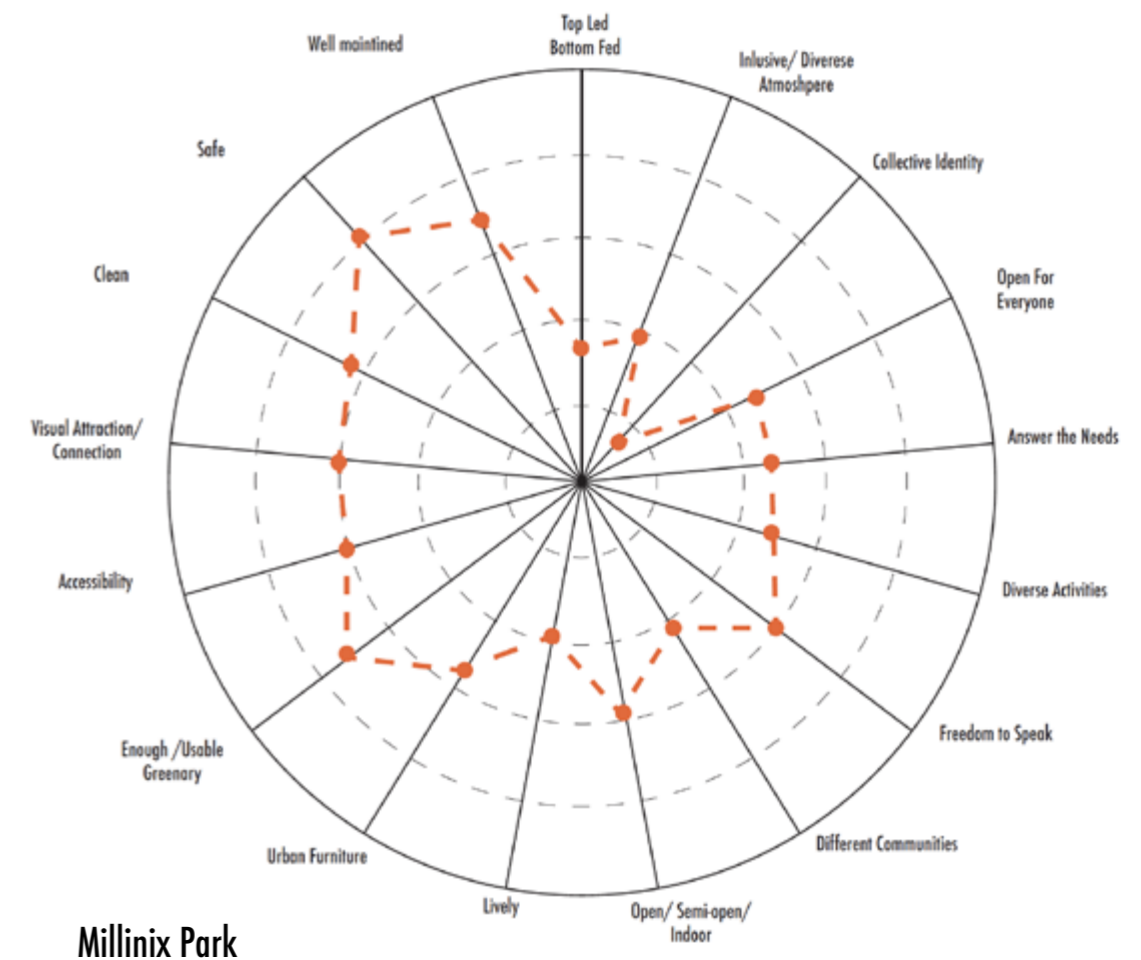
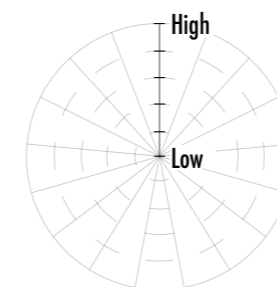
		STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	OPPORTUNITY	THREAT	INHABITANTS' PROPOSALS/ OPINION
SPATIAL CONTEXT	Urban Furniture/ Equipments		_Lack of enough sitting areas/ benches _Not enough playground equipment			_People ask for better playground equipments
	Greenery	_larg amount of greenery	_many of the green areas are not usable _Poor quality of the dog park area	_The large amount of green areas an be improved for providing more activities		_Some people like to have a share fruit garden in the neighborhood
	Safety	_The fences around the public spaces provide safety	_fast traffic routs around the public spaces reduce safety for children _In general, the area including the playgrounds is not safe for children		_The area is not safe during night hours	_The inhabitants like the fences since they are increasing safety
	Accessibility		_Not enough bike parkings for the houses and public spaces _Not enough, attractive and safe walking routs in the neighborhood		_The tramline around the public space in Groepstraat, and the northern part of the neighborhood is a barrier _The fences reduce accessibility during dark hours	_The inhabitants like to have safer and more qualitative walking routs in the neighborhood
	Visual attraction/ connection		_There are not enough plants (specially colored planes) in the neighborhood _The gates around public spaces reduce visual connection			
	Maintenance		_The area and the equipments are not well maintained			
	Cleanness		_The area is not clean. Lots of trash in the playgrounds, green areas and streets		_The dog park effects on the public space of Zwartewaalstraat, and reduce cleanness of the space	
	Open for everyone		_The gates around some specific public spaces are closed during dark hours, which prevents the inhabitants to use them at dark hours			
	Open/Semi open/ Closed areas	_There are large amount of public spaces in Tarwewijk	_The public spaces do not contain closed and semi-open public areas			



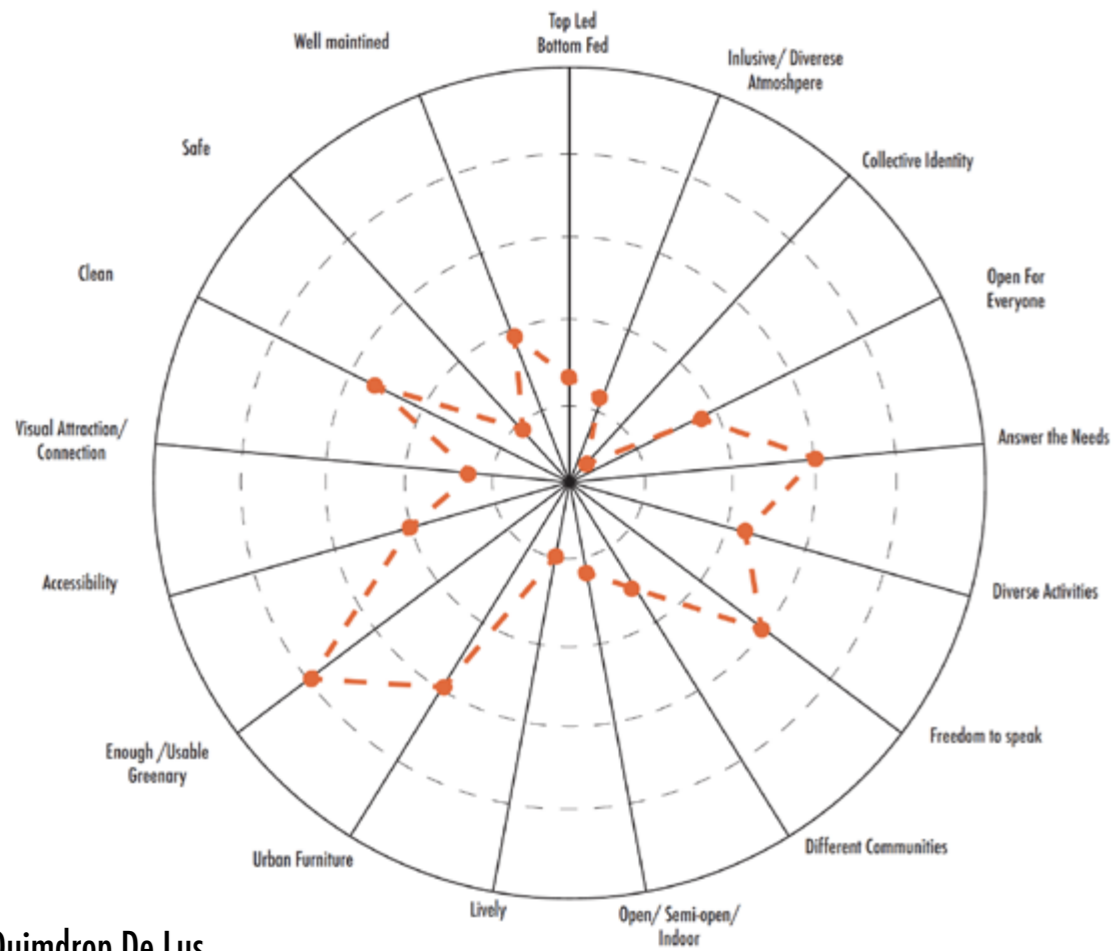
		STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	OPPORTUNITY	THREAT	INHABITANTS' PROPOSALS/ OPINION
<b>SOCIAL CONTEXT</b>	<b>Social interaction</b>	_Some inhabitants are a part of a diverse social group within the neighborhood	_Many of the inhabitants do not know their neighbors	_The mothers of the children socialize with each other while their children are playing at the playgrounds	_There is a language barrier between different ethnic groups	
	<b>Activities</b>	_The already existing activities have positive effects on social bonding	_No specific activities for youth _No specific activities for parents _The majority of students are nor a member of a club	_Most of the students in Tarwewijk use the public spaces after school		_different groups of the inhabitants demand more group activities and show interest to participate in them
	<b>Liveliness</b>				_Some of the inhabitants prefer to sit at the edges of their windows/ their houses' stairs _Some people think the area is too crowded	
	<b>Inclusive/ diverse atmosphere</b>				_Some of the elderly Dutch inhabitants do not like the changes the newcomers made	
	<b>Collective identity</b>		The neighborhood do not contain a collective identity	_Some of the inhabitants like Tarwewijk, and like to continue living in there		

In the following, the results of the SWOT table are translated into spider diagrams to score the values of each public space. The values are stored on a scale of 0-5 (from the least to the most score). The majority of the public spaces are missing a collective identity. The only exception is Verschoorstraat, in which the inhabitants (mostly non-western immigrants) interact with each other and use the public space with their specific social group. The majority of the public space represents the greenery value at a satisfactory level, except for Zwartewaalstraat (due to the presence of dog park), Wevershoekstraat and Blankenburgstraat (not usable green, not enough sitting spaces). The top-led bottom-fed system, different communities and the freedom to speak are not present in the neighbourhood. However, the governmental policies aim to support the improvement of these values. The majority of the public spaces lack a combination of open, semi-open and closed spaces except for Blankenburgstraat. However, this public space is not open for everyone since it is organized by a private group of local volunteers and needs reservations for activities. Mullinix park and Blankenburgstraat have a higher score of safety and clean values since there are active organizations around them, and the areas are surrounded by gates.

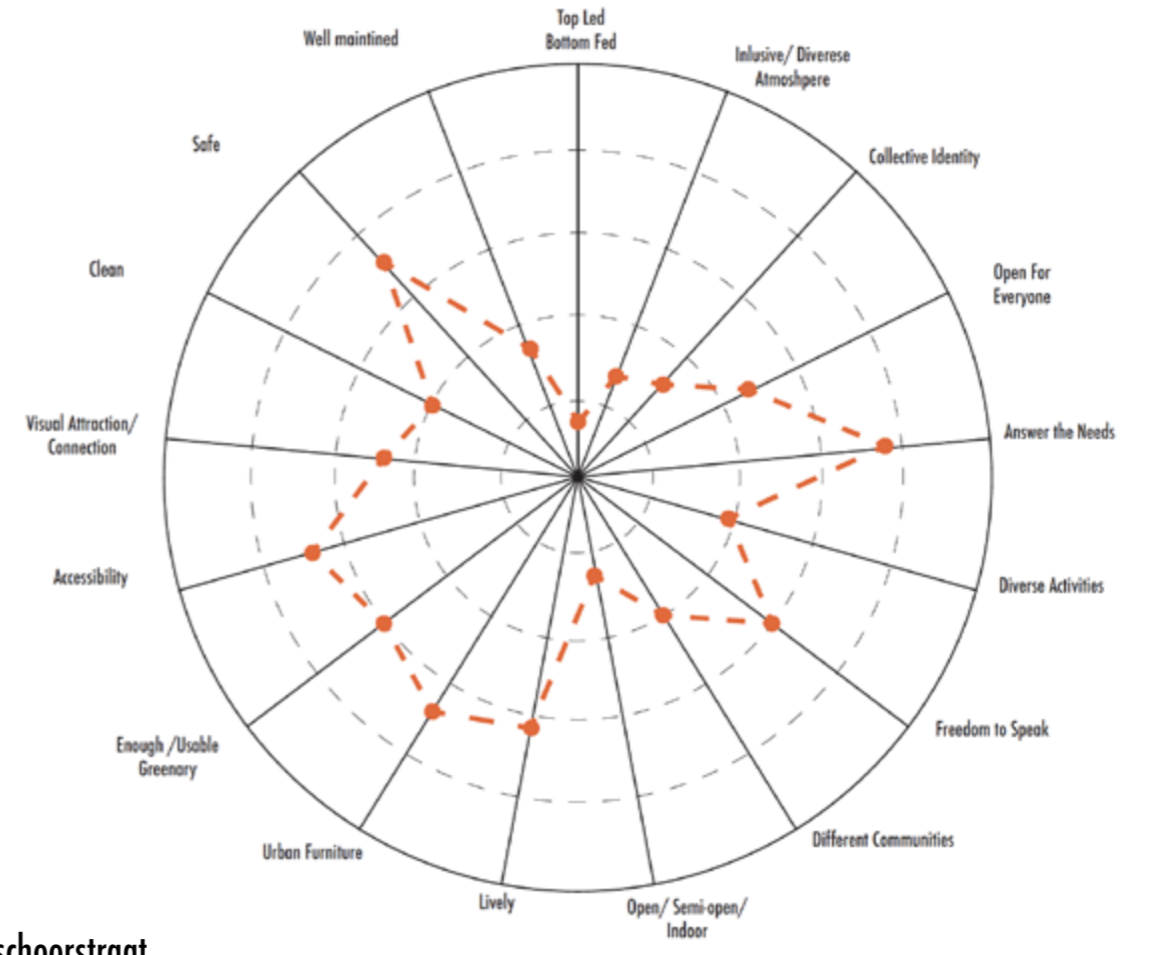
The rest of the values have different scores in different public spaces.



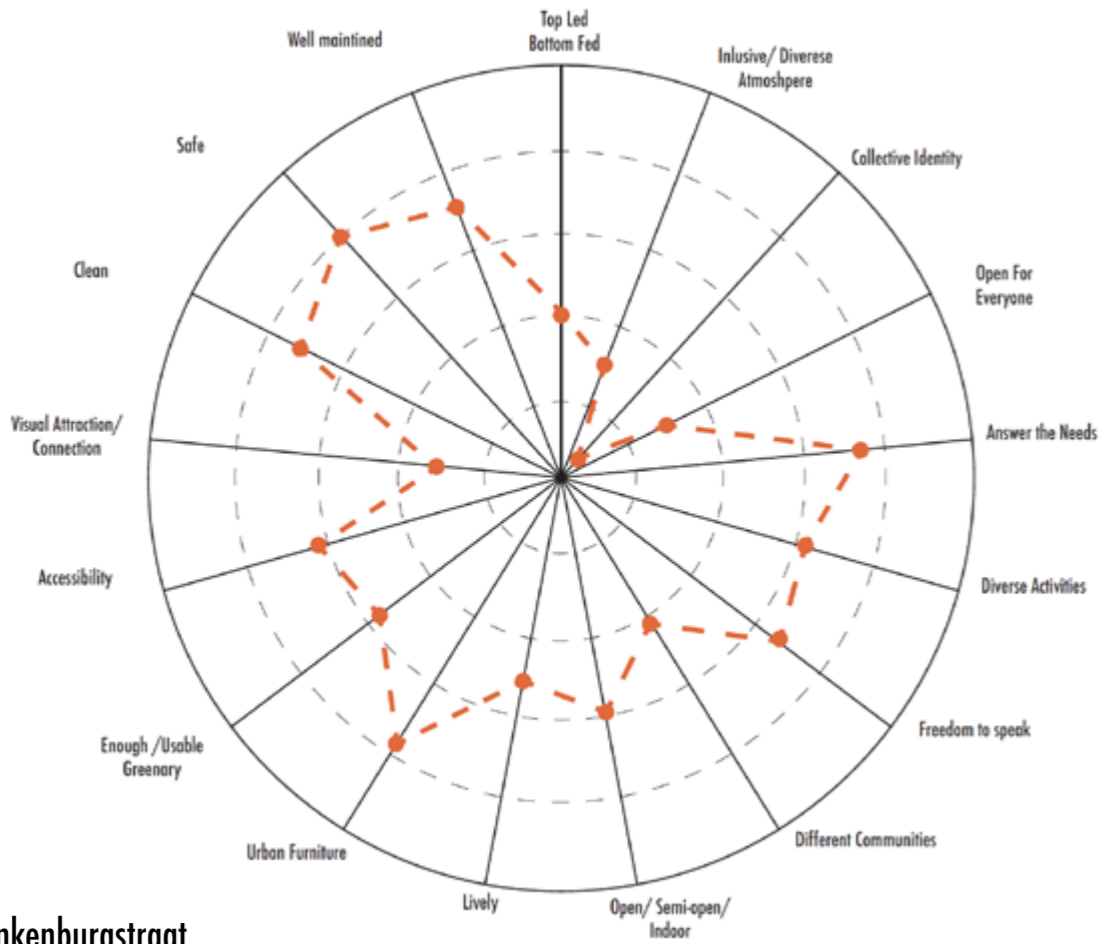
Millinix Park



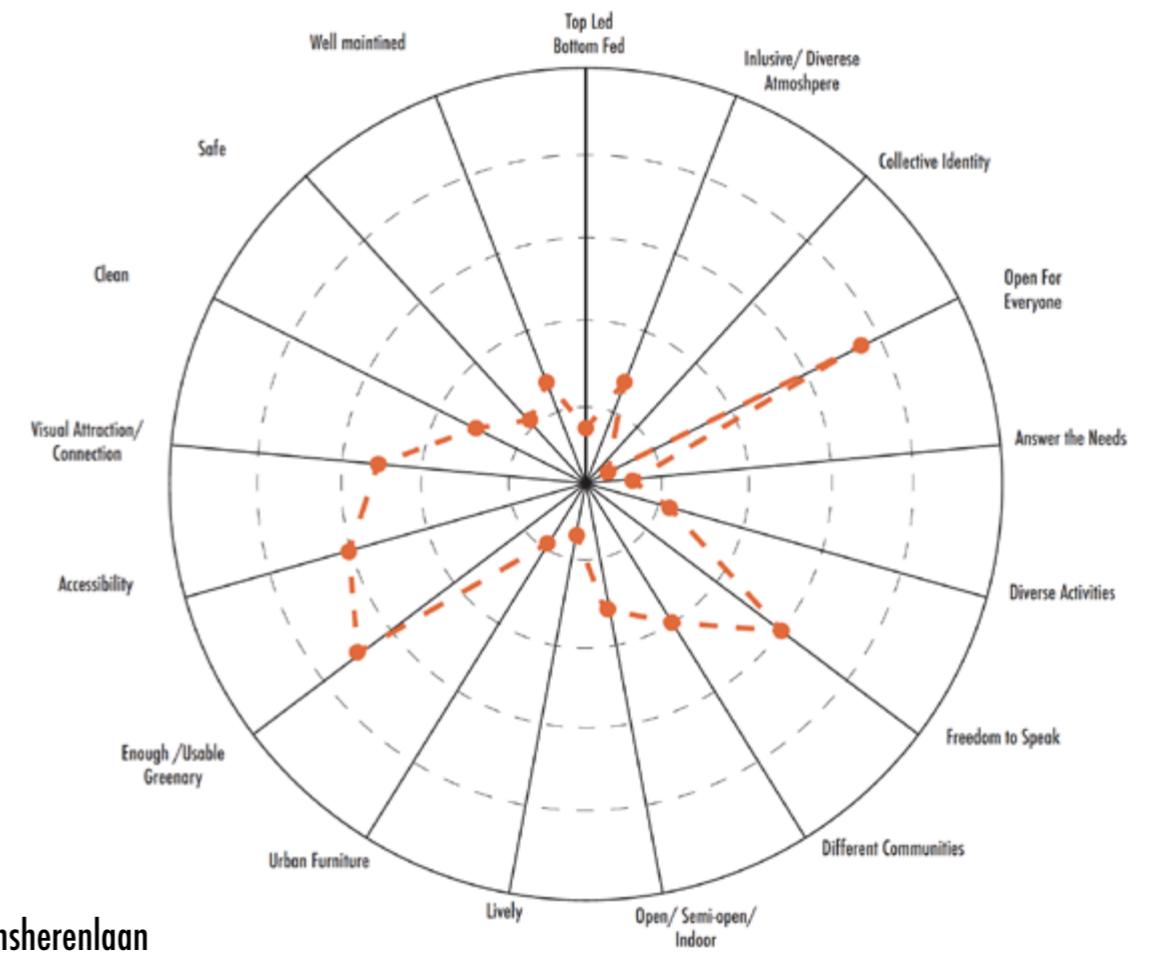
Duimdrop De Lus



Verschoorstraat



Blankenburgstraat



Mijnsherenlaan

### 4.5.3 Conclusion: Sub-research Questions

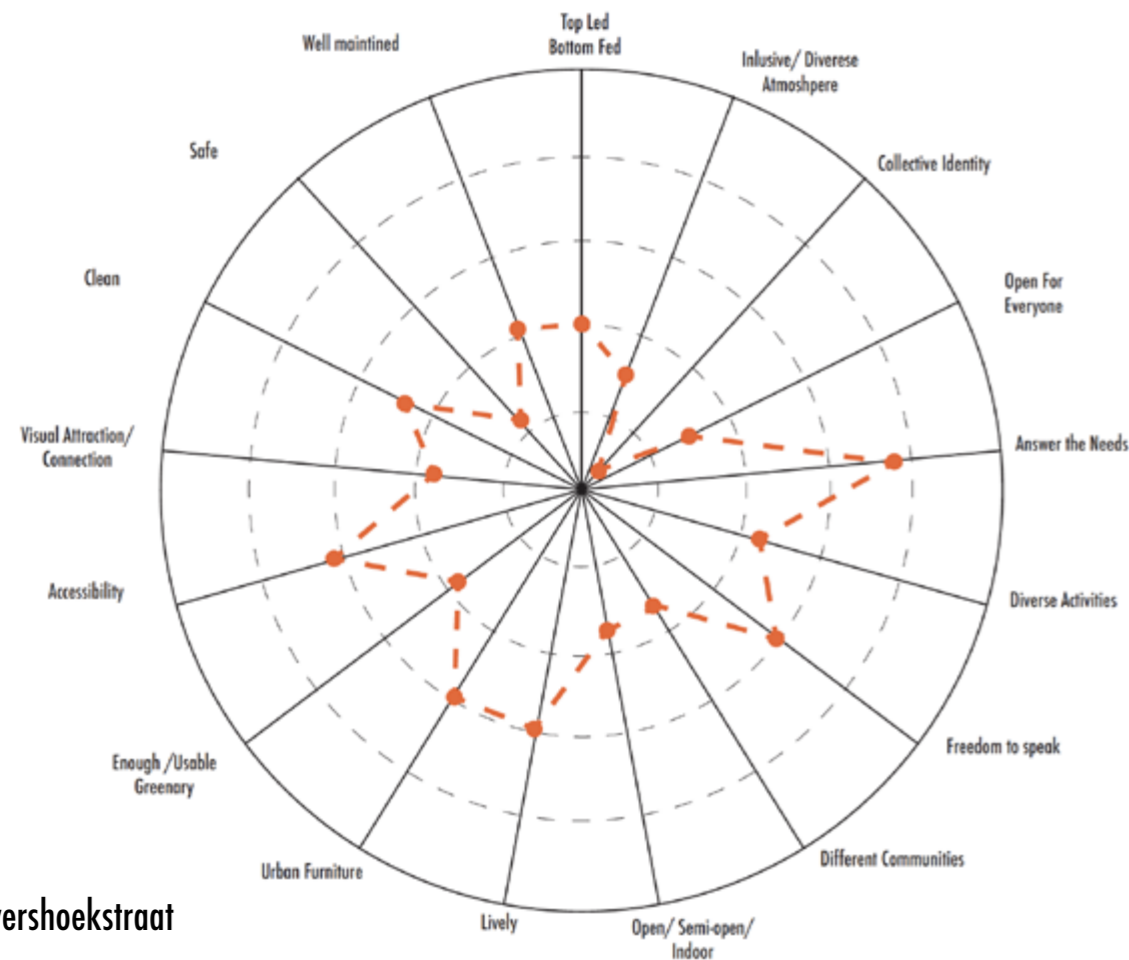
1-3. What are the needs of these groups that are not being provided?

2-2. If so, what are the missing spatial structures and policies?

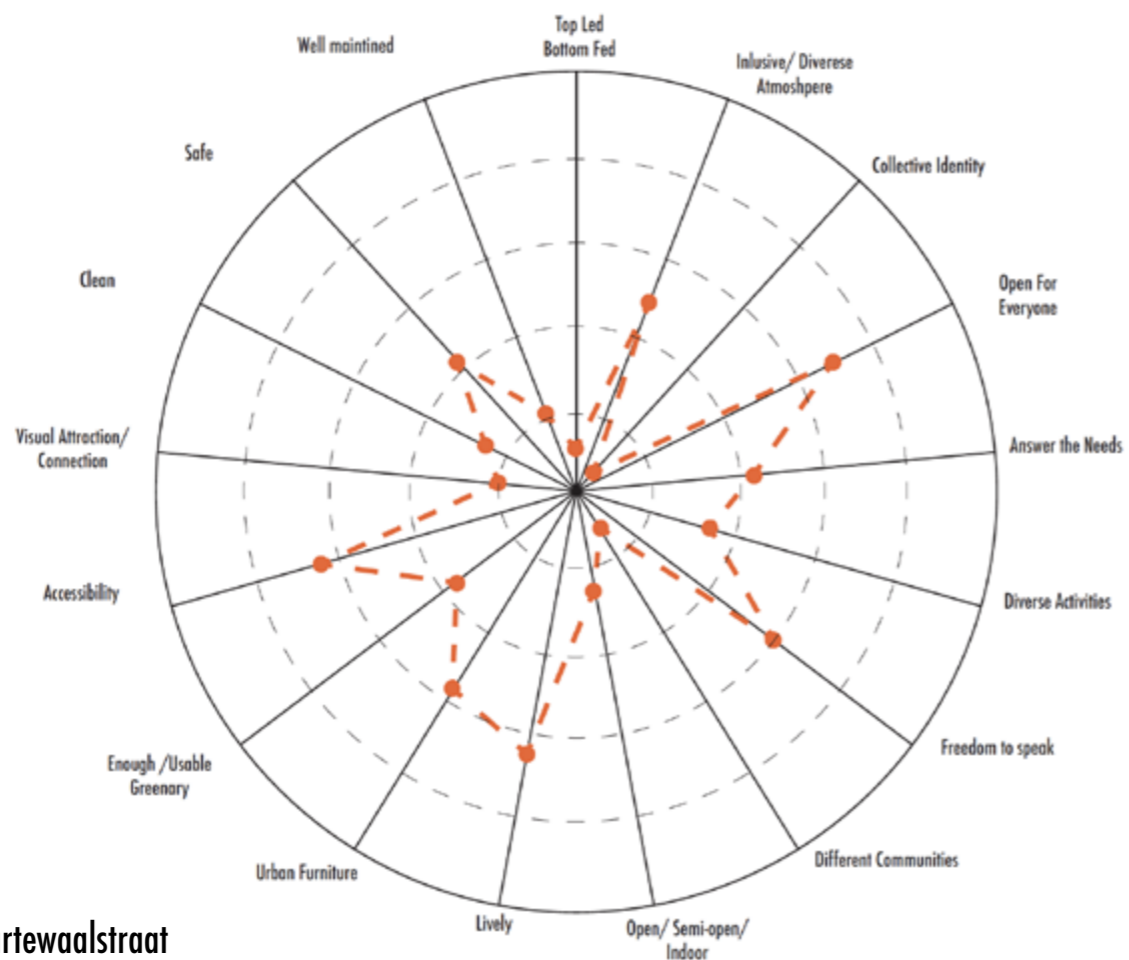
During the fieldwork, a set of different methods were used in order to be able to connect with all the different groups of inhabitants and understand their desires from their living environment. The general results represent a high demand for a better quality of public spaces. Many of the inhabitants pointed out the different issues with Tarwewijk's public spaces, such as safety, maintenance and cleanness issues and lack of enough urban furniture. The inhabitants also talked about their proposals for developing the public spaces and offered some elements they think would help with improving the spaces. Some of the comments were mentioned mostly during the fieldwork:

- \_Provide a suitable space for the youth
- \_Create more usable green in the area, including a picnic park, educational garden and community garden
- \_Safer walking routes with better quality of space in the neighbourhood
- \_A public stage for children, and House of urban arts
- \_Better quality of playgrounds and sports fields.

Moreover, several times, a need for more group activities in the neighbourhood for different social and age groups was mentioned since the public spaces do not provide the inhabitants with many opportunities. The lack of suitable enough group activities and efficient public places do not allow the inhabitants to interact with each other and get to know the inhabitants from other ethnic backgrounds. Based on the interviews and personal observations, while some inhabitants know people with different ethnic backgrounds, many tend to gather in small social groups with similar ethnic backgrounds.



Wevershoekstraat



Zwartewaalstraat



## 5. Vision

### 5.1. Vision

### 5.2. Current Situation

### 5.3. Gaps Between The Current Situation and Vision

This chapter represents the vision these projects propose for Tarwewijk. In order to achieve the vision, the issues are briefly mentioned as a summary of analysis and fieldwork, in order to find the gap between the current situation and the vision. Afterwards, each issue is shortly discussed regarding the relationship between the strategy and the design.

## 5.1. Vision

### 5.1.1 Introduction

This project aims to use the advantages of diverse and multicultural societies and demolish the negative externalities of this phenomenon, increase social cohesion and eventually, move towards achieving socio-spatial justice.

The conceptual framework of this project tries to include different aspects of justice (recognitional, distributional and participatory). Concepts of community and participation are proposed to achieve the project's aim while considering public space redevelopment as another main tool in the process since public spaces are one of the urban resources, which play an essential role in increasing and enhancing social cohesion and socio-spatial justice.

The author proposes a just public space framework to focus on the relation between socio-spatial justice and public spaces (see section 3.5.1). The defined values in this framework were used to analyse the results of the fieldwork and understand the missing points in the social and spatial context of Tarwewijk. The analysis results represent the dysfunctionality of public spaces at the moment, in providing the inhabitants' needs and an opportunity to meet new people. Meanwhile, the inhabitants' demand more group activities in the neighbourhood for different social groups (such as mothers of the students). This high demand for group activities (while knowing the effect of space in shaping social activities based on theoretical studies) leads to the vision this project represents for Tarwewijk.

Moreover, knowing the level of policy and design effect on each value helps with using the data collection analysis results in order to define the gaps between the current situation and vision, classify them into general groups and understand the role of strategy and design in filling in each gap.



### 5.1.2 Vision

By 2050, Tarwewijk will be a living neighbourhood with a multicultural yet coherent society. The inhabitants with various backgrounds define different group activities and participate in the decision-making process in the local communities, while the public spaces serve as the physical contexts. That means the public spaces will be regenerated to be more inclusive and functional for different social groups.



1. Including all the different groups of society in the activities, public spaces, and communities



2. Regeneration of the public spaces, based on the current and future needs of society



3. Focus on the functionality of the public places as well as inclusivity (enhancing just public space values)



4. Providing the infrastructures for initiation of citizen communities for the inhabitants for citizen participation



5. Strength the already existing unofficial communities and local organizations by providing the needed public spaces



6. Connect different communities

## 5.2. Current Situation

Based on the gained information during the study of the neighbourhood and the inhabitants' opinion, there are both positive and negative points in the current situation of the public places and the daily social life of people. Among the inhabitants of Tarwewijk, many like their neighbourhood and their living environment. They like the current public places and use them for meeting their neighbours and spend their free time. However, from their point of view, some improvements are needed, such as more and better urban furniture, playground equipment, and safer public spaces and streets. Besides, some inhabitants claimed that they knew other inhabitants with various ethnic backgrounds. They were able to form a friendship with

their neighbours when they arrived and felt welcomed in the neighbourhood.

However, Tarwewijk is dealing with many issues in different aspects, and therefore, many inhabitants and visitors do not like this neighbourhood. The following issues are represented based on the findings (see chapter 3 and 4)

Tarwewijk is housing a large number of immigrants with various ethnic backgrounds. Many of these people do not feel integrated with other people in Rotterdam or even in their living environment. Moreover, there are many people who have their own social groups only with people with the same ethnic background, and they are not a part of a mixed social group.

Tarwewijk has a large portion of public spaces. According to the findings and interviews with experts and the inhabitants, these public spaces do not have a satisfying quality, and they do not offer many group activities. Therefore, they don't give many opportunities to the inhabitants to meet and interact with other people. During the interviews with the inhabitants and even the visitors, many find Tarwewijk's public places lacking enough urban equipments for different age groups, especially children. Moreover, the area can be unsafe during certain hours of the day, mostly during the nights.

