2011

A selected annotated bibliography of research on the benefits of parks

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Publication details
Moyle, BD, Weiler, B & Schliephack, J 2011 A selected annotated bibliography of research on the benefits of parks, report to Parks Victoria, the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Parks Forum, Southern Cross University, Bilinga, Qld.
ARC Linkage Project
Promoting and Managing National Parks into the 21st Century
Program 1: Testing & Shifting the Market Position Occupied by Australian Parks Agencies

A Selected Annotated Bibliography of Research on the Benefits of Parks

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This research was supported under Australian Research Council's Linkage Project funding scheme (project number LP100200014).

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# Table of Contents

ABSTRACT ................................................................................................................................. 4

INTRODUCTION .......................................................................................................................... 5

BACKGROUND TO THE BENEFITS OF TOURISM, LEISURE AND RECREATION IN PARKS ........... 5

LITERATURE SCAN AND ANNOTATION METHODOLOGY .......................................................... 6

LIMITATIONS OF THE LITERATURE SCAN ............................................................................. 7

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY .................................................................................................... 9

INDEX ......................................................................................................................................... 117

REFERENCE LIST* ................................................................................................................... 120
Abstract

This annotated bibliography is an outcome of the ARC Linkage project titled ‘Promoting and Managing National Parks into the 21st Century.’ The selection of literature in this annotated bibliography relates to Program 1 of the ARC Linkage project titled ‘Testing and Shifting the Market Position Occupied by Australian Parks Agencies’, which is led by researchers from the Centre for Tourism, Leisure and Work at Southern Cross University. This annotated bibliography contains a selection of previous research on the benefits of parks. The collection of studies included in the annotated bibliography focuses primarily on the benefits of tourism, leisure and recreation in parks, as well as touching on the broader societal benefits that occur not just as a result of people visiting and recreating in parks, but as a result of the existence of park systems. Finally, this annotated bibliography also includes previous studies focused on the concept of (re)positioning parks. To assist with navigation through this annotated bibliography a index of search terms has been created using key words identified from Driver’s (2008) most recent catalogue of the benefits of leisure (see page 117). In addition to this annotated bibliography, a detailed literature review on the benefits of parks has also been compiled. For further information, or to receive a summary of the literature review, please contact Dr Brent Moyle:

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Introduction

This research is being conducted as a three-year ARC Linkage project between research partners Murdoch (MU), Southern Cross (SCU), Curtin (CU) and Deakin Universities (DU). The ARC project comprises two concurrent programs of research: Program 1 is titled ‘Testing and Shifting the Market Position Occupied by Australian Parks Agencies’ and is led by SCU; Program 2 is titled ‘Visitor Loyalty to National Parks’ and is led by Murdoch University. Industry partners for this research include Parks Victoria (PV), Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and the Parks Forum (PF). Additional support from SCU has been supplemented by New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to extend Program 1 of the project to NSW. This annotated bibliography, related to Program 1 of the ARC Linkage Project, will be distributed to PV, DEC, NPWS and the PF.

Background to the Benefits of Tourism, Leisure and Recreation in Parks

The benefits of leisure and recreation have been a key area of research since the 1970’s and have been examined extensively in the literature, especially within the context of parks (Manning, 2009). Driver (2008) identifies three types of benefits that emanate from leisure and recreation in parks, as identified in Table 1.

As displayed in Table 1, three types of benefits have been conceptualised as occurring as a result of leisure and recreation in parks. These include an improved change in condition, maintenance of a desired condition, prevention of or reduction in an undesired condition, and the realisation of a satisfying experience (Driver 2008).

Table 1 – Definition of Benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. An improved change in a condition</td>
<td>Definition of a benefit found in most dictionaries. State that is more desirable than an existing state. Can be change to individuals, groups of individuals or to biophysical/cultural resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Maintenance of a desired condition, prevention of or reduction in an undesired condition</td>
<td>Maintenance of a desired condition to prevent an unwanted condition from occurring. Prevention of an undesired condition from becoming worse. Reduction of unwanted impacts from an undesired condition. Inserted into OFM* framework to avoid criticism that OFM only emphasises beneficial outcomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Realisation of a satisfying experiences</td>
<td>Based on the premise that a person benefits when she or he realises a satisfying experience, whether or not improvement or maintenance of a desired condition is apparent. Included as it seems logical that the achievement of psychological experiences are psychologically or physiologically beneficial.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* OFM = Outcomes-Focused Management
Source: Driver (2008)
Outcomes Focused Management (OFM) is the most recent incarnation of the Benefits Based Management (BBM) movement (Anderson, Davenport, Leahy & Stein, 2008). It uses these definitions to classify benefits into a range of different categories including personal, social/cultural, environmental and economic benefits (Driver, Brown & Peterson, 1991; Driver, 2008; Manning, 2009). Personal benefits are divided into the categories of psychological and psycho-physiological and are much more focused on outcomes for park visitors themselves as individuals; whereas economic, environmental and socio-cultural benefits narrow in on the broader community or societal benefits that occur as a result of tourism, leisure and recreation in parks and are essential for repositioning (Crompton, 2008).

