



**Building accessible, inclusive,  
sustainable and safe public open spaces**

- Challenges
- Dialogue
- Research on global practices
- Interagency coordination
- Pilot site
- Reaching out to the youth
- JCPZ activities
- Parks Management
- Parks maintenance and safety

# Content page

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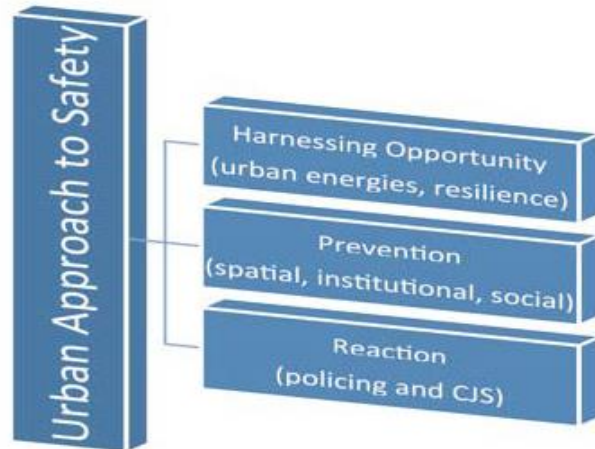
Displaced people are the main challenge in public open spaces

# Challenges

## relating to safety in POS

## Safety is multidimensional which needs an integrated approach not just **POLICING**

Urban Approach to Safety, a new method that combines three different levels of intervention to achieve safe urban spaces: 1) control and reaction; 2) prevention; and 3) harnessing opportunities and building on strengths.



# Public dialogue on urban safety

Prepared by JCPZ and Mundus Urbano Programme of Darmstadt TU in Germany, the research collects safer public space interventions which have improved the safety conditions in cities worldwide

SAFER PUBLIC SPACE - Better practices



**International better  
practices in safer  
public spaces**

# Research on global Successful interventions



# Collection of safer public space interventions which have improved the safety conditions in cities worldwide

## International better practices

### SAFER → PUBLIC SPACE



#### Introduction Towards safer urban public spaces

**Worldwide better practices**

Safety has become a challenge issue in growing cities worldwide in the context of a safe public space has been acknowledged. The lack of appropriate public space is leading to insecurity and fear for other cities in the world.

The role of open public space is recognized for allowing some problems of urban safety in open public space and urban safety issues as well as the effects of the lack of suitable open public space in its relationship to insecurity. The main objective is to improve the quality and safety of open public space can help create urban safety. The case studies that were chosen to illustrate these arguments are from various parts of the world.

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## Projects

**PROJECT** 3  
**DATE** 2010  
**LOCATION** Aguascalientes, Mexico

**ACTORS** Public-private partnership and the nation

**DIAGNOSIS** The lack of appropriate public space during the last decades has led to the creation of various problems of exclusion, marginalization, overcrowding, violence and insecurity.

**RESOURCES** Local government and national federal agencies for it: IMSSD

**BENEFIT** Urban intervention open public space.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**  
**Open Public space**  
**Green Line Aguascalientes**

It was through the creation of public space in a particular socioeconomically segregated neighborhood that the urban conditions were changed. Public space in this case study was identified by the local authorities as well as by the local authorities and the city government to support it. Through the participation of local and urban authorities the program "Seguridad Ciudadana" identified the situation of high poverty and crime rate, of which we are in the area of the city where the Green Line was created.

Line was created over an old pipeline installation area.

Public space was then created with community participation towards common purposes of improving the living conditions of these poor neighborhoods located in the eastern area of the city of Aguascalientes. The key to the success of the Green Line is based in strong leadership and shared responsibility between government and society. Interventions such as this are considered essential for the community and the local government if they are done properly and with cooperation from the community itself.



Green Line creation. Photo by prensa de Aguascalientes.

**SAFETY CHALLENGES**

Drug  
Crime  
Inequality

**SAFETY BENEFITS**

In short terms, it has resulted in an immediate decrease of 30% in crime in the western neighborhood of the Green Line. Along with this, the successful case of how public space has contributed to the improvement of the conditions of the neighborhood and its relation to the city there have been improvements in all the surrounding areas. The project enhanced the quality of community life of over 300,000

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## Tools

**2 Social tools**

**Inclusive public spaces**  
**Medellin City Strategy: social urbanism**

Medellin, Colombia is a city located in South America in which the informal and formal areas were physically and socioeconomically separated. The city has been undergoing a process in which the most crime and gang activity was located. From 2003, although safety has drastically improved in Colombia during the past 10 years, violence, insecurity, poverty and social exclusion as well as social conflicts were identified by the local government. The lack of public space was evident and added to deteriorating conditions.

The project framework is a public policy for social urbanism, a social urbanism that recognizes the role of urban development and the public space in the city. The project was developed under the concept of the 100,000 Urban Project. This policy gives priority to the most vulnerable communities in order to provide better living conditions. An emergency project is the essential, which is a better practice in connection with the city's appropriate design and public space policies.

