

Park Visiting Habits of Hong Kong People: A Preliminary Analysis of the Telephone Survey Data

Koon Kwai WONG
Department of Geography, Hong Kong Baptist University

This paper reports the preliminary findings of a telephone survey conducted in November 2005, in which 758 Hong Kong citizens aged 10 and above were successfully interviewed. The survey found that there were slightly more infrequent park users than frequent park users in Hong Kong. Notably, about 8 percent of the respondents said that they never visit parks. Of the 43 percent of frequent park users, many of them were either elderly or adolescence. The survey also revealed that many users only visited parks that were near their homes and spent a very short time there each time. The most appealing activities for park users were to do exercise and take leisurely walks. It is important to note that the dominant barrier that deterred people from going to park was the “lack of time to go”. Obviously, this is a reflection of the lifestyle of Hongkongers, where typical working hours are long. The findings contributed to a better understanding of current park visiting habits of people in Hong Kong, and re-affirmed the desire of urbanites to have more greenery in the park. This suggested that park authorities need to review its current park design and management policies to better meet the needs of their users. Moreover, in response to the challenges caused by declining birth rates and the upsurge of the aging population in recent decades, Hong Kong needs to have a comprehensive strategy to provide urban parks for the use and enjoyment of all of its citizens.