Eventually, there is a lack of interest among the inhabitants in participating in social activities, already existing organizations and potential communities. As the neighbourhood manager explained during an interview, there have been several attempts to connect with the inhabitants and discuss the development projects. However, the results were not satisfying since the majority of the inhabitants did not show any interest in participating or giving their opinions about the issues.

In the next section, the mentioned issues are discussed as the gap between the current situation and the vision.

### **5.3. Gaps between Current Situation and The Vision**

In order to move towards achieving the vision, it is essential to first understand the gap between the current situation and the vision and elaborate on each issue. Moreover, the complexity of the context, society, and the current issues needs to be acknowledged. Improving the public places as the physical infrastructure for future communities will not work out without a functional strategy supporting the aim, as the social issues can not be tackled only by spatial interventions.

Therefore, in order to achieve a feasible plan, it is important to keep in mind that a good design without a related and strong strategy can not solve all the problems. Some of the problems may be tackled by a strategy, some by a design and some by a combination of both. In the following paragraphs, each problem will be shortly discussed to elaborate on the relationship between the issues, the strategy and the design.

1. Dis-functionality of current public places: The results of the fieldwork and neighbourhood analysis illustrate that the public spaces do not contain high quality of space and are not being able to offer the demands of the inhabitants. Lack of enough activities and urban equipments do not offer an opportunity for social interaction between the inhabitants. In general, the low quality of public spaces does not encourage the inhabitants to use them for different activities and socialize on a more collective scale. This issue needs an efficient spatial improvement, considering the diverse values and demands of the different social groups.

2. Lack of strong and inclusive communities: This project aims to encourage the inhabitants to create their citizen communities by providing them with the opportunity and the needed infrastructure. This issue needs a well-planned strategy. However, functional public spaces with a good design are needed to support the strategy and create the physical space for future communities.

3. Marginalized inhabitants, in-mixed social groups among the inhabitants: Tarwewijk houses many immigrants with different ethnic backgrounds, mostly from the lower classes of society. Due to the inefficient policies and development projects and neglecting the specifications of these specific groups, many of the inhabitants of Tarwewijk have been marginalized. There are many cultural and language barriers between different ethnic groups, which work as a barrier for social interactions and having a collective identity in Tarwewijk. A set of strategies collaborating with functional public spaces is needed to define and acknowledge the diverse values of different social groups and propose an alternative way to encourage the inhabitants to have more social interactions in the neighbourhood by improving the public spaces.

4. Unsafe public places during dark hours: A good design can increase safety in a public place, with small interventions such as keeping the area visible to the surroundings and providing enough lightings during the dark hours. However, a set of strategies are needed, for increasing safety, specially during the first phases of the project.



5. Lack of enough inclusive group activities for the inhabitants: The low quality of public spaces and lack of knowledge over the inhabitants' demands and specifications results in the incapability of the public spaces to offer different group activities. In this issue, the strategy steps in before the design. Knowing the inhabitants, their behavioural patterns and their interest is the first step. Redeveloping the public spaces can support the strategy in the later steps, to provide the needed space for one or more desired group activities.

6. Lack of interest in participation (activities, communities, maintenance/ management): In a neighbourhood where there is not enough interaction and social trust between the inhabitants and the officials, encouraging the inhabitants to initiate and participate in a community needs many prerequisites, which need to be provided by a strong and step by step strategy. Afterwards, a design framework should be organized to support the strategy.

As it was illustrated, the majority of the issues need a combination of design and strategy to be tackled. However, some are affected more by the design, and some by the strategy. In the next chapters, these issues will be discussed further under the proposed strategic and design frameworks

## **6. Strategy**

### **6.1. Introduction**

### **6.2. Group Activities and Social Trust**

### **6.3. Strategy**

### **6.4. Management of Public place**

### **6.5. Actors involved in Management**

### **6.6. Conclusion**

In this chapter, the previously gained information is fostered to offer the strategic framework. At first, the relationships between group activities and social trust are explained, which leads to the strategic framework. Eventually, different management models and possible stakeholders are mentioned.

## 6.1. Introduction

In the previous chapters, the public spaces of Tarwewijk and the diverse society of Tarwewijk were analysed, leading to the vision. This chapter represents the strategic framework for activating the participatory processes in Tarwewijk, based on the results of the analysis and fieldwork, to fill in the gap between the current situation and the vision. In order to achieve a more complete concept of justice, the demands for more group activities and the diversity of the inhabitants' values are taken into consideration as one of the main elements in the strategic framework. In order to achieve a comprehensive strategic framework containing different aspects of justice (distributional, participatory and recognitional), the participatory aspect of justice and its relation to the group activities (the inhabitants' demand) and social cohesion is studied further in the coming sections.

Arnstein describes citizen participation as an essential element in democracy, an idea that, in theory, is acceptable by the majority of people. However, this great idea comes up with several challenges in practice. First of all, the knowledge and cultural gap between the government officials and the citizens sometimes result in a lack of practical participatory approaches by the public officials. More specifically, as Subendran elaborates in *Geographies of Conflict*, the majority of the theories and practices over the concept of socio-spatial justice neglect the specifications of the multicultural societies and their different groups.

In 1969, Arnstein created a model for democratic public participation. The *ladder of Citizen Participation* elaborates how current power holders (such as local government and officials) neglect citizen empowerment and how this citizen empowerment can be increased by considering the relations between citizen agencies and governmental institutions. The model is presented as a Ladder consisting of 8 rungs, each represents a level of power distribution and citizens' involvement (figure 26). The eight levels are classified into 3 main categories:

1. Non-participation or no power, including manipulation and therapy
2. Tokenism or counterfeit power, including informing, consulting, placation
3. Degrees of citizen power or actual power, including partnership, delegated power and citizen control



Figure 26: ladder of citizen participation  
Source: Sherry Arnstein, 1969

As Arnstein emphasizes in this model, citizens usually seek quick decisions and results, while the nature of the formal decision-making process is a lengthy procedure. This lengthy process prevents the citizens from sensing the change they are looking for in a short period. That might result in a lack of trust and interest in participation. In *The Role of Trust in Shaping Urban Planning in Local Communities*, Hanson explains the relation between trust and participation: "Participation and inclusion of groups who feel and have a reason to feel distrust in authorities and administrations as a result of segregation and inequality are not necessarily easily achieved". Besides the trust in public authorities, social trust between the inhabitants themselves is another crucial issue, as they are the future members of their communities (Hoogerbrugge & Burger, 2018). The strategic framework in this project aims to propose a solution to increase social trust between the government and the inhabitants, and the inhabitants themselves, in order to encourage the inhabitants to initiate their communities and provide the needed infrastructure for participatory processes and eventually, activate citizen control on a local scale.

Putnam elaborates on the relation between trust in social groups and diversity. He claims immigration and the appearance of diverse societies reduce social trust, representing a belief that others in society can be trusted (Sztompka & Crothers, 1999). Social trust can be translated into both the trust between citizens and the trust between the citizens and their government. The level of distrust can increase among diverse societies habiting in distressed neighbourhoods, like Tarwewijk. Based on the fieldwork held during this project (see chapter 4), in Tarwewijk, a neighbourhood with a diverse society, there is a level of distrust between the inhabitants. Statements like: "I do not like the changes that the newcomers with a different cultural background are bringing to Tarwewijk", "I do not like my children to play at this playground, since the Moroccan people mostly go there", "I did not feel welcomed in the neighbourhood when I first arrived" from the inhabitants, strengths this observation.

What is more, while some inhabitants are a part of a diverse social group, many of Tarwewijk's inhabitants do not know many neighbours with different cultural and ethnic backgrounds than themselves. Erica Lamberg mentions getting to know the neighbours is the first step to make any home safer. On a larger scale, this sense of safety and trust can expand to a neighbourhood scale when the inhabitants have enough interaction.



Creating a citizen community for the inhabitants can be translated into moving from fear towards trust (Dregger, 2020). This fear is not only in the community and its purpose but also in working with others. This fear may be more visible in societies that have been neglected and marginalized from other societies (Hansson, 2018). In the case of creating a community for citizen participation for this group of society, asking them to participate in changing their living environment, in the beginning, might sound scary, unrealistic, and even not fascinating. Therefore, creating trust between the citizens and the government is a challenge for citizen participation, which needs to be addressed before initiating communities for citizen participation. This project aims to create social trust between the inhabitants and between the inhabitants and officials. In the case of creating a community for citizen participation for this group of society, asking them to participate in changing their living environment, in the beginning, might sound scary, unrealistic, and even not fascinating. Therefore, creating trust between the citizens and the government is a challenge for citizen participation, which needs to be addressed before initiating communities for citizen participation. So, this project aims to create social trust between the inhabitants and between the inhabitants and officials later on.

Creating trust between the inhabitants with not enough interactions is an issue in diverse societies, where finding a common goal, collective identity, and common interest is not easy. People gather around a common goal and connect through that (Sacheli et al., 2015). This common goal can be as simple as rooting for a national sports team in a big match or as big as making a considerable change in the world. This common goal is the main reason behind the natural interactions between people (Sacheli et al., 2015). The starting common goal can be more aligned with the individuals' more simple interests, considering the values and demands of different social groups. In this project, creating group activities based on the inhabitants' various needs and interests is considered a requirement for creating strong communities. Moreover, simple educational workshops with the purpose of building a semi-professional base in the future participants of these communities can be added to these group activities at later stages of the process, which can address the knowledge gap between citizens and officials.

## 6.2. Group Activities and Social Trust

In this chapter, the positive effect of group activities in increasing social trust between the participants is discussed, based on the case studies and theories. These group activities can be defined in various fields, such as games, group sports and exercises, and cultural

activities. Even in some workspaces, different group activities take place for the team members to create a sense of trust between them (Robins, 2020). Moreover, allowing the inhabitants to hold their preferred activities in a public space gives them the opportunity to bring their individual and/or collective values to the public space and the neighbourhood, as space gets its meaning by the way people use it (Hanzl, 2013). Through these group activities, people get to interact with each other, share their values, find common values, and get connected to society and their living environment.

In order to elaborate on the effect of group activities, first, an experiment over the effects of participating in a physical group activity and increasing social trust between the participants will be shortly mentioned. Afterwards, this idea will be further discussed on a neighbourhood scale, meaning analysing the effects of group activities in a neighbourhood on increasing social trust and social cohesion between the participants. Therefore, the three following case studies are represented in the following:

### 1. The Effects of Physical Activity on Social Interactions: The Case of Trust and Trustworthiness, Bartolomeo & Papa, 2017

#### Rome, Italy

The participants were chosen from the list of potential voluntary candidates from the undergraduate student population at Sapienza University.

This research focuses on the relationships between physical activities, and social interaction and social trust between the participants. Apart from reviewing the related policies, this project contains an experiment to compare participants' social behaviour in group activities. The base of the experiment is a simple game, in which one participant, as an inspector, decides an amount of endowment to give to another person (The trustee). Then, the amount is multiplied three times, and the trustee can decide on the portion of the increased amount he/she wants to give back to the investor. The game was repeated with groups of participants, randomly chosen for each game. For analysing the effect of physical activities on social trust, two different pre-play activities were implemented: first, writing a short essay, and second, 30 minutes of physical activity before the game.

The results of the mentioned research project represent the positive effect of participating in a group activity in creating a sense of trust between the participants, and trust is a critical element of commu-

nity shaping. This positive effect has been used recently in different contexts to increase social trust between members of groups. For example, Li emphasizes the importance of trust between co-workers and offers several group activities for building trust within a team. In another context, Azevedo analyses the role of cultural activities in building trust between inhabitants and states, "Arts and culture are capable of creating and giving rise to a sense of place, not only by celebrating communal values but also by providing opportunities to meet and understand other value systems, to embrace diversity, to develop trust among others".

Therefore, this tool can be used in distressed neighbourhoods like Tarwewijk to create a sense of trust between the inhabitants. In fact, the previous practices show the positive result of creating a suitable group activity in a neighbourhood, ending in increasing the social trust between the inhabitants and, later on, interest in joining neighbourhood communities. Looking more deeply into the relation between group activities and creating a sense of trust and communities in neighbourhoods, two of the previous practices in a similar context as Tarwewijk (super-diverse society, with many people from lower classes of society) are mentioned following:

## **2. Social Capital within the Neighbourhood Power & Willmot, 2007**

### **The Valley, Sheffield, United Kingdom**

A diverse and multicultural living area in Sheffield, with a large portion of social housing.

The local officials were involved in holding local community activities.

The Valley is a very diverse neighbourhood in terms of society, land use and housing type, facing many problems. By 2007, the neighbourhood had the highest rate of unemployment in the city. It had a bad reputation for crime, with one of the highest rates in the city. Besides, the area lacked enough facilities for children and youth and community facilities and, in general, was unable to answer the diverse needs of its diverse society. However, during the time, local officials and volunteer-based programmes tried to enhance the collective identity of the neighbourhood and the community spirit through different activities in the neighbourhood.

The analysis over the participation in group activities represented the improvement of social trust and social capital in the neighbourhood. The high level of participation (around 85%) in specific community

activities, such as musical festivals, resulted in a sense of togetherness and unity among the participants. Afterwards, the participants were more involved in community activities. For example, some of the participants involved in an informal neighbourhood crime reduction initiatives actively. The initiative, later on, resulted in reducing crime in the neighbourhood.

## **3. Neighbourhood Participation in Super-diverse Contexts: Comparing Amsterdam and Vienna Dahlvik & Hoekstra, 2017**

### **Slotermeer-Noordoost, Amsterdam, Netherlands**

A relatively small neighbourhood in Amsterdam, around 5000 people, with a large portion of social housing, and a super-diverse society.

Comparing to the rest of Amsterdam, the area has always been considered a poor and underdeveloped neighbourhood. Due to the neighbourhood's situation, there had been policies implemented in the area, with a focus on community shaping and creating a space for the inhabitants to interact with each other and organise various activities, such as creating a neighbourhood living room.

As Hoekstra & Dahlvik elaborate on the results, "during the successive life-stages of the neighbourhood centre, different aspects of residents' identities were made salient, highlighting the complex 'fault-lines' that emerge in diverse neighbourhoods in contestations over micro-publics. The study, therefore, shows the importance of seeing belonging as a dynamic emotional attachment (Waite & Wood, 2011) which is based not just on (self-identified or ascribed) group membership but also produced through attachments to specific places and the characteristics and meanings attributed to them. An understanding of space as productive of difference (Clayton, 2009) necessitates viewing encounters as 'spatiotemporal experiences' (Valentine & Sadgrove, 2012)".

The two mentioned projects were analysed first because they shared the same context as Tarwewijk: A neighbourhood placing many immigrants, mostly from lower classes of society, which have been resulted in social exclusion and less social interaction. Both of the studies represent the positive effect of a citizen community in a neighbourhood in different aspects. The first example focuses more on the positive effect of providing the right group activities in increasing the willingness to participate in the community. On a different aspect, the

second project focuses more on the relation between space and social life in such a context and how creating a neighbourhood living room as a place in which the community and also the inhabitants themselves (who are not community members) can hold different individual and group activities, increase social interactions and the sense of belongingness to the neighbourhood.

The results of the case studies emphasize the importance of both providing the right group activities, as well as an efficient space in increasing social interaction, social trust and participation, which are the aims behind this thesis project. However, in both cases, the already existing communities took the lead in these projects. Based on the interviews with Tarwewijk's neighbourhood manager, and the head of *CultuurWerkPlaats* organization, there have been several unsuccessful attempts to encourage the inhabitants to form a community and even participate in municipalities meetings on Tarwewijk's development plans. Knowing this effect of group activities and space on social life, this project tries to propose an alternative solution for Tarwewijk and similar neighbourhoods (in which the attempts for creating a community were not successful) by focusing on public space redevelopment and providing group activities, in order to first, create social interaction, social trust and the sense of belonging as well as providing the needed social and spatial infrastructures for the future communities. The reason behind this is to encourage people to create their community and participate in it when the social and cultural barriers become less sensible or even broken, and a sense of togetherness is created between different social groups, as well as the inhabitants and their living environment.

### 6.3. Strategy

Based on the positive results of group activities in increasing social trust and the results of the fieldwork and data analysis, which represent the will of the inhabitants to have more group activities in Tarwewijk from different social groups, the strategy framework at this project considers creating the opportunity for holding various group activities in a neighbourhood as an initial point of creating social interactions, a sense of trust, and therefore, starting the communities. Most importantly, in a super-diverse neighbourhood in which many of the inhabitants are marginalized, giving the inhabitants the opportunity and the interest to interact with each other will encourage them to create and build their community. During the fieldwork and interviews with inhabitants and local organizations, the high demand for having more group activities and having a spatial space for that was remarkable (see chapter 4). In this project, public places are considered as the primary physical contexts which serve the future commu-

nities. Therefore, the redevelopment of public places is first defined based on each location's possible activities. The goals of the strategic framework are divided into two groups: Short term, and long term goals:

#### 1. Short term goals:

- \_Connect people through defining group activities
- \_Redevelop the public places, based on the defined activities
- \_Allow future activities
- \_Educational workshops

#### 2. Long term goals(Community goals)

- \_Create a sense of trust between people, and people and the community
- \_Connect different groups with different interests
- \_Open for everyone
- \_Connect the inhabitants to the officials and civic societies
- \_Create a sense of belonging
- \_Local management

The short-term goals focus more on improving public spaces, providing different group activities, and connecting different social groups through these tools. The short term goals are aligned with the long term goals; the positive effect of group activities and efficient public spaces in social life is going to be used to increase social trust and the sense of belonging and togetherness. In other words, the short term goals are the prerequisites to achieve the long term goals, which are aimed to eventually result in local management in the form of a community centre, or multiple community centres. Connecting people through group activities increases social trust between the inhabitants, shares their values, and increases social cohesion in the neighbourhood. Redeveloping the public space is a prerequisite to connecting people through these group activities by offering the needed physical infrastructure for current and future activities. With a combination of these improvements, it is aimed to connect the inhabitants to each other and their living environment. The educational workshops offer the inhabitants the needed knowledge background to organize the neighbourhood activities and activate the local management in the neighbourhood.

Besides the short-term and long-term goals, the strategic framework is offered to achieve the goals in a more structured way. The strategic framework consists of three different phases. The first phase focuses



framework consists of three different phases. The first phase focuses on determining the desired group activities in the neighbourhood for the starting point. At this phase, the group activities need to be prioritized based on the target groups and locations. Later on in this project, the starting target groups in Tarwewijk will be represented based on their influence on society and the desired physical space for their activities.

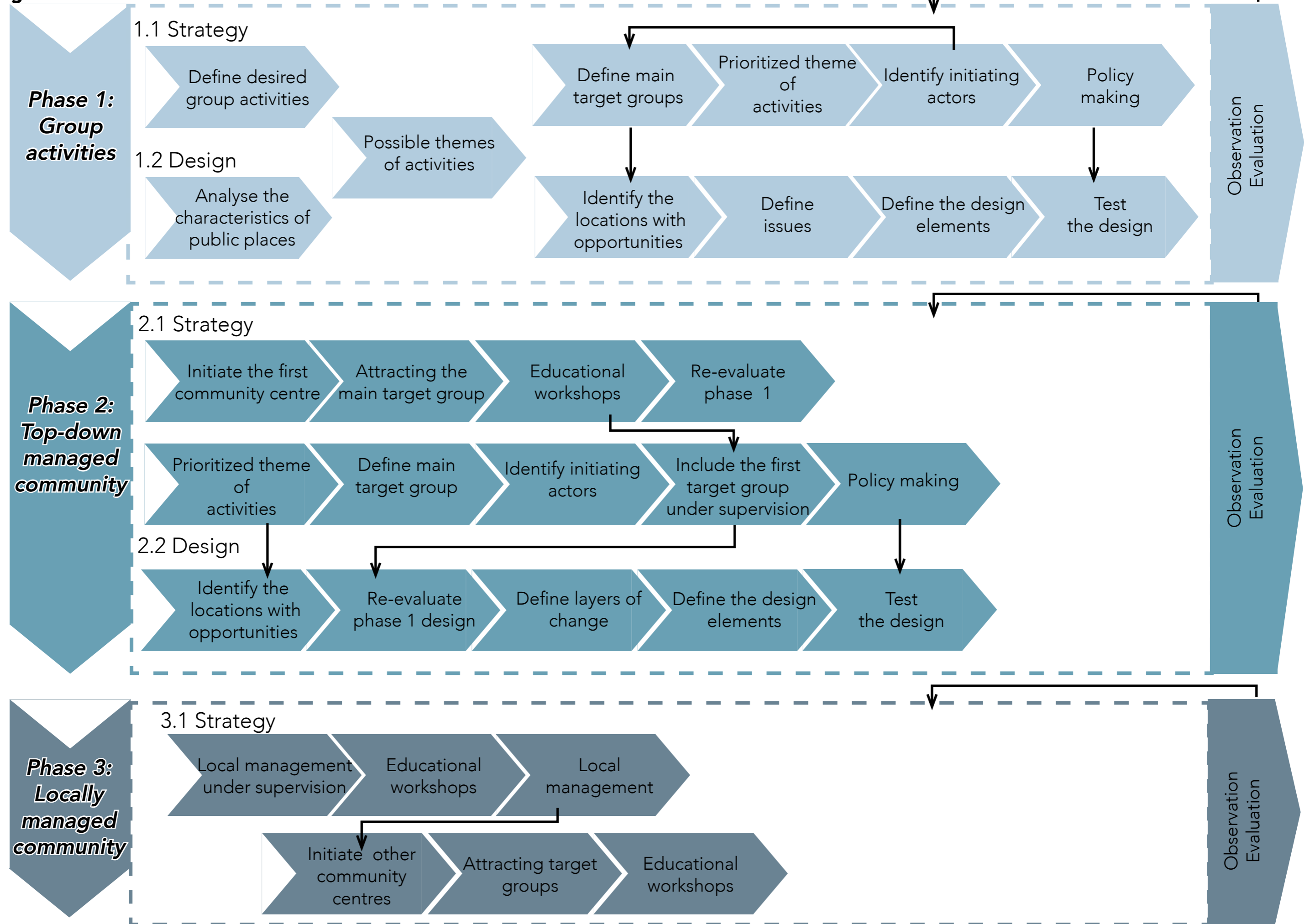
The second phase of this framework focuses on initiating the communities, considering the starting target group. At this level, the management of the community is a top-down model by involving local officials and involving organizations in the neighbourhood. The educational workshops for the starting target groups will also be held at this phase to build a foundation for the third and last phase, which is locally managed communities. Moreover, the first two phases contain a design section to consider the role of public places in initiating communities and considering the strategy in the design interventions. In the first phase, the defined target groups help identify the possible locations, and the policy-making will help lead the design implementation. For example, the encouraging policies for maintaining the public place and the program for activities will be considered in the design. In the second phase, the starting target groups from the first phase who want to participate in educational workshops are involved in re-evaluating the first design implementation and policy-making for the second location(s).

The three phases of the strategic framework aim to move from a top-down management system to a locally managed community through an evolutionary framework. The three main phases start with the main focus of proposing the needed group activities to achieve the short term goal of connecting people through the group activities. The second phase is a transitional phase between the first and second phases, which is the starting point of citizen communities with a top-down management system to achieve local managed communities during the time. In the process of the strategic framework, it is tried to include the inhabitants' points of view and comments during the process of evolving the strategic framework itself. Therefore, the evaluation phases will improve the implementation of the proposed strategic framework (and the related design tests), not only for Tarwewijk but also for other locations.

Meanwhile, the project also aims to allow the inhabitants to decide on their living environment and the public places' opportunities. However, it is crucial to consider the management and maintenance

of public places since the framework facilitates local management in neighbourhood urban areas. Moreover, maintenance plays an essential role in the quality of a public place, which is crucial for this strategy.

**Strategic Framework**



## 6.4. Management of Public Places

The current urban policies have been focusing on the complexity of the built environment in general, including the public places, which means the relation between the spatial interventions in the city with other issues, such as sustainability, social exclusion, economic competitiveness, place image, culture, gender and ethnicity. In the article *Re-theorising Contemporary Public Space: A New Narrative and a New Normative*, Carmona et al. elaborate on this issue: "As a result, urban policy instruments have emphasised the potential roles of public spaces, variously as weapons in the arsenal of global and local inter-city competition, as catalysts for urban renewal, as potential arenas for community revitalisation and participatory local democracy, as well as fulfilling their more traditional functions as a source of amenities and connecting tissue between the private spaces of the city."

Considering the public places as the immediate physical context for citizen interactions, while moving from officially managed communities towards a locally managed model, and activating citizen participation, raises public space management. Since the inhabitants are considered the final users of the public places, and organisers of communities and activities, it is essential to predict the right strategy for public space management and determine the stakeholders. Moreover, creating multifunctional and inclusive public places might result in various stakeholders, actors and users. Each of these different parties can affect public places regarding how they are used, maintained, and managed. This plurality results in a complex relationship between different parties and the issue of management and maintenance.

Since the 20th century, local governance has been an essential element in the welfare state. While most of the activities happen at a local level regarding the public places, the context of management and maintenance is not yet considered as a local public service. public space management is not happening by one organization or social worker, but under different specific institutional arrangements considering the increasingly diverse, fragmented and complex societies (Carmona et al., 2008)

Nowadays, public space management is not happening by one organization or social worker, but under different specific institutional arrangements considering the increasingly diverse, fragmented and complex societies (Carmona et al., 2008)

In the book *Public Space, Management dimension*, three models of public space management are represented (figure 27). The state-centred, Market-centered, and community-centred models are discussed

concerning four fields in public space management: coordination, regulation, maintenance, and investment. In the state-centred model, the public agencies have the leading role of coordinator, regulators, maintainer, and funder. In the market-centred model,

	<b>State-centred</b> Public service ethos, accountability, separation provision-use, separation public-private	<b>Market-centred</b> Delegation, value for money and profitability, contract relationship, overlap provision-use, separation client-contractor, overlap public and private.	<b>Community-centred</b> Delegation, civic spirit, co-production of services, overlap provision-use, overlap public-community, overlap client-contractor
<b>Coordination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hierarchies</li> <li>• Organisational restructuring</li> <li>• Consultation and user feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract specification</li> <li>• Partnership design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Compact', agreement and partnership design</li> <li>• Contract specification</li> <li>• Stakeholder engagement</li> </ul>
<b>Regulation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislation and enforcement</li> <li>• Performance management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract enforcement</li> <li>• Partnership performance management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract enforcement</li> <li>• Partnership design</li> <li>• Institutional support</li> <li>• Capacity building</li> </ul>
<b>Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separation delivery-use</li> <li>• Technical expertise</li> <li>• Standards setting</li> <li>• Consultation and user feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overlap delivery-use</li> <li>• Separation client-contractor</li> <li>• Contract drafting</li> <li>• Outcome specification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract drafting</li> <li>• Standards setting</li> <li>• Institutional support</li> <li>• Local x general standards</li> </ul>
<b>Investment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget allocation</li> <li>• Rationalisation and efficiency gains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative sources</li> <li>• Value for money and competition</li> <li>• Stakeholder identification and involvement</li> <li>• Vested interests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative sources</li> <li>• Stakeholder identification and involvement</li> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Local knowledge</li> <li>• Capacity building</li> </ul>

Figure 27: The three models of public space management

Source: Carmona, et. al., 2008

The mentioned roles are distributed between the public and private sectors, or even entirely between private sectors. At last, the community-centred model involves the community-based and voluntary organizations in the process to reduce the distance between the users and providers of service. The three different models are not completely separated, but they can be used together, based on the location's needs and situation.

In this project, in the first phase, the management of the public places is a state-centred model, where there is a clear division between public services and the users. The local users can be involved in a maintenance routine, which is fed from the public sector. However, maintenance is still completely the public sector's responsibility. With moving from the first phase of the strategic framework to the last phase, the community-based models will be implemented. In fact, the community-based model is the last phase and the goal of the strategic framework, which means the management and maintenance of



local organizations and the local communities, including associations of the users of public places.” In the case of public spaces, there is plenty of evidence of problems of under-use and exclusion by particular groups within a community, which could be better addressed through the involvement of the relevant groups in the design and delivery of solutions” (Carmona et al., 2008). For example, in the UK, the state acts as the principal, while the organizations and communities are the agents (top fed- bottom led). Moreover, In this model, public space management is also about creating trust and increasing the communities’ capacity. The coordination and regulations are still in connection with the public sector. Nowadays, public space management is not happening by one organization or social worker, but under different specific institutional arrangements considering the increasingly diverse, fragmented and complex societies (Carmona et al., 2008).

This project aims to achieve a local level of management within the communities and the public spaces in collaboration with the public sector with the distribution of tasks. At this step, the regulation and coordination would be the responsibility of the local and central government while considering the participatory processes and including the inhabitants and private parties in the decision-making process. Attracting private parties to invest in the neighbourhood based on the strategic plan and desired activities is another aim of this project during different phases of the strategic framework.

Figure 28 represents this collaboration and the distributions of tasks, how this project aims to use the community centre modules in Tarwewijk, and how different involved parties will be affected and/ or affected directly by this module. The different fields of public space management, the duties and responsibilities at each field and the possible related sectors defined by Carmona were used to propose this task division in different fields for the future. Besides, the direct effect of each field on each stakeholder is determined for further steps in the future.

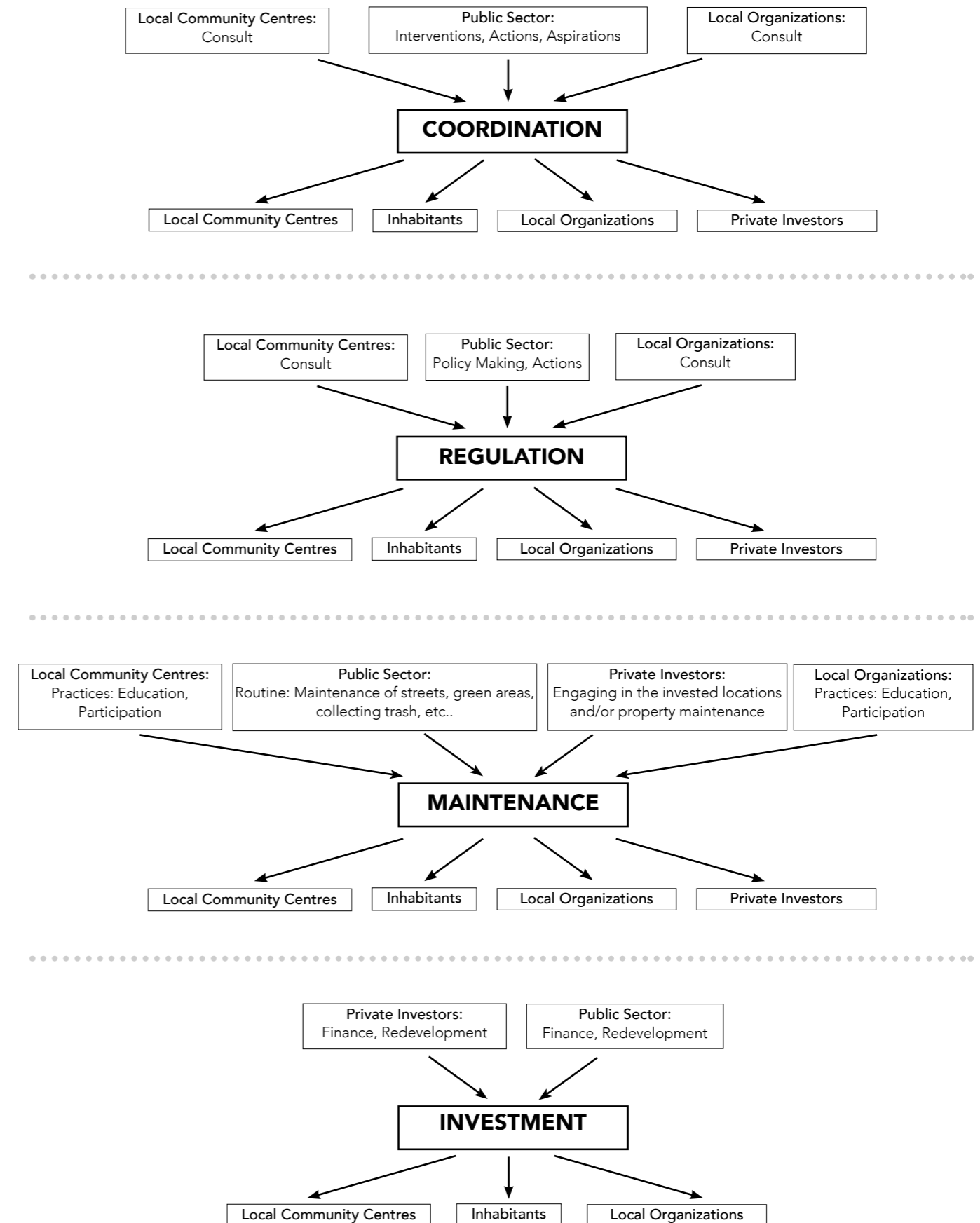


Figure 28: Community centre module for public space management: distribution of responsibilities and effects  
Source: Made by Author

The following sections represent the current and possible future actors and their responsibility in the management of the neighbourhood in different aspects.

