

Fribourg, Switzerland

Customer Success Story

Autodesk Infrastructure Solutions

Autodesk® Map 3D®

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Using Autodesk's geospatial technology, park workers track and take care of a city's trees, plants, playgrounds, and field equipment. For each item in the database, city workers can record its age, location, the last time it was serviced, and any other desired attribute. Whether it's time to trim the trees or re-seed the grass, all the information city employees need is at their fingertips.

Working Hard to Make Playing Easy

Autodesk's geospatial software helps Fribourg, Switzerland, keep its parks and green areas clean and safe

In New York, it's Central Park. Near Sydney, Centennial Park. In Mexico City, Plaza Hidalgo. Great cities offer world-class parks where residents and visitors reconnect with nature, play games, picnic, race around, or read the newspaper. Recreation areas in smaller cities may be less famous, but no less beloved, than their big-name counterparts. What makes parks so special?

For kids, the local playground is a safe place to play and socialize. Adults like to get their exercise and spend time with friends, either on tennis courts or playing fields. Dog-walkers, joggers, and runners start their days on well-groomed paths all year long, rain or shine.

For the average citizen, parks are places to have fun. Yet even as they look beautiful and offer us a place to relax, parks are working diligently on our behalf. Trees and plants perform vital environmental

functions above and below ground: their leaves clean the air, store CO₂, and shelter birds and squirrels; blossoms attract pollinating bees and butterflies; and root systems absorb excess rainwater, keeping it out of overtaxed city stormwater systems. Even after they die, leaves and flowers are useful, decomposing into food for worms, bugs, and other small creatures.

Non-living park amenities pay their way, too, since playgrounds give children the chance to develop strength, balance, and social skills. Basketball courts and football fields help weekend warriors burn off calories and stress, which keeps the populace healthy. And communities are healthier when there's an accessible and appealing place to gather for picnics, music, and art fairs.

Our local recreation and park departments work hard to keep urban oases clean, safe, and looking good. Organizational

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The city will soon add the detailed park data to the city's website, where aerial maps already offer rich information about city streets, attractions, tax districts and the like. Giving residents more insight into how their local parks are managed may increase their awareness about the challenges of keeping parklands well-maintained and maybe even remind them of the many benefits provided by their favorite green spaces.

and planning skills are needed along with physical labor, but at last technology is lending a hand. Nearly a dozen Swiss and German cities now use custom software and services from Autodesk Consulting Services to help them manage their park assets. Called either Parcs et Promenades ("Parks and Walks") or Baum grün kataster ("Green Tree Register"), the software is used to help park workers track and take care of a city's trees, plants, playgrounds, and field equipment. For each item in the database, city workers can record its age, location, the last time it was serviced, and any other desired attribute. Whether it's time to trim the trees or re-seed the grass, all the information city employees need is at their fingertips.

Fribourg, Switzerland, is a bilingual university town of 36,000 situated on the Sarine River (known as the Saane in German). Almost a third of its area is covered by forests, parks, playgrounds, and lawns, and the city is responsible for maintaining 20 percent of those green areas. Using the Parcs application has simplified the daily work of the staff, according to Yvan Jelk, the program coordinator. The tool lets workers easily build and manage inventories, plan maintenance schedules, and check the impact of requested construction permits. Using the application has dramatically improved the speed and efficiency of the operation, Jelk says, by forcing the group to reorganize and improve their work processes.

The registry information can be used flexibly—plotted on a map (using Autodesk Map® 3D and Autodesk MapGuide® as a graphical front-end), exported to an Excel spreadsheet, or accessible through any web

browser. Jelk will soon add the detailed park data to the city's website, where aerial maps already offer rich information about city streets, attractions, tax districts and the like. Giving residents more insight into how their local parks are managed may increase their awareness about the challenges of keeping parklands well-maintained and maybe even remind them of the many benefits provided by their favorite green spaces.

But people in Fribourg and elsewhere in the world already know how they feel about their parks: they rely on these common areas to stay healthy, happy, and connected. And everybody knows that all work and no play makes Jacques (or Johann) a dull fellow indeed.