The construct of positioning is drawn from the marketing literature and has come relatively late to public sector organisations. However, market positioning is now acknowledged as one of several tools potentially useful for the sustainable management of national parks and tourism destinations (Moyle, Weiler & Moore, 2012). Positioning is the process of establishing and maintaining a distinctive and valued place in the minds of the general public and elected officials for leisure relative to other services, whereas repositioning is a deliberate set of actions designed to change an agency’s existing position (Crompton, 2009). The (re)positioning of parks is, however, more complex than for other products and services, and its application to park planning and management has received relatively little attention—especially outside of North America. Poor market positioning, where there is a mismatch between a park agency’s or an individual park’s projected image and the image held by its stakeholders, can result in poor customer support. Closing this gap by re-positioning is key to gaining societal and political support as well as brand and product loyalty.

This annotated bibliography provides a synopsis of a selection of previous literature on the benefits of parks. It maintains a focus on the benefits of tourism, leisure and recreation in parks, as well as touching on the broader societal benefits that occur not just as a result of people visiting and recreating in parks, but as a result of the existence of park systems. Finally, this annotated bibliography also includes previous studies focused on (re)positioning parks.

Literature scan and annotation methodology

To compile a selected annotated bibliography of previous research on the benefits of parks a systematic approach consisting of six stages was used to gather a manageable cross section of previous studies:

1. The collection of potential articles began with a search of the Leisure Tourism database using the Boolean key search terms benefit* AND park*.

2. Based upon the information in the title and abstract, articles were reviewed, selected and imported into an Endnote database. Additional information, such as library references, informal document references and miscellaneous comments, was also recorded in the Endnote database but not included in the final report.
3. The publications were screened for accessibility to the full text. In instances where the full text could not be obtained electronically every effort was made to gather the full text of relevant articles in hard copy.

4. A research assistant was employed to cross-check that all relevant studies focused on the benefits of parks had been collected.

5. The annotations of relevant articles were exported into a Microsoft Word document to compile the annotated bibliography. Each paper was indexed separately with a full reference and annotation (where possible) outlining the nature, aims, method(s), key results and implications for management presented in the paper/chapter.

6. The annotated bibliography was key word searched using a selected list of terms from the most recent compilation of the benefits of leisure and recreation in parks listed in Driver’s (2008) list of the benefits of leisure. This effectively provides an index which can be used to search the annotated bibliography for particular topics or concepts of interest, such as different types of benefits or studies on (re)positioning (see page 117).

Most references in the annotated bibliography include either the page range or number of pages of the entry, but where papers could not be sourced in their entirety and no information was available for this, the number of pages has been omitted. Finally, where there was no information or abstract available for a particularly relevant source it has been displayed in the annotated bibliography as a reference with no supporting information.

Limitations of the literature scan

Although every possible effort was made to ensure all relevant sources on the benefits of parks were collected and summarised in this annotated bibliography there are a number of limitations associated with the data collection:

1. It is possible that not all relevant articles were obtained using the search terms ‘benefit’ and ‘park’. However, every effort was made to ensure relevant articles were obtained, including the appointment of a research assistant.

2. The search terms ‘benefit’ and ‘park’ may have discovered some irrelevant articles. Irrelevant articles were minimised by cross-checking the final list of sources and removing abstracts that were not focused on benefits. As a result of this process some articles not explicitly focused on benefits may still remain in the annotated bibliography.

3. Only sources written in English have been unearthed using this search method.

4. This search does not include grey literature such as park management plans, except those that have been uploaded onto the Leisure Tourism database.

5. This annotated bibliography does not include postgraduate theses. In instances where research from theses were published in academic journals or as books and book chapters these were collected instead.
6. The keyword search of the annotated bibliography may have missed some studies focused on benefits which were not identified using the search terms. As such we have titled this database ‘A Selected Annotated Bibliography on the Benefits of Parks.’

Finally it must be acknowledged that this annotated bibliography focuses specifically on the benefits of parks, rather than the health benefits of contact with nature. Consequently, some studies focused on benefits associated with contact with nature are not included in this annotated bibliography, particularly if the research was not specifically park related.

   This chapter aims to identify the benefits of recreation and leisure attributes in relation to one’s satisfaction with community life. First, various conceptualisations of community are discussed before a paradigm is identified, interrelating recreation and leisure attributes, community and quality of life. Furthermore, this chapter summarises the findings of previous studies with a focus on leisure and recreation dimensions in relation to community satisfaction. Even though methodologies and findings vary, conceptual and empirical support is shown for recreation and leisure areas, services and opportunities as contributors to community life satisfaction. Recreation services and development have received continuous attention from social and physical planners, although a lack of conceptual and methodological consistency has limited the understanding of recreation and leisure attributes. For that reason, a more thorough conceptualisation of community is needed, the development of theoretical models for community satisfaction is recommended as well as the development of an effective research design.