#### 6.4.1. Public sector (currently involved)

1. The municipality of Rotterdam offers different services, such as waste collection and cleaning the streets. Also, the majority of current policies and implementation projects are under the control, influence and supervision of the municipality. However, it is important to mention that the current policy for Rotterdam south (NPRZ) has been created and implemented with several private and public sectors, as well as local organizations. It is aimed to make this collaboration stronger in the future, by involving the inhabitants and more local organizations in the process.
2. The City District of Charlois: This public sector has an interest in the quality of outdoor spaces, which is considered as one of the sectors involved in investing in future development projects.
3. The Police: The regional approach of the police focuses on safety in public places, which can help with increasing the quality of the space.

#### 6.4.2. Possible future actors besides the public sector

1. House of Urban Arts and the House of Hope are two of the active organizations in the neighbourhood, whose members are considered some of the main target groups in the strategy framework. These local organizations can work in collaboration with the municipality for the development plans and are also considered as possible organizations that can be involved in the local management of the public spaces.
2. The schools around the public places can use the public places more often. Therefore, they can help with maintaining the zones they use the most, such as playgrounds. The school can be also a place to educate the younger users about the importance of caring about the living environment as a collective group. Moreover, the teachers in Tarwewijk have many interactions between different social groups in the neighbourhood, which gives them a general knowledge of the specifications of the neighbourhood's society and the challenge, which can be used by the municipality to implement more recognitional democratic strategies and developments in the neighbourhood.

3. The Placemakers is an organization, with the main goal to create inclusive and lively public spaces collaborating with the government, organizations and the citizens. The participatory process in the peacemaker's projects and their interests to create flexible spaces for the inhabitants make them possible future actors. Since they try to find local stakeholders for their projects, some of the investment costs can be provided by these groups. Moreover, they offer maintenance for their end product as well as educating the local users.
4. Natuurstad Rotterdam is an organization interested in organizing educational gardens and petting zoos for children. This organization can be one of the future actors, participating in an investment of the public spaces.
5. BSW Rotterdam is an organization, interested in creating safe, and socio-educational playgrounds. They are one of the possible future stakeholders in the investment section while providing supervision over the local management.
6. Johan Cruyff Foundation is an organization interested in developing sport activities for children. Creating Cruyff courts (small football fields) is one of their projects, which can be implemented in Tarwewijk based on the inhabitants' demand. Therefore,

## 6.6. Conclusion

Based on the results of neighbourhood analysis, data gathering and fieldwork, which led to the vision for Tarwewijk, the strategic framework was proposed as an alternative way to address the issues of socio-spatial exclusion. In order to fill in the gap between the current and previous practices and development projects and the desired outcome, the strategic framework considers distributional, participatory and recognitional aspects of justice. Based on the inhabitants' demands for more group activities on the neighbourhood scale, the relation between group activities, social interaction, social cohesion and participatory processes have been discussed further in this chapter.

Arnstein describes citizen participation as an essential element in democracy and justice and elaborates on the different levels of citizen participation in relation to the government. She also elaborates that the lengthy processes of decision making and development processes usually results in less trust in government and less interest in participation in such processes. As Hoogerbrugge & Burger say, social trust between the inhabitants themselves and the inhabitants and the government is a prerequisite for activating participatory processes with efficient results.

Meanwhile, there have been many studies and tests over the relation between group activities and increasing social trust between the participant, of which the mentioned projects were discussed in this chapter, representing the positive effect of participation in group activities on increasing social interaction and trust between the participants. Besides, holding specific group activities and events and creating a suitable urban space for inhabitants in some neighbourhoods facing the same issues as Tarwewijk has positively increased social cohesion between different ethnic groups and led to more interest in participation in citizen communities. Knowing this positive effect of group activities and the importance of space in forming social life in cities, the strategic framework is proposed in three different phases, considering improving the public spaces and providing the demanded group activities in the neighbourhood as a prerequisite to initiate communities. Each phase starts with defining the main target group(s), define their preferred group activities and improve the public spaces based on the desired activities while considering flexibility in the process. Moreover, each phase contains educational workshops for the inhabitants to prepare them for initiating and managing their communities and, later on, participate in the official decision-making processes. The strategic framework also proposes including the inhabitant in the

second and third phases of the development processes under official supervision.

Carmona's three models of public space management have been used to simplify the complex nature of public space management and clarify different fields and responsibilities (coordination, regulation, maintenance and investment) for each model (state-centred, market-centred and market community-centred). The strategic framework moves from a state-centred system (as the current situation) to a community-centred model. At the aimed model, the regulation and coordination would be the government's responsibility (collaborating with local organizations and communities) while some private parties are considered possible investors. Another aim of the strategic framework is to achieve a local management level in communities and collaboration of the public sector, local organizations and local communities in management and maintenance of public spaces. Moreover, it is aimed to include the inhabitants and local organizations in the decision-making process, while they are in charge of maintaining the public spaces.

### 6.6.1 Conclusion: Related Sub-research Questions

#### 1-4. Who is eligible to participate in decision making, and in what scales it is possible to do so?

In order to create an interest in participation, the strategy framework focuses on specific target groups at the first phase while providing them with the space and opportunities for having the desired group activities to increase social trust, social interactions and social cohesion. Meanwhile, there will be educational workshops provided for these target groups to educate the participant and provide the needed knowledge in participating in the decision-making process and management of their community(s) and the public spaces. Step by step, the participators at these workshops will be involved in the regeneration of other public places under officials and experts supervision.

In addition, the strategy framework aims to move from a centred-based management model to a community-based one. That means the project offers local management and maintenance of the public spaces in collaboration with the public sector. However, these actions are still under the regulations and policies provided by the public sector. It is essential to mention that the communities, the public sector,



and possible private organizations collaborate to manage and design the living environment on a neighbourhood scale at the end of the last phase.

**3-2. Is that possible to increase social interaction and, therefore, social cohesion by improvement of public spaces?**

**1-3. How can a community attract different people to participate?**

The results of the fieldwork represent a high demand in the neighbourhood for several group activities for different social groups. Based on this demand, the relation between group activities, social trust as a prerequisite for participatory processes (Hoogerbrugge & Burger, 2018) and social interactions was analysed in this chapter. The results of practices and studies show the positive effect of participating in group activities on increasing social trust between the participants. Moreover, allowing the inhabitants to hold their preferred activities in a public space allows them to bring their individual and collective values to the public space and the neighbourhood, as space gets its meaning by the way people use it (Hanzl, 2013). The public spaces as the primary spatial contexts in which the social interactions between different social groups take place can be used to provide the opportunity for meeting new people and interacting with them by offering a space for holding different group activities through a qualitative design.

What is more, two case studies with the same context as Tarwewijk were discussed earlier in this chapter. The results of these two studies elaborate that a combination of a qualitative space with suitable group activities and events increase social interaction and social cohesion between different social groups at the neighbourhood scale, leading to more interest in participating in the communities.

## 7. Locations

### 7.1. Testing Locations

### 7.2. Time-line

This chapter introduces the design locations and their specifications. Moreover, the specifications and possible target groups of each location are explained based on the data analysis results. Eventually, The time-line of the design and strategy is represented.

Based on the observations and fieldwork analysis, two the locations with most of the social interactions were among the chosen locations. One of them is used by multiple cultures, and the other mostly by the non-western immigrants. Since people already use these two public spaces for interacting with each other, these two locations already have a privilege of being used by people, and can be a good testing ground for assessing the strategic framework.

## 7.1. Testing Locations

Analysing the daily system of the non-western immigrants' mothers illustrates the two main public spaces that they use (1 & 4). Moreover, personal observations show that these two public spaces are the main areas in which the inhabitants interact. Since the inhabitants already use the public spaces, these two locations hold an opportunity for increased social interaction and social cohesion by redeveloping the public spaces based on the users' demands and values. What is more, the fieldwork and daily system analysis results represent the different social life in the neighbourhood by different social groups, on the weekdays and weekends, and even during darker hours of the day. Youth tend to use the two before mentioned public spaces (1 & 4) and other locations in the neighbourhood during the weekends. However, the public spaces are not offering many activities for this social group. The two other locations (2 & 3) are not being used as much due to the low quality of the space while they are providing a large portion of greenery in the neighbourhood. Therefore, a combination of already used public spaces and unused ones are going to be developed in this project to use the opportunities of the neighbourhood to the highest level, considering the social and spatial values and opportunities of the neighbourhood.

Besides the results of the analysis, there was another factor involved in choosing the locations. There was an attempt to spread the locations in the neighbourhood as much as possible, to improve public spaces in different sections. Moreover, the project aims to create a grid in the neighbourhood, in which the improved public spaces are linked together with a distinguished walking route. The reason behind this decision was to first acknowledge the ease of the users since they are more likely to use a nearby public space in the first place. Besides, the linking route aims to connect all the public spaces and organisations in Tarwewijk while working as a guide to the improved public spaces (the possible locations for the future community centres) and increasing accessibility.

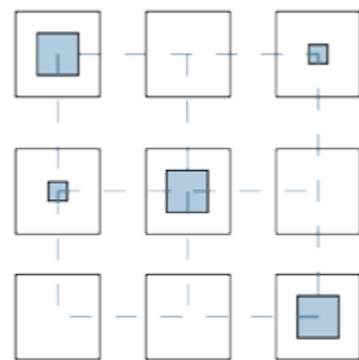


Figure 29: Public space connection  
Source: Made by Author



### 1. Zwartewaalstraat (School yard)

The green area in front of the school, including a dog park, is being used mostly by the students, their parents, and the dog walkers. Based on the interviews, there is a demand for having different activities for the students and their parents in this area, among complaints about the cleanness of the dog park and the surrounding greenery around it.



### 2. Mijnsherenlaan

The green area under the railway, without enough seating places. This area is not being used a lot by the inhabitants due to the poor qualities and lack of certain usage, despite being a large green area.



### 3. Duimdrop De Lus

A green area with two football goals and some benches, surrounded by the tram-line. Based on the observations and the interviews, the area seems not to be used as much as the other public places in the neighbourhood.



### 4. Verschoorstraat Playground

A combination of a playground, seating area, and sports fields. The area is being used by the children during the evening, as well as young people. The parents interact with each other while their children are playing.



Besides choosing the locations, based on the first phase of the strategic framework, the possible target groups for each location are determined based on the possibilities each location offers, current uses, and surrounding organizations and facilities (see section 7.1.3). Another factor in choosing the main target groups was considering the possible influence of each target group on other group(s). This can also help understand the possible future actors in the public place's management and provide the needed space for the desired activities by these groups considering the effect on society. Some of the examples of this influence are mentioned in the following:

\_ Represented art in public places is a way to tell a story and translate the communication into art as a tool to connect with others. Public performances can also be used as a tool to add liveliness to the built environment, attract people, and communicate.

\_ The relations between different family members can also be facilitated in this project to create a connection between different age groups of society. Parents have a strong role in shaping the personality of their children. Older siblings also have a noticeable impact on the younger siblings' behavioural pattern and their decisions. "Like parents, older brothers and sisters are a role model, and a teacher" (Jambon et al., 2018).

\_ The teachers have a significant role on their students, not only in matters of studying but also in other aspects of their students' personality, such as their motivation and self-esteem. What is more, they have a level of authority and respect, which also creates an influence on parents of their students.

### 7.1.1. Location Specifications



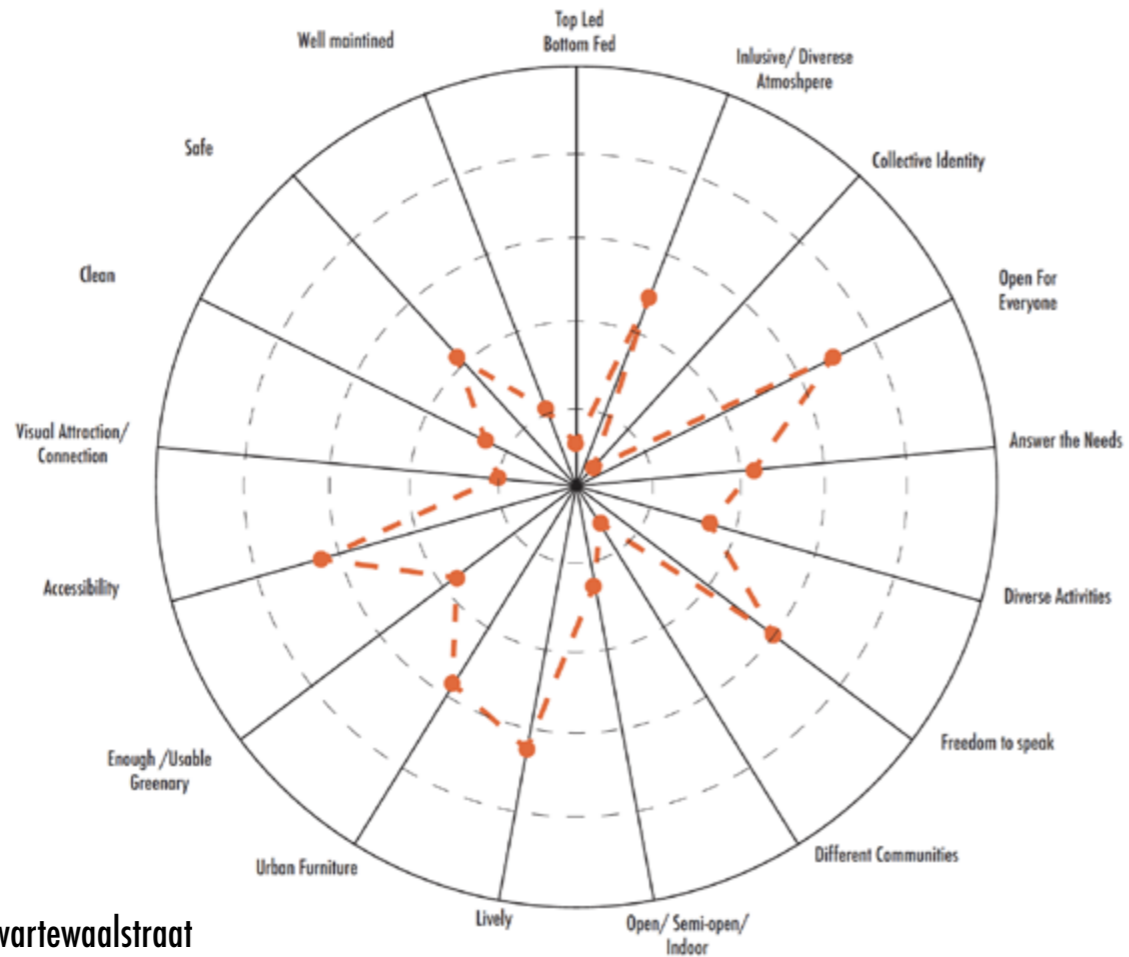
1. Used by different age groups  
Used by different ethnic groups  
Not enough urban furniture  
Not enough equipment for children  
No activity for adults  
Low quality of the greenery  
Not clean
2. No specific activities  
No urban furniture  
Some walking routes
3. No specific activities  
Not enough urban furniture
4. No ethnic diversity  
Not clean  
No activity for adults  
Used by different age groups  
Interaction between neighbours  
Enough urban furniture  
not well-maintained

### 7.1.2. Possible Target groups

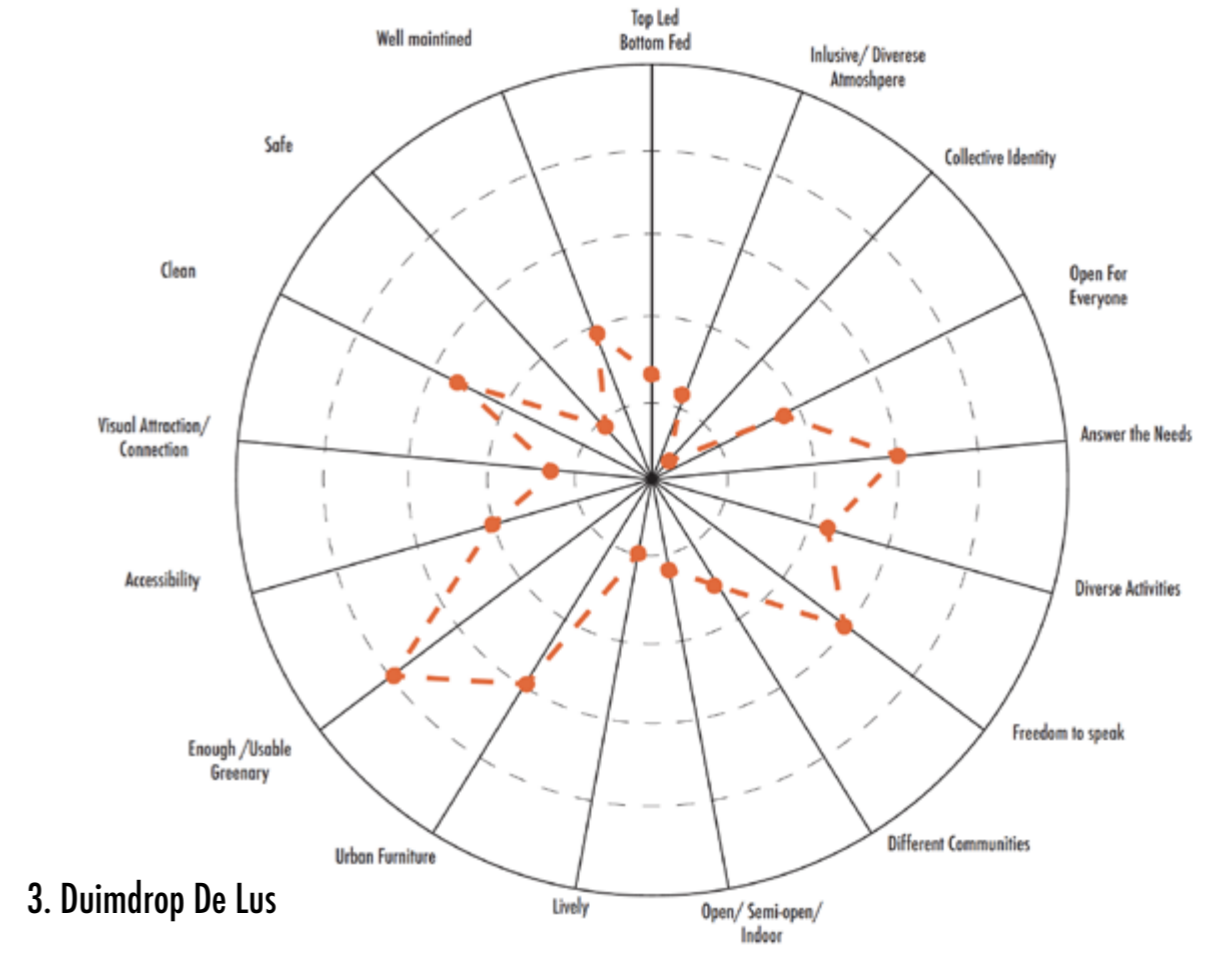


1. Students of the elementary school  
Parents of the students  
House of Urban Arts (young artists)  
\_Adults/ Children\_  
Dog walkers
2. Families  
Youth  
Elderly
3. Students of the school  
Parents of the students
4. Children  
Parents of the children  
Youth  
House of Hope (Vulnerable citizens)

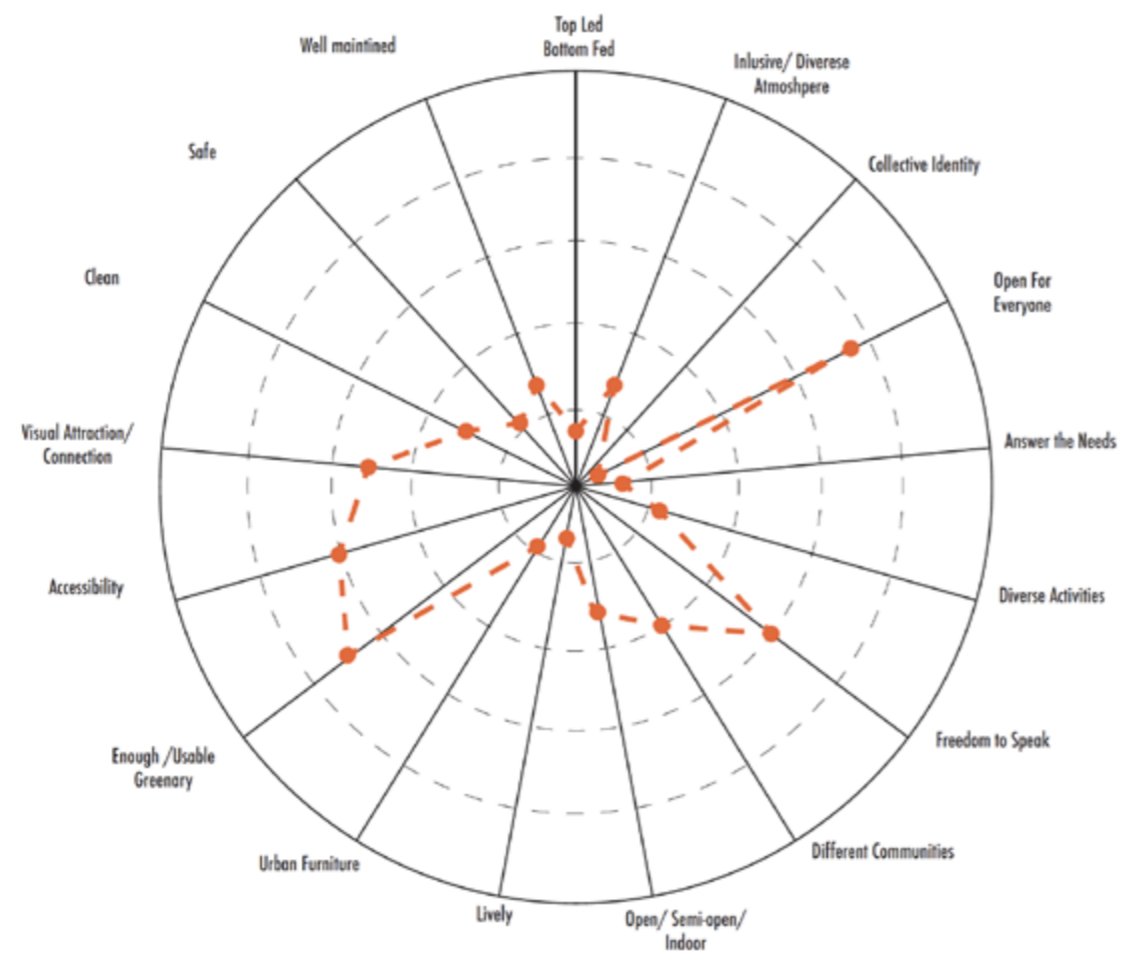
### 7.1.3. Just public space values



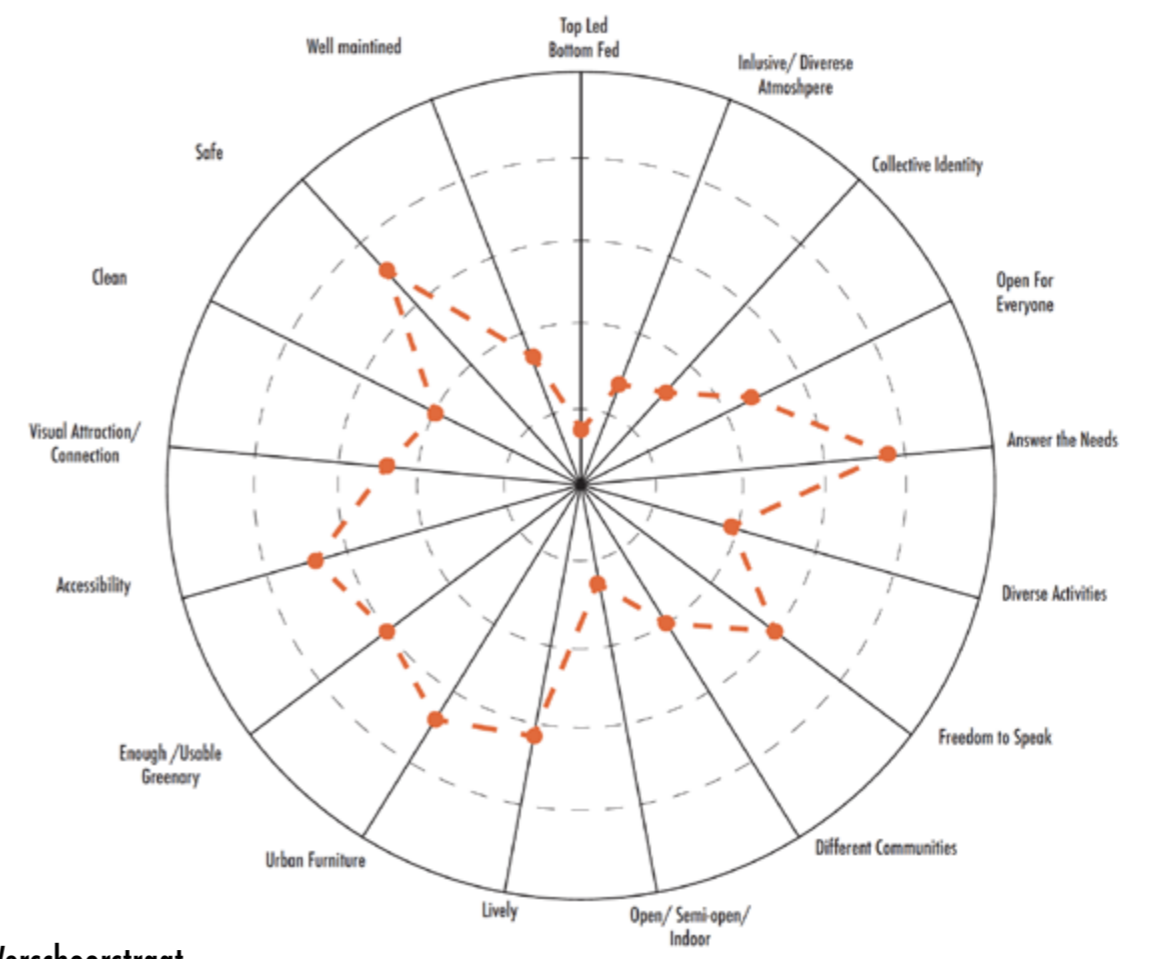
1. Zwartewaalstraat



3. Duimdrop De Lus



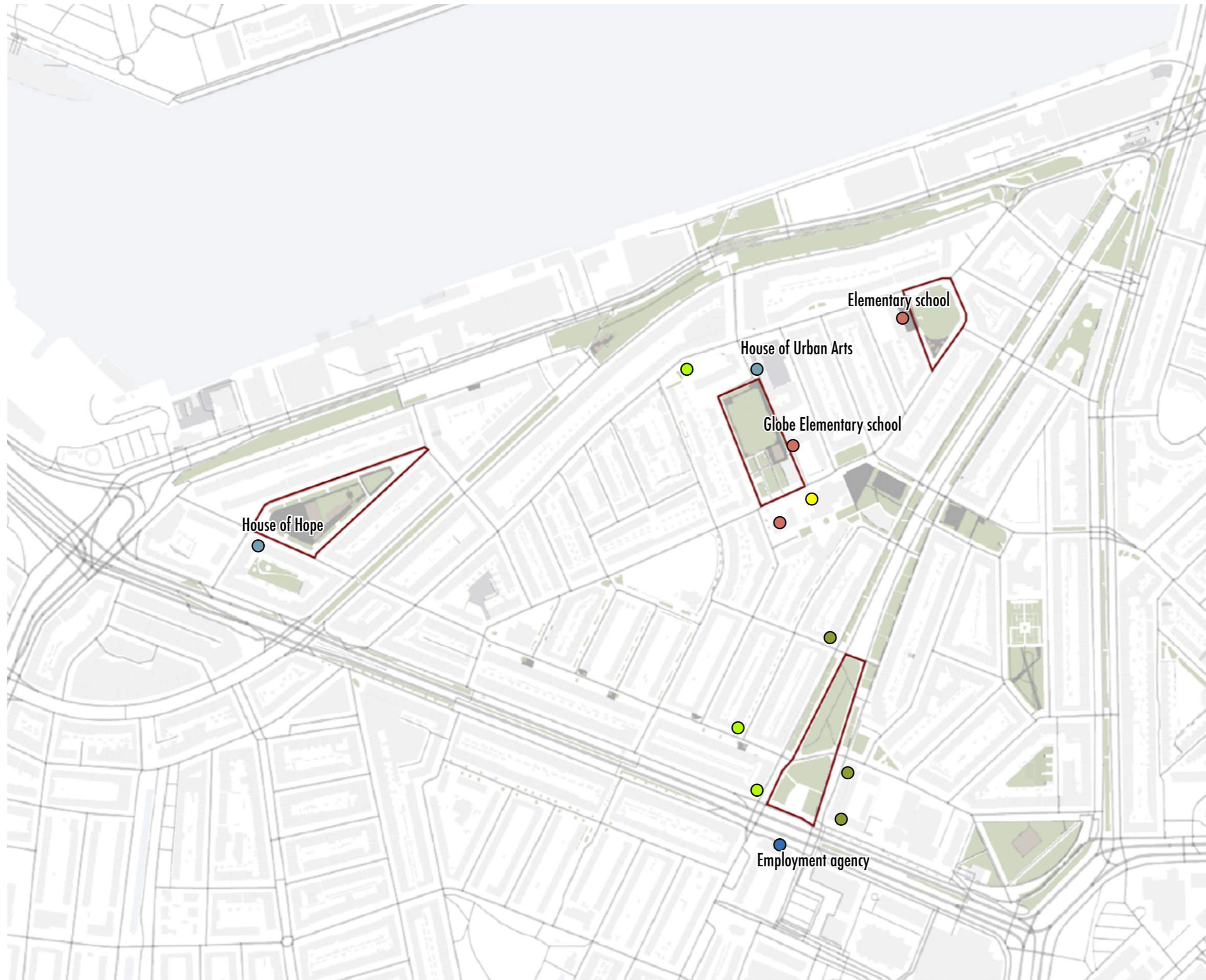
2. Mijnsherenlaan



4. Verschoorstraat



### 7.1.3. Facilities and organizations



- Church
- Supermarket
- Restaurant/cafe
- School
- Community
- Business



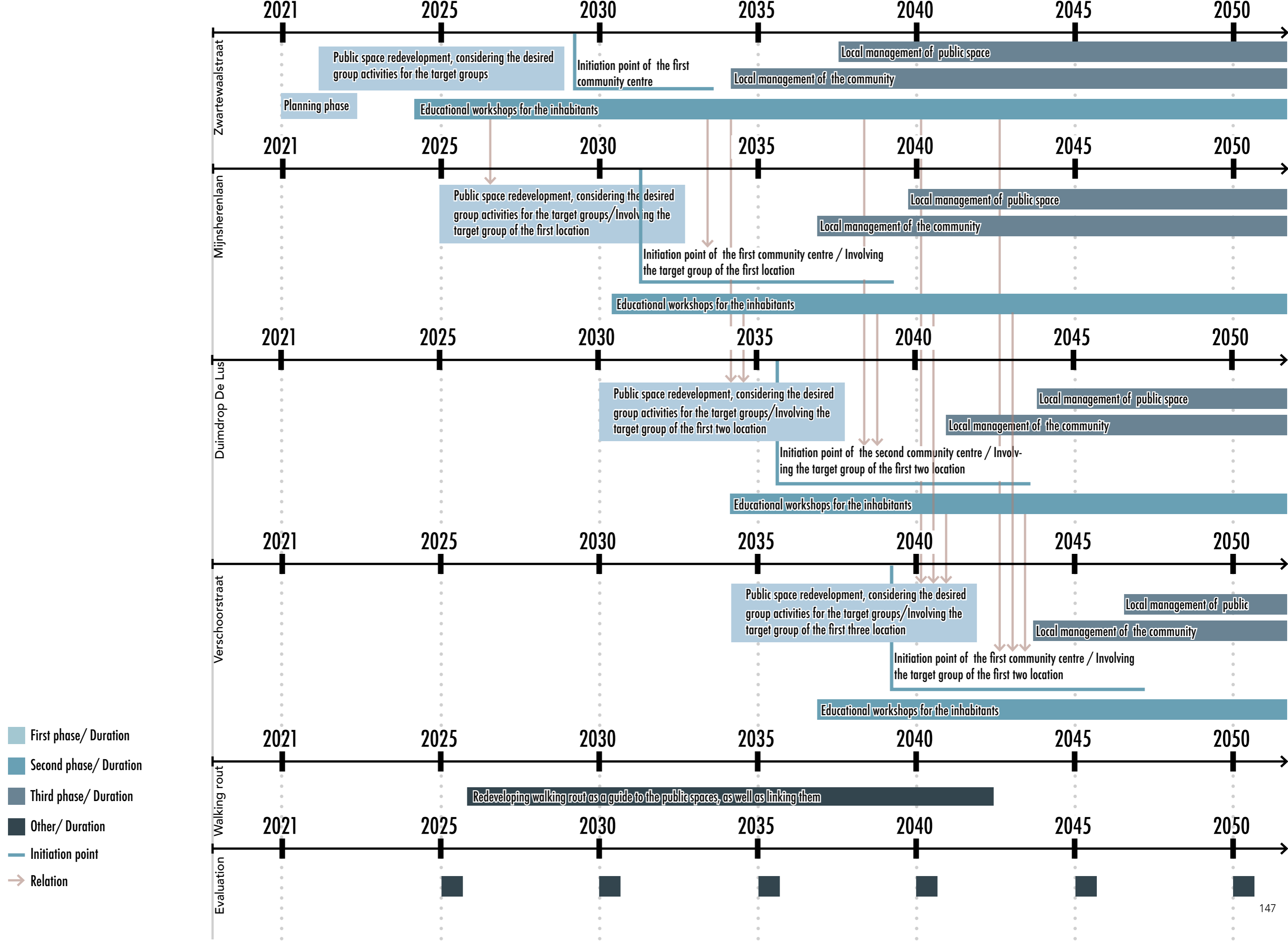
## 7.2. Time-line

This section represents the overall time-line of the project, with the focus on the implementation of different phases of the strategic framework at each location and the duration each phase takes.

