

**Accessibility and wayfinding of elderly people in urban parks: a case study in a zoobotanic park in the northeast of Brazil**

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The aging process tends to generate disability conditions intrinsic to an individual, however, environmental factors may have an influence in the way elderly individuals uses and orientates him/herself in the physical environment in direct and indirect ways. Concerning public areas, the urban parks are considered as potential spaces for elderly people's social participation and inclusion, and it is necessary to investigate how these spaces are planned for barrier-free adaptation, and how they demonstrate spatial orientation legibility for this target public. The study aimed to identify aspects that can influence spatial orientation (wayfinding) and the accessibility for elderly people in urban parks. This is a descriptive and exploratory study with the use of multi-method required in the built environment's post-settlement evaluation. The study was developed in a zoobotanic park in the city of João Pessoa - Brazil, between 2016-2017. The exploratory field observations, walkthrough, the behavior maps designing and also the interviews with the target public were used as research strategies. The results show built environment maintenance flaws, accessibility barriers (ramps/stairways in advanced stage of deterioration, absence of signing standards), lack of continuity in walkways, and the lack of staff training in order to provide adequate information. These factors were perceived as environmental difficulty generators that can affect the way the elderly people become spatially oriented, utilize, perceive and experience the urban parks. The use of the multi-method approach was effective to Occupational Therapy, since it expresses in the relationship person-environment the dynamic potential of occupation in urban living environments.