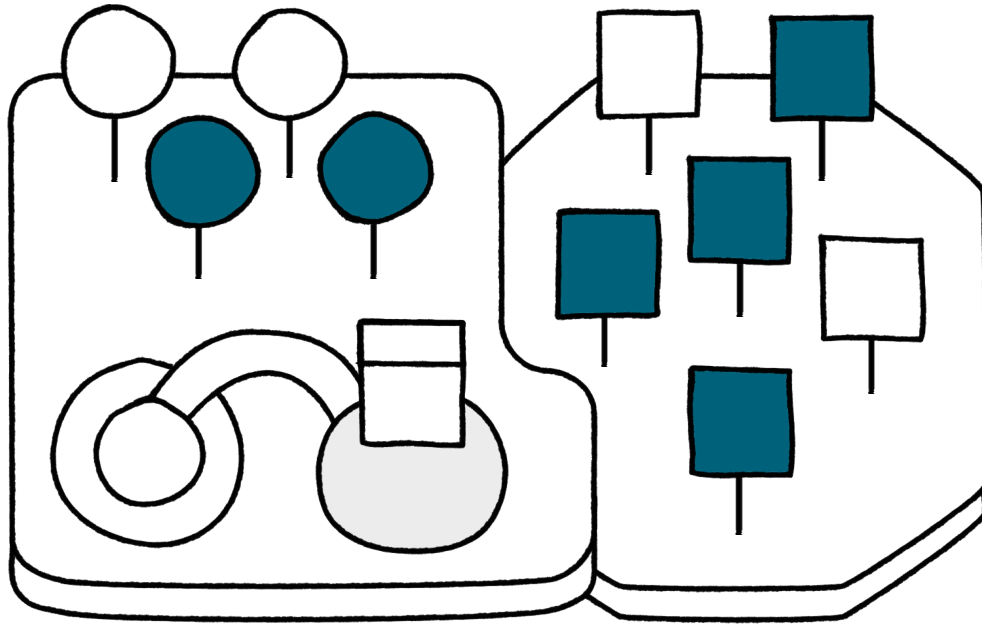


Rüchlig area intermediary usage

**Time frame**

May 2010 – August 2014

Stakeholders

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

Typologies (space types)

Outside space

**Design quality criteria**

Designability
Opportunities to interact

**Structure-related quality criteria**

Designing the provisions/
living spaces
Collaboration
Coordination
Participation and identification

The starting point

The Niederholz district in Riehen South has few public green spaces. In winter 2009/2010, the houses on the Rüchlig site, previously used as emergency housing, were demolished to make way for the planned construction of the Humanitas retirement and care home. The community took the opportunity to make the site available to the public for a period of two to three years as a temporary play and recreation space. Building work for the retirement home was postponed, so this period ended up being five years.

On the part of the municipality, the initiative for the intermediate usage was taken by the Department for Culture, Leisure and Sport (KFS) and the mobile youth work office. Local residents also expressed a desire to use the site. This gave rise to the initial ideas. The Jugend specialist group – the coordination committee for all youth workers in Riehen – contributed a position. In parallel, legal questions about liability and safety were clarified and deliberations made on management and potential guided play on the site.

Aims

Making the Rüchlig site available to the public for a period of two years as a temporary play and recreation space. This intermediate usage also served two further aims: the municipality gained findings about the future development of the neighbourhood and a potentially problematic occupancy was avoided, which could have become difficult for the immediate neighbourhood, especially the Landauer recreation centre.

Target group

- Children and young people from the neighbourhood
- Associations and private parties wanting to get involved

Costs

The Department for Culture, Leisure and Sport took over the management and funding of the entire intermediate usage. This, of course, included some material costs, such as for the mountain bike pump track or seating, also the costs for the minimal grounds maintenance and management, which was mainly provided by the mobile youth work office and the Landauer recreation centre.

Project progression

Riehen municipality sought a dialogue with Immobilien Basel, the cantonal specialist office for property management and the site owner, and was able to negotiate an intermediate usage agreement despite initial scepticism. The local council (executive) approved the intermediate usage and the required means in May 2010. The municipality mainly saw its role as an “enabler” and counted on the initiative and participation of the future users.

The intermediate usage was launched with some PR and a few guided play afternoons. The other provisions came about on private initiative, some also thanks to the municipality’s networking.

The following provisions were also realised alongside the opening of the space itself:

- Using the last building for graffiti; initiated by young people, supervised by the mobile youth work office
- Pump track; planned and implemented by the community’s bike enthusiasts, communal sports promotion, Pfadfinder Riehen and external specialists
- Trial obstacle course; initiated and implemented by athletes
- Football goals; initiated and implemented by communal sports promotion
- Weather-proof seating for young people; initiated and implemented with young people, supervised by the mobile youth work office
- Young Stage, an annual theatre event for young talent; initiated by youth workers, implemented jointly with young people
- Annual summer night festival of the neighbourhood association

Success factors

- The courage to try something new and to stop the projects again if needed
- No obligation for provisions: something can be created, but doesn’t have to be
- Sufficient time to let provisions develop
- Positive neighbourhood attitude including the neighbourhood association
- Frequent supervision or contact people at the site and communication with the municipality
- Inclusion of the youth work agency and police
- The Landauer recreation centre and adventure playground campaigns initially led to four guided play afternoons for families and children in order to introduce the site
- Key stakeholders: municipality, youth work agency, plot owner, recreation centre, public, children and young people, athletes, sports promotion

Challenges

- Some initial ideas were not implemented: giant sand heap, construction site playground, nature garden/allotments.
- Individual areas could have been better guided/supervised on such a large area.
- If it had been known from the outset that the intermediate usage would have been possible for five years, other plans/investments could have been made.

Conclusion

The Rüchlig site was enthusiastically visited and used. It was especially popular among young people and demonstrated the importance of free and experimental spaces like this. Young people showed plenty of initiative and got involved where necessary by supporting the mobile youth work office in their projects, such as a shelter or graffiti activities.

The proximity to the Landauer recreation centre offered the advantage that support could be found there in one or two cases. The most important thing was that children and young people had a place that was free from rules and pre-made conditions.

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