At the first location, the initiation point of the first community will be after the redevelopment of the public space, since there needs to be a break between the phases since increasing social interaction and social trust needs time. However, the educational workshop for the inhabitants would be started during the public space redevelopment phase. The educational workshops and the first community will be managed by the local officials (municipality). Besides, a planning phase is considered before the initiation of the first phase.

However, at the other locations, the initiation point of the possible communities can be earlier, since the target group of the first location who participated in the educational workshops (As well as other potential participants) will be involved in the first phase (public space redevelopment), and initiation of the possible communities. The phase-in all the locations is first, achieve local management of the community and, later on, local management of the public spaces.

Besides the different phases, five year periods are considered for the evaluation points to assess the feasibility of the implemented proposals and solve the shortcomings in the next phases. Eventually, in order to make a stronger connection between different public spaces, the linking walking routes are going to be redeveloped after the first evaluation phase, which also works as guidelines for the improved public spaces and future communities.



## 8. Strategic Framework Testing

### Ground: Design Tests and Proposals

8.1 From Strategy to Design

8.2. Design Principles

8.3. Design Test: Location 1 (Zwartewaalstraat)

8.4. Design Test Proposals for Other Locations

8.5. Overview of Interventions

8.6. Conclusion

This chapter illustrates the design principles and the design proposals for testing the strategy. The design principles are based on the values of “just public place” (see section 3.5.1.) While considering the crucial role of the design in the strategy and its relations. Eventually, the overview proposal is elaborated on the neighbourhood scale.

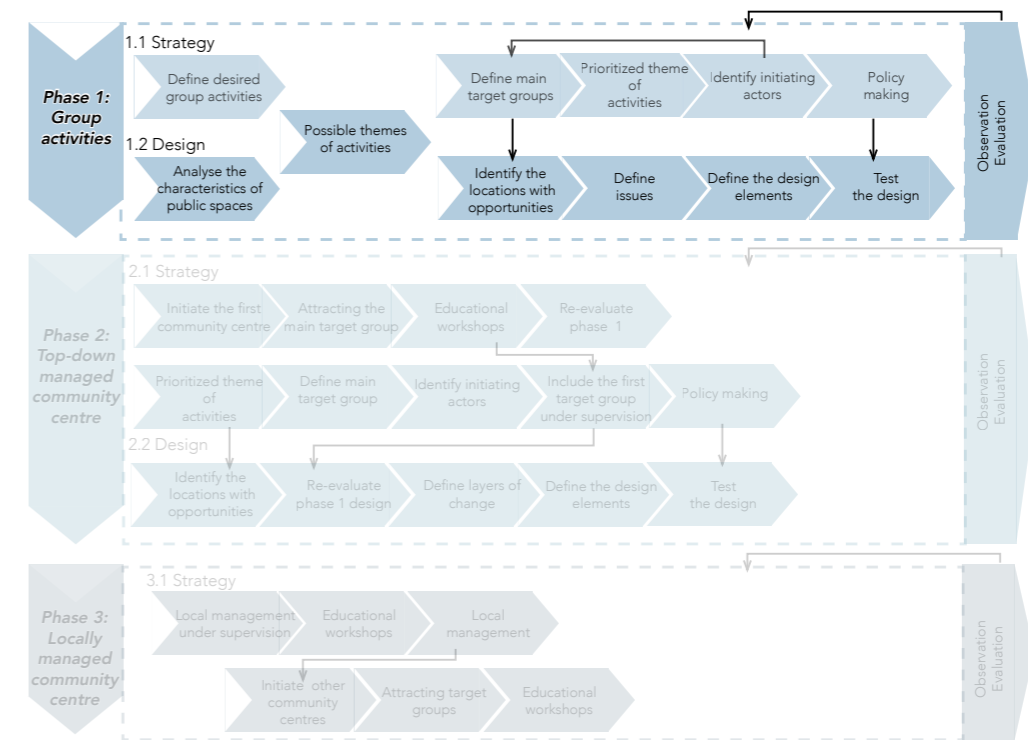


## 8.1. From Strategy to Design

The strategy framework focuses on the importance of group activities as a crucial prerequisite for activating communities in problematic neighbourhoods (such as Tarwewijk) with a diverse society. As explained in the previous chapter, participating in a group activity can result in social trust between the participants and increase social cohesion in a neighbourhood. The three phases of the strategy framework foster the positive outcomes of group activities and propose a solution for attracting the inhabitants to participate in communities and get trained to manage the communities themselves in the future. As the first three steps of the strategy proposed, the desired group activities were identified during the fieldwork. Later, the target groups were identified for each location.

Meanwhile, the public spaces are considered the main physical backbones to activate the communities by providing the needed space for various group activities. Therefore, regenerating public spaces based on the desired activities is also crucial in activating communities in the strategy framework. Apart from providing the spatial space for various group activities, as Bishop and Marshall explain in the book *Reference Module in Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences*, the quality of public places have an important effect on human well-being and increases social interaction. The quality of public spaces can affect the social life of the users and increase social interactions within an urban environment.

This chapter focuses on the first phase of the strategic framework, the design section. At this phase, the public spaces are the testing ground for implementing the strategies and evaluate them at the end of the phase. The chosen public spaces were analysed under the just public space framework values (see section 4.5.2). Besides knowing the shortcomings, this framework functions as a greater strategy for the design, which support the strategy by defining values such as different activities, inclusive and diverse atmosphere, different communities and top-led, bottom-fed processes. Therefore, the design tests will try to enhance these values to move towards achieving the last phase of the strategic framework. However, the effects of proposals on each value need to be evaluated after the design tests to understand the power and position of urban public space redevelopment (or urban design) in enhancing the different values and eventually establishing the strategy.



In the coming sections, the design strategies will be explained into three main categories: The values of a just public place, Flexibility, and human sensor perception. It is important to notice that these three categories determine a public place's quality under different lenses and are not separated from each other.

### 8.1.1 Just public space

The importance of the fair distribution of urban resources in achieving socio-spatial justice was mentioned earlier in this report (see section 3.5.1). Public places are known as urban resources and basic needs for cities (Kim, 2015). A well-designed public place has positive effects on human well-being. From the author's point of view, the role of public place in cities and human lives should be considered the first starting point in regenerating every public place, as a bigger framework that needs to be applied in various projects with different purposes.

The just public place values mentioned earlier in this report consider the quality of a public place in a general framework. The mentioned values are taken into account in regenerating the public places in Tarwewijk. The defined values are categorized into three main groups: policy values, service values, and spatial values. However, identifying the relations between the values determines the effect of the spatial values on policy and services (figure 30). A good design can affect the other values, which are also under effect by other factors such as the users' behaviour in a public place.

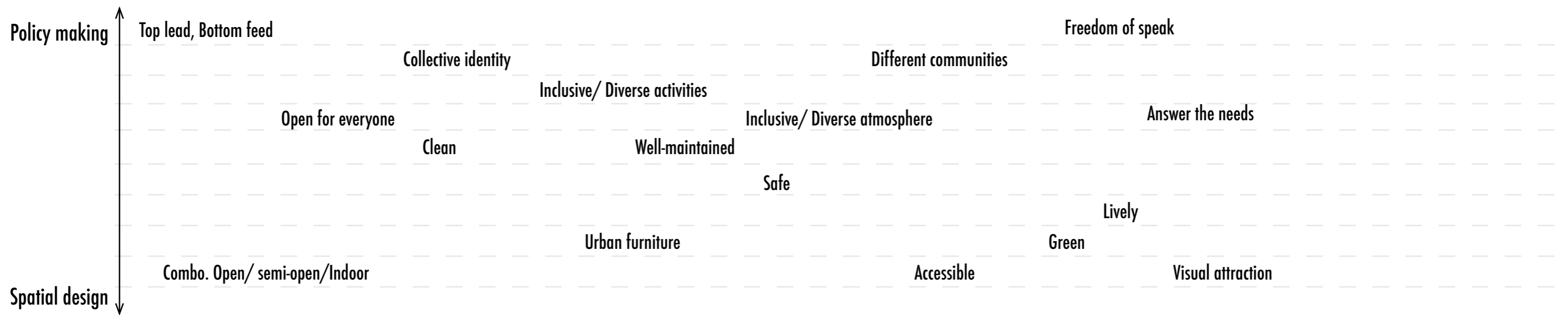


Figure 30: Just public space values, Location on the Policy-spatial line  
Source: Made by Author

Moreover, both policy-making and spatial design can help with bringing each one of these values to a public place. Figure 30 illustrates the effect level of policy and design on each one of the values. Based on the design's direct impact on the values, the overall design strategies are determined:



**Accessibility:** Public places need to be accessible for all users with different circumstances.



**Green:** Public greenery can increase human well-being and increase the quality of the public place.



**Visual Access:** Visual access to the public place can increase safety, and it can also lead people to the public place



**Urban furniture:** Urban furniture allows using a public place for different purposes.



**Open/ semi-open/ indoor spaces:** There has to be a combination of open, semi-open and indoor places, if necessary, to allow using the place for different activities. It is important to mention that the combination shapes are based on specifications of each location and can be formed from two or three of the spaces.



**Safety:** The design can increase the safety of a public place, which has a positive effect on the possible users, and it can also help with the maintenance of the area.



**Lively:** The quality of a public place affects the number of people who use the area. Apart from the necessary needs, an efficient design can attract more people to the space. Moreover, the design itself can bring liveliness to the public place.



**Well-maintained/ Clean:** Besides the strategies, small design interventions can help the maintenance of the public place. The interventions can also encourage the users to maintain their living environment clean and maintained.

### 8.1.2 Flexibility

The strategy framework of this project focuses on the importance of providing the inhabitants with the needed physical space for having group activities. The public places are considered as the main physical structures for having these group activities and the future communities. That means the design of the public places has to give the users a chance to meet, interact and know each other, and eventually create a community in it. As Sanei et al. elaborates, "urban public spaces find their meanings with humans' presence

and activities, and more than their physical roles, they are important for creating social interactions among citizens". Therefore, public place regeneration aims to create the physical context for various group activities.

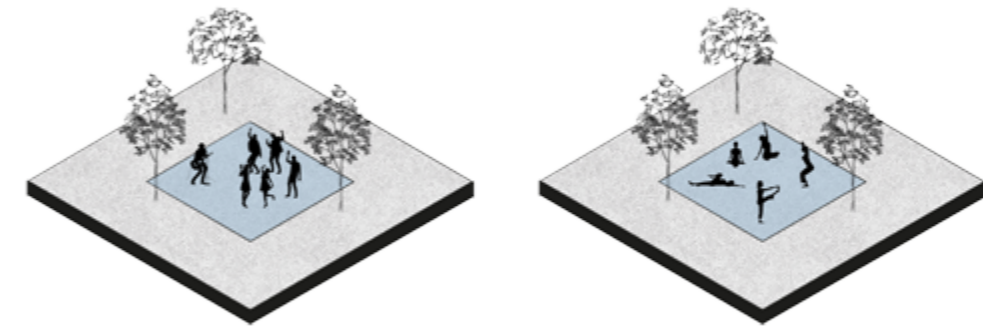
However, when talking about creating a public place for various group activities for the inhabitants, it is important to consider the various activities that different target groups want. Besides, the strategy behind the vision aims to reach a local level of management, which means the inhabitants will manage and hold activities in public places. Therefore, the public place has to be ready to serve the different needs of the inhabitants at different times.

"The flexibility of an environment is its capacity to adapt to changes made by users, and flexibility of the environment refers to its readiness to welcome users' effects" (Turan, 1953). Flexibility and adaptability of the public places have been considered one of the main elements of a successful and well functioning public place and an important element in design for sustainability by different urban designers and theorists, such as Adam and Tisdell. "Flexible designing of urban public spaces can significantly influence citizens' lifestyles and expand the quality of their social lives, by giving the community the chance to participate more in common social activities and to have more effective social communications and interactions." (Sanei et al., 2018). In this project, flexibility is considered as an important design strategy.

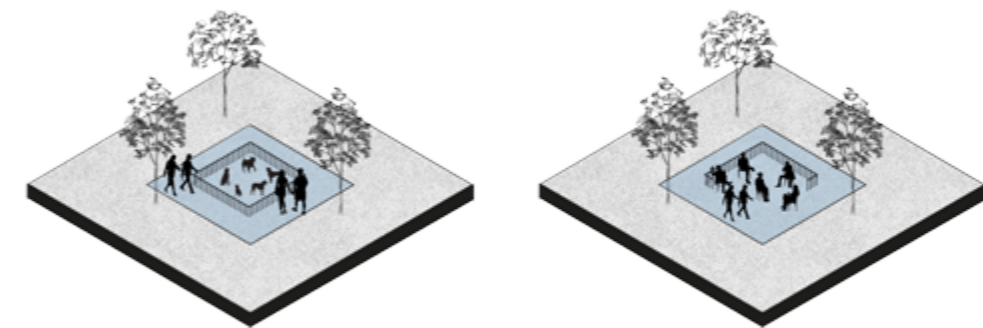


**Flexibility:** Public place should provide the opportunity for various uses by current and future users.

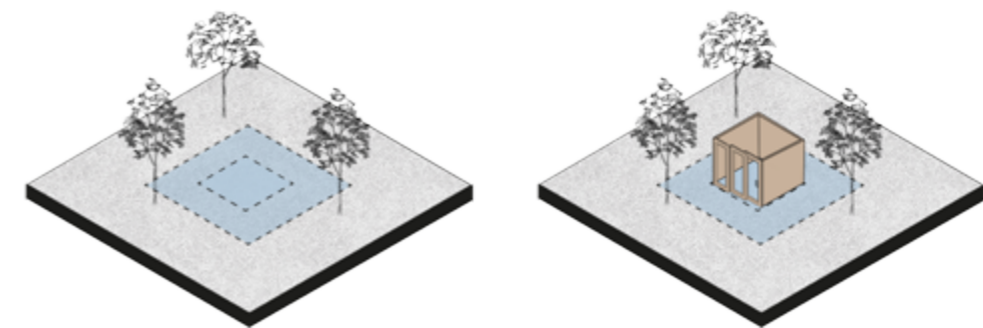
In the article *Explaining the Concept of Flexibility in Urban Spaces*, Ardeshiry, Esteghlal and Etesam define three types of flexible urban space, inspired by the work of Pena & Parshall's work on flexibility issues in their book *Problem Seeking: An Architectural Programming Primer*: Multifunction, Convertible, Expandable. The three types together help with understanding the complete meaning of flexible urban space, and allows the designer to foster the most suitable type for the specific location.



**Multifunction:** The area's design allows using it for different purposes without changing the space itself.



**Convertible:** The place's design can be changed to use it in different ways and for different activities.



**Expandable:** The possibility of using the surrounding areas, to create a bigger space for a desired activity.



### 8.1.3 Sensory Organs

Human has five primary senses: Sight, Smell, Touch, Hearing, and Taste. The human organs reacting to these senses send the information to the brain, which results in the specific way a human know and interpret the surroundings. When a person uses a public place, he/she perceives the environment using the five senses. Pallamsaa emphasizes the importance of considering human senses in design in *Eyes of the Skin*, mentioning "Architecture is the art of reconciliation between ourselves and the world, and this meditation takes place through the senses. Considering the human senses in the design of a public place can attract more users and increase the liveliness of the environment. Considering the five senses in the design will help acknowledge human comfort when using the space and increase the design's quality.

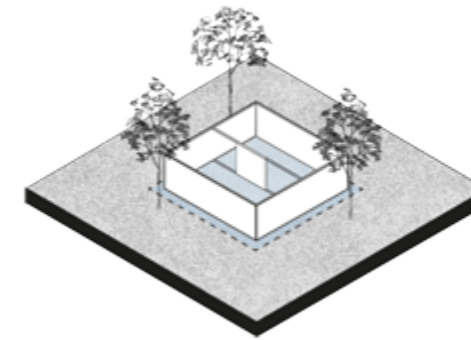
In this project, the five human senses are considered in the design strategy by design interventions to increase the comfort of the public place and add a characteristic to the area and increase the attractiveness of the environment. Moreover, in a diverse neighbourhood like Tarwewijk, where language can be a barrier to communication, interactive interventions considering the human senses create possibilities for interaction in other ways.



### 8.2. Design Principles

After defining the design strategies, a set of design elements are proposed in this chapter for further design test based on the strategies. Each element is explained in relation to different design strategies. Moreover, the effect of each design element on just public space values is explained to reach a certain understanding regarding the potential of each design element in enhancing the values.

#### Flexible Closed Space

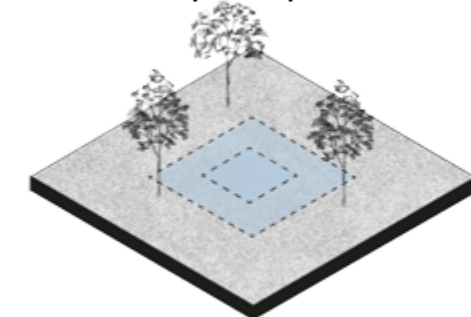


Just Public Space Values:  
 Top-led, Bottom, fed/ Collective identity/  
 Answer the needs/ Different activities/  
 Different Communities/ Freedom to speak/  
 Open, semi-open, Closed spaces

To be able to facilitate all the desired activities in a public space, having a public building as a part of the public places is essential. A public building with a flexible interior design offers various group activities, such as different workshops, and provides the needed facilities in a public place, such as toilets. What is more, a public building in a lively public space can be a potential location for a future community since various groups of people use the public space, and a set of public actions can be fostered to inform the users and encourage them to participate in the community.

A public building with a flexible interior design can offer different activities for the users based on their needs, as well as be a possible location for a future community. Therefore, eventually, it can affect activating participatory processes within a top-led, bottom-fed system, enhance the collective identity in a neighbourhood and increase the freedom to speak. However, the mentioned values can not be achieved by design without efficient policies.

#### Flexible Open Space

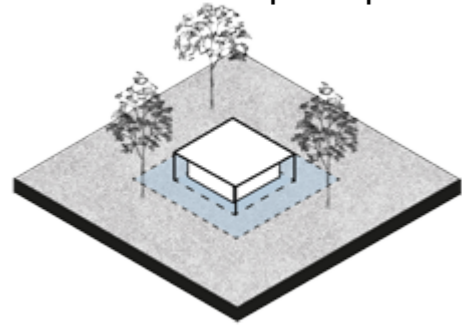


Just Public Space Values:  
 Open for everyone/ Answer the need/  
 Different activities/ Open, semi-open,  
 Closed spaces

In order to provide the opportunity for different outdoor activities, flexible outdoor space is needed. The flexibility of the space increases the adaptability of the space based on the situation and allows the inhabitants to form the space based on their desired activity.

The flexibility of public space allows different groups of users and individuals to use the area for various activities. Offering different usage possibilities makes the space more open for the inhabitants and is more likely to answer their needs from a public space.

### Flexible Semi-Open Space

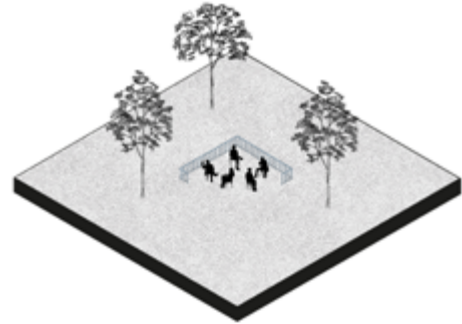


Just Public Space Values:  
 Answer the needs/ Different activities/  
 Open, semi-open, Closed spaces

A flexible semi-open space works as both a semi-private and public space, based on the situation and desired activity. It can be open for everyone and be used as a part of the public space when there are no specific activities in it.

A semi-open space offers more opportunities for different activities in various situations, such as weather conditions. It also provides a more private space while still being in the outdoor public area.

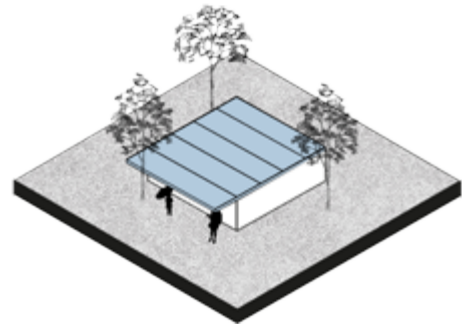
### Flexible Gates



Just Public Space Values:  
 Answer the needs/ Different activities/ Safe/  
 Well maintained

To provide safety and protect the public properties in challenging neighbourhoods, sometimes, using gates around the public spaces can be facilitated. However, the flexibility of this element can help with reshaping the space in times of need by connecting the area inside the gates to the surroundings to provide a bigger space for different activities.

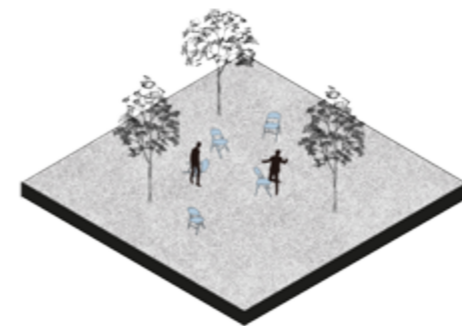
### Flexible Shelters



Just Public Space Values:  
 Answer the needs/ Different activities/  
 Suitable and enough urban furniture

Flexible Shelters can also increase the level of comfort in different weather conditions and extend the semi-open space in times of need.

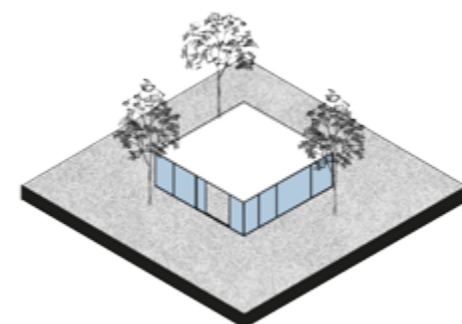
### Flexible Urban Furniture



Just Public Space Values:  
 Answer the needs/ Different activities/  
 Suitable and enough urban furniture/ Lively

Flexible urban furniture allows the users to use the space based on their needs and desired activities. For example, the inhabitants can use movable chairs to create a space for gathering with a group or find a more quiet and less crowded space to spend their free time in a public space for individual activities. Moreover, since the space offers more opportunities, it can attract more people to use the public space, and therefore, increase the liveliness of the area.

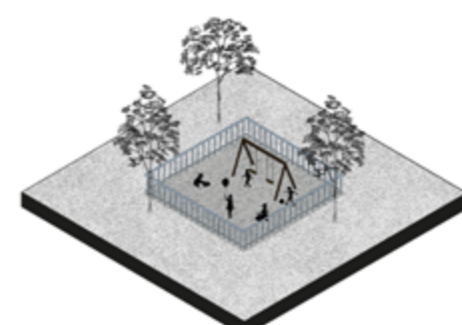
### Flexible Walls



Just Public Space Values:  
 Answer the needs/ Different activities/  
 Open, semi-open, Closed spaces/ Safe

Flexible walls can be facilitated in semi-open areas to operationalize the use of the space more, based on different circumstances, such as weather conditions and type of activity. Moreover, closing the walls during the less crowded times (such as dark hours) can be used to increase safety and protect the public and/or private properties.

### Gates

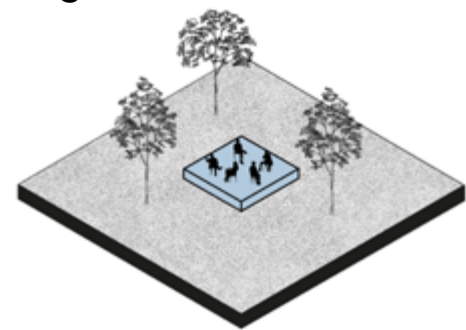


Just Public Space Values:  
 Answer the needs/ Different activities/ Safe/  
 Well maintained

Closing some specific parts of the public place, such as playgrounds and dog parks, can increase safety for users and passengers and can protect public properties (such as urban furniture) during less crowded times of use.



## Stage

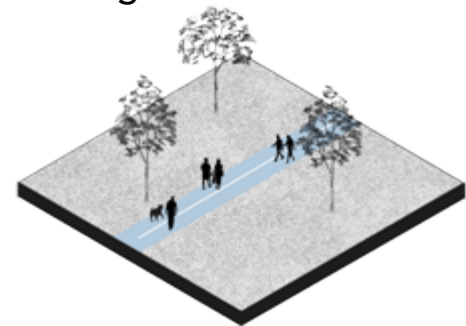


Just Public Space Values:

Inclusive and diverse atmosphere/  
Collective identity/ Answer the needs/  
Different activities/ Visual attraction,  
connection/ Lively

A multifunctional stage provides the opportunity for various activities, such as public art performances. It can also be used as a place for just spending time, when there are no specific activities. Besides, a multifunctional stage can be used for various group events, which can increase social interactions between the different groups of local participants, increase the diversity of the atmosphere and help with finding the same values of different groups and eventually start the process of finding a collective identity in the neighbourhood. It can also add to the visual attraction of the space and increase the liveliness of the area.

## Walking Routes

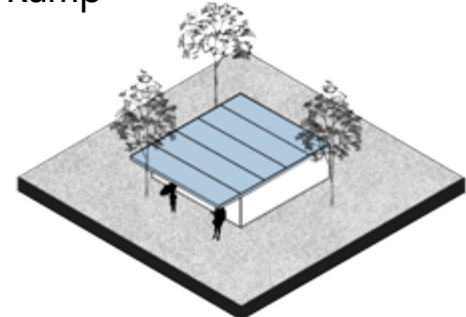


Just Public Space Values:

Inclusive and diverse atmosphere/  
Collective identity/ Answer the needs/  
Different activities/ Visual attraction,  
connection/ Lively

Providing efficient and wide pavements, leading to the public places increases accessibility and attracts people to walk by the public place and therefore, add to the liveliness of the public space. It can also provide indirect visual access to the area and function as a guide. What is more, the safety of the passengers needs to be taken into consideration, especially around the fast traffic routes.

## Ramp



Just Public Space Values:

Inclusive and diverse atmosphere/ Open for everyone/  
Answer the needs/ Accessible for everyone/  
Lively/ Safe

Providing ramps at the areas with a height difference provides access to people on the wheels, and makes the area more open and inclusive for everyone and increase liveliness. Besides, it increase safety for this groups of users.

## Car and Bike Parking

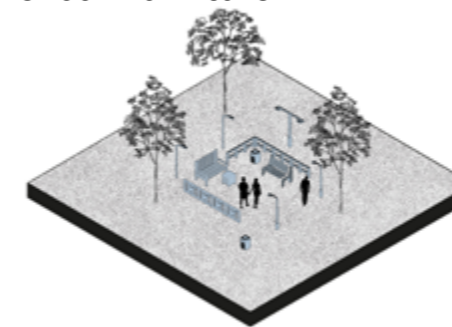


Just Public Space Values:

Answer the needs/ Accessible for everyone/  
Visual attraction, connection/  
Lively

Offering enough parking spots for public spaces increases the accessibility to the public place and reduces the number of cars parked by the edges of the streets, and increases the visual attractiveness and connection of the space. Moreover, making the area more accessible can attract more users and increase liveliness.

## Urban furniture



Just Public Space Values:

Inclusive and diverse atmosphere/ Answer the needs/  
Different activities/ Suitable and enough urban furniture/  
Lively

Efficient and enough urban furniture offers various activities in a public place, and encourage people to spend more time in the area and increase the liveliness. It can also increase the safety and cleanses and helps with the maintenance of the public space by using innovative types of furniture (such as smart trash cans).

## Sitting options



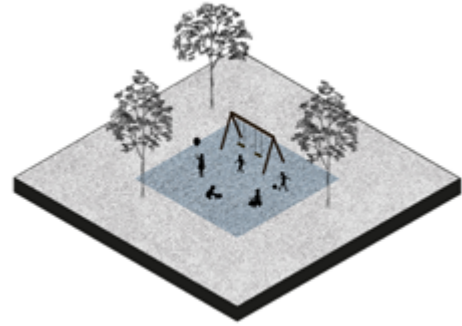
Just Public Space Values:

Open for everyone/ Answer the needs/  
Different activities/ Suitable and enough urban furniture

Providing enough and multiple sitting options allows people to spend more time in the public space and use it for different activities and needs, such as spending their free time, meeting other people, or simply just resting for a while.



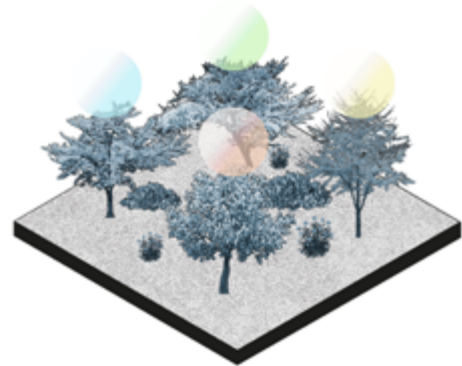
### Soft Material



Just Public Space Values:  
Answer the needs/ Safe

The materialization of the playground's floor needs to be soft enough to reduce any possible injuries for the children. Moreover, using urban furniture with soft materials can increase the level of comfort.

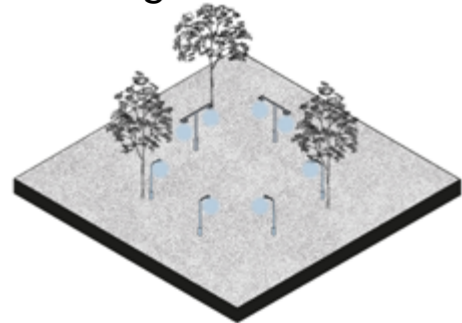
### Green



Just Public Space Values:  
Answer the needs/ Different activities/  
Green/ Visual attraction, connection/ Lively/  
Clean

Public greenery can increase human well-being, increase the public space's quality, and attract more people to the space. The choice of greenery can also add colour to the space, increase the space's visual attractiveness, and keep the greenery in different seasons. Besides, some types of plants can be used for certain activities, such as a community garden or an educational garden.

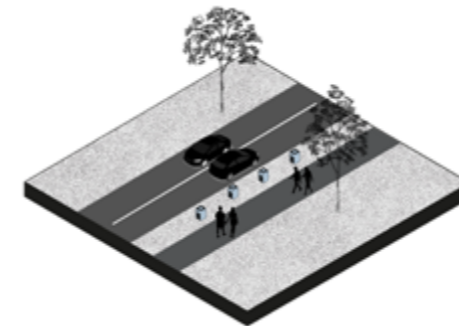
### Street Light



Just Public Space Values:  
Answer the needs/ Different activities/ Visual  
attraction, connection/ Lively/ Clean/ Safe/  
Well maintained

Keeping the public space light up at dark hours increases safety and, therefore, can reduce problematic behaviours such as trashing the space and vandalism. It also provides the opportunity to use the space during dark hours and therefore keeps it more lively. Also, the usage of different types of lighting and colours can add to the visual attractiveness of the space.

### Transitional Zone



Just Public Space Values:  
Accessible for everyone/ Safe

A transitional zone between the streets, pavements and/or public places increase safety for the pedestrians and users of the public place, and increase accessibility to the space.

### Eyes on the street



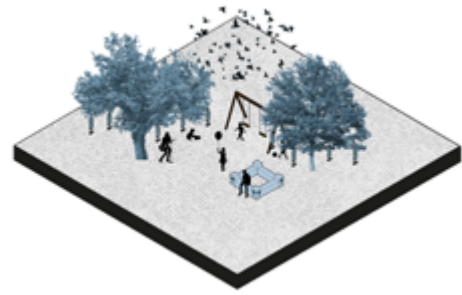
Just Public Space Values:  
Clean/ Safe/ Well maintained

Considering the surrounding buildings in the design and give visual access to the dwellers provide more sight to the public place, and increase safety, especially during less crowded times. It can also help with reducing problematic behaviours such as trashing the space and

Apart from the design elements, the five human senses are considered in Tarwewijk's public spaces development. In the following pages, each human senses potential is explained, based on the possible effects on the space by design and the users.

Moreover, some of "just public space" values, which can be directly related to the design interventions, were considered in the design strategies. However, each design element can affect other values as well indirectly. Eventually, each design elements potentially on enhancing the values is summarized in a matrix.