   This article presents a model focusing on the outcomes (benefits) of leisure services, emphasising the structure and content of these services—in other words, the quality of the opportunities themselves. Management efficiency and effectiveness are not the primary goal; they are viewed as a tool for providing effective services. Further revenue generation is not a criterion for program offerings, although the long-term impact of these programs will involve cost savings to the individual, government and/or society. It is concluded that, by focusing on direct outcomes, the profession begins to reposition itself as a service that is deemed significant and critical to societal wellbeing.


   Four demonstration projects, initiated by the US National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) are described which aim to implement a benefits-based recreation program and illustrate the impact that recreation programs can have on individuals. The program philosophy, known as Benefits-Based Management (BBM) and the marketing campaign 'Benefits Are Endless...™' are introduced. An activity planning model based on the BBM philosophy is described and illustrated with recreation programs from Chicago Park District, Chicago, and Rock Hill, South Carolina, USA, which are operated by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and sponsored by NRPA. Various components of the approach are discussed, including: the setting of issue and target goals; selection of activity components; development of performance objectives; discussion of progress; assessment of benefit outcomes; and testing for change using controls. It is concluded that the BBM
activity planning model does work provided that it is implemented correctly.


This article describes the three components of the Benefit-Based Management Activity Planning Model for youth in at-risk environments. This model emphasises: (1) the need to establish socially relevant Target Issues and develop outcome-oriented Target Goals, (2) the development of purposive recreation experiences including performance objectives, detailed program content and structure, processing of experiences and monitoring of experiences, and (3) a comprehensive evaluation plan for both Target Issues and Target Goals. Additional emphasis is given to program principles that are effective in working with youth in at-risk environments.


No further information available.


Alternative techniques for measuring the economic benefits of urban parks in the USA are examined. It is concluded that the practical problems in valuing urban parks may preclude the use of any single method of measurement. The results also suggest that the property-value approach may underestimate park benefits substantially, yet values obtained from alternative approaches cannot be arbitrarily combined without double counting of benefits.


This study uses travel cost model (TCM) and contingent valuation method to derive estimates of economic value for recreational use of Los Nevados National Park in the Andean region of Colombia. Park visitors were surveyed regarding their travel costs and willingness-to-pay (WTP) for ecological restoration of areas affected by wildfires in 2006. The travel cost data was analysed using a zonal TCM. The contingent valuation experiment used a dichotomous choice format followed by an open-ended question asking for their maximum WTP for restoration. Consumer surplus for recreational use of the park was found to be large relative to the budget of the Colombian Parks Service, which justifies continued funding. Respondents’ WTP for ecological restoration was modest and possibly influenced by bequest values, but unaffected by potential information bias.

This chapter is to describe efforts at six Minnesota state parks to identify key on-site beneficial experience opportunities provided across the parks, within a park, and attained by visitors using the parks. The data gathered was part of the Minnesotan Department of Natural Resource Division of Parks and Recreation’s (MNDNR) strategy to develop and implement an outcomes-focused approach to recreation resource management. Data reported in this chapter are intended to show similarities in benefits provided across and within park settings. Findings are presented for each park. Visitors of the six different state parks expressed the desire to enjoy the natural scenery, smells and sounds of nature; to get away from crowds; to be with members of their own group; and to get away from the usual demands of life. Further visitor desires were: keep or get physically fit, feel healthier, rest mentally, experience positive moods and emotions, reduce or release built-up tension, experience solitude, bring their family closer together, learn more about the natural history of the area, observe other people in the area, do something creative (e.g. sketch, paint or take photographs). Results demonstrate differences in the suite of beneficial opportunities that could be provided and managed across parks. Furthermore, some insight is provided how the MNDNR attempted to use the study data to implement its strategic plan for an outcomes-focused approach to recreation resource management; the two management plans represent an evolution in the MNDNR’s thinking about how to manage resources for visitors and recreational use. As a result, it is shown that there is room to interpret how benefits are specified and at what level the park provides them.


The purpose of this chapter is to highlight the complexities of identifying and using OFM to provide opportunities for community benefits and explain the significance of trust and place attachment to realization of community benefits. To do so, different case studies are provided. To set the context, community benefits are defined as benefits resulting from public land management that accrue to residents living in communities nearby or adjacent to public lands. These benefits are associated with the social, biophysical and economic attributes of a community and should enhance a community’s social, natural or economic capital. Findings show that a clear understanding about how the land managing agency and the local communities interact with each other is crucial to managing public lands in a way that it provides community benefits. In addition, an understanding of the connection local people have to a resource and their level of trust in the agency to sustainably manage the resource is important. It is pointed out that a key strategy of OFM is communicating, marketing, and promoting the opportunities and existing benefits.
benefits a park or any natural area provides to local communities. This could include sending out press releases, developing community ‘open house’ days, becoming involved in regional tourism plans and developing educational programs for youth. A section provided for agencies using the OFM framework comprising: ‘focus on social capital development as part of outcomes focused management’ and ‘use dimensions of trust as a trust building guide’.


