

Parks that are lived in and parks that are avoided: Habitability and quality of public space in Bellavista Callao

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INTRODUCTION & AIM

Parks play an important role in urban life; however, some public spaces are frequently used while others are avoided. This research analyzes how habitability and spatial quality influence the use of four parks located in the Jardines de Virú neighborhood, Bellavista – Callao.



The objective of this research is to identify which of the studied parks presents the best conditions of habitability and spatial quality through the analysis of user behavior and urban conditions.

METHOD

STEP 1: PUBLIC LIFE OBSERVATION

The number of people using each park was recorded according to age groups and gender in order to identify attendance levels and user diversity.

STEP 2: PATH MAPPING

The routes taken by users were analyzed to identify circulation patterns and unplanned paths within the parks.

STEP 3: ACTIVITY MAPPING

The activities carried out and the areas where users remained were identified to understand how people use public space.

Activities considered:

Standing (X), sitting on secondary seating (Xs), sitting on a bench (Xo), children playing (o), lying down (+), dog walking (l)

STEP 4: SPATIAL EVALUATION

Conditions of protection, comfort, and urban enjoyment proposed by Jan Gehl were assessed to determine the spatial quality of each park.



User protection



Urban enjoyment

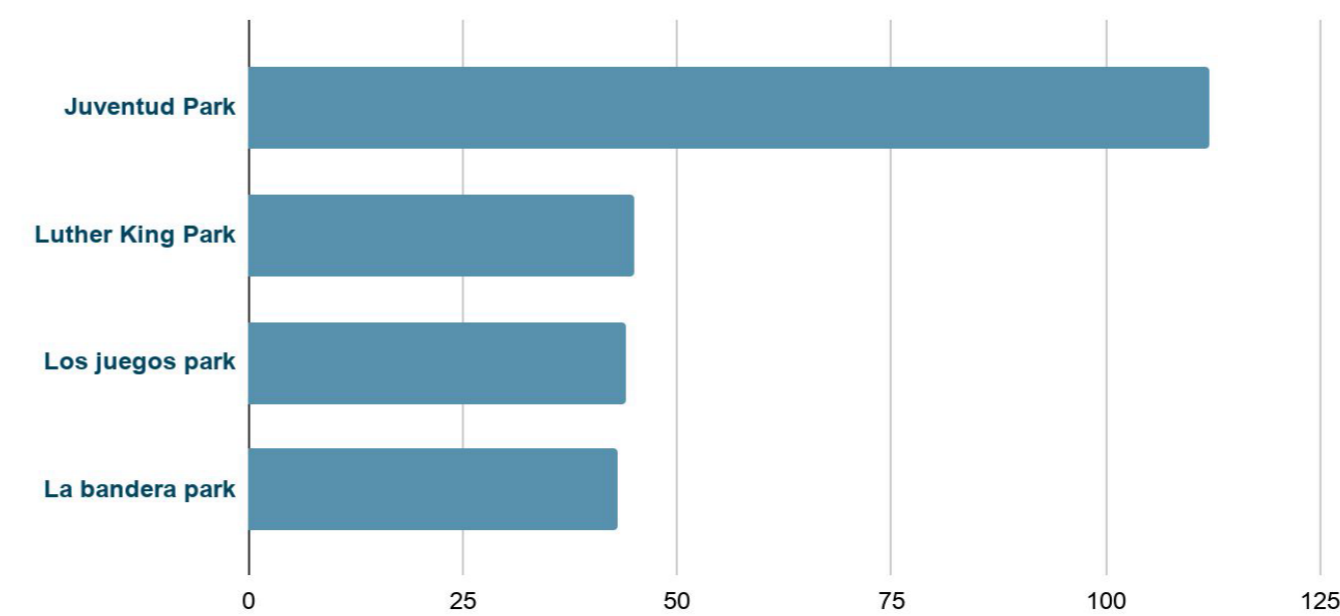


Comfort

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

RESULT 1: USER ATTENDANCE

USER ATTENDANCE PER HOUR



Juventud park recorded the highest attendance, with 112 users and greater age diversity. The other parks showed lower levels of use and user permanence.

RESULT 2: PATH MAPPING



Juventud park La bandera park Luther king park Los juegos park

Unplanned routes were identified across green areas and spaces not designed for circulation, revealing differences between the original design and the actual behavior of users.

RESULT 3: ACTIVITY MAPPING



Juventud park La bandera park Luther king park Los juegos park

Juventud park showed a greater diversity of activities and longer user permanence. In the other parks, quick transit and dog walking were the predominant activities.

RESULT 4: SPATIAL QUALITY

Park	Quality
Juventud	2.66
Juegos	1.83
Luther King	1.75
Bandera	1.66

The results show significant differences in habitability and urban quality. Parque Juventud obtained the highest evaluation average (2.66), while Parque de la Bandera presented the lowest score (1.66).

CONCLUSION

The study showed that spatial quality and habitability directly influence the use of parks. Juventud Park presented higher user attendance, greater diversity of activities, and better urban conditions compared to the other analyzed spaces. Factors such as urban furniture, circulation paths, and active edges encourage permanence and social interaction. The research demonstrates the importance of designing public spaces while considering the real behavior of users.

FUTURE WORK / REFERENCES

Jan Gehl (2014). *Cities for people*.

MINVU (2017). *La dimensión humana en el espacio público*.