## Hearing



Just Public Space Values:

Inclusive and diverse atmosphere/ Different activities/ Lively

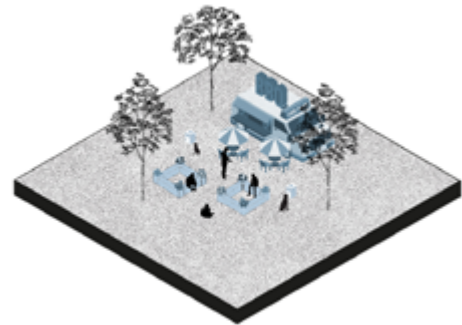
### By Design Elements:

- \_Sound plates reacting to wind
- \_Type of vegetation (Attracting birds)
- \_Speakers in the benches (Only to be used at a certain sound level )
- \_Interactive pavement tiles (walking on a tile creates a sound)

### By Users:

- \_Children playing in the playground
- \_People gathering in public places
- \_Art performances

## Smell:



Just Public Space Values:

Inclusive and diverse atmosphere/ Different activities/ Lively

### By Design Elements:

- \_Benches with flower boxes (The height of the plants is the same height as a human sitting on the bench. When the wind goes through the plant, the person can sense the smell)
- \_Type of vegetation

### By Users:

- \_Food festivals
- \_Dog shit (Smart trash cans will encourage the dog walkers to through away their dog shit, by rewarding strategies. As an examples, if a persons through way the dog mess in the trash can, he/she can use a free WiFi for a specific amount of time, or get the password to connect to the speakers in the benches)
- \_BBQ Park

## Sight



Just Public Space Values:

Inclusive and diverse atmosphere/ Different activities/ Visual attraction, connection/ Lively/ safe

### By Design Elements:

- \_Type of vegetation (Add colour to the space)
- \_Street lights
- \_Visual Access

### By Users:

- \_Stands for graffiti art by the inhabitants
- \_Activities in a multifunctional space

## Taste



Just Public Space Values:

Inclusive and diverse atmosphere/ Different activities/ Lively

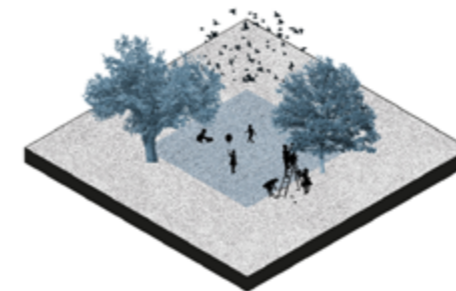
### By Design Elements:

- \_Fruit trees and shrubs
- \_Amenities around the public places

### By Users

- \_Food festivals
- \_BBQ Park

## Touch

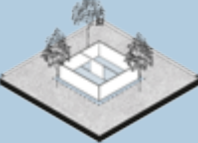
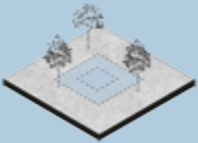
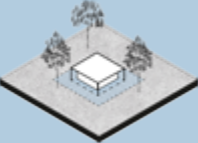
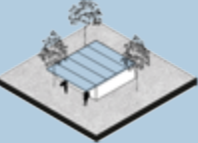

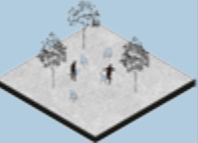
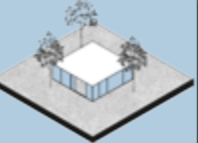
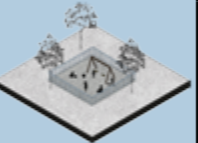






Just Public Space Values:

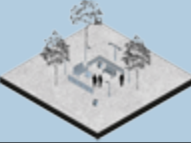
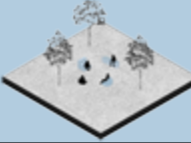
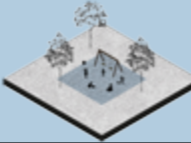
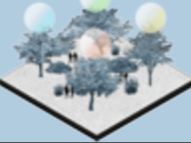
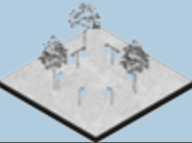
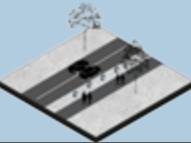


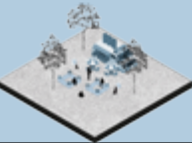

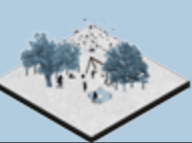

Inclusive and diverse atmosphere/ Different activities/ Lively/ Safe

### By Design:

- \_Soft material for playgrounds
- \_ Type of vegetation (Vertical educational gardens)

Design Elements	Flexible Closed Space	Flexible Open Space	Flexible Semi-Open Space	Flexible Shelters	Flexible gates	Flexible Urban Furniture	Flexible Walls	Gates	Stage	Walking Routes	Ramp	Car and Bike Parking
Just Public Space Values												
Top-led, Bottom-fed												
Inclusive & Diverse Atmosphere												
Collective Identity												
Open for Everyone												
Answer the needs												
Different Activities												
Different Communities												
Freedom to Speak												
Open, Semi-open, Closed Spaces												
Suitable and Enough Urban Furniture												
Green												
Accessible for Everyone												
Visual Attraction/ Connection												
Lively												
Safe												
Clean												
Well Maintained												



Design Elements	Urban Furniture	Sitting Options	Soft Material	Green	Street Light	Transitional Zone	Eyes on The Street	Sight	Smell	Touch	Hearing	Taste
Just Public Space Values												
Top-led, Bottom-fed												
Inclusive & Diverse Atmosphere												
Collective Identity												
Open for Everyone												
Answer the needs												
Different Activities												
Different Communities												
Freedom to Speak												
Open, Semi-open, Closed Spaces												
Suitable and Enough Urban Furniture												
Green												
Accessible for Everyone												
Visual Attraction/ Connection												
Lively												
Safe												
Clean												
Well Maintained												

### 8.3. Design Test.

#### Location: Zwartewaalstraat

This section represents the design interventions at the first location. Since this location is the first location for design interventions, all the elements are implemented to be able to evaluate the design elements at the initial assessment phase and improve them for the other locations, if necessary. The flexible nature of most of the elements allows the possibility to remove them or move them to different areas if needed. What is more, the target groups, possible activities and possible future investors and local managers of the public space are represented in the following, based on the results of fieldwork and strategy.

#### Target group:

- \_Students of the elementary school
- \_Parents of the students
- \_House of Urban Arts (young artists)
- \_Adults/ Children
- \_Dog walkers

#### Activities:

- \_Playground/ football field
- \_Public performances
- \_Dog park
- \_Educational interactive map
- \_Educational Garden
- \_Petting zoo
- \_Spend free time/ relax
- \_Market
- \_Different activities for adults (such as workshops, book club, etc.)
- \_Possible future community centre

#### Possible future investors:

- \_Municipality of Rotterdam
- \_Natuurstad Rotterdam (Educational garden)
- \_BSW Rotterdam, (safe, and socio-educational playgrounds)
- \_Johan Cruyff Foundation (small football field)
- \_Placemakers (Flexible building, pavilion)

#### Possible future Public space managers:

- \_Public sector
- \_House of Urban Arts (Future users)
- \_The Globe school (Future users)
- \_Placemakers (Future investor, interested in management as well as educating the users about local management)
- \_BSW Rotterdam (Future investor, interested in providing supervision over local management)
- \_Future community centre (Inhabitants)





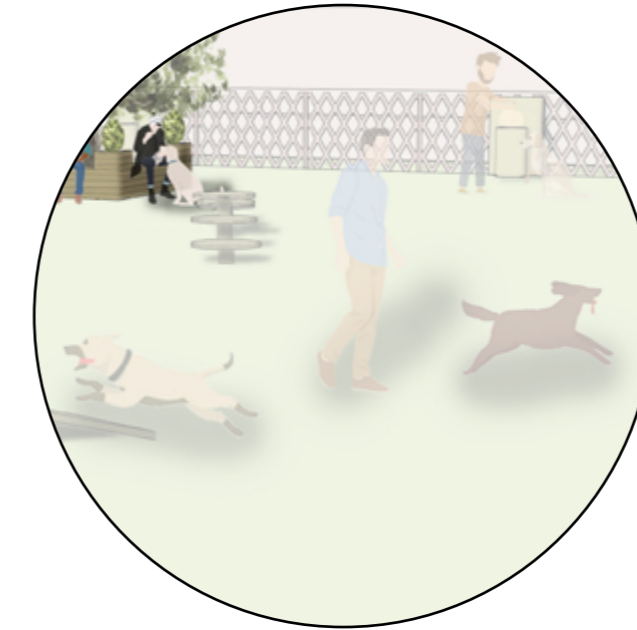
### 8.3.1. Design Elements



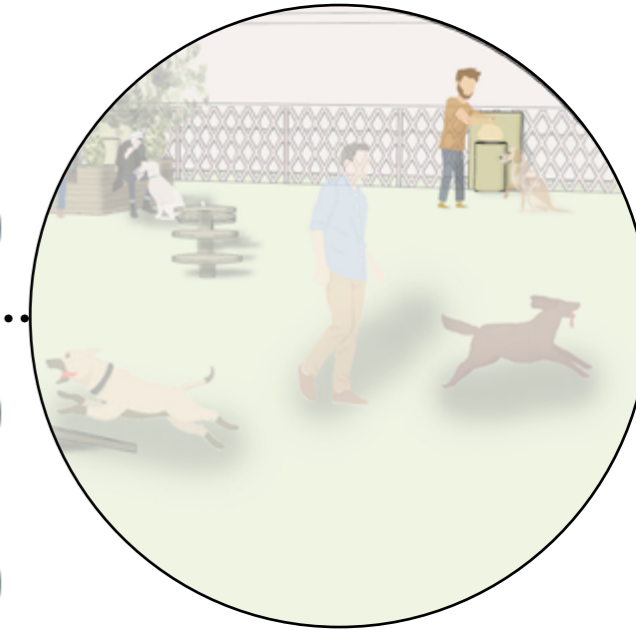
Movable chairs provide the opportunity for the users to choose where to sit in a public space. They can also use the chairs for sitting within groups or alone in a less crowded space.



The vertical gardens with a transparent background allow the inhabitants to paint graffiti art on them. They can add to the visual attraction of the space by using specific types of plants with colours or fruits) and offer specific activities.



The evergreen trees with high-density leaves provide shadow during sunny days, shelter against rain, plus keeping the area green during cold seasons.



Smart trash-cans encourage the users to throw away their garbage or dog mess and help with the maintenance of the area by offering them a small reward (such as a password of public wifi for a limited time)



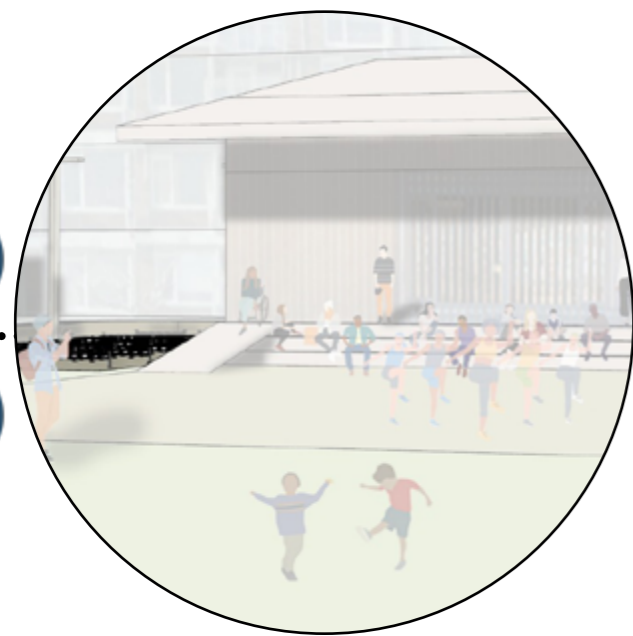
Interactive pavements in the shape of the world's map work as a collaborative activity. The tiles of each country create a specific note, of which people can create a song together. It can also be used as an educational activity for the students.



Movement-sensible lights with coloured LED lights add visual attraction to the public place. It is also a design element that interacts with the users. Moreover, it can light up the area during dark hours and increase safety since it lights up when a person passes by and works as an indicator of human presence.



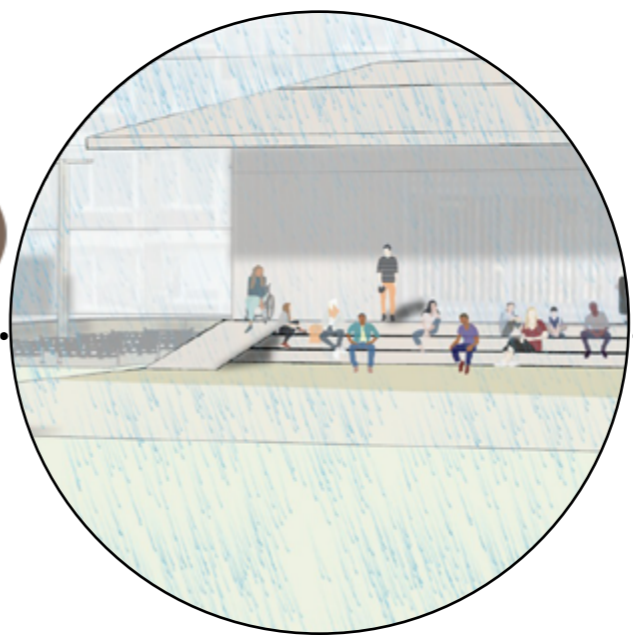




The bike parking area increases accessibility and offers a suitable and safe space for parking the bikes and increases visual connection to the space since there is no need for parking the bikes by the public spaces.



The ramps provide accessibility for people with wheels and make the area more open for everyone.



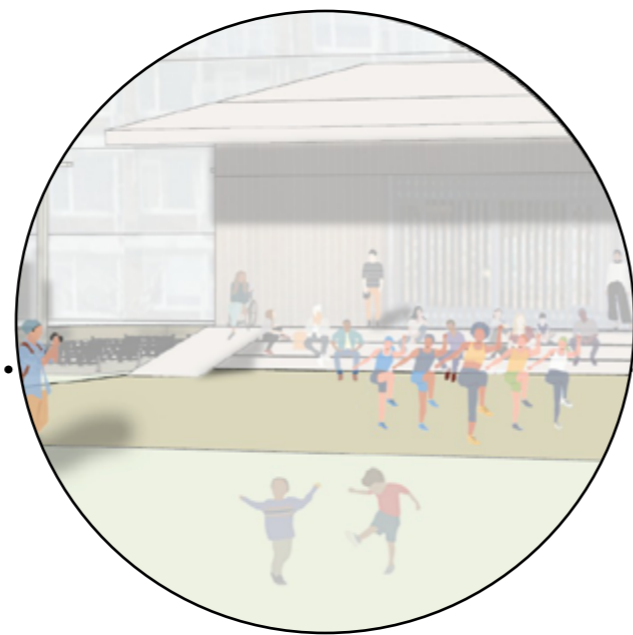
The flexible roof allows the inhabitants to use the stage in different circumstances, such as rainy or hot sunny days.



The stairs offer more optional seats for watching the activities on the stage or simply just resting.



The multifunctional stage can be used for other activities, such as the marketplace or public events.



The public performances at the stage attract people to the public place to watch the performances, increase liveliness and possibly more social interactions, and provide the needed space for these specific activities.







The flower boxes between the public space and the road work as a transitional zone and increase safety for the public space users. The edges of the flower boxes can also be used for sitting.



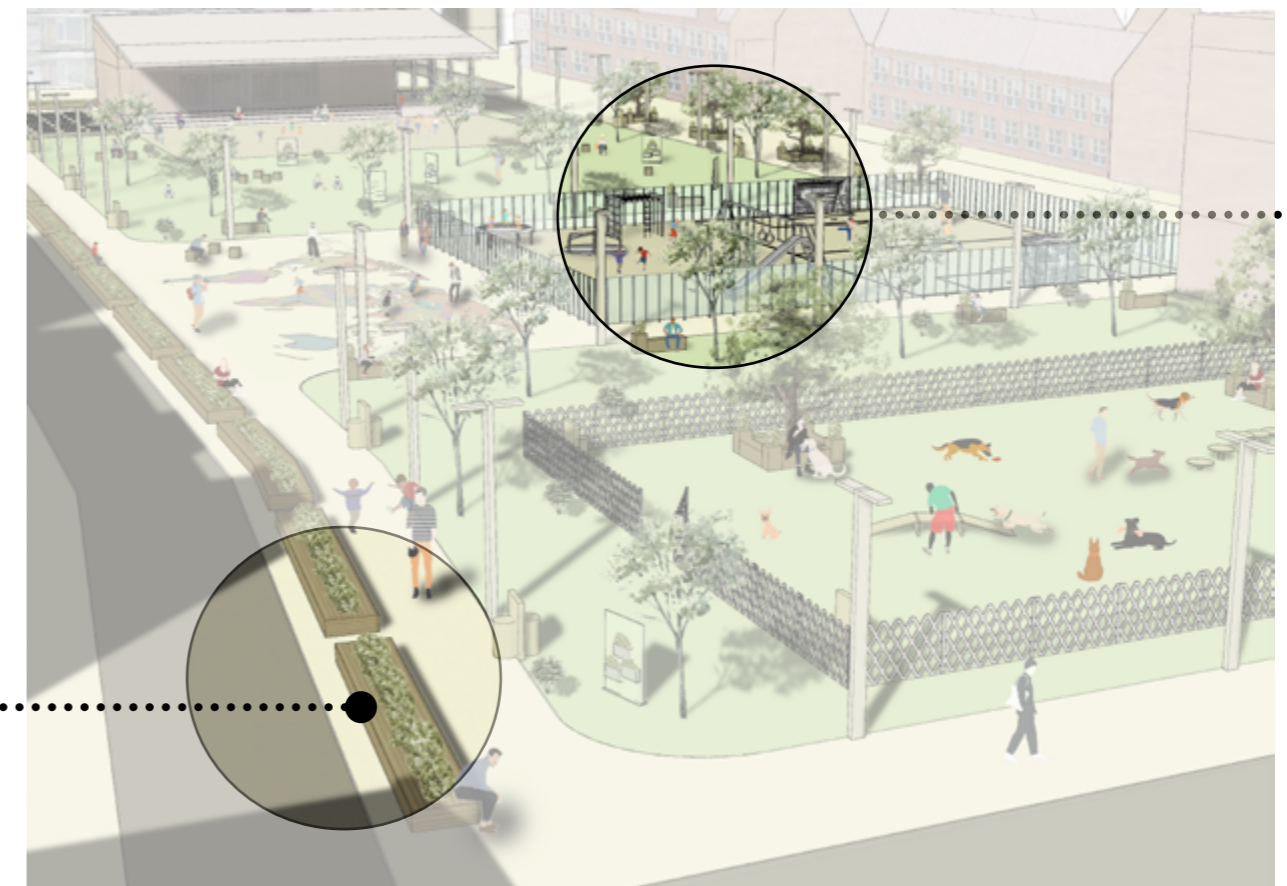
The benches with an attached flower box add greenery to the area and affect the sense of smell for the people sitting on these benches.



The transparent gates around the playground allow visual access to all parts of the public space while increasing safety for the children.

What is more, a closed building is considered in this area with a flexible interior design in order to be able to house different activities and a potential space for the future community centre. Besides, a car road is designed for the public stage to provide accessibility for the people who want to sell their products in a potential future market. The gates around the dog park also can be flexible.

In the following, the results of the implemented design elements on each just public space value will be illustrated in order to evaluate the design interventions, based on the just public space values.



### 8.3.2 Design assessment: Just public space values score

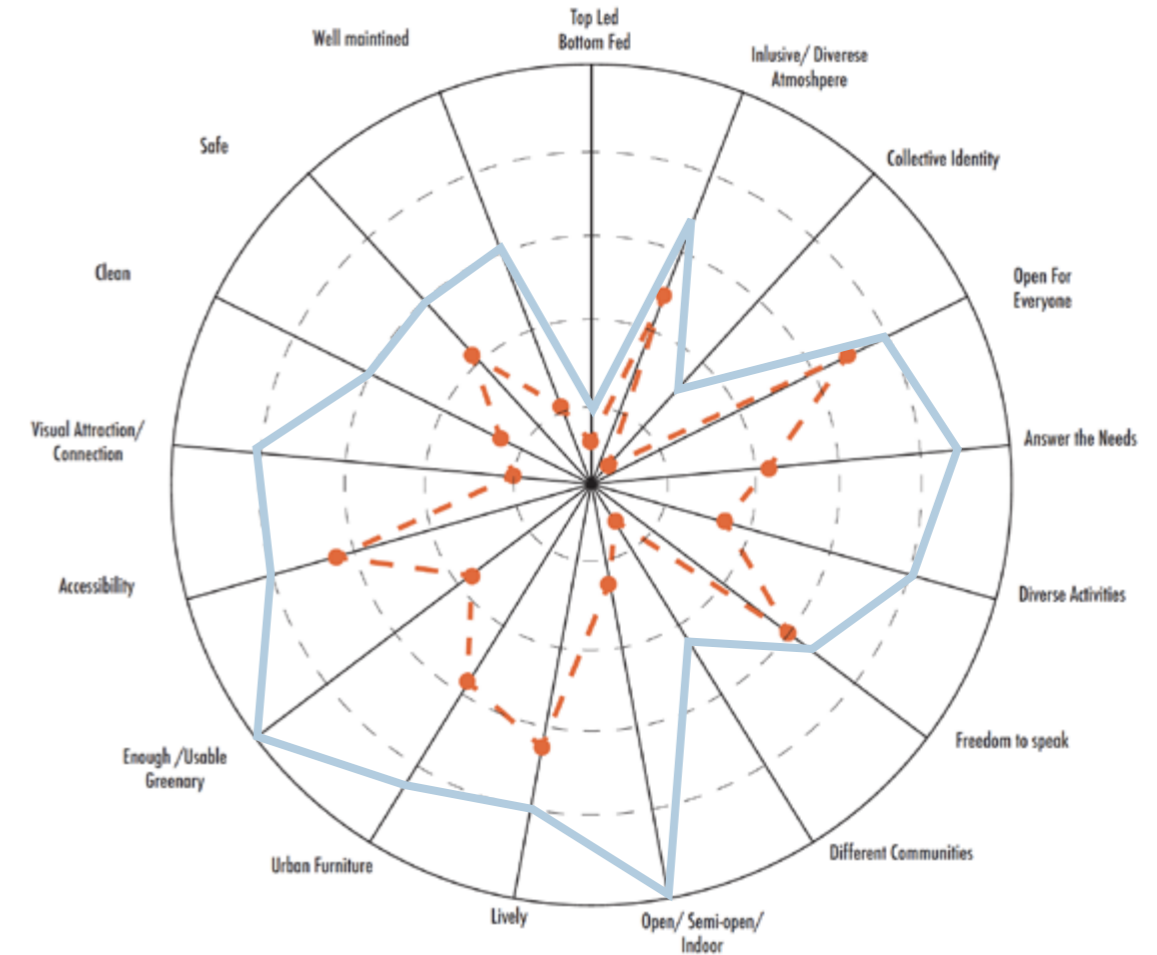
As mentioned earlier, all the design elements were implemented in the first location to evaluate the elements and their effect on improving the space, social interactions and just public space values.

The design elements possible effect on just public space values was represented earlier, which is a tool to evaluate the design interventions. First, it should be mentioned that there can not be a solid assessment without actually implementing the design interventions since the relation between the improvements in the space and the users and the effect of the space on the daily life of different groups of inhabitants is not there for assessment. However, based on the interviews with the inhabitants and knowing their demands, it is possible to make some assumptions. What is more, some of the values are directly affected by design, of which the level of improvement can be evaluated before the actual implementation. As an example, "enough and usable greenery", "urban furniture", "accessibility", "visual attraction and connection", and "open/ semi-open/ indoor spaces" are some of the values that can be noticeably enhanced only by design. However, the accessibility and visual attraction and connection can be affected by surrounding infrastructure and human behaviour as well. To elaborate more, for example, people might still prefer to park their bikes by the edges of the public space and therefore reduce the visual attraction of the space. Accessibility can also be affected by infrastructures on a bigger scale. Besides these values, knowing the demands of different groups of inhabitants and provide a design based on their desired activities can enhance the values of "answer the needs" and "different activities". However, the inhabitants' use of space also affects having different activities in a public space since the design only provides the needed space for the desired activities and encourages the inhabitants to use the space.

The other values can be enhanced by design, while the designs effect depends on future users' behaviour in the public space. For example, the values of "safe", "well-maintained", and "clean" can not be completely achieved by design. Using the elements of eyes on the street and different kinds of gates, and some urban equipments such as smart trash cans can help with improving these values, while a set of strategies and strong management is needed to enhance these values to the ideal level. Other values (lively, community, collective identity, inclusive and diverse atmosphere, open for everyone) can also be affected by design at a lower level since the policies and the people (local officials, organizations and inhabitants) play an important role in enhancing these values, and the design can only offer the

needed space as the physical backbone of these values. Eventually, the "freedom to speak" and "top-led bottom-fed system" values can not be enhanced by design directly and only can be improved after the initiation of the community centre, and enhancing the "inclusive and diverse atmosphere" and "collective identity" values.

Therefore, the bellow diagram represents the design interventions effect on improving the just public space values comparing to the current situation. Moreover, in the following pages, the "design elements possible effect on just public space values" tables are updated based on each element's level of effectiveness on the values. This updated table will be used for assessing the proposals for the other locations.



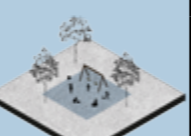
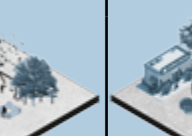


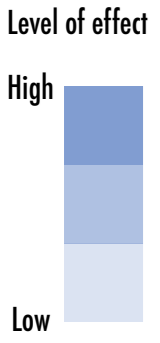
Design Elements	Flexible Closed Space	Flexible Open Space	Flexible Semi-Open Space	Flexible Shelters	Flexible gates	Flexible Urban Furniture	Flexible Walls	Gates	Stage	Walking Routes	Ramp	Car and Bike Parking
Just Public Space Values												
Top-led, Bottom-fed	Low											
Inclusive & Diverse Atmosphere									Low		Low	
Collective Identity	Low								Low		Low	
Open for Everyone		Low									Low	
Answer the needs	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Different Activities	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High			
Different Communities	Low											
Freedom to Speak	Low											
Open, Semi-open, Closed Spaces	High	High	High				High					
Suitable and Enough Urban Furniture				High		High						
Green												
Accessible for Everyone								High		High	High	High
Visual Attraction/ Connection									High			High
Lively						High			High	High	High	High
Safe					Low		Low	Low		Low	Low	
Clean												
Well Maintained					Low			Low				

Level of effect

High

Low

Design Elements	Urban Furniture	Sitting Options	Soft Material	Green	Street Light	Transitional Zone	Eyes on The Street	Sight	Smell	Touch	Hearing	Taste
Just Public Space Values												
Top-led, Bottom-fed	Low											
Inclusive & Diverse Atmosphere	Low							Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Collective Identity												
Open for Everyone		Low										
Answer the needs	High	High	High	High	High							
Different Activities	High	High		High	High			High	High	High	High	High
Different Communities												
Freedom to Speak												
Open, Semi-open, Closed Spaces												
Suitable and Enough Urban Furniture	High	High										
Green				High								
Accessible for Everyone						High						
Visual Attraction/ Connection				High	High			High	High	High	High	High
Lively	High			High	High			High	High	High	High	High
Safe			Low		Low	Low	Low	Low		Low	Low	
Clean				Low	Low		Low					
Well Maintained	Low				Low		Low					



## 8.4. Other Design Proposals

This section represents the design proposal for the three other locations of the project. In the following, the target groups, possible activities, possible future investors, and local managers of the public space for each location are represented. Moreover, the used elements and their effects on the Just public space are briefly mentioned, based on the design implementation and design assessment at the first location.

### 8.4.1 Design test proposal

#### Location: Mijnsherenlaan

The unusable green space in the neighbourhood can be redeveloped to offer more neighbourhood activities. The proposed design elements aim to create a space for families, youth and the elderly for various activities such as group picnic events, sparing free time in a green public space, neighbourhood market or other events.

#### Target group:

- \_Families
- \_Youth
- \_Elderly

#### Activities:

- \_Picnic /BBQ park
- \_Public performances
- \_Spend free time/ relax
- \_Market
- \_Different activities for different target groups (such as workshops, book club, etc.)
- \_Possible future community centre

#### Possible future investors:

- \_Municipality of Rotterdam
- \_Placemakers (Flexible building, pavilion)

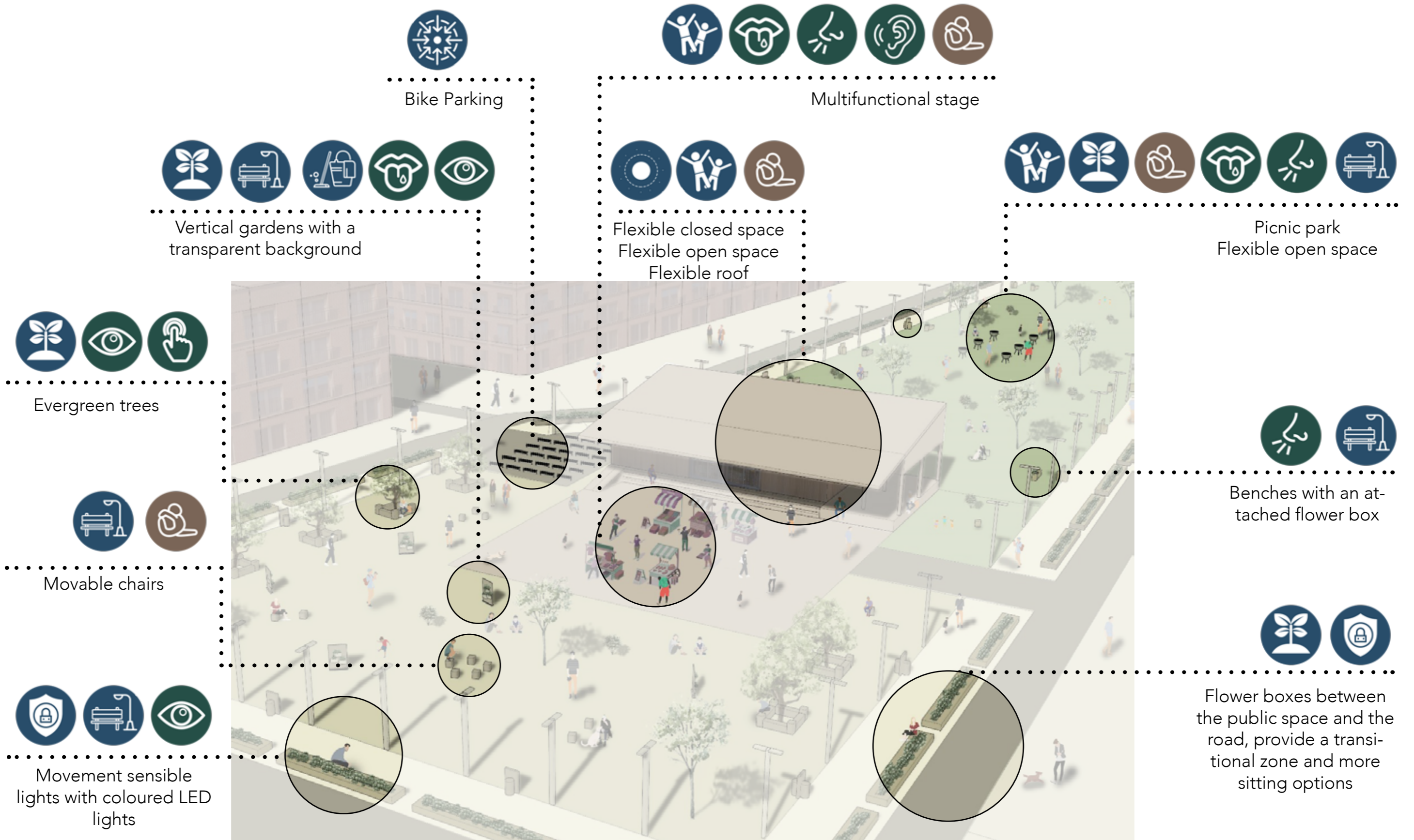
#### Possible future Public space managers:

- \_Public sector
- \_Placemakers (Future investor, interested in management as well as educating the users about local management)
- \_Future community centre (Inhabitants)



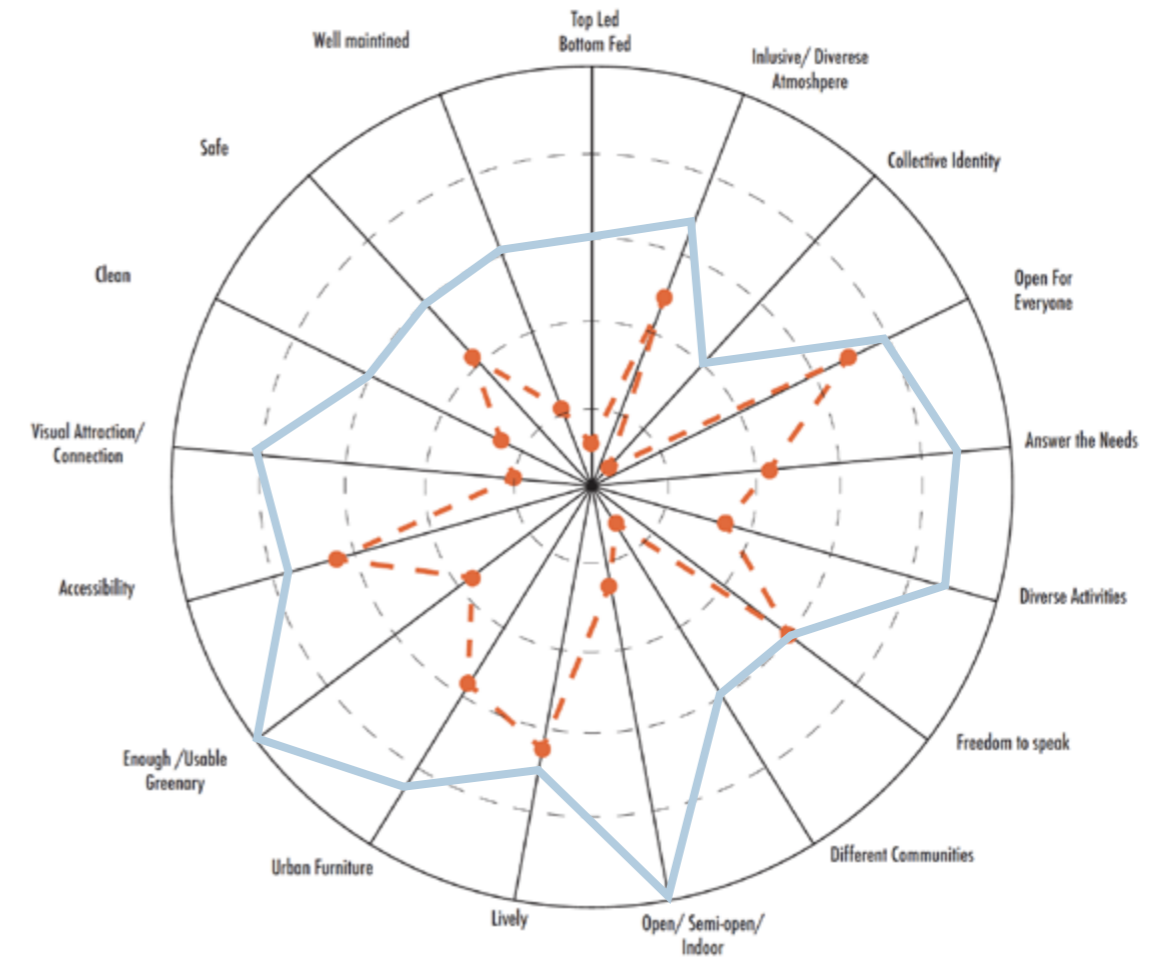


8.4.1.1. Design elements



Design Elements	Flexible Closed Space	Flexible Open Space	Flexible Semi-Open Space	Flexible Shelters	Flexible gates	Flexible Urban Furniture	Flexible Walls	Gates	Stage	Walking Routes	Ramp	Car and Bike Parking
Just Public Space Values												
Top-led, Bottom-fed												
Inclusive & Diverse Atmosphere												
Collective Identity												
Open for Everyone												
Answer the needs												
Different Activities												
Different Communities												
Freedom to Speak												
Open, Semi-open, Closed Spaces												
Suitable and Enough Urban Furniture												
Green												
Accessible for Everyone												
Visual Attraction/ Connection												
Lively												
Safe												
Clean												
Well Maintained												

### 8.4.1.2. Just public space values score



Design Elements	Urban Furniture	Sitting Options	Soft Material	Green	Street Light	Transitional Zone	Eyes on The Street	Sight	Smell	Touch	Hearing	Taste
Just Public Space Values												
Top-led, Bottom-fed												
Inclusive & Diverse Atmosphere												
Collective Identity												
Open for Everyone												
Answer the needs												
Different Activities												
Different Communities												
Freedom to Speak												
Open, Semi-open, Closed Spaces												
Suitable and Enough Urban Furniture												
Green												
Accessible for Everyone												
Visual Attraction/ Connection												
Lively												
Safe												
Clean												
Well Maintained												



## 8.4.2. Design test proposal

Location: Mijnsherenlaan

This green area does not have much urban furniture at the moment. Besides, the area is surrounded by gates since a tram-line goes around the green space. However, Since an elementary school is close to this public space, improving this area can provide a safe space for the students to play and for their parents to spend their free time.



