

**THE ROLE OF SMART CITY ELEMENTS IN PUBLIC OPEN SPACE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF GEN Z**

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**Abstract**

Generation Z is the group of people born between 1997 and 2012 [1] who are now young adults or are just entering adulthood. These individuals highly prioritize digital technologies of various kinds. They appreciate solutions that are fast, easy to use, convenient to use and, above all, useful [2]. In the public space, smart solutions that serve the general public, including the examined generation, can be specified. A geo-survey was conducted to show which solutions are perceived as most useful by this generation. In addition, this group of people's preference for smart solutions was shown: whether they prefer these or analog solutions more. As it turned out, today's young adults want smart solutions, regardless of whether they live in the city everyday or if they commute to University or to work every day.

**Introduction**

It is clear that people who are currently between the ages of 13 and 27 (Gen Z) are a group of people in the early stages of adulthood. This generation is particularly connected with technology in many aspects of life, which is due to fact that they were born at a time when electronic gadgets are already available early in people's lives [3]. Naturally, technology is also infiltrating public spaces, through which the idea of Smart City (SC) has been constructed. There is an ongoing discussion about what idea of developing cities should be followed in order for the process of sustainable development proces to last [4]. This study is intended to show whether young people desire SC elements in public spaces, which can support further creation of urban spaces.

**Methods and materials**

The study was performed on students who live, study or work in Olsztyn. A geo-questionnaire was conducted, in which respondents indicated the solutions they use most frequently and those they believe are the most useful. In addition, each respondent had to indicate the place in Olsztyn that they feel is most friendly for SC elements or where they are most useful.

**Results**

A total of 115 survey results were analyzed. The findings in terms of preferences for SC solutions are presented in Fig. 2. The most desirable are electronic boards at bus stops, traffic lights, ticket machines, smart lighting and smart pedestrian crossings. In addition, respondents had the opportunity to indicate the SC solutions that are most lacking in the city.