This chapter explores the trend towards the benefits-based management (BBM) framework of leisure and amenity goods and services for wildland recreation management. It also suggests future research and application needs to continue BBM’s conceptual evaluation and enhance implementation efforts. BBM provides a rich framework for providing the types of recreation opportunities that will satisfy visitor and community needs, protect the critical resources found within wildland recreation areas and ensure that quality experiences and benefits are attained within the current management environment of structural change and limited financial resources.


Increasingly, conservationists and policymakers are using protected areas as a tool for biodiversity conservation and ecotourism. This article discusses livelihood challenges associated with the use of protected areas as a tool for ecotourism at the Kakum National Park in Ghana. It reveals that most residents in villages close to the park have not realised the expected benefits of ecotourism despite giving up access to resources inside park boundaries more than a decade ago. However, one of the villages has been innovative in using the creation of the park to improve livelihoods in the community and could therefore serve as a model to others.


When the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest became a National Park in 1991, access to the Forest was closed, and local people lost an important resource. External funding and technical help allowed the people of Mukono Parish to build an accommodation and camping facility for visitors to the National Park, and this now earns a significant income. Distribution of the camping ground income to benefit the people of Mukono involved many hours of discussion. The benefits are now reaching more people than did the benefits of the traditional means of exploiting the forest (hunting, gold mining and timber cutting).

This research reviews the difficulties of protecting the natural environment while simultaneously using its resources for tourism development. The functions and features of national parks, nature reserves, wildlife parks and adventure parks are studied. It is concluded that the growth of tourist activity is somewhat restricted in such areas due to the level of environmental protection. Landscape parks and areas of natural beauty, protected to a lesser degree, allow more scope for recreational activities. Existing policies and plans for environmental protection in Poland are discussed and, in an attempt to strike a balance between protection and use, the need for thorough consideration of influential social and environmental factors, particularly in mountain regions, is stressed.


This paper presents a case study of the Triglav National Park, in Slovenia's Alpine area, and the benefits and constraints tourism activities such as hiking, mountaineering, kayaking, canoeing and river rafting have brought to the small mountain communities. There are 32 equipped alpine shelters and six refuges where it is possible to obtain warm food during the tourist season between April and October in the park. There are also trails, mountain gravel roads and climbing paths marked by uniform signs. The upper Isonzo Valley is particularly suited for kayaking and rafting. Rafting activity has increased greatly following the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia. In 1990 there was just one rafting company operating in Bovec. There are now five companies catering for at least 15,000 people per season. The rapid development of tourism and inadequate legal protection of the environment in this area has caused some disruption of important ecosystems. It is argued that although tourist activities may contribute to protecting the environment from more destructive forms of land use, the development of tourism also poses threats to the environment if it is not properly controlled. Use of rivers for kayaking and rafting has also adversely affected fishing in some rivers in the region and it is suggested that control of tourist activities should also take account of the disruption of this traditional profession.


Small-scale urban nature parks have the potential to contribute to the health and wellbeing of urban communities. Although recreation researchers have seldom focused on such areas, recreation research theory can be successfully applied to urban nature parks, especially if augmented by the application of social capital and social network theory. Social capital and network theories will aid recreation researchers and policymakers in understanding the processes and benefits associated with urban green
space which may be important relative to low income urban community members who may not participate regularly in nature-based recreation.


Park-based physical activity is a promising means to satisfy current physical activity requirements. However, there is little research concerning what park environmental and policy characteristics might enhance physical activity levels. This study proposes a conceptual model to guide thinking and suggest hypotheses. This framework describes the relationships between park benefits, park use, and physical activity, and the antecedents/correlates of park use. In this classification scheme, the discussion focuses on park environmental characteristics that could be related to physical activity, including park features, condition, access, aesthetics, safety and policies. Data for these categories should be collected within specific geographic areas in or around the park, including activity areas, supporting areas, the overall park and the surrounding neighbourhood. Future research should focus on how to operationalise specific measures and methodologies for collecting data, as well as measuring associations between individual physical activity levels and specific park characteristics. Collaboration among many disciplines is needed.


The results of recent studies commissioned by the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service (Australia) indicated that national parks and other protected areas have considerable economic value and can contribute directly and indirectly to the employment, income, output and value add of the regional economies within which they are located. The recognition and identification of these values and impacts can have implications for environmental policy development, park management and regional development planning. It was found that the per visit economic value of the recreation use of Dorrigo and Gibraltar Range National Park was A$34 and A$20 respectively, or extrapolated to an annual value, approximately A$5.4m for Dorrigo National Park and A$0.8m for Gibraltar Range National Park. With positive population growth, higher levels of income and a continuing shift in preferences towards conservation and outdoor recreation there is a strong argument that these economic benefits would increase over time. However, on the conservative assumption that they remain constant, the present value of the future recreation use of Dorrigo National Park was in the order of A$77m. The comparable figure for Gibraltar Range National Park was approximately A$11m. According to available evidence the preservation or non-use values of these parks could also be considerable. In terms of total regional economic impacts, it was estimated that Dorrigo National
Park contributed over A$4.0m in output, A$2.3m in value added including A$1.5m in household payments to 71 people. Gibraltar Range National Park contributed A$1.5m in gross output, A$0.9m in value added including A$0.6m in household income payments to 30 people.