### Target group:

- \_Children
- \_Parents of the children

### Activities:

- \_Sports field for children
- \_Playground for children
- \_Spend free time/ relax

### Possible future investors:

- \_Municipality of Rotterdam
- \_BSW Rotterdam, (safe, and socio-educational playgrounds)
- \_Johan Cruyff Foundation (small football field)

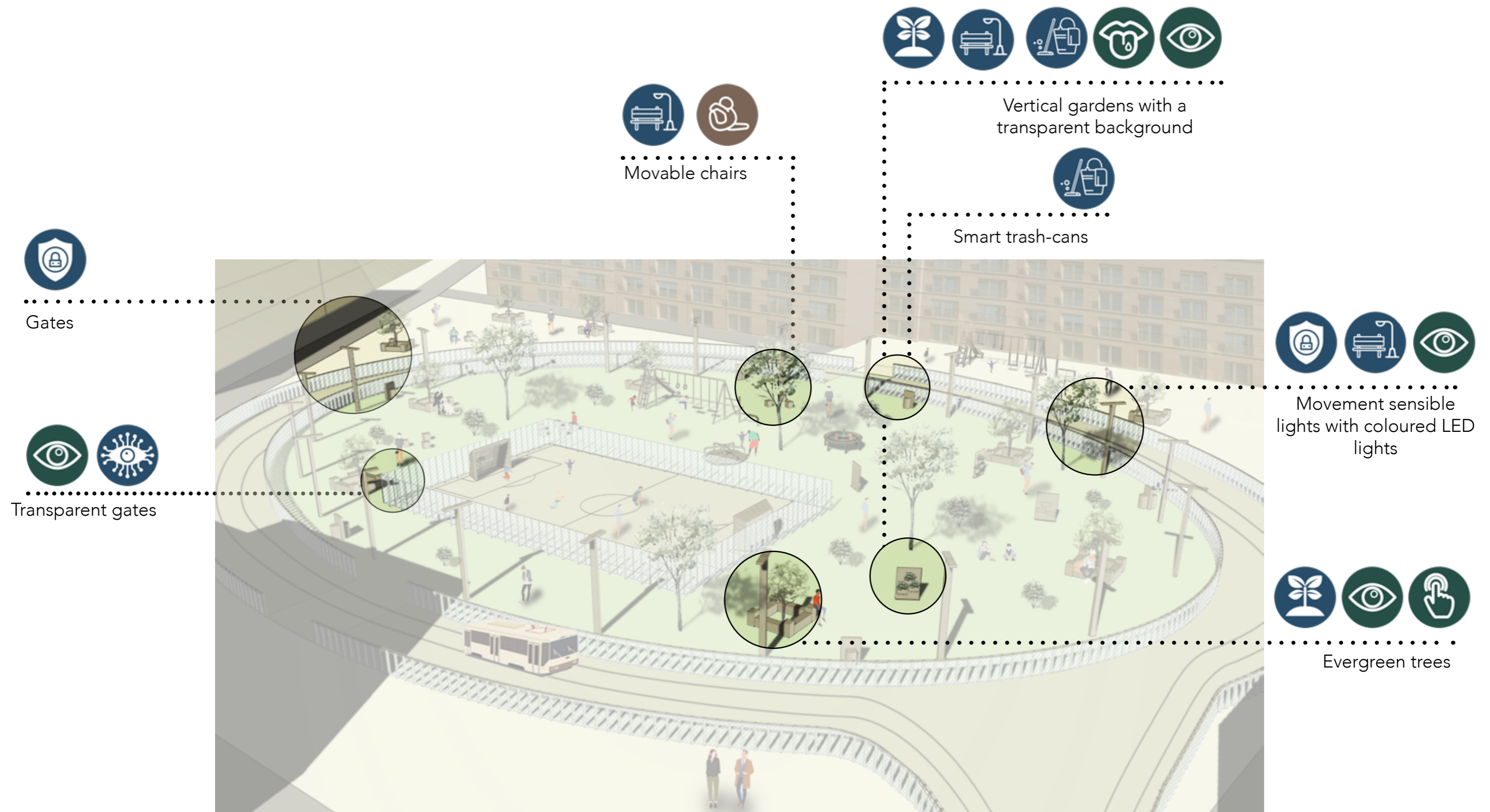
### Possible future Public space managers:

- \_Public sector
- \_BSW Rotterdam (Future investor, interested in providing supervision over local management)
- \_Future community centre (Inhabitants)
- \_Basischool Het Kompas (School)



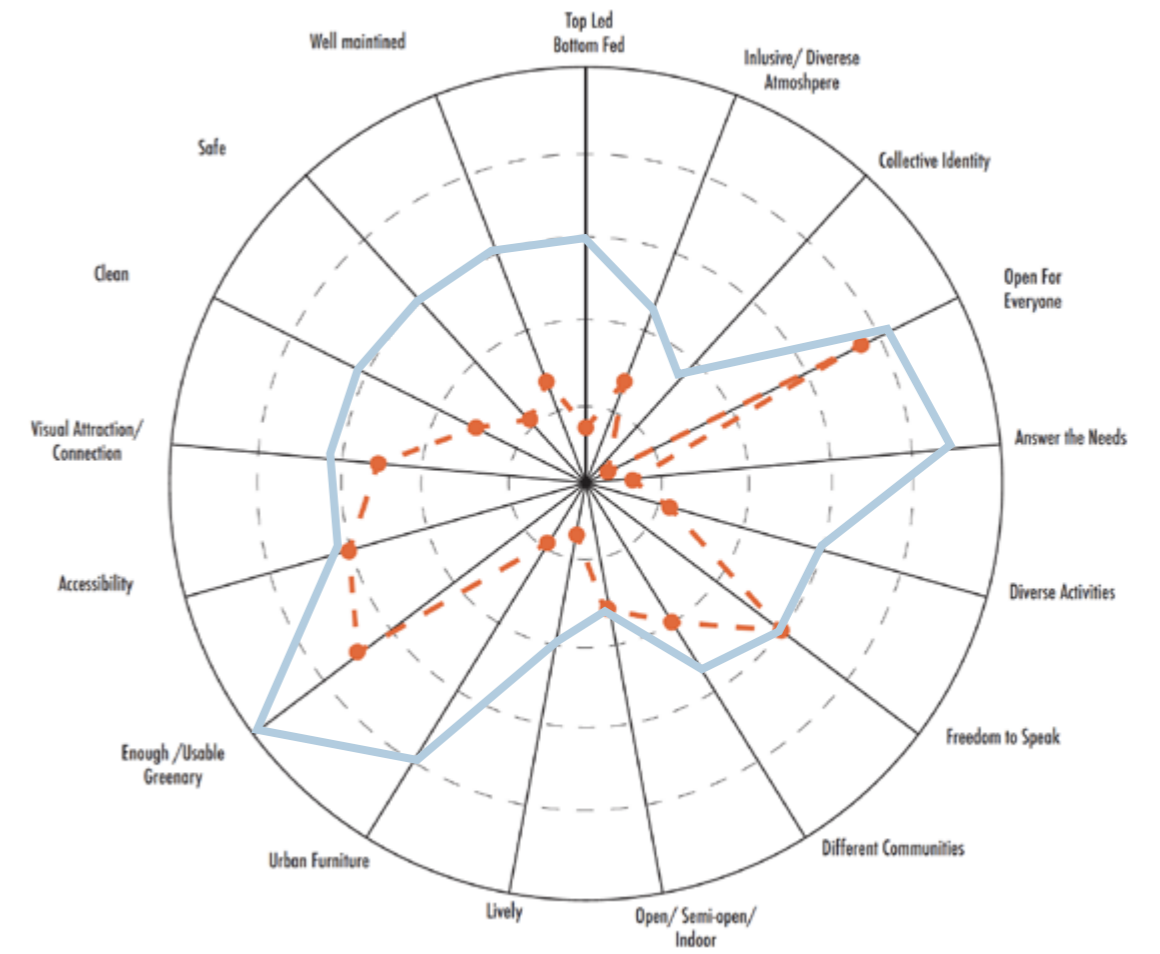


### 8.4.2.1. Design test elements



Design Elements	Flexible Closed Space	Flexible Open Space	Flexible Semi-Open Space	Flexible Shelters	Flexible gates	Flexible Urban Furniture	Flexible Walls	Gates	Stage	Walking Routes	Ramp	Car and Bike Parking
Just Public Space Values												
Top-led, Bottom-fed												
Inclusive & Diverse Atmosphere												
Collective Identity												
Open for Everyone												
Answer the needs												
Different Activities												
Different Communities												
Freedom to Speak												
Open, Semi-open, Closed Spaces												
Suitable and Enough Urban Furniture												
Green												
Accessible for Everyone												
Visual Attraction/ Connection												
Lively												
Safe												
Clean												
Well Maintained												

### 8.4.2.2. Just public space values score



Design Elements	Urban Furniture	Sitting Options	Soft Material	Green	Street Light	Transitional Zone	Eyes on The Street	Sight	Smell	Touch	Hearing	Taste
Just Public Space Values												
Top-led, Bottom-fed												
Inclusive & Diverse Atmosphere												
Collective Identity												
Open for Everyone												
Answer the needs												
Different Activities												
Different Communities												
Freedom to Speak												
Open, Semi-open, Closed Spaces												
Suitable and Enough Urban Furniture												
Green												
Accessible for Everyone												
Visual Attraction/ Connection												
Lively												
Safe												
Clean												
Well Maintained												



### 8.4.3 Design proposal

Location: Mijnsherenlaan

Since the mothers of the children already meet each other at this location, a set of specific activities for them can enhance this social interaction. Moreover, House of Hope is one of the organizations close by this location, which can use the public space to attract more vulnerable citizens to the organization by using the public space and the flexible closed space to hold public activities.

Eventually, since youngsters already use this public space, a set of activities can be offered for them at this location, in the flexible public building, during the whole week.



#### Target group:

- \_Children
- \_Parents of the children
- \_Youth
- \_House of Hope (Vulnerable citizens)

#### Activities:

- \_Sports field for youth
- \_Playground for children
- \_Spend free time/ relax
- \_Market
- \_Different activities for Mothers and youth (such as workshops, book club, game tournament events,, etc.)
- \_Possible future community centre

#### Possible future investors:

- \_Municipality of Rotterdam
- \_Placemakers (Flexible building, pavilion)

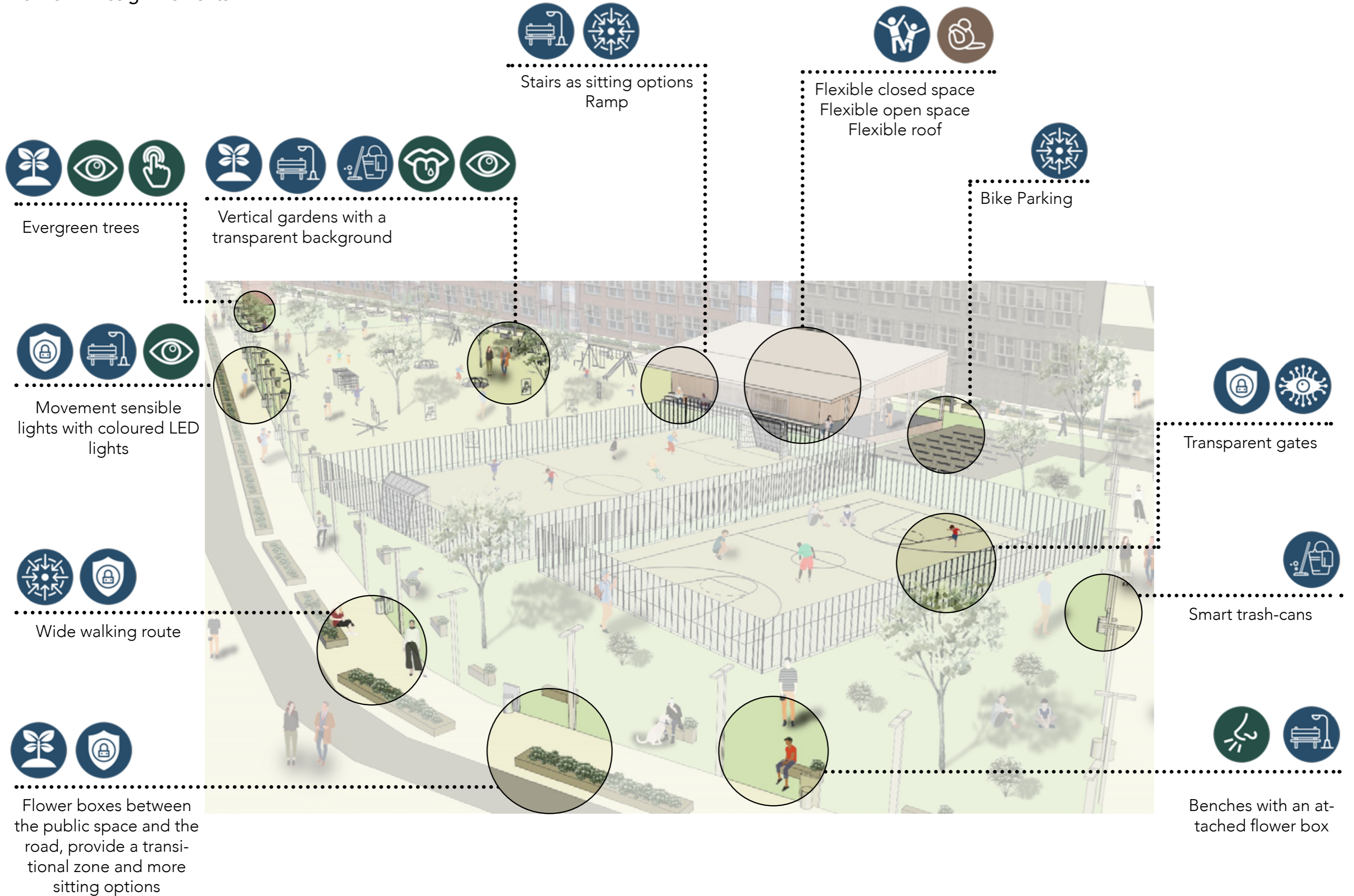
#### Possible future Public space managers:

- \_Public sector
- \_Placemakers (Future investor, interested in management as well as educating the users about local management)
- \_Future community centre (Inhabitants)
- \_House of Hope (local organization)



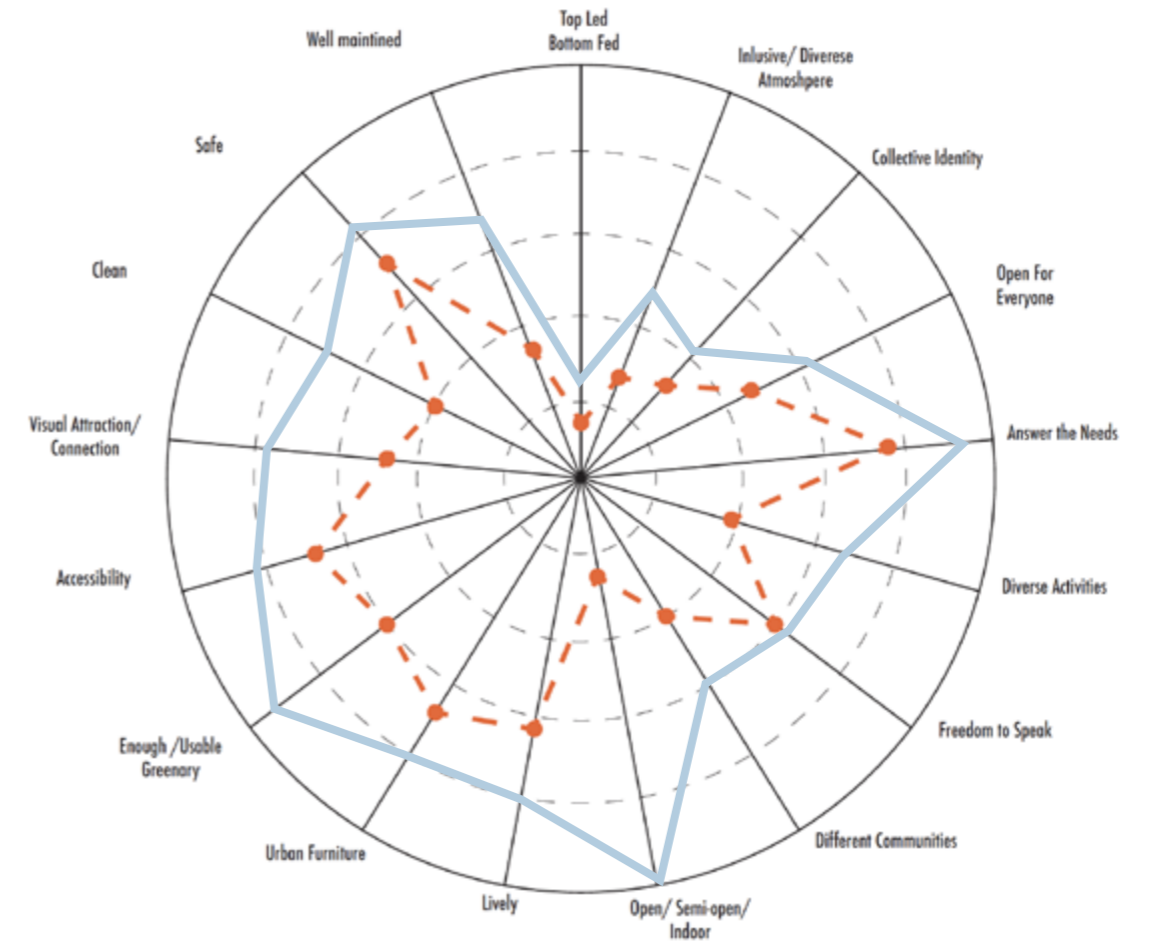


8.4.3.1. Design Elements



Design Elements	Flexible Closed Space	Flexible Open Space	Flexible Semi-Open Space	Flexible Shelters	Flexible gates	Flexible Urban Furniture	Flexible Walls	Gates	Stage	Walking Routes	Ramp	Car and Bike Parking
Just Public Space Values												
Top-led, Bottom-fed												
Inclusive & Diverse Atmosphere												
Collective Identity												
Open for Everyone												
Answer the needs												
Different Activities												
Different Communities												
Freedom to Speak												
Open, Semi-open, Closed Spaces												
Suitable and Enough Urban Furniture												
Green												
Accessible for Everyone												
Visual Attraction/ Connection												
Lively												
Safe												
Clean												
Well Maintained												

### 8.4.3.2. Just public space values score



Design Elements	Urban Furniture	Sitting Options	Soft Material	Green	Street Light	Transitional Zone	Eyes on The Street	Sight	Smell	Touch	Hearing	Taste
Just Public Space Values												
Top-led, Bottom-fed												
Inclusive & Diverse Atmosphere												
Collective Identity												
Open for Everyone												
Answer the needs												
Different Activities												
Different Communities												
Freedom to Speak												
Open, Semi-open, Closed Spaces												
Suitable and Enough Urban Furniture												
Green												
Accessible for Everyone												
Visual Attraction/ Connection												
Lively												
Safe												
Clean												
Well Maintained												

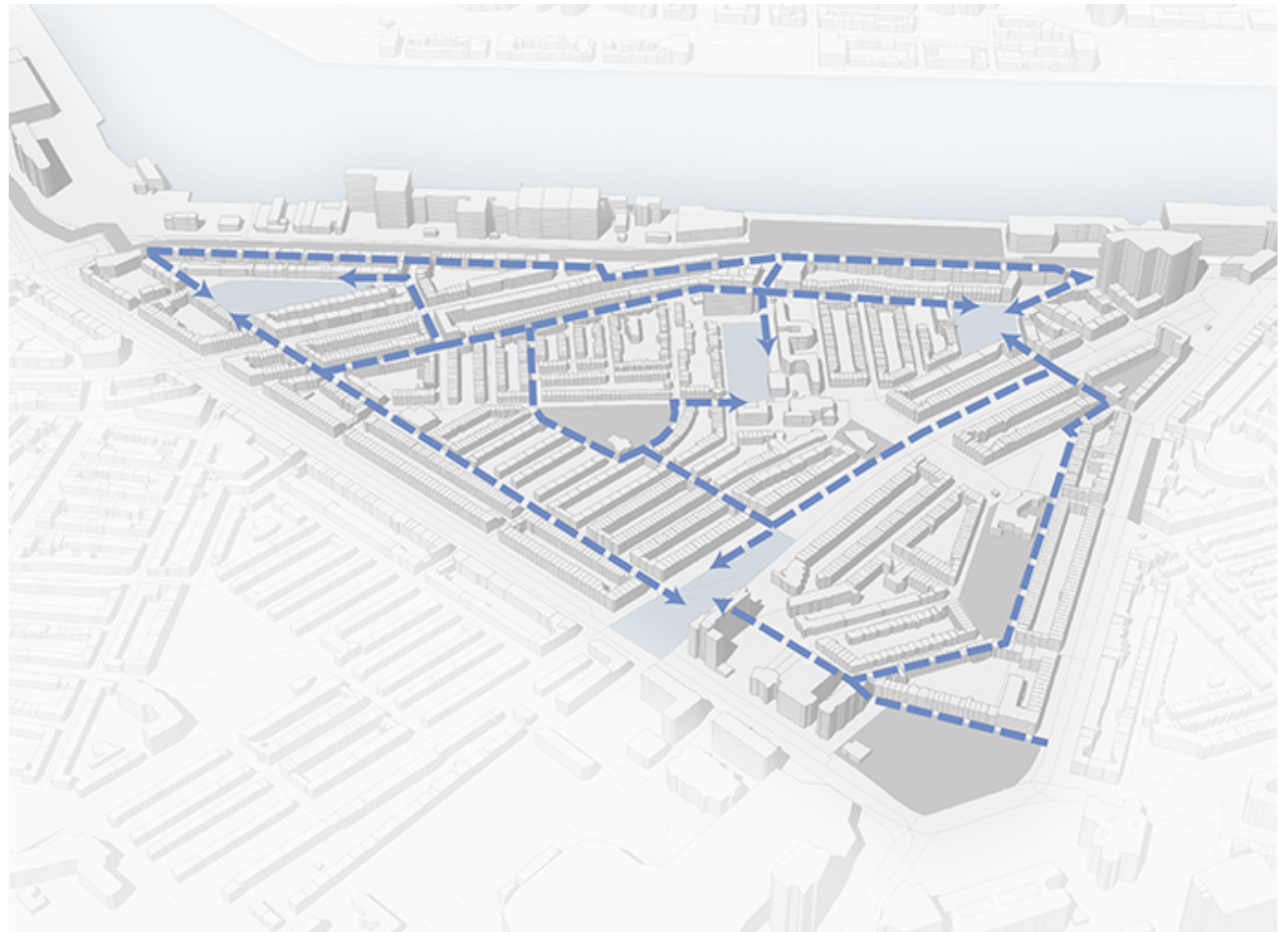


## 8.5. Design Tests on Neighbourhood Scale

As mentioned in chapter 7, this project aims to create a grid in the neighbourhood. The improved public spaces are linked together with a distinguished walking route that eventually goes by all the neighbourhood's public spaces and influential organisations. Besides, the linking route aims to function as a guide to the improved public spaces (the possible locations for the future communities) and increase accessibility (Figure 31).

Moreover, during the fieldwork, interviewing the inhabitants and analysing the daily systems, it looks like the walking routes of Tarwewijk have a noticeable role in forming social life. Apart from the high demand for more workability in the neighbourhood with upgrading the walking routes, personal observations' results reflect this role (See chapter 4). Many inhabitants use the edges of the flower boxes on the sides of the walkways to sit and interact with each other. Moreover, the youngsters also use the walking routes to meet each other and hang out, whether at the corners, in front of small supermarkets or their houses entrance stairs. Children also play in front of their houses on the pavements on weekends, since their mothers prefer to stay at home during these days.

Therefore, apart from linking the public spaces together and increasing accessibility, improving the walkways can help with improving the social life and comfort level in the neighbourhood and answer the needs of society, which can also be defined under the just public space framework's values (Accessibility, visual attraction, connection, safe, answer the needs).



**Figure 31. Linking walking routes**  
Source: Made by Author



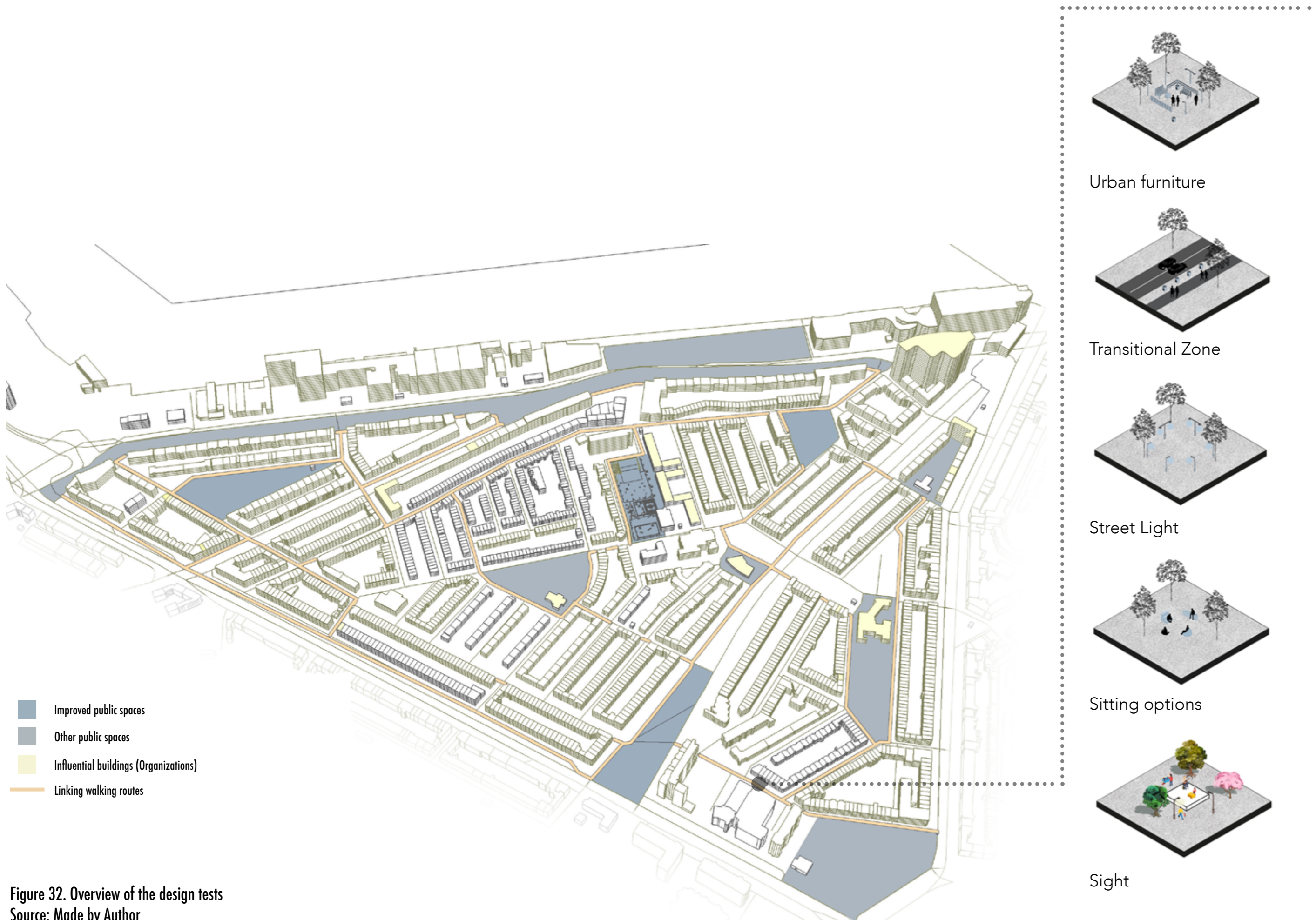


Figure 32. Overview of the design tests  
 Source: Made by Author

## 8.5. Further Issues

Tarwewijk has been dealing with an in-and-out flow at a rate of one-third of the neighbourhood's population. This is an issue in the way of creating communities. The neighbourhood faces many challenges, which can not be solved by urban design and redevelopment of the public spaces.

However, based on the interviews with the inhabitants, some people like living in Tarwewijk and have been living there for some years. These people also have a connection with different ethnic groups in the neighbourhood, and they are willing to see an improvement in their living environment or even be a part of it. Moreover, an interviewee mentioned that she had to move to another neighbourhood since she could not find a suitable house at a reasonable price for her growing family. She still liked to visit Tarwewijk to spend her free time, let her children play in the playground, and visit her friends. Since one of the main pillars of the in-process policies is to provide suitable housing for different groups (NPRZ, 2019), it is possible to assume that solving this issue might change this in-and-out flow and reduce it.

Since it is inevitable to prevent people from moving out of the neighbourhood, there should be an observation over this flow. It is essential to make sure if a person with responsibility is willing to move out, the position could be transferred to another person. The already existing organizations can be in charge of observing the situation. Moreover, by attracting more people, more people can be educated for different positions to replace the people in charge in terms of need.

Moreover, it is essential to welcome newcomers to the neighbourhood. The already existing organizations and facilities can also do this. For example, schools and existing communities can provide some welcome packs for the students and members and their families. Also, there can be several days each year, considered the welcoming day with different group activities in the public places.