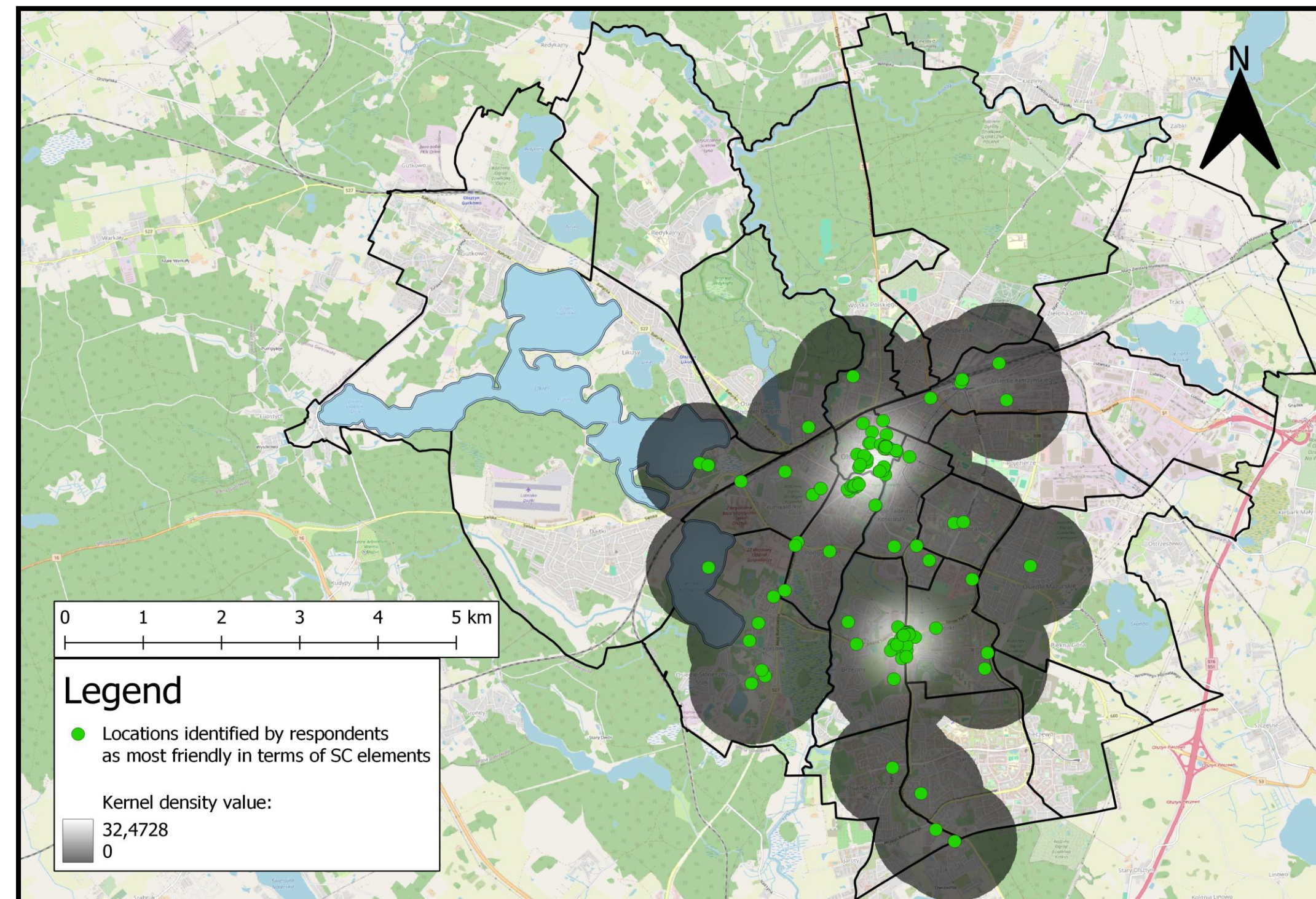


Fig. 1 Identification of the most friendly places in terms of SC solutions by respondents  
Source: Own elaboration

**In the opinion of respondents in Olsztyn is most lacking:**

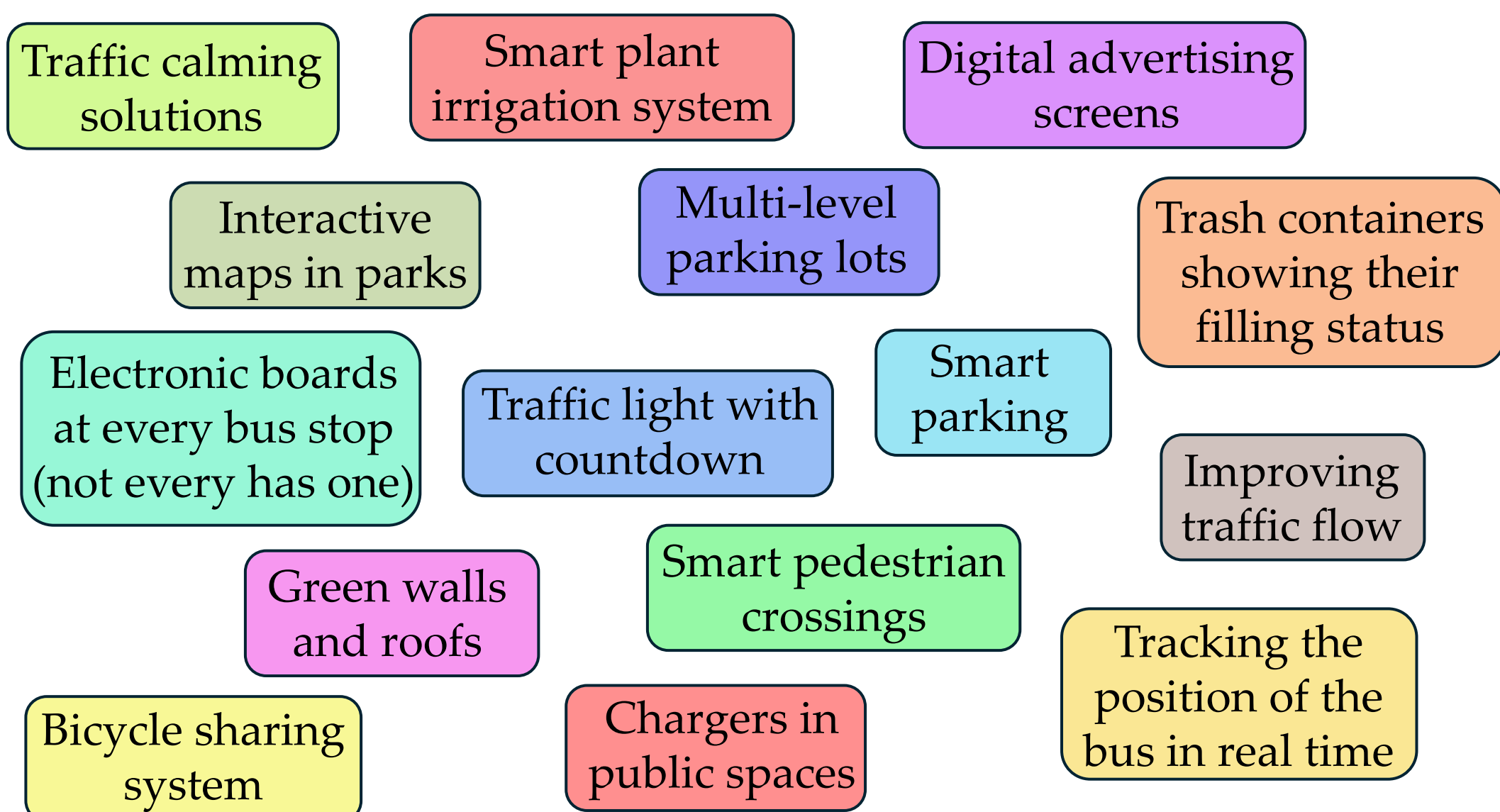


Fig. 3 SC solutions that respondents think are most lacking in Olsztyn  
Source: Own elaboration