This review examines the benefits of exercise on mood and self-efficacy, and identifies certain groups in the USA that have often been overlooked in the promotion of physical activity. It is argued that groups such as those with multiple sclerosis and HIV, and caregivers, could dramatically benefit from physical activity. Parks and recreation facilities could fill the need of under-represented groups by providing modified physical activity programs.


La Tigra is soon to be Honduras' first national park. Its importance as a protected watershed to supply essential water for several hundred thousand people is an important consideration. The master plan includes programs for sound agricultural development as well as interpretive and public use proposals. The educational role of the reserve is emphasised through interpretation and environmental education programs intended for international tourists as well as the local population. No single government agency is at present in charge of the management. The park is attempting to be a model of coordinated inter-institutional watershed management.


The Leuser Ecosystem in Northern Sumatra is officially protected by its status as an Indonesian national park. Nevertheless, it remains under severe threat of deforestation. Rainforest destruction has already caused a decline in ecological functions and services. Besides, it is affecting numerous economic activities in and around the Leuser National Park. The objectives of this study are twofold: firstly, to determine the total economic value (TEV) of the Leuser Ecosystem through a systems dynamic model. And secondly, to evaluate the economic consequences of deforestation versus conservation, disaggregating the economic value for the main stakeholders and regions involved. Using a dynamic simulation model, economic valuation is applied to evaluate the TEV of the park over the period 2000–2030. Three scenarios are considered: 'conservation', 'deforestation' and, 'selective use'. The results are presented in terms of (1) the type of benefits, (2) the allocation of benefits among stakeholders, and (3) the regional distribution of benefits. The economic benefits considered include: water supply, fisheries, flood and drought prevention, agriculture and plantations, hydro-electricity, tourism, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, fire prevention, non-timber forest products, and timber. The stakeholders include: local community members, the local...
government, the logging and plantation industry, the national government, and the international community. The regions considered cover the 11 districts involved in the management of the Leuser Ecosystem. With a 4% discount rate, the accumulated TEV for the ecosystem over the 30-year period is: US$7.0 billion under the 'deforestation scenario', US$9.5 billion under the 'conservation scenario' and US$9.1 billion under the 'selective utilisation scenario'. The main contributors in the conservation and selective use scenarios are water supply, flood prevention, tourism and agriculture. Timber revenues play an important role in the deforestation scenario. Compared to deforestation, conservation of the Leuser Ecosystem benefits all categories of stakeholders, except for the elite logging and plantation industry.


In 1989 the Countryside and Forestry Commissions launched a national program to create community forests on the fringes of major towns and cities in England and Wales. The assumption that such forests will be of benefit to the community at large was tested by means of surveys of two existing multi-purpose woodlands adjacent to major conurbations: Derwent Walk Country Park in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, and Whippendell Wood in Hertfordshire. Contingent valuation, travel cost and time cost methods of environmental valuation were used to estimate the existing user benefits of the two woodlands for recreation. The study highlights weaknesses in the travel cost approach when applied to recreational facilities located near urban fringe areas which can be accessed on foot. The results of the two surveys are discussed and compared with similar results for more rural woodlands/forests. The study suggests that on social grounds at least, the concept of community forests should be pursued with recreation benefits alone exceeding management costs by a factor of three.


The antagonism between the US Park Service and local communities could be alleviated if the Park Service managed national parks as they were intended to be managed, as living museums and not as wilderness areas. National features should be preserved but also made accessible to all. Intermediate development within the parks which would optimise benefits to both visitors and local communities should be encouraged.


To estimate behaviour-specific effects of several objectively measured outdoor spaces on different types of moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA) in a large, diverse sample of US adolescents. Using data from Wave I (1994–1995) of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (US, n=10,359) and a
linked geographic information system, the authors calculated the percentage of green space coverage and distance to the nearest neighbourhood and major parks. Using sex-stratified multivariable logistic regression, they modelled reported participation in wheel-based activities, active sports, exercise, and ≥5 MVPA bouts/week as a function of each outdoor space variable, controlling for individual- and neighbourhood-level socio-demographics. The availability of major or neighbourhood parks was associated with higher participation in active sports and, in females, wheel-based activity and reporting ≥5 MVPA bouts/week [OR (95% CI): up to 1.71 (1.29, 2.27)]. Greater green space coverage was associated with reporting ≥5 MVPA bouts/week in males and females [OR (95% CI): up to 1.62 (1.10, 2.39) for 10.1 to 20% versus ≤10% green space] and exercise participation in females [OR (95% CI): up to 1.73 (1.21, 2.49)]. In conclusion, the paper finds that provision of outdoor spaces may promote different types of physical activities, with potentially greater benefits in female adolescents, who have particularly low physical activity levels.


