

**Time frame**

Spring 2014 – August 2015

Stakeholders

Political legislative
 Political executive
 Extra-curricular education
 Prevention and health promotion
 Civil society
 Government builders
 Landscape architects

Typologies (space types)

Outside space

**Design quality criteria**

Accessibility
 Designability
 Opportunities to interact

**Structure-related quality criteria**

Designing the provisions/
 living spaces
 Collaboration
 Coordination
 Efficacy review
 Participation and identification

The starting point

In February 2014, Kriens voters said yes to the “Kriens future – life in the centre” umbrella project in a referendum. This project was set to renovate the centre of Kriens. A large leisure park of more than 9,000 sqm was to be built on the Langmattwiese meadow towards Obernau for this purpose. A participative process with the population was planned in order to design it in a needs-based way.

A project group took on the planning in spring 2014 and submitted an implementation with participation concept to the city council (executive).

Aims

To design a leisure park with public participation.

Target group

- Children and young people
- Parents
- Veloclub Kriens / Freeride Connection
- Quartierverein Obernau [Neighbourhood Association]
- Jugendanimation youth agency

Costs

The construction costs of 650,000 Swiss francs were able to be increased after successfully gaining supporting donations of around 220,000 Swiss francs from various organisations and companies for additional projects on the pump track and water play area.

Project progression

In July 2014, the city council (executive) approved a participative process with interest groups for the Langmatt construction project. The Kriens Jugendanimation youth agency was involved as a specialist in participation.

In planning terms, the leisure facility was divided into different sub-areas: climbing area, mud area, bike course and general infrastructure.

In autumn 2014, there was an information event for residents. The further planning and implementation was done jointly with the sub-areas' target groups.

The planning of the bike course took place with the Veloclub Kriens bike club and Freeride Connection. The general infrastructure and usage rules were planned with the neighbourhood association and the football club was consulted on the grass field.

There was an information event with parents for the climbing area and playground, followed by a planning day with children. The children reviewed the three suggested playground models, which gave rise to a new model that was then submitted to a landscape architect for further planning.

The mud area was created in summer 2015 during two family building days at the leisure facility. There have been some additions to the facility since the official opening in August 2015: slacklines at the behest of young people, a bowling green at the behest of seniors. In addition, an annual maintenance day with subsequent play festival is held with the neighbourhood residents.

Success factors

- Enshrining children's and young people's participation, which is mandatory for all partners through a city council resolution. The openness and willingness of the architects, project manager and building companies to get involved with the participation. This will be included in contracts.
- A child-friendly, short time period of just five months between planning and implementation.
- Not everyone has to have an opinion on everything: talking to bike clubs about the bike park, footballers about the football field, parents about safety needs. This turns many good components into a brilliant overall facility.
- Meeting with a delegation from the Obernau neighbourhood association 2 or 3 times a year in order to discuss the situation and suggestions for the facility.

Challenges

Participation needs time. There was mostly too little time planned for participation in the project schedules.

Conclusion

The Langmatt leisure facility is embedded at the political level and enjoys great public support. In 2017, the Radix health charity designated Kriens as a "healthy community", not least due to the leisure facility designed to promote exercise. In 2019, Kriens received the Inspire Award at the Child Friendly Cities Summit in Cologne in the category of family life, play and leisure.

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Information

Healthy community award:
<https://www.radix.ch/de/gesundegemeinden/angebote/preis-gesundegemeinde-gesunde-stadt/preis-2017/>

Zeitschrift Wohnen report:

<http://www.zeitschrift-wohnen.ch/heft/beitrag/aussenraum/mehr-dreck.html>

