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Park Visiting Patterns and the Likeability Appraisal Rating of Kowloon Park Scenes by Park Visitors

Koon-kwai Wong

Department of Geography, Hong Kong Baptist University

Manfred Domroes

Department of Geography, Mainz University, Germany

Abstract

Many studies have pointed out that people have a clear preference for urban green spaces. It is argued that urban green space is a source of delight to people and a possible place of escape from the stresses of everyday life. Using a set of fifteen scenes from Kowloon Park of Hong Kong, the study attempted to elucidate those components or elements that are important to park visitors. The likeability of urban park scenes was measured using the Appraisal Rating Score, which constitutes the major affective dimensions, such as pleasant, arousing, exciting, and relaxing. The findings contribute towards a better understanding of the role and value of various park facilities for the users. As an international metropolis, local residents are not the only visitors to urban parks; the study sample therefore included both Hong Kong residents and tourists. The findings revealed that the most important component of an ideal urban green space is vegetation, followed by water, seating places, play opportunities, and other appropriate park amenities and facilities. Overall, it is clear that the improvements that people want to see in urban green spaces are related to good design and management, meeting people's needs, overcoming barriers to use, and providing a high quality and varied experience for the wide range of different groups in the community.