Eventually, it needs to be mentioned that the proposed design illustrates users' proposed and desired behaviours. As much as a design can affect human behaviours, it is impossible to ultimately shape the users' behaviours. The design implementation tries to be as flexible as possible to be ready for unexpected changes. Moreover, it is attempted to increase the quality of the public place by adding small but effective elements. Eventually, it is expected that the quality of

the design adds value to space, even if people only use it for necessary activities.

## 8.6. Conclusion

The strategic framework represented in chapter 6 focused on the positive effect of group activities in increasing social interactions and social cohesion on a neighbourhood scale. Moreover, the results of neighbourhood public space analysis and fieldwork provide the shortcomings of the public spaces and the inhabitants' desired group activities in the public spaces. Meanwhile, the public places are considered the main physical backbones to activate the communities by providing the needed space for various group activities. Therefore, regenerating public spaces based on the desired activities is crucial in activating communities in the strategy framework.

In this chapter, the main design strategies were created based on three main categories. The first category is the just public space values, which was defined by the author based on the distributional aspect of justice. The other two categories for design strategies (flexibility and considering sensory organs) were used to focus more on the recognitional aspect of justice, improve the comfort level in the public spaces, be prepared for the future changes and most importantly, give the current and possible prospective users the opportunity to reshape the space, based on desired activities and needs. Therefore, the design elements were proposed based on these design strategies.

Most importantly, the possible effects of the design elements on each public space value were discussed and evaluated after the design implementation on the first location. The results of design implementation and the evaluation represent different levels of design elements' effect on enhancing different values. That means, to improve all the values of just the public space framework, a combination of strategies, policies, and design is necessary.

### 8.6.1. Conclusion Sub-research Questions

**2-3. To what extent is that possible to increase social interaction and therefore social cohesion by improvement of public spaces?**

“Collective identity” and “inclusive and diverse atmosphere” are two of the values of the just public space framework, which were discussed more in-depth in this chapter based on the effect of design interventions on enhancing these values. These two values are also related to the aims of this project, which are increasing social interaction and, therefore, social cohesion on a neighbourhood scale. The results of the design implementation represent that the public space design can provide the opportunity for enhancing these values and,

therefore, increasing social interactions and social cohesions. However, since the users of the public spaces have an essential role in strengthening these values, and since it is not possible to force specific behaviours on people (especially in a super-diverse context like Tarwewijk), the public spaces can help the strategic framework by providing the needed physical infrastructure to allow the inhabitants and even encourage them to interact with each other, know different cultures and values and get connected to their living environment and their neighbours.

Moreover, the positive effect of groups activities on increasing social interactions and social trust was discussed earlier. Therefore, considering the inhabitants' desired group activities and redeveloping the public spaces considering this issue and providing the needed space for these activities can help to increase social interaction and social cohesion.



## 9. CONCLUSION

### 9.1 Summary

### 9.2. Key Results and Findings

### 9.3. Conclusion: Main Research Question

### 9.4. Further Steps and Limitations of Research

#### 9.1. Summary

This research project aims to reduce the negative externalities of migration phenomena on national and international scales, increase social interactions and social cohesion among the inhabitants, and eventually, move towards achieving socio-spatial justice in cities by proposing alternative strategies and design frameworks for initiating communities for citizen participation. In order to achieve this aim, first, the problems derived by migration phenomena were studied in the beginning phase of the project, focusing on marginalised groups of society.

In order to solve the gaps between the current and previous studies and practices, different aspects of justice were taken into consideration as the current practices and studies seem to be neglecting the marginalised groups, their diverse values and cultures, and thus, the results are not as successful as aimed. The methodology of this research project is elaborated based on recognitional, distributional and participatory aspects of justice, and therefore analyse different variables to include these different aspects to achieve a more comprehensive meaning of justice.

Afterwards, based on the methodology, the theoretical studies and different aspects of justice, data analysis, spatial analysis, and different fieldwork methods held during this project for the project's location (Tarwewijk, Rotterdam) are explained. Moreover, studying the current and previous policies for Rotterdam South and Tarwewijk are analysed. The results of the mentioned analysis led to the vision for this neighbourhood.

Eventually, this project aims to provide an alternative strategy and design framework for achieving socio-spatial justice. The high demand for more group activities was noticeable during the fieldwork, which led to studying the relation between group activities, social trust and social interactions. This relation is used to propose the alternative strategy framework with three different phases, considering redevelopment of the public spaces.

What is more, knowing the importance of public spaces in humans' social life and enhancing justice, a set of values for a Just Public Space are defined. This framework is used to evaluate the current situation and find out the missing values. The design strategies and design elements are defined afterwards, considering these values and the strategy framework. Eventually, the design proposals are elaborated and evaluated based on the just public space framework.

## 9.2. Key Results and Findings

### Migration Phenomena

Migration on national and international scales results in the appearance of multicultural and diverse societies. This phenomenon has brought many issues to the migration cities, such as the social exclusion of some specific social groups, especially international immigrants from lower-income classes. Rotterdam is an example of these destination cities, housing a significant amount of international immigrants. At the moment, these different ethnic groups are not well mixed in Rotterdam, and some social groups seem to be settled more in some specific neighbourhoods. As an example, the neighbourhoods of Rotterdam south house more non-western immigrants from lower-income classes of society, while these neighbourhoods have been dealing with many problems in social, physical and safety fields, resulting in the social exclusion of social exclusion these people.

### Socio-spatial justice and different aspects of it

Socio-spatial justice is the link between social justice and space. Living in an urbanized area provides the opportunity to benefit from different resources in the city, such as healthcare, education, mobility, housing, etc.. The unfair distribution of these urban resources affects social justice, reduces it, and results in the social exclusion of some specific groups. Therefore, spatial justice creates a more extensive framework for controlling the process and the result of creating a space, considering social justice and the rights of individuals and groups.

One of the foundations of justice and democracy is social cohesion, which eventually helps with reducing the social exclusion of marginalized groups of society. More explanation, social cohesion is a social process in which individuals of society cooperate as a whole to reduce inequality with two main dimensions: the sense of belonging within a community and the relation between the individuals themselves, and eventually the glue that holds the society together. (Manca, 2014). Citizen empowerment, participation and community are some of the critical elements in the concepts of social cohesion and social justice:

\_ Community means a group of individuals who gather around a common goal or interest.

\_ Participation is a process in which individuals and groups collaborate and are actively involved in a project or activity.

\_ “Psychologists define empowerment as a process in which individuals gain control of and influence over their lives and become democratically enabled to participate in society. This can raise your chances of climbing the social ladder and the way you utilize opportunities.” (Kleinmans, 2012).

This project aims to provide a strategy and design framework to provide the needed infrastructure to allow the inhabitants to initiate their communities, participate in them, hold different activities and even be involved in the decision making process for their living environment. Since there have been many unsuccessful attempts to activate citizen communities in neighbourhoods of Rotterdam south, first, different aspects of justice were studied to achieve a full meaning of justice and also evaluate the current and previous practices and studies. The results represent that the distributional aspect of justice is the crucial element of most of the theories and practices, while the recognition aspect of justice seems to be neglected. That means, in achieving socio-spatial justice and the fair distribution of urban resources, the diversity of values and cultures is usually ignored, resulting in social exclusion of the already marginalized groups and inefficiency of the policies and practices. The conceptual framework of this project tries to fill in this gap by offering some variables to acknowledge this diversity of values and cultures during different parts of the project and considering participatory processes by using the public space redevelopment as the main physical backbones of the future communities. : Cultural/ ethnic values, daily systems of the inhabitants', co-participatory public spaces, accessibility, accountability in local decision making.

### Current and previous policies gaps

At this project, two of the recently implemented policies for neighbourhoods of Rotterdam south were studied. In the earlier policies, the primary strategy was to erase the problem: move the low-skilled immigrants to other areas by prohibiting strategies to balance the society in designated neighbourhoods and increase safety (Tweede Kamer, 2005: 12). The results of this set of policies were not as successful as expected and ended up in more exclusion of already marginalized groups.

The undergoing policies of the National Program of Rotterdam South (NPRZ) take less radical actions by focusing on three main pillars: Housing, Education and Working, and aims to include local organizations and inhabitants in the process. However, in these new policies, the recognitional aspect of justice is still neglected.

The main focus is still on the fair distribution of urban resources without providing any framework for acknowledging different cultures and values of different groups of society and enhancing social interactions social cohesion within these neighbourhoods. Therefore, the aim of including local organizations and inhabitants in the process is not being achieved yet.

### **Importance of fieldwork and different methods**

In this project, several data analysis and fieldwork methods were used to understand a more general overview from different aspects. First of all, the results represent the low quality of public spaces in Tarwewijk. The combination of spatial analysis and interviewing with the inhabitants represent the inability of the current public spaces to provide the needs for the inhabitants. Many of Tarwewijk's inhabitants still like their neighbourhood, while they think the public spaces need many improvements. There was also a high demand for several group activities in the neighbourhood, and even having a community centre. The personal observations represent that some of the parents still interact with each other in the public spaces while they are at the playgrounds with their kids or waiting at the school-yard. Besides, the daily system of the non-western women with children was analysed to understand their usage of the space and the activities they have at the moment. Another interesting observation during this fieldwork method was the different faces of the neighbourhood on the weekends when the mothers stay at home, and the neighbourhood is full of groups of young guys gathering at various locations.

The analysis and fieldwork results represent a comprehensive overview of the problems in Tarwewijk's public spaces, which are represented in a SWOT table (See section 4.5.2). Knowing the demands of the inhabitants with different cultural values for more group activities led to study the relation between the group activities and social interactions, social cohesion and social trust.

### **Group activities and social trust**

The analysis of different studies and practices represents the positive effect of participating in a group activity in increasing participants' social interaction and social trust. Moreover, analysing two projects in a similar context as Tarweewijk enhances this statement. Holding the right group activities and creating a suitable urban space resulted in more social interactions between the inhabitants and even willing to participate in the communities.

Knowing the positive effect of participating in group activities and the inhabitants' demand for more group activities led to proposing the alternative strategy framework for activating citizen participation in communities, focusing on providing the demanded group activities and the needed urban space for them to increase social interactions and social trust in the neighbourhood, as prerequisites for initiating communities. Therefore, the strategy framework consists of three different steps. The first phase focuses on providing group activities for some main target groups while redeveloping the public space(s) based on the desired activities. The second phase focus on activating the first community under official supervision. Eventually, the third phase moves towards local management of the communities and public spaces. What is more, a set of educational workshops are proposed in different phases, to educate the inhabitants about this local management.

### **Just Public Space values and the power of design**

A set of values for a just public space are proposed in this project to simplify the concept of socio-spatial in the context of public spaces and find the missing points. This project uses these values to score the public spaces' level of justice for each value and define the shortcomings. This project uses these values to score the public spaces' level of justice for each value and determine the flaws. Moreover, these values are used as the initial framework for design strategies.

#### **Policy Values**

- \_ Top lead, Bottom feed Process
- \_ Inclusive and diverse atmosphere
- \_ Create a collective identity for the neighbourhood
- \_ Open for everyone
- \_ Answer the needs of society
- \_ Different activities for different people
- \_ Allow community activities
- \_ Freedom to speak

#### **Spatial Values**

- \_ Combination of open, semi-open and indoor spaces and facilities (Based on different activities)
- \_ Suitable and enough urban furniture
- \_ Green (enough green space, usable green space)
- \_ Accessible for everyone
- \_ Visual attraction/ Visual connection
- \_ Lively



### Service Values

- \_ Safe
- \_ Clean
- \_ Well-maintained

While these values are divided into different categories, policies and design can affect each. After evaluating the design implementation at the first location regarding improvements of these values, the level of design effect on each value was determined. While the design directly relates to the values of spatial categories, other values can be indirectly enhanced by the design interventions. However, since the future users of the public space play an essential role in these values, and since it is not possible to force a specific type of behaviour by design, the effect of the design on these values is limited. That means the design can only provide the needed spatial elements and space for enhancing these values and encourage the inhabitants to act in specific ways. Therefore, to improve all these values and achieve a more qualitative public space, a set of strategies are needed to support the design and enhance all the values.

### 9.3. Conclusion: Main Research Question

The conclusion of this report and the answer to the main research question of *"How to move towards achieving socio-spatial justice in Rotterdam as a city with a multicultural population by urban public place regeneration while considering community creation and participation as two essential elements in the process?"* Would start with considering the positive effect of group activities in increasing social trust and social interaction, while considering different aspects of justice in the process (Recognitional, distributional and participatory).

The three phases of the strategy framework (1. Group activities, 2. Top-down managed communities, 3. Locally managed communities) illustrate the steps to achieve local communities, considering regeneration of the public places based on just public place values, flexibility and multi-sensory design. By providing efficient and flexible public places, people get the chance to meet and interact with each other, form groups, and participate in their communities. By initiating communities and educating the participants, the inhabitants get a chance to be a part of a bigger group, gain a sense of belonging to their living environment, and eventually, decide for their living environment and gain their right back to the cities.

### 9.4. Further Steps and Limitations of Research

In this project, the recognition aspect of justice plays a vital role since

the current and previous theories and practices neglect the diversity of values and cultures. During the fieldwork, it was tried to include different groups of society in Tarwewijk in order to provide a more inclusive proposal. However, it is not possible to approach strangers and ask about their cultural values directly. Instead, it was tried to acknowledge this diversity regarding the public spaces and group activities by interviewing these different groups and knowing their opinions about these matters.

Moreover, the design evaluation needs an alternative way to ask the inhabitants about their opinions since the final users of the space play an important role in enhancing the just public space values. Creating urban social games is an alternative solution to test the design and know the final users feedback on the proposal. This method was used during the fieldwork in collaboration with experts and other students and provided some interesting input over the situation of the public spaces and the desires. The proposed elements in the design chapter can be used as elements in a simple board game while adding a blank element for a new proposal. Therefore, the further step is to seek opportunities to create a social game using these elements and get connected with local organizations to create a game even in the neighbourhood, ask the inhabitants to participate in this game and, through this tool, get to know their values and desires, and evaluate the design and strategic framework.

# REFLECTION

## On Problem Field

### *Motivation:*

*As I have always been interested in the concepts of justice and democracy and the possible ways to achieve them through urban design, the first motivation for this master thesis topic was based on this interest. I wanted to know to what extent urban design, and urban planning can contribute to the process of solving social exclusion issues and increasing the level of socio-spatial justice. The project's location (Tarwewijk) houses a significant number of non-western immigrants from low-income classes of society who have been marginalized. In fact, as a person who has been living in the Netherlands for three years and has visited Rotterdam many times, that was the first time I visited the southern part of Rotterdam, and I was pretty shocked by the level of differences.*

### On Societal Relevance:

Nowadays, many people in different Rotterdam South neighbourhoods face many problems, such as poverty and socio-spatial exclusion. The neighbourhoods of Rotterdam south have been neglected during the time since most of the development projects in Rotterdam were focused on the north part, resulting in safety and physical issues besides social problems in neighbourhoods of the south.

The project aims to define a system for co-creation of the city, in which all the inhabitants from different social and economic groups can benefit from spatial justice, social interaction, and local Participation. Since the city is meant to be a place for its people, it is essential to create a democratic structure in which the defined citizens have a voice and can participate in the way the city Functions. This can be a two-sided beneficial relation, which means people benefit from living in a democratic society. Since they can participate and decide for the place they live, they feel more belonged. Following that, it is easier to achieve social cohesion and there for social resilience within the cities. In that way, the city is also benefiting from this relation since it functions better as a whole.

## On Scientific Relevance

Many authors (such as Dekkers, Van Kempen, Kleinhans, Speers, etc.) have been discussing the importance of creating communities for activating participatory processes and the possible ways to achieve this goal. However, a solid strategic framework for initiating communities is still missing in the field of community activation, which works as a guideline, especially for problematic neighbourhoods, where there is a lack of interest in Participation due to the many challenges and lack of social trust and social cohesion. This graduation project offers an alternative strategy and design framework for activating communities in various contexts and contributes a new perspective in this field.

Besides, recognitional justice plays an important role in this project. Knowing the diversity of values and cultures and acknowledging them is a key element usually missing in community creation practices. This project translates these values into the context of public spaces and group activities, which means including the demands and opinions of all the different social groups of location regarding the mentioned contexts and finding the common goal and values within these fields. Besides, this project uses the positive effects of having group activities for inhabitants on a neighbourhood scale on increasing social trust, social interactions and social cohesion as a primary step to activate communities in locations where the inhabitants do not have many interactions with each other.

## On Limitations Of Urban Design and Urban Planning

Socio-spatial justice has a complex nature since it is about the relation between space and social justice. Super-diverse societies of today and the resulting challenges and problems enhance this complexity. This project tries to simplify this concept regarding the public spaces by defining a set of values for a Just public space. The results of evaluating design interventions represent the limitations of urban design in achieving socio-spatial justice to the highest level. Many obstacles are on the way that can not be solved by urban design or urban planning. First, it should be considered that specific types of behaviour can not be forced on people. A good design can only provide the ideal space for the inhabitants to encourage them to use them in the desired way (such as prohibiting vandalism). However, achieving these goals requires a multidisciplinary approach, considering all aspects of the undesired social and individual behaviours. Moreover, the design can only improve some of the spatial values of the space, and a set of official policies and

strategies are needed to support the design.

## On Methodology

This project is consist of research, strategy proposal and design. A theoretical study was done at the beginning phase of the project to analyse the routes of the problem and elaborate on the used concepts. The created the foundation of the methodology, leading to the strategy and design proposals. Moreover, different methods of fieldwork were used in this project in order to understand the problem from the inhabitants' points of view and their demands from the public spaces while trying to include all the different groups of society through these different methods.

## On Data Collection and Limitations of Research

Different methods of interacting with the inhabitants were used in this project, besides interviewing the local officials and organizations. To make a comprehensive conclusion of the data collection, the overall results of the fieldwork were classified in a SWOT analysis. This classification helped with generalizing the huge amount of data gathered by different methods of fieldwork and determining the shortcomings of the current public spaces from different points of view. Most importantly, knowing the inhabitants' desire for more group activities led to studying the relations between group activities and social cohesion, which led to proposing a new alternative strategy framework.

The overall results of fieldwork had a crucial role in this project and were useful and informative. However, some limitations and challenges appeared during fieldwork. First, Due to Covid-19 regulations, there were some limitations on in-person interactions and interviews with the inhabitants and organizations in the project's beginning phases. Moreover, during the quarantine period, fewer people used the public spaces. In order to solve this issue, a website was created collaborating with three other students and Veld Academie to be able to interact with the inhabitants differently. However, this method was not useful since there was an issue in spreading the website in the neighbourhood and asking the inhabitants to use it, and the lengthy process of doing so was not efficient at that stage of the project.

Moreover, Tarwewijk houses people from many different countries. There was a language barrier between me as an international student and different groups of inhabitants since some could not speak



English. In order to solve this issue, different methods were used in collaboration with three other students and Veld Academie. After reducing Covid-19 restrictions, we arranged a day in the neighbourhood and chose different locations in Tarwewijk, including the most important public places. We asked people to give us their ideas about public places and activities and their proposals and needs. What is more, we asked them to talk on a printed map and point out the public places they use or like, and the ones they do not.

Another experience for interacting with the inhabitants was being a part of an “urban gaming for children” experience designed by Milena Ivkovic. The purpose behind the simple board game was to ask the students to form groups of 4 or 5, choose a secret mission and design the green area in front of their school by using specific elements. Moreover, one week before the game day event, they were handed a homework assignment with simple questions regarding their neighbourhood.

What is more, two questionnaires were made to collect more data from the inhabitants. A general questionnaire about the quality of public spaces was made collaborating with three other students, and an individual questionnaire for understanding the social life in the neighbourhood in Dutch and English to break the language barriers. However, due to lack of social trust and the repeated experience of being approached by various groups (researchers, students, officials, etc.), most of the inhabitants’ refused to feel in the questionnaires.

### **On Ethical Consideration**

This project aimed to include all of the different target groups’ opinions and know their different values. However, there was a concern on the questions asked during street interviews, and it was tried to respect the personal boundaries. Researching a super diverse context with many marginalized groups need extra care in approaching the inhabitants and interacting with them. Therefore, instead of asking about their cultures and personal or ethnic values, it was tried to include this diversity within more general questions about the public spaces, social interactions with different ethnic groups, and their living environment’s desires. Moreover, different methods of fieldwork showed that having a casual conversation and trying to find a shared interest or background with the interviewees can be more efficient in approaching some of the inhabitants.

Another ethical consideration concerns the privacy of the people who have been interviewed and participated in a digital survey. More specifically, while writing a digital survey, we were careful about the ways we asked for personal information, such as ethnic backgrounds and dwelling location. Moreover, it is essential not to mention the name of the interviewees without asking for consent.

### **On The Master Track, The Studio “Planning Complex Cities, and The Thesis Project**

During the master project, we were working on projects on different scales, from small interventions in neighbourhood scales to regional policy-making. The variety of the studios helped me understand different fields of urbanism and the many layers an urban design or urban policy includes. The thesis project was help under the studio “Planning complex cities.” With this project, I realized the complex nature of urban problems and their solutions. During this graduation project, I worked with several social and spatial concepts in relation to each other in order to be able to offer a strategic and design framework. During the design phase, I realized the concept of multi-sensory design in public places and its effects, which I would like to work on more after this research. Eventually, the master thesis was a good practice for me to work with multiple concepts and layers of an urban strategy and design proposal on different scales, and helped me to understand the role of an urban designer and urban planner and the role’s scope of authority in change.

#### ***Personal Position in The Thesis Project :***

*I started this thesis project with an unrealistic expectation of urban design and urban planning in improving socio-spatial justice. From my perspective, a good design following efficient strategies was the key to bring socio-spatial justice to the cities. During the early phases of the project, I realized the high complexity of the issues of socio-spatial justice, the challenges and obstacles and the many related concepts. While I had many studies over different political and social theories in the past, I still lacked knowledge in the socio-spatial justice field, which I tried to solve by getting help from my mentors and other students. Finding the relations between the different concepts of socio-spatial justice, social exclusion, different aspects of justice, community and community centre and citizen empowerment, and translating them into the context of urbanism was a lengthy and*

*challenging process for me. However, this challenge led me to try different methods to find these relations and move to the proposal.*

*Apart from the theoretical analysis, a set of fieldwork methods were used to foster the recognitional aspect of justice and include the inhabitants' demands in the proposal as much as possible since that was my main aim from the beginning. However, getting the needed information from the inhabitants was not easy and needed lots of effort. In a neighbourhood like Tarwewijk, people are dealing with many serious problems in their lives, which decrease trust and interest in communicating with strangers. This situation creates a difficult context to approach people and needs extra care in the ways people be interviewed.*

*Besides the context, being an international student had its challenges and advantages in this process. Unfamiliarity with the Dutch language was an obstacle in fieldwork since many of the inhabitants I approached could not speak English. Luckily I was collaborating with three other students studying at the same location. Since they were fluent in Dutch, they could arrange interviews with inhabitants and local organizations and shared the results with the group. However, still approaching the people who could speak English was not easy. After trying to solve this issue by making a really short survey and not receiving the expected results, I tried another method for approaching the inhabitants. I realized that sometimes in this context, having a more personal conversation from my side can help with getting connected to people. I started to approach non-western women with children (since they seem to be more sensible and open to help) and have a casual conversation, mentioning that I am also an immigrant and why is the reason I chose this topic for my project. This simple explanation helped with creating trust and receiving more information from the inhabitants. Eventually, with a combination of all the different methods, I was able to proceed to the strategy proposal.*

*In general, choosing this topic for my thesis project was an interesting adventure for me besides its challenges. Dealing with such a complex issue helped me have a more realistic perspective on urbanism in such challenges. Besides, It was an interesting opportunity to understand my strengths and weaknesses as a future urban designer or urban planner and*

*weaknesses as a future urban designer or urban planner and helped me find the right ways to improve myself within this role.*

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# Appendix

## Survey on Public Spaces

## Vragenlijst openbare ruimte Tarwewijk

### Doel

Het doel van deze vragenlijst is om de kwaliteit van de openbare ruimte te verbeteren en beter te laten aansluiten op de wensen en behoeften van de bewoners van de Tarwewijk. Het invullen van de vragenlijst zal ongeveer 15 minuten duren. De data uit de vragenlijst zal worden gebruikt als input voor een ontwerp van de openbare ruimte. Het invullen van deze vragenlijst is volledig anoniem en de antwoorden uit dit onderzoek zijn vertrouwelijk en worden niet openbaar gemaakt. Uw medewerking in dit onderzoek is volledig vrijwillig, en u kunt op ieder gewenst moment stoppen. Ook kunt u een vraag overslaan indien gewenst. Als u verder vragen heeft of er niet uit komt kunt u altijd contact opnemen via de mail.

### Corona

De huidige corona crisis zorgt voor een ongewone situatie wat het gebruik van de openbare ruimte heeft veranderd. U wordt vriendelijk verzocht om de enquête in te vullen gebaseerd op de situatie vóór de corona crisis.

**\*Vereist**

1. Ik heb bovenstaande informatie doorgelezen, begrepen en ga akkoord met de werkwijze. \*

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

Ja, ik ga akkoord.

### Algemeen

In dit deel worden algemene vragen gesteld.

2. Wat is uw leeftijd?

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

0 - 17

18 - 25

26 - 35

36 - 50

51 - 65

65+

3. Wat is uw geslacht?

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

Man

Vrouw

Anders: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Waar bent u geboren?

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

Nederland

Weet ik niet

Anders: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Waar is uw moeder geboren?

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

Nederland

Weet ik niet

Anders: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Waar is uw vader geboren?

*Markeer slechts één ovaal.*

Nederland

Weet ik niet

Anders: \_\_\_\_\_



## 7. Wat is de samenstelling van uw huishouden?

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- Alleenstaand zonder thuiswonende kinderen  
 Alleenstaand met thuiswonende kinderen  
 Gehuwd of samenwonend zonder thuiswonende kinderen  
 Gehuwd of samenwonend met thuiswonende kinderen  
 Ik woon bij mijn ouder(s)  
 Anders: \_\_\_\_\_

## 8. Wat voor type woning heeft u?

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Huur	Koop
Meergezinswoning (flat, appartement)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rijtjeswoning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## 9. Wat voor type buitenruimte heeft u? (meerdere opties mogelijk)

Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.

- Eigen tuin  
 Gedeelde tuin  
 Balkon  
 Geen

Anders:  \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Wat is uw volledige postcode? (bijvoorbeeld: 1234 AB)

\_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Hoe tevreden bent u met de buurt?

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Erg ontevreden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Erg tevreden

## Openbare ruimte

In dit deel worden vragen gesteld over het gebruik van de openbare ruimte.

Openbare ruimte zijn bijvoorbeeld straten, pleinen, parken en speeltuinen.



12. Waar gebruikt u de openbare ruimte voor? En waar maakt u gebruik van de openbare ruimte? (meerdere antwoorden mogelijk)

Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.

	Vlakbij het huis	Andere locatie in de Tarwewijk	Andere buurt	Andere stad	Nergens
Anderen ontmoeten	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spelen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sporten en bewegen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Om rust te vinden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Georganiseerde activiteiten	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hond uitlaten	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vervoer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parkeren	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andere activiteit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. Indien "andere activiteit" hierboven ingevuld: Wat voor andere activiteit?

\_\_\_\_\_

14. Geef van de volgende activiteiten aan hoe belangrijk u ze in uw buurt vindt.

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Erg onbelangrijk	Onbelangrijk	Neutraal	Belangrijk	Erg belangrijk
Mensen ontmoeten	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Spelen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sporten	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wandelen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Verplaatsen (van A naar B)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fiets stallen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Auto parkeren	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. Wanneer gebruikt u de openbare ruimte het meest op een doordeweekse dag?

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- Ochtend (06:00 - 12:00 uur)  
 Middag (12:00 - 18:00 uur)  
 Avond (18:00 - 00:00 uur)  
 Nacht (00:00 - 06:00 uur)

16. Wanneer gebruikt u de openbare ruimte het meest in het weekend?

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- Ochtend (06:00 - 12:00 uur)  
 Middag (12:00 - 18:00 uur)  
 Avond (18:00 - 00:00 uur)  
 Nacht (00:00 - 06:00 uur)

## 17. Wat voor cijfer geeft u de openbare ruimte?

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Zeer slecht	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Zeer goed

## Fysiek

In dit deel worden vragen gesteld over de fysieke onderdelen van de openbare ruimte.

## 18. Ik vind de openbare ruimte ...

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Erg mee oneens	Oneens	Neutraal	Eens	Erg mee eens
Mooi	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prettig	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bereikbaar	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Toegankelijk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Schoon	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Onderhouden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## 19. Er zijn genoeg ... in de openbare ruimte.

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Erg mee oneens	Oneens	Neutraal	Eens	Erg mee eens
Sportvoorzieningen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Speelvoorzieningen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parken	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gedeelde tuinen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Groen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bomen en beplanting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Zitmogelijkheden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prullenbakken	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Verlichting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## 20. Ik ben tevreden met de kwaliteit van ... in de openbare ruimte.

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Erg mee oneens	Oneens	Neutraal	Eens	Erg mee eens
Sportvoorzieningen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Speelvoorzieningen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parken	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gedeelde tuinen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Groen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bomen en beplanting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Zitmogelijkheden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Verlichting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



21. Ik kom niet bij sommige openbare plekken vanwege ... (meerdere antwoorden mogelijk)

Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.

- Slechte bereikbaarheid  
 Slecht onderhoud  
 Te grote afstand  
 Onveiligheid  
 Drukke  
 Slecht wegdek  
 Hekwerk  
 Hoogteverschil  
 Andere mensen  
 Ik vermijd geen openbare plekken

Anders:  \_\_\_\_\_

22. Er is genoeg variatie in groen in de openbare ruimte.

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Oneens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Eens

23. Er zijn genoeg plekken voor groene activiteiten in de openbare ruimte (bijvoorbeeld: openbare tuinen, kruidentuinen, groentetuinen, moestuinen).

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Oneens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Eens

24. Ik zorg ervoor dat de openbare ruimte schoon en onderhouden is.

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Oneens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Eens

25. De andere bewoners zorgen ervoor dat de openbare ruimte schoon en onderhouden is.

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Oneens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Eens

26. De gemeente zorgt ervoor dat de openbare ruimte schoon en onderhouden is.

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Oneens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Eens

27. Vindt u dat een schone en onderhouden openbare ruimte vooral een taak van de buurtbewoners zelf is?

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- Ja  
 Nee, van de gemeente  
 Geen mening  
 Anders: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Veiligheid

In dit deel worden vragen gesteld over de veiligheid in de openbare ruimte.

28. Ik voel me ... in de openbare ruimte.

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Erg mee oneens	Oneens	Neutraal	Eens	Erg mee eens
Veilig	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Thuis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

29. In wat voor soort omgeving voelt u zich het meest veilig?

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- Drukke omgeving  
 Rustige omgeving  
 Geen mening

30. Ik ervaar ... in de openbare ruimte.

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Erg mee oneens	Oneens	Neutraal	Eens	Erg mee eens
Geluidsoverlast	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drugsoverlast	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Discriminatie	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bedreiging	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vandalisme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Te hard rijdende voertuigen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Te veel verschillende voertuigen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Slecht wegdek	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Slechte zichtbaarheid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Onveilige oversteekplaatsen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agressief rijgedrag	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

31. Er is genoeg controle van bewoners in de openbare ruimte

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

	1	2	3	4	5
Oneens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eens					

32. Er is genoeg controle van organisaties en instanties in de openbare ruimte

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

	1	2	3	4	5
Oneens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eens					

33. Vindt u dat de veiligheid in uw buurt vooral een taak voor de buurtbewoners zelf is?

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- Ja  
 Nee, dat is de taak van de gemeente  
 Nee, dat is de taak van de politie  
 Geen mening  
 Anders: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Sociaal

In dit deel worden vragen gesteld over de sociale contacten in de openbare ruimte

34. Ik vind de openbare ruimte ...

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Erg mee oneens	Mee oneens	Neutraal	Mee eens	Erg mee eens
Levendig	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gezellig	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

35. Ik heb contact met ... in de openbare ruimte (meerdere antwoorden mogelijk)

Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.

- Vrienden  
 Buurtbewoners  
 Onbekenden  
 Niemand

Anders:  \_\_\_\_\_

36. Hoe vaak heeft u contact met vrienden in de openbare ruimte?

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- Eén keer per dag  
 Meerdere keren per dag  
 Eén keer per week  
 Meerdere keren per week  
 Nooit  
 Anders: \_\_\_\_\_

37. Waar heeft u contact met vrienden in de openbare ruimte? (meerdere antwoorden mogelijk)

Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.

- Sportlocatie  
 Speelveld  
 Straat  
 Plein  
 Park  
 Nergens  
 Anders:  \_\_\_\_\_

38. Hoe heeft u contact met vrienden in de openbare ruimte? (meerdere antwoorden mogelijk)

Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.

- Geen direct contact  
 Groeten  
 Praatje  
 Activiteit  
 Anders:  \_\_\_\_\_

39. Hoe vaak heeft u contact met buurtbewoners in de openbare ruimte?

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- Eén keer per dag  
 Meerdere keren per dag  
 Eén keer per week  
 Meerdere keren per week  
 Nooit  
 Anders: \_\_\_\_\_

40. Waar heeft u contact met buurtbewoners in de openbare ruimte? (meerdere antwoorden mogelijk)

Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.

