

Title of Intervention and Website: Redesigning a neighborhood to encourage physical activity

Intervention Strategies: Environments and Policies

Purpose of the Intervention: To evaluate the impact of street redesign on the behavior of non-motorized users.

Population: Residents in an urban/suburban neighborhood in Germany

Setting: Two centrally-located streets in Hannover, Germany; community-based

Partners: None mentioned

Intervention Description:

- Environments and Policies: A traffic management scheme was implemented with a system of one-way streets and traffic control barriers (e.g. raised intersections) to prevent trucks and automobiles from taking shortcuts through the area on the way to the city center. As a result, most traffic in the neighborhoods became local and speeds were reduced. Whenever feasible, old housing was renovated and new buildings were made to conform in scale and material. Redesigned block interiors, created/renovated playgrounds, formed new squares, redesigned streets (brick paving of streets, limited parking, pedestrian-scale lighting, rows of trees, grouping of parking spaces, bend in traffic lane).

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: staff to survey neighborhoods, construction and remodeling crews, street design specialists
- Training: training in urban street design
- Technology: extensive surveying and construction equipment
- Space: not mentioned
- Budget: not mentioned
- Intervention: engineering & construction resources needed to renovate streets and buildings and build new structures
- Evaluation: camera and audit form

Evaluation:

- Design: not mentioned
- Methods and Measures: Researchers studied street use before and after intervention and documented hours of use and types of street use (432 observation hours). Children, older adults, teenagers and adults were observed separately.

Outcomes:

- Short term Impact: There was an increase in children's play and active recreation. Older adults seemed to be socializing outdoors more than indoors after the intervention.
- Long Term Impact: not mentioned

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: Street design must be rated positively for the benefits that they yield to children's environments. Children are dependent on their immediate residential surroundings and therefore are disadvantaged by the modern, car-dominated, urban environment. Street redesign is critical for this age group.

Citation(s):

Eubank-Ahrens, B. (1991). "A closer look at the users of Woonerven." Public Streets for Public Use: 63-79.