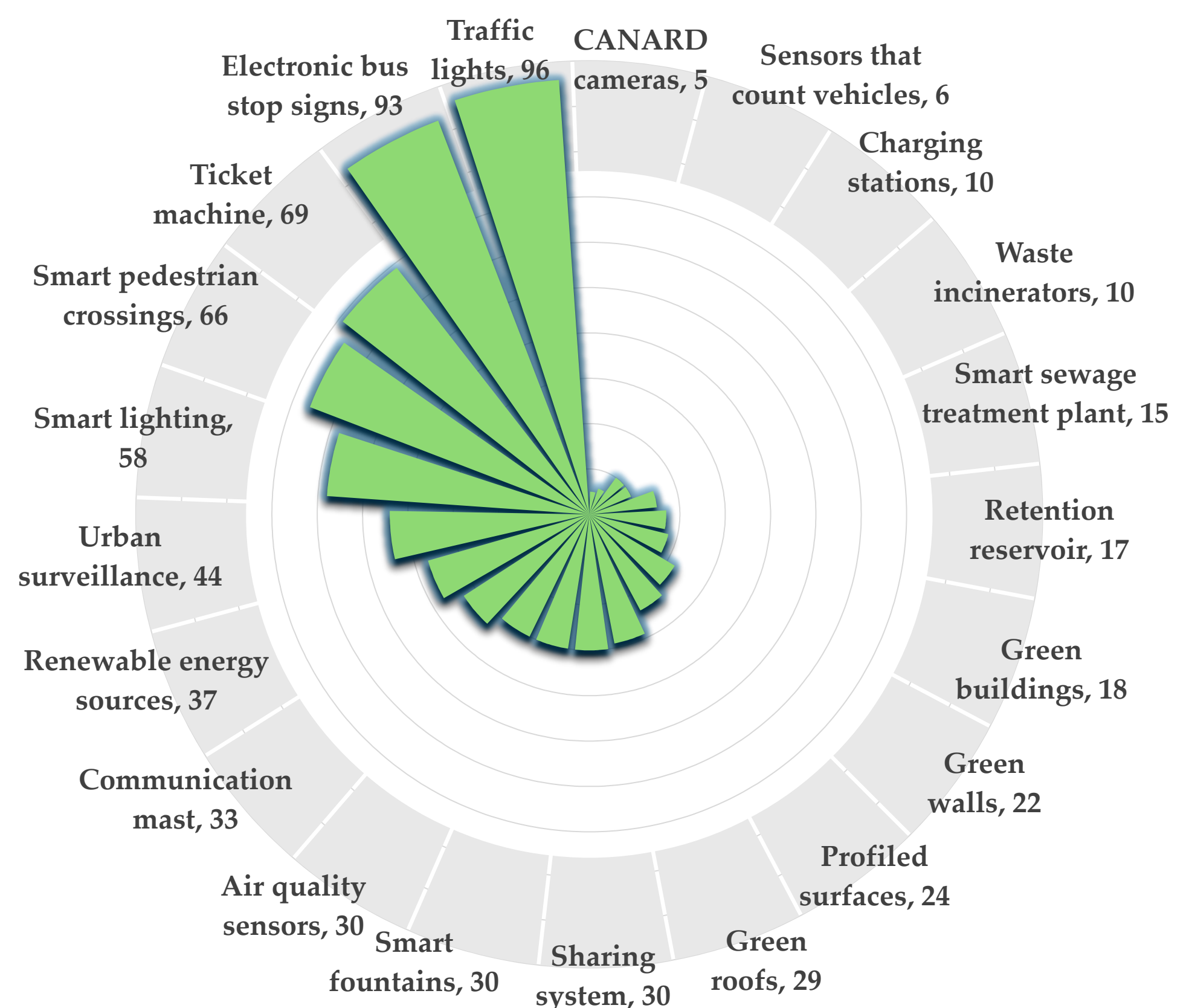


Fig. 2 Results of responses from the geo-survey  
Source: Own elaboration

**Conclusions**

- Nearly 70% of respondents claimed that smart solutions are better than analog ones and do not feel overwhelmed by them
- In the question on indicating the place that is most friendly in terms of SC elements, very few people pointed to Kortow, which is a University town
- Desirability of SC elements in the city is not correlated with the place of residence by respondents
- Few responders point to solutions such as communication masts or retention reservoirs, which shows that young people are not aware of the importance of these solutions

**References**

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