- Sportlocatie  
 Speelveld  
 Straat  
 Plein  
 Park  
 Nergens  
 Anders:  \_\_\_\_\_

41. Hoe heeft u contact met buurtbewoners in de openbare ruimte? (meerdere antwoorden mogelijk)

Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.

- Geen direct contact  
 Groeten  
 Praatje  
 Activiteit  
 Anders:  \_\_\_\_\_



42. Hoe vaak heeft u contact met onbekenden in de openbare ruimte?

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- Eén keer per dag  
 Meerdere keren per dag  
 Eén keer per week  
 Meerdere keren per week  
 Nooit  
 Anders: \_\_\_\_\_

43. Waar heeft u contact met onbekenden in de openbare ruimte? (meerdere antwoorden mogelijk)

Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.

- Sportlocatie  
 Speelveld  
 Straat  
 Plein  
 Park  
 Nergens  
 Anders:  \_\_\_\_\_

44. Hoe heeft u contact met onbekenden in de openbare ruimte? (meerdere antwoorden mogelijk)

Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.

- Geen direct contact  
 Groeten  
 Praatje  
 Activiteit  
 Anders:  \_\_\_\_\_

45. Ik voel me verbonden met de buurtbewoners in de openbare ruimte.

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- 1    2    3    4    5  
 Oneens      Eens

46. Er zijn voldoende georganiseerde activiteiten in de openbare ruimte.

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- 1    2    3    4    5  
 Oneens      Eens

47. Ik doe mee met georganiseerde activiteiten in de openbare ruimte.

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- 1    2    3    4    5  
 Oneens      Eens

48. Ik wil vaker meedoen met georganiseerde activiteiten in de openbare ruimte.

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- 1    2    3    4    5  
 Oneens      Eens

49. Ik help mee als vrijwilliger voor activiteiten in de openbare ruimte.

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- 1    2    3    4    5  
 Oneens      Eens

50. Ik wil vaker meehelpen als vrijwilliger voor activiteiten in de openbare ruimte.

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

1    2    3    4    5

---

Oneens      Eens

Slot

In dit deel worden afsluitende open vragen gesteld

51. Stel dat er geen openbare ruimte meer zou zijn, wat zou u dan het meest missen?

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52. Hoe heeft het Coronavirus uw gebruik van de openbare ruimte veranderd?

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**Contact**

Bedankt voor het invullen van de enquête. Indien u bereid bent om deze enquête door te sturen onder buurtbewoners wordt dat zeer gewaardeerd. Mocht u nog anderen willen aandragen voor dit onderzoek, laat het hieronder weten of neem contact met ons op. Voor meer informatie en contact, bezoek de website <https://campustarwewijk.nl>

53. Mensen en/of organisaties die ik wou willen aandragen zijn ...

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54. Mogen wij u nog een keer benaderen? Laat dan hier uw e-mailadres achter.

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Deze content is niet gemaakt of goedgekeurd door Google.



## Street Interviews

Vaders van 50 jaar  
Sport op Zuiderpark  
↳ familie is te klein  
↳ werkt als nieuwe coach  
Openbare ruimte vooral  
voor kleinere kinderen

Vrouw, 30  
Plek aan het water  
Zei de wel plekken  
maar bij handenveld  
niet.

kinderen verschoorplein

- speel goed dat je  
kan leren wat hier  
ligt (binnen hokken  
(elektrische step, seilen,  
skeders)
- Skatebaan
- Podium + tribune
- Zwembad
- trampoline
- vlieg (vissen)
- educatieve les  
(bijv: kennd die een  
der meereent en  
uitleg geeft)
- langere slide/zipline  
(out met stieljes)

Vrouw, 30, JB  
Hekken hebben  
niet veel nut  
om speedtenon  
heen

man, marktkraan 40/50 yrs  
Wolphaertsbocht  
meer a barrier  
than metroline

---

trambaan meer een  
barriere dan  
metrobaan



Juf (30)  
Verschoorbuurt  
en milieupark  
zijn shady  
komt zornet vaak/  
kinderen van haar  
kamen er niet  
Sportveld

Juf (30)  
Honden uitbatplek  
heeft geen net  
want honden pepen  
er buiten ook

Ouders kunnen nergens  
heen  
man, 30-40  
moestuin buiten de wijk  
→ zou geen gebruik maken van moestuin  
in de openbare ruimte

Veel hangjeugd  
verschoorbuurt  
↳ geen overlast  
voor niet kind-  
vriendelijk

Juf (30)  
veel niet bruikbaar  
groen  
(hep-groen).

• ikel mensen met een tuin  
• die het net gebruiken  
↳ gezinnen met kinderen wonen  
op bovenverdiepingen  
activiteiten in de tuin  
- BBQen  
- met familie

- vloer is lava  
- parcours

Dingen leren  
↳ geen activiteiten in de wijk!  
↳ wil een tuin  
↳ voor de kinderen  
↳ Dinsdag → spullen leren  
↳ hang jeugd: Ved

• Groen zonder functie is niet  
leuk  
• Skatepark  
• plek voor activiteiten  
↳ smaken  
smaken  
• planten  
• trampolien

x moestuin op complex voelt als  
vakantie  
x De culturele mensen zouden er  
wel gebruik van maken, tomaten  
groeten

• tuin dingen  
• BBQen  
• met familie

x moestuin op complex voelt als  
vakantie  
x De culturele mensen zouden er  
wel gebruik van maken, tomaten  
groeten



Moeder verschouwen  
Meer hygiëne

"Moeder 30 jaar"  
Meer voor de kinderen  
Meer activiteiten  
zoals bewegen

I like the public places that can  
use them in the winter, but for  
summer its nice.  
I've lived here for 10 years and I  
like it is here and I know people from  
many cultures.  
meten, metralium.

Educatief over dieren leren  
↳ elke week lang komen  
↳ schoonmaken  
↳ zandbak  
↳ chill plek voor jongeren  
↳ hand rijden  
↳ camera toezicht nodig voor  
keiligheid

Vrouw, 35-30  
Het om het millinypark is fijn  
voor de veiligheid van de kinderen

Speeltoesellen  
educatief  
↳ speeltoesellen  
Geen tuin  
↳ misschien wel een tuin  
andere woning  
↳ niet voor groen, maar  
voor kinderen  
↳ want het jammer dat de andere  
als met zijn tuin doet buurman

Juf, vrouw, 30  
gedeelde teuker/  
binnen teuker  
zouder handig zijn  
↳ dat meer mensen  
gebruik kunnen maken  
van een teuker.

moestuin zou leuk zijn in  
de openbare ruimte  
Vrouw, jong volwassen  
20-25

Vrouw, 30, JBB  
Millinypark  
geschild voor  
kinderen, perfect

Vrouw, 30, JBB  
Buren kennen  
elkaar, weet  
zich veilig in de  
wijk

Juf, 30  
Schonere, beter  
onderhouden park  
(geen hondenpoep)  
↳ dat mensen kunnen  
picknicken  
(den zwartwastrook)

2 ouderen dames  
- niet groot genoeg  
- veel afval  
- activiteiten heeft geen zin  
- wandelen in de parken



\* Ouder: vond het zelf  
wel prima; zelf geen wensen  
\* Voor de kinderen meer  
speelplekken nodig

---

man 40-50 jaar

Vrouw, 30, JBB  
Mijnsherenplein  
veel cultgaren die  
er rondhangen  
(zou kinderen niet willen  
laten spelen)

Vrouw, 30, JBB  
Drempels weer  
terug naast  
mullinypark  
(kind was laatst  
aangereden)

Juf  
Foke geen  
↳ tram, dike

Maakt gebruik van  
Zuiderpark, voor honden  
sport  
"Jk woon hier <sup>v</sup>naar 1 jaar  
dus heb er niet echt een  
mening over"

\* Goen belangrijk  
\* is tevreden over openbare ruimte  
\* mag wel wat opgeloopt worden

---

man, middle aged

I'n' used to it

suburban  
Don't like the neighborhood. it's too  
crowded and too busy  
young boy

men leren hoe je een  
weeste maakt en business  
doet.  
↳ Als mensen geld te  
besteden hebben zullen ze  
ook investeren in de wijk  
↳ tuin met gras

Hondenbezitters  
Er moeten meer plekken voor  
honden komen  
Het wordt niet goed bijgehouden  
↳ gemeente geven overname

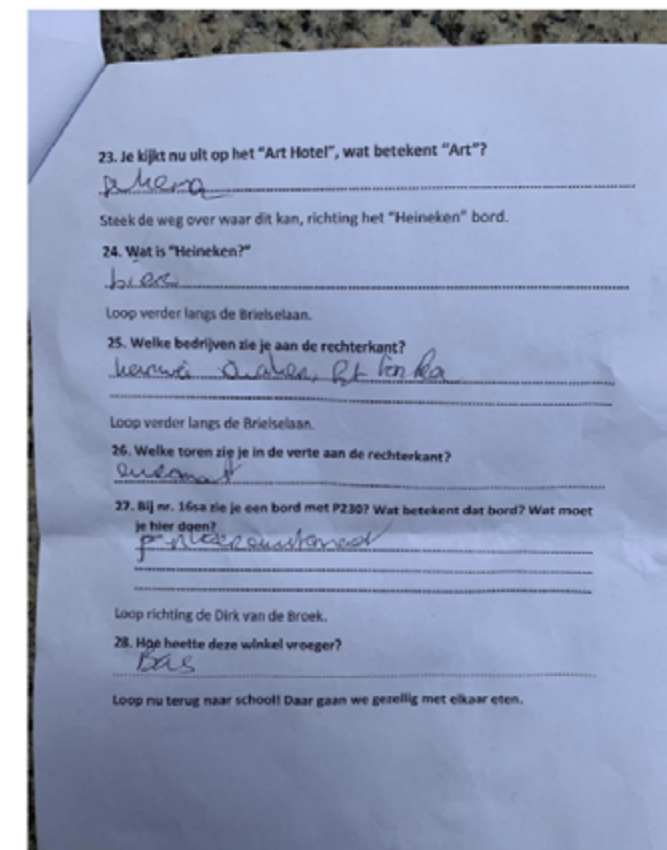
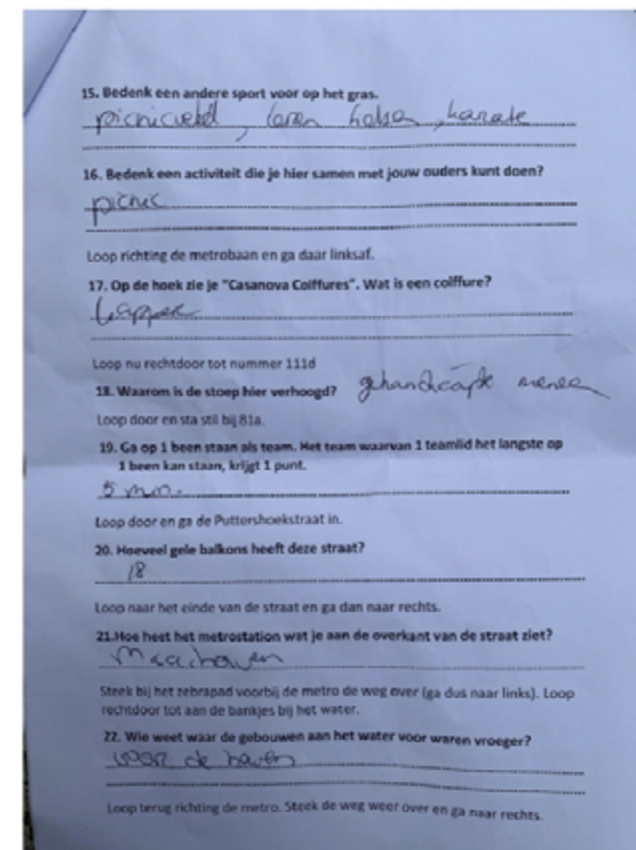
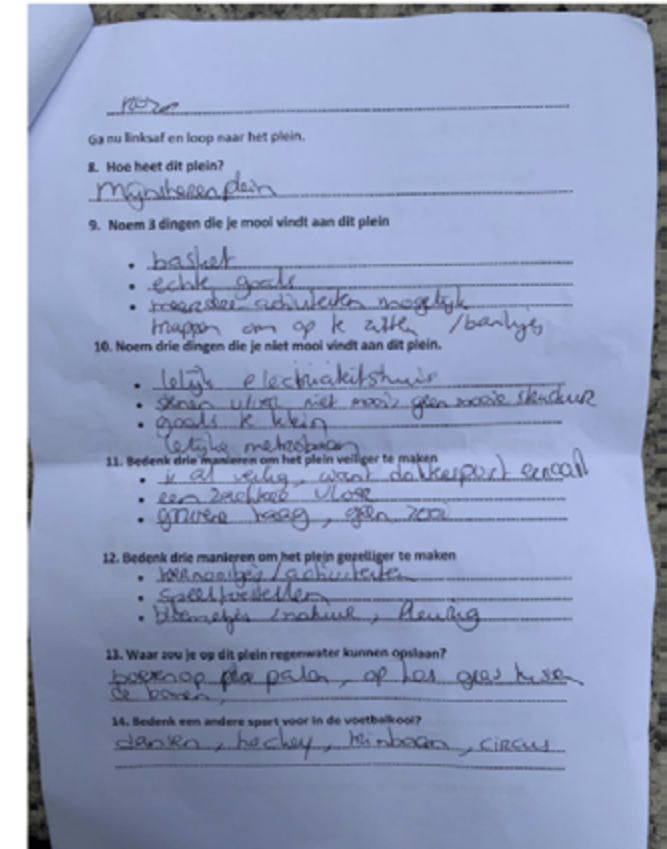
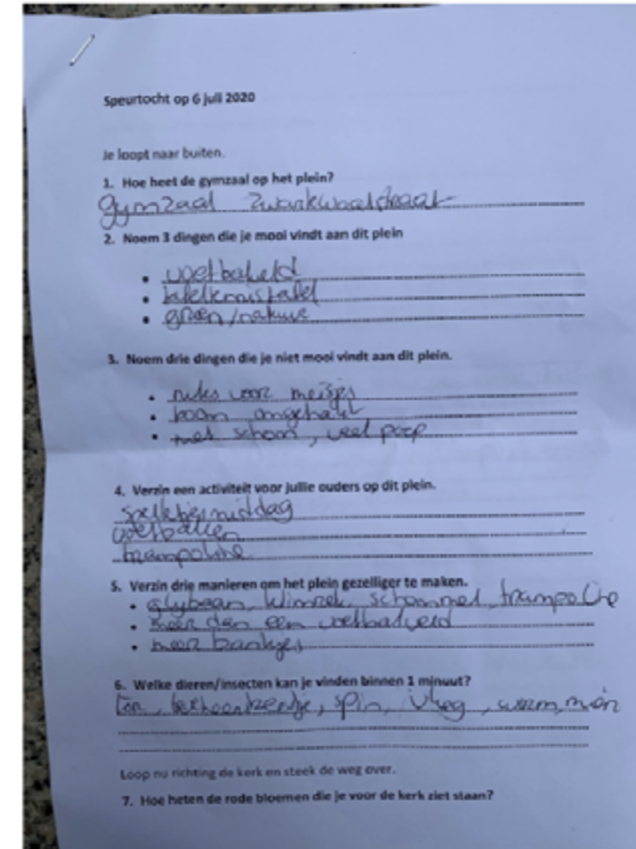
man, marktkraans 40/50 jaar  
meer speelplekken  
plekken om te spelen  
voor kinderen

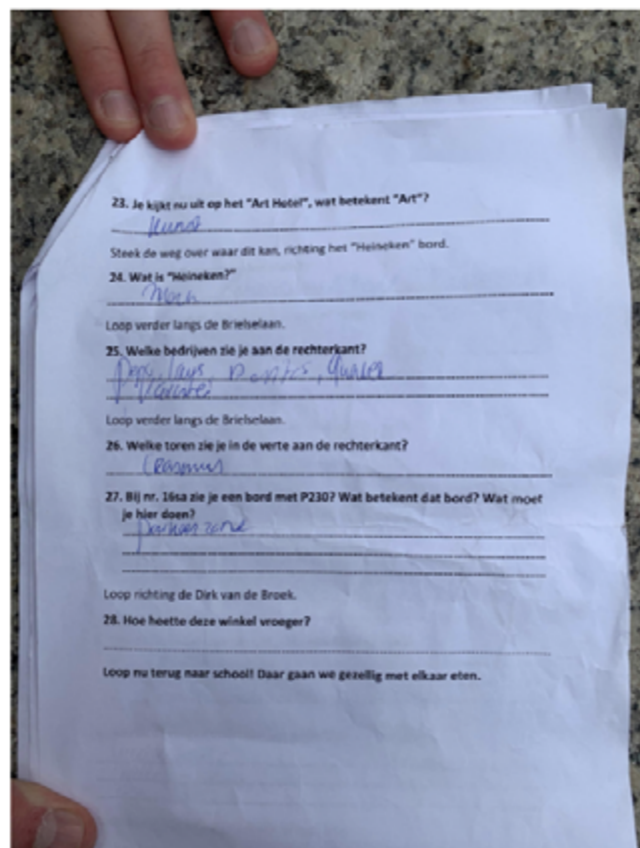
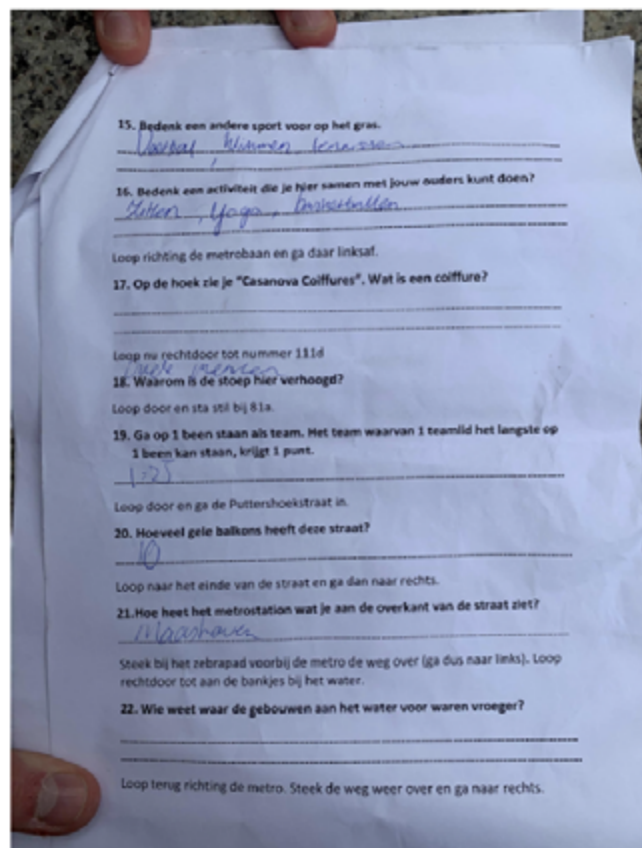
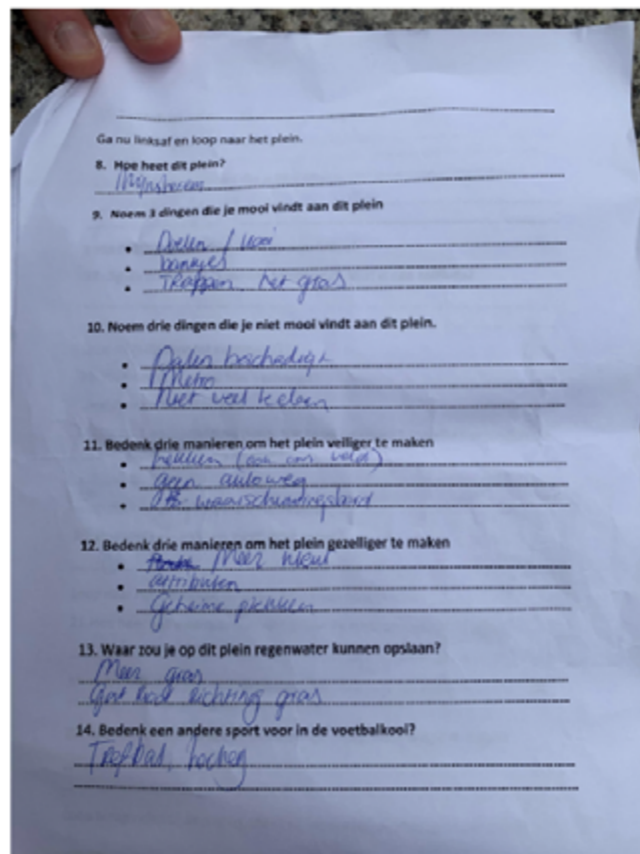
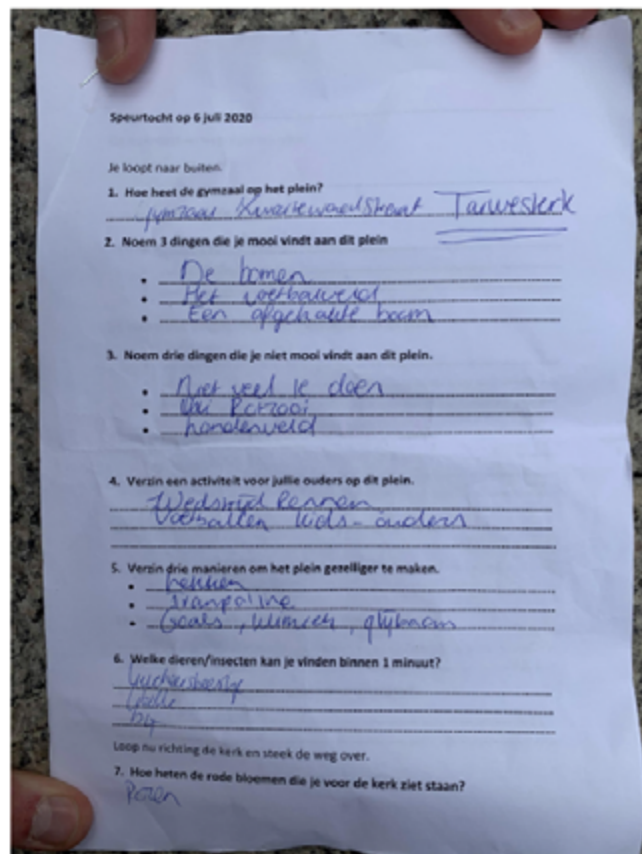
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voor kinderen met  
buitenlandse achtergrond  
spelen meer buiten



# School Homework





## Pleinbouwers game



# 1. INLEIDING

## Campus Tarwewijk

Op 10 juli is er in het kader van de ontwikkeling 'Campus Tarwewijk' door Veldacademie 2 workshops georganiseerd op basisschool OBS De Globe. Hierbij is samengewerkt met Milena Ivkovic van Blok74, studenten van de TU Delft en leerkrachten van OBS de Globe. De hoofddoelstelling van de workshop was om inzicht te krijgen in de kinderen hun huidige beleving en gebruik van het schoolplein en input te verzamelen voor de herontwikkeling. Tegelijkertijd met het ophalen van informatie is kinderen geleerd hoe ze naar hun omgeving kunnen kijken, samen kunnen werken en creatieve ideeën kunnen bedenken en onderbouwen. De resultaten van deze workshops worden samen met resultaten van andere evenementen vertaald naar het programma van wensen voor de locatie Zwartewaalstraat.

## Pleinbouwers spel

Speciaal voor deze interactieve workshop is het spel 'De Pleinbouwers' ontworpen. Dit bordspel biedt kinderen tussen de 8 en 12 jaar de kans om mee te denken over de mogelijke invulling en transformatie van hun schoolplein door hen in de huid te laten kruipen van stedenbouwkundige ontwerpers. Het spel is licht competitief en gestructureerd rondom een proces dat expressie van kinderen voedt, en daarmee feedback geeft aan ontwerpers over de belevingswereld van basisschool leerlingen.

Het spel bestaat uit een groot spelbord, dat de school, de schoolpleinen en een deel van de omgeving rondom de school toont. Voor de inrichting van het plein wordt gebruik gemaakt van een reeks bouwstenen.

De bouwstenen zijn kaartjes met pictogrammen van allerlei (fysieke) speelelementen, maar ook van de meer programmatische, sociale of educatieve functies op het plein, zoals een ontmoetingsplek, plek om muziek te maken, etc.

In teams van 3 à 4 leerlingen is er samengewerkt, waarbij elke leerling een eigen kleur kaartenset had. In de eerste ronde werden de leerlingen gevraagd individueel een aantal kaarten te selecteren en ze te plaatsen op het bord. Vervolgens werd er in de 2e ronde met het team samengewerkt aan een zogenaamde "geheime missie" met een bepaald thema. De thema's waren onder meer sociale inclusie en samenleving, groen en natuur, sport en beweging en cultuur.

**Educatietuin:**  
Maak een plek waar je kunt leren over het klimaat en de natuur.

.....  
voorbeeld "geheime missie"

Aan het eind van de 2e rondes presenteerden de teams hun ideeën voor het plein aan elkaar, de groepsleerkracht en de begeleiders van Veldacademie en Blok 74. Elk team kreeg een prijs uitgereikt. Zo was er een prijs voor het meest creatieve idee, het meest realistische/haalbare idee, het snelste team en het team met de beste samenwerking. Het spel eindigde met het uitdelen van het 'Pleinbouwers diploma'.



# 2. RESULTATEN SPEL

Per klas en per team zijn de resultaten van het spel weergegeven in een korte omschrijving, een foto van het spelbord en een optelling van de gebruikte iconen. De resultaten zijn samengevat tot een algemene conclusie per klas.

## Groep 5 - algemene conclusie

De kinderen van deze groep waren meestal gefocust op het vinden van de juiste plekken om te zitten, spelen (sporten) en samen te komen. In het bijzonder de mogelijkheid om een buurtbarbecue te organiseren op het sportplein werd genoemd. Sociale activiteiten zoals samen dansen, kletsen of muziek maken zijn vaak voorgesteld.

## Groep 7 - algemene conclusie

Het spelen van het spel heeft veel levendige discussies opgeleverd. Een van de meest opvallende discussiepunten was "hoe ontwerpen we voor meisjes, en hoe voor jongens?" en "wat hebben ze in het bijzonder nodig en in welke mate verschill hun gebruik van de openbare ruimte?".

In het algemeen zijn de plekken voor creatieve expressie (zoals muziek maken of luisteren, dansen) evenzeer voorgesteld als de plekken voor sporten en spelen. Aan meerdere tafels werden een waterfontein, een bijentuin of een siertuin genoemd, wat wijst op de behoefte aan een meer divers, praktisch en inspirerend schoolplein.

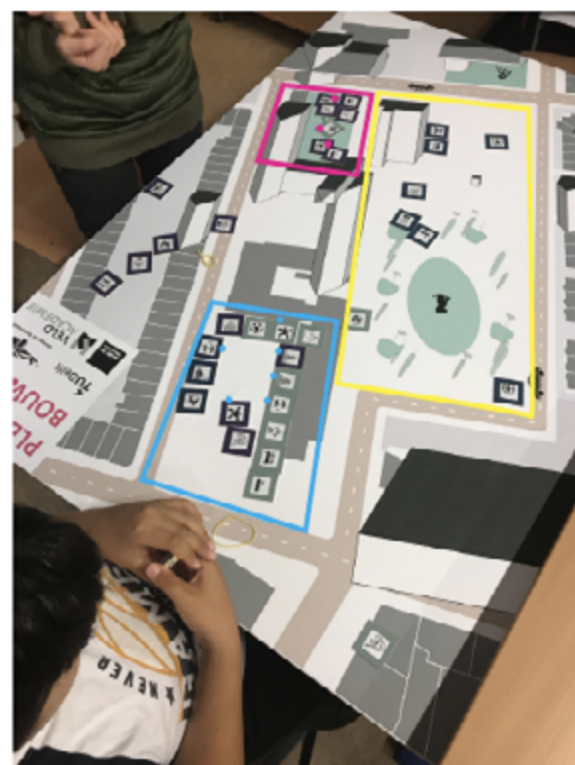




### Groep 5 - Team 1

De groep heeft drie afzonderlijke onderdelen van het plein voor spelen en sporten afgebakend. De meest gebruikte bouwstenen waren plekken met speeltoestellen en plekken voor fitness. Volgens de groep biedt het plein in de huidige situatie niet genoeg ruimte voor rustig zitten en praten, maar ook niet genoeg ruimte voor actief gebruik. Het liefst zouden zij speeltoestellen zien, zoals een trampoline.

	Muziek plek 1		Bloementuin 1
	Moestuin 2		Dieren/insecten 2
	Educatieve plek 1		Sport plek 3*
	Bankje 3*		Buiten gym 3*
	Speel plek 3*		Schilder plek 2
	BBQ/buitenkeuken 1		Fontein 2
	Dans plek 2		Praten/gesprekken 1
	Gras 3*		



### Groep 5 - Team 2

De groep heeft een drietal kleinere plaatsen aangegeven binnen het brede schoolplein kader. Het meest gewenste programma voor deze plaatsen was gefocust op sociale interactie en rust. De groep heeft duidelijk geuit dat de honden uitlaatplaats geen geschikte functie is voor op het schoolplein: het is een plek waar ze niet graag naartoe gaan, of gebruiken, "omdat het meestal vies is". De honden uitlaatplaats is met de bouwstenen omgetoerd tot een plek om van groen te genieten en te spelen.

	Muziek plek 1		Bloementuin 0
	Moestuin 0		Dieren/insecten 0
	Educatieve plek 0		Sport plek 0
	Bankje 4*		Buiten gym 3*
	Speel plek 2		Schilder plek 1
	BBQ/buitenkeuken 1		Fontein 3*
	Dans plek 1		Praten/gesprekken 3*
	Gras 1		



### Groep 5 - Team 3

Deze groep heeft een brede mix van allerlei programma voorgesteld voor op het grootste deel van het schoolplein. De meest gebruikte pictogrammen waren plekken voor sociale interactie: waar kinderen (en volwassenen) bij elkaar kunnen komen voor een gesprek, samen eten en genieten van het groen.

 Muziek plek 1	 Bloementuin 2
 Moestuin 2	 Dieren/insecten 1
 Educatieve plek 0	 Sport plek 2
 Bankje 3*	 Buiten gym 2
 Speel plek 1	 Schilder plek 2
 BBQ/buitenkeuken 3*	 Fontein 2
 Dans plek 3*	 Praten/gesprekken 1
 Gras 3*	



### Groep 5 - Team 4

De groep aan deze tafel heeft duidelijk benadrukt dat er geen goede plek is op het plein om te sporten. Het huidige sportplein (met rubberen tegels) biedt niet voldoende ruimte voor grotere groepen om te spelen. De groep heeft sport en sporttoestellen centraal gezet als middel om de sociale interactie te vergroten.

 Muziek plek 1	 Bloementuin 1
 Moestuin 1	 Dieren/insecten 0
 Educatieve plek 0	 Sport plek 3*
 Bankje 2	 Buiten gym 2
 Speel plek 2	 Schilder plek 1
 BBQ/buitenkeuken 2	 Fontein 2
 Dans plek 1	 Praten/gesprekken 1
 Gras 0	





### Groep 7 - Team 1

Deze groep heeft bijna alle beschikbare bouwelementen gebruikt, verspreid over twee gebieden. In het bijzonder was het programma geconcentreerd op het binnenplein van de school zelf. Het gezamenlijke voorstel combineert samenkomen om muziek te maken met het sporten in een groene omgeving.



### Groep 7 - Team 2

Deze groep heeft de hele beschikbare ruimte van het plein en het park gebruikt voor meer groene plekken en sporttoestellen. De groep heeft grote aandacht geschonken aan het transformeren van de honden uitlaatplaats. Vaak wordt er genoemd dat die plek "mooi" is, maar "er is daar weinig te doen en het meestal vies is". De groep zocht naar de verbindingen tussen de functies in de huidige gebouwen (zoals de gymzaal) en hoe ze te combineren met functies in de openbare ruimte.





### Groep 7 - Team 3

Deze groep heeft het plein ingedeeld in duidelijke, afgebakende micro-gebieden, met elk een eigen sfeer en functie: van puur "sporten" tot puur "natuur kweken". Ook heeft deze groep speciale aandacht gegeven aan het herinrichten van de honden uitlaatplaats.

	Muziek plek 1		Bloementuin 4*
	Mooistuin 1		Dieren/insecten 4*
	Educatieve plek 0		Sport plek 4*
	Bankje 4*		Buiten gym 0
	Speel plek 3*		Schilder plek 4*
	BBQ/buitenkeuken 1		Fontein 3*
	Dans plek 2		Praten/gesprekken 1
	Gras 3*		



### Groep 7 - Team 4

Deze groep heeft relatief weinig aangeboden bouwelementen gebruikt, en focusten in plaats daarvan meer op het toevoegen van eigen bouwelementen en ideeën. Dit resulteerde in simpele oplossingen voor sporten en groen, en een duidelijke wens naar meer voorzieningen in hun wijk, zoals een bioscoop, een zwembad en sporttoestellen.

	Muziek plek 1		Bloementuin 1
	Mooistuin 1		Dieren/insecten 1
	Educatieve plek 1		Sport plek 3*
	Bankje 2		Buiten gym 1
	Speel plek 2		Schilder plek 2
	BBQ/buitenkeuken 0		Fontein 2
	Dans plek 1		Praten/gesprekken 1
	Gras 3*		