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## Recommendations

### Conclusions Safer public spaces

Safer in public space is the level of the street and the neighborhood is not but in a culture and the government of such as the people and their relationships.

Safety in cities means to live without the fear of crime and in order to achieve it, prevention of crime and violence is important.

- Urban safety in public space needs to be accompanied by growing participation and then the relevant financial resources to enable local government to play a more proactive role in crime and violence prevention. This means that the integration of safety should be done with public participation in order to be successful. In this context, the urban approach is key.
- Acknowledge urban and community safety as a basic need and as a public good that is a social responsibility of the urban authorities.
- Regulate urban development based on sustainable development, access, integration and equity including all citizens.
- Promote a focus on the most vulnerable groups such as women, youth and the poor. Co-production and developmental partnership with communities.
- Integrate public space and safe transport corridors as public safety goals for the strategy.
- Promote of public participation through the strengthening community-based initiatives such as public development and organization.
- Empowering local government as the main actor in local crime and violence prevention and operationalization of intergovernmental commitment and financial means on urban safety.
- Strengthening intergovernmental commitment to bridge transport service delivery gaps and efficient local government capacities in crime prevention and urban regeneration - CEOs, local CEOs, local CEOs of Organization and prevention bodies.



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PROJECT

1

DATE

LOCATION

**Weserstieg** Urban intervention to activate the streetscape in front of a homeless shelter

2004

**Frankfurt, Germany**



Example of how small budget and scale can make a big impact on the security of open public spaces.

PROJECT

2

DATE

LOCATION

**Rambla del Raval** Urban intervention to improve a dangerous neighborhood in the center of Barcelona

2000

**Barcelona, Spain**



The Raval became a safer neighborhood overall after the creation of the Rambla, which is an open public space.

PROJECT

3

DATE

LOCATION

**Greenline Aguascalientes** Community engagement, park governance and public space policy.

2010

**Aguascalientes, Mexico**



The existent conditions in a socioeconomically segregated neighbourhood where alleviated through the creation of public space.

PROJECT

4

**Centquatre**  
An artistic establishment  
in the city of Paris

DATE

2008

LOCATION

**Paris, France**



The area is considered a safer area because of the continuous events and socio-cultural activities that are gathered in the building which keep the area busy.

PROJECT

5

**Görlitzer park** Urban  
intervention to improve a  
dangerous neighborhood  
in the center of Berlin

DATE

1996

LOCATION

**Berlin, Germany**



The Görlitzer park gathers a very diverse group of users. The park also has a collective ownership which provides natural surveillance.

PROJECT

6

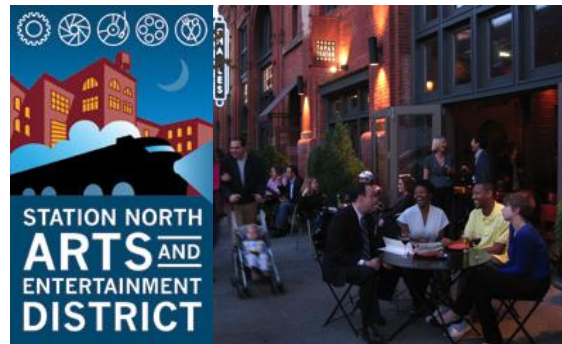
**Station North** Arts and  
entertainment district

DATE

2002

LOCATION

**Baltimore, USA**



One of the goals for the neighborhood revitalization of the area included public safety though socio-cultural activities and spaces.



PROJECT

7

**High Line** A linear park for the community of NYC

DATE

2006

LOCATION

**New York, USA**



Crime has reduced significantly all along the park and around the neighbourhood and high levels of community engagement and participation where created.

PROJECT

8

**Corridors of freedom**  
Transport oriented development

DATE

Strategy for 2040

LOCATION

**Johannesburg South Africa**



Safer neighbourhoods and street and the promotion of social cohesion and vibrant urban environment.

PROJECT

9

**Parque tercer milenio**  
Connectivity, design, maintenance and public space policy.

DATE

2002

LOCATION

**Bogota, Colombia**



The unsafe area of El Cartucho was selected to be regenerated through a large public park in order to increase the lifestyle of the neighborhood.

Some success factors for safer public open spaces that have been gathered through the research and better practices have been:

- **Connectivity (park as a system, corridors of Freedom, NMT, green belts)**
- **Appropriate design (incorporate citizens views)**
- **Governance and community engagement**
- **Spatial programming as part of the design**

# **Towards safer public space strategy**

## **Four success factors**



- Ensuring interdisciplinary approach to building accessible, inclusive, sustainable and safe public open spaces.



## Interagency coordination



# Pilot site in the Inner City (End Street North)

- An unsafe park due for **upgrade** wherein COJ departments & entities demonstrate
  - **Collaboration**;
  - Connectivity
  - Citizen **participation in design**,
  - Park activations,
  - Parks management (**partnerships with communities**).