The aim of this chapter is to examine the approach of New Zealand’s (NZ’s) Department of Conservation (DOC) to implement outcomes-focused management (OFM). Interestingly, the key characteristics of the NZ agency contrast with park and recreation agencies in North America. NZ’s protected area system is introduced as well as the department of conservation. DOC’s adoption of OFM is discussed and public policy, socio-economic, and recreation provision factors influencing OFM adoption were identified. These include institutional restructuring, directions from the NZ Government, prevailing socio-economic conditions and a departmental recreation facility failure. Along with the implementation of the OFM approach, several strategies were developed such as the visitor strategy, conservation management strategies and general policy. DOC works with a range of interests groups and therefore, the collaboration with stakeholders is discussed, along with the engagement with Maori peoples and collaboration and consultation with recreation groups. DOC’s attempts to shift to an outcomes approach provided them with several lessons and challenges which are summarised in the text as well as a list of challenges DOC faces in the future. Finally, DOC’s progress in implementing OFM is evaluated. In summary, DOC has embraced the outcomes philosophy but not its practice. Key management documents formulating outcomes statements need to be tested through implementation such as via management plans.

Benefits-based management (BBM) is an approach to park and recreation management that focuses on the positive outcomes of engaging in recreational experiences. Because one class of possible benefits accrue to the community, a philosophical framework is discussed suggesting that communities are themselves the primary sources, generators, and repositories of knowledge. Communities are valuable sources of information about their own needs, and are important players in BBM. A strategy is described to provide an overview of the needs of two communities within the city of Portland, Oregon, and the usefulness of this information to implementing a BBM approach.


This article first provides a background by highlighting the increasing interest in the potential role of the natural environment in human health and wellbeing. It identifies that the evidence-base for specific and direct health or wellbeing benefits of activity within natural environments compared to more synthetic environments has not been systematically assessed. Therefore, this study conducted a systematic review to collate and synthesis the findings of studies that compare measurements of health or wellbeing in natural and synthetic environments. Effect sizes of the differences between environments were calculated and meta-analysis was used to synthesise data from studies measuring similar outcomes. Results show that 25 studies met the review inclusion criteria. Most of these studies were crossover or controlled trials that investigated the effects of short-term exposure to each environment during a walk or run. This included ‘natural’ environments, such as public parks and green university campuses, and synthetic environments, such as indoor and outdoor built environments. The most common outcome measures were scores of different self reported emotions. Based on these data, a meta-analysis provided some evidence of a positive benefit of a walk or run in a natural environment in comparison to a synthetic environment. There was also some support for greater attention after exposure to a natural environment but not after adjusting effect sizes for pre-test differences. Meta analysis of data on blood pressure and cortical concentrations found less evidence of a consistent difference between environments across studies. In conclusion, the studies are suggestive that natural environments may have direct and positive impacts on wellbeing, but support the need for investment in further research on this question to understand the general significance for public health.

No further information available.


This chapter provides a brief review of the evolution of outcomes-focus management (OFM) and discusses the main challenges for OFM in the future. Three stages of progress towards OFM are described as well as the situation of OFM today. Furthermore, themes like the declining proportion of people engaged in fishing and hunting as well as people visiting national parks, the challenging complexities of urban and ecological relations and the dependency of humans on healthy and clean environments are recognised. Also, water and energy development is addressed. In addition, it provides a conclusion of the book naming the issues which were discussed in previous chapters. Overall the chapter highlights the importance of adopting OFM more widely.


This text describes how the conceptual framework of outcomes-focus management (OFM) was applied and implemented on the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (GGNCA). First, a brief background and context is provided, followed by plan development, planning process and planning results. A table of the six distinct management areas provides information about each area including targeted recreation activities, recreation setting character and the experiences and other beneficial outcome objectives. To target OFM objectives, the need to understand the providers is identified to match demand and recreation products. Furthermore, the implementation of the plan is described as well as lessons learned. It is highlighted how the dynamic nature of OFM requires that implementation plans remain flexible to allow adjustments. Also important is that the planning to manage under the OFM framework takes considerably more time than did former managing due to the fact that it takes time to assess outcomes and setting preferences, to find out what matters to one’s customers, affected communities and other affecting providers. Therefore, any organisation which chooses to implement OFM needs to recognise, embrace and support their implementing managers and staff.

No further information available.