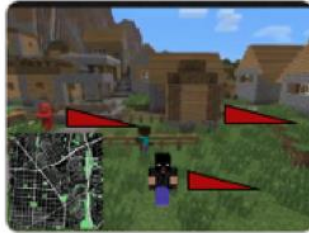




## Storyboard



Location and virtual recreation of the selected parks in Johannesburg and their surrounding areas.



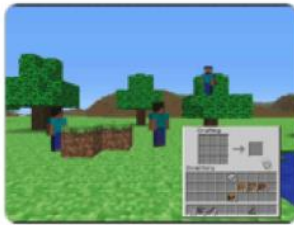
Mapping of safety challenges and opportunities (trash, lack of illumination etc) by the users.



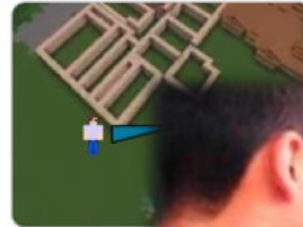
Introduction of characters that recreate park users and that intervene in urban safety (criminals, homeless, drug-dealers, users, police..)



Play strategic game: finding activities/scenarios for all users to share space and promote safer public space.



Allow users to propose virtual design solution using the Minecraft game for participatory design process.



Recognition of spaces successfully improved

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# Deepening youth involvement through gaming in JHB inner city (UN-Habitat Minecraft project)



**School gardens**



**The role of parks in enhancing sustainability of the city**



**“Zoo to you” initiative**



**River clean ups**

**Environmental education(stewardship of POS)**

**Outreach campaigns**

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**Partnership with community gym instructors**



**GI2 support will bring sports in our parks**



**Nature reserves trail running**



**Park runs**

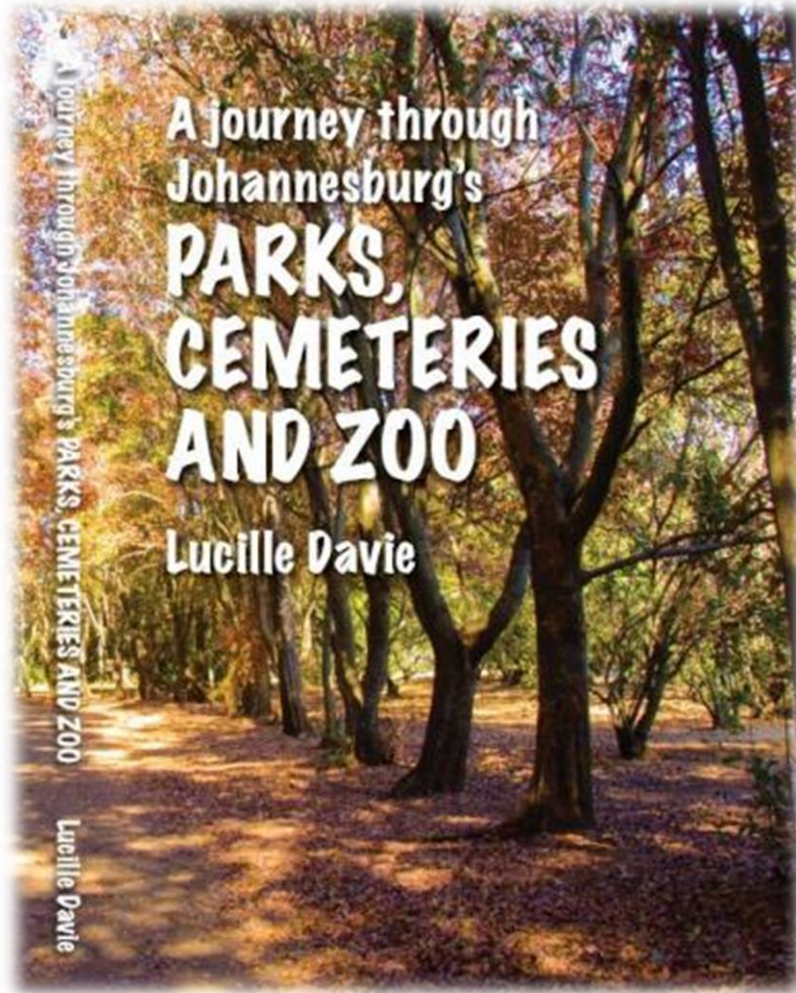


**Working with civil society organisations**

**Activating the spaces: (Theme: Promoting Healthy living)**  
**Partnerships with private sector and communities**

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- The book is the colourful story of the events and the people behind some of Johannesburg's best-loved green spaces.

**A history and heritage of Joburg public spaces**  
Promoting park stewardship

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## Public Dialogues

Government, Private sector, Civil society orgs, Academia

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**Study on parks management models, use and safety for POS**

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**Jozi@Work, EPWP**  
**Park maintenance and safety**



# Thank you

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