This chapter examines the existing literature reporting economic impacts of outdoor recreation development projects. The literature in this research area exhibits few consistent patterns concerning factors such as the types of benefits which have been evaluated, size of the impacted areas (local or regional), social and economic changes resulting from the development which are costly to affected areas, or distribution of costs and benefits by income class. In some studies all visitor expenditures are considered local revenue, while in other studies visitor expenditures within a state park (such as at a concession stand) are not perceived as benefits to the local area. Methods of evaluation also vary significantly. The major weakness of the existing literature on the economic impacts of outdoor recreation development is the lack of distinction made between benefits and profits. With little or no evaluation of costs incurred by local communities, all benefits resulting from a development program are frequently assumed to be profits. Profits are more usefully defined as benefits minus costs including foregone benefits of alternative options. Recent literature has demonstrated that outdoor recreation development can have significant negative effects upon local community groups, which means that all costs must be evaluated (Dwyer and Espeseth, 1977; Duvalis, et al., 1974; Barrows and Nilsestuen, 1974). In order to evaluate the impacts of outdoor recreation development, positive effects must be evaluated relative to negative effects of the development.


This article presents an economic framework for the measurement of net social benefits attributed to the development of an outdoor recreation site in the USA. Influence of existing recreation developments on demand for services from the developed site; Estimation of empirical measures; Evaluation on investments in outdoor recreation.

This chapter highlights the management challenges facing protected areas and outlines the tourism issues covered at the 5th World Parks Congress. The themes of the presentations and discussions emphasised the significance of the Congress for tourism, and the relevance of tourism to the current conservation agenda. It is pointed out that successful park visitation is a critical function of parks and protected areas, for without satisfied visitors parks and protected areas will cease to exist.


The focus of this book is on tourism in national parks, dealing with aspects such as park origins and functions, management issues and future problems from the perspective of tourism and the benefits and problems which accrue from that activity. Individual chapters also examine the effect of tourism on local populations and indigenous peoples, and on wildlife. Nineteen chapters consider the major issues in the relationship between national parks and tourism in contexts as diverse as Australia, New Zealand, USA, the UK, Ecuador, Cambodia and Vietnam.

This paper reports on the Useability Index for the Swan Canning Riverpark (Western Australia) which was developed to provide a set of indicators to assess the level of community benefit derived from parks and recreation reserves managed for public access. The assessment process is discussed.


This study explores the influences of different types of landscapes on psychophysiological reactions. Indexes for physiological reactions include electroencephalography (EEG), electromyography (EMG), and heart rate (HR), while psychological reactions are tested using measurements of attention restorative theory (ART), landscape preference, and relaxation. Cultural background, Taiwanese vs. Americans, is also included in the analysis of influences of landscapes on psycho-physiological reactions. Participants viewed slides of five different types of landscapes (forest, park, water, city and mountain) as the sources of stimuli. The results of the present study indicate that mountain and park landscapes produce the highest EEG while views of nature such as mountains, water and forests resulted in higher psychological benefits. In addition, there is a relationship between respondents' psychological and physiological reactions. Participants from different cultures all show significant differences of ART and relaxed feelings when viewing landscapes. American participants have higher EEG-B than Taiwanese individuals when viewing mountains and forests. Taiwanese participants, on the other hand, have high EEG-B when viewing pictures of water and parks. Parks induce higher ART for Taiwanese participants, while mountains, water, and forests induce higher ART for Americans.


This paper describes Sound Steps, a walking program for more than 500 older adults implemented in the summer of 2003 through Seattle Parks and Recreation (Washington, USA). This program illustrates the benefits of park and recreation departments working in collaboration with community partners. Benefits of the program include: increased physical activity among older adults; socialisation and safety; health improvements; community building; and increased exposure to other programs. The original vision of Sound Steps was to be primarily led by volunteers, with minimal involvement by the parks and recreation staff. Building the volunteer base for this program is discussed.


International efforts to preserve the natural environment are mainly concerned with large, bio-diverse and relatively untouched ecosystems or with individual animal or vegetation species, either endangered or threatened with extinction. Much less attention is being paid to that type of nature close to
where people live and work, to small-scale green areas in cities and to their benefits to people. Increasing empirical evidence, however, indicates that the presence of natural areas contributes to the quality of life in many ways. Besides many environmental and ecological services, urban nature provides important social and psychological benefits to human societies, which enrich human life with meanings and emotions. The main concern of this paper is to address the importance of urban nature for citizens' wellbeing and for the sustainability of the city they inhabit. Some results of a survey conducted among visitors of an urban park in Amsterdam (The Netherlands) are presented and discussed. The issues investigated concern people's motives for urban nature, the emotional dimension involved in the experience of nature and its importance for people's general wellbeing. Results confirm that the experience of nature in urban environments is a source of positive feelings and beneficial services, which fulfill important immaterial and non-consumptive human needs. Implications for the sustainability of the city are analysed and discussed.


In developing countries, the aim of protecting natural ecosystems is rarely sufficient to ensure that large areas of land will never be used for production. National parks have to be justified in terms of the economic benefits they provide. The main benefits are usually related to the parks' role as a tourist attraction. In South East Asia, however, with a few notable exceptions, there are few examples of significant benefits accruing to conservation, foreign exchange reserves or the local economy through wildlife tourism. The chapter discusses why conservation has been assisted by tourism in some areas while other national parks in South East Asia have so far failed to fulfill their tourism potential. National parks generally have a very low profile in this region. The Western concept of wanting to roam alone amidst nature has not yet developed, perhaps because national parks have only been established within the last 30 years, but also for cultural reasons. Another conflict with Western philosophy and practice lies in the leisure behaviour of South East Asians who tend to seek a holiday experience with a large group of friends rather than one characterised by solitude or tranquillity. The potential of South East Asian wildlife as a tourist attraction is in any case limited because of the nature of the terrain and the animals themselves. Awareness of the conservation functions of national parks and other protected areas is increasing due to better education and more media attention in Indonesia and Malaysia. Conservation lobbies in these countries are still in an early stage of development. In Indonesia in particular, a substantial amount of work needs to be carried out on both the infrastructure of parks' visitor facilities and on developing markets in the main tourism generating countries before there can be a real prospect of tourism making a significant contribution to conservation.

A questionnaire distributed to 1528 of 2577 visitors to Delaware State Park yielded 870 responses. Respondents were asked to rank the importance of 22 reasons for visiting a state park in order to examine the relationship between visitors motives or benefits. Factor analysis reduced these 22 items to five general motivational factors: escape/solitude, nature/harmony, nature/learning, fun/recreation and social/interaction. The importance of the findings in terms of recreation management is discussed.


This paper examines ideas of how conservation agencies can demonstrate the important role natural and cultural heritage conservation plays in maintaining human welfare to gain government and community support. It examines economic and social benefits that protected areas can provide to individuals, local government and the wider community. Furthermore, a discussion of key concepts and techniques for measuring benefits is provided as well as examples of studies carried out in NSW using these techniques. These studies include travel-cost studies of recreational benefits, willingness to pay for improved wetland quality and a regional input-output analysis of consequential private benefits. The last section includes a discussion of factors which influence the type of benefit protected areas (PA) can provide to individuals, businesses and the wider community. Factors such as the organisational culture of the PA agency, the type of protected area, nature and size of the regional economy, level of public awareness, local attitudes to development, equity and community issues, and other government objectives and programs are discussed. These provide an identification of guiding principles which can help park managers to facilitate the flow of benefits from protected areas.


This chapter discusses the results of research from New South Wales, Australia, identifying a range of socio-economic benefits that protected areas (and the tourism activity within these areas) provide for local communities and the wider society. Based on the results, the chapter then considers some factors that protected area managers should take into account in their planning and management decisions. These factors include: the type of protected area; organisational culture; the nature and size of the regional economy; the level of public awareness of the benefits of protected areas, local attitudes to
development, equity issues, and other government objectives and programs.


Protected area managers are often interested in visitor satisfaction, a complex, multi-dimensional concept. This study of visitors to Kakadu National Park in Australia compares two approaches to predicting overall satisfaction and the intention to recommend the park. The first approach involves analysing importance-performance measures on a range of visitor service quality items. The second approach involves measuring the desire and attainment of perceived benefits associated with a recreation experience. Results show that benefits attained by visitors are stronger predictors of an overall positive response to a park visit than visitor service quality ratings. This suggests that cleanliness of facilities and parking availability have less of an influence on satisfaction than when visitors attain benefits such as learning about nature and the natural environment. The paper suggests greater attention should be paid to the benefits people desire from their visits, as well as increasing our understanding of setting and activity dependency and other ways that park staff can facilitate benefit attainment.


No further information available.


It is postulated that the key to winning broader support for public leisure services is to broaden the base of their appeal beyond regular users by stressing the collective benefits that also accrue to nonusers and occasional users. This can be done by repositioning leisure services so they are aligned with the politically important issues in a community. Three repositioning strategies are suggested: real repositioning, competitive repositioning and psychological repositioning. Their application is illustrated in the context of the potential economic development contributions of leisure services departments through their involvement in tourism.


The evolution of leisure services marketing in the USA has passed through five stages in the past half-century: pre-marketing (activity/custodial focus), selling, user benefits orientation, community-wide benefits orientation and repositioning. The first two stages were supplanted by the user benefits orientation in the late 1970s. The user benefits focus transitioned into the leisure field from the business literature and remained pre-eminent until the mid-1990s. It was superseded because it had two conceptual flaws. First, it failed to
address the notion of equity. Second, its focus on being responsive to individual users was inconsistent with the broader mandate of public leisure agencies to provide community-wide services. The emergence of credible scientific research in the past decade to support advocates' claims of community-wide benefits has facilitated emergence of the most recent evolutionary stage of leisure services marketing which is repositioning. Repositioning seeks to connect community-wide benefits the agency has the potential to deliver with an issue that is important to taxpayers and elected officials. It is argued that repositioning is the key to the future viability of public leisure agencies.


This chapter builds on the call for better understanding of the benefits of leisure by all segments of a society. Its focus is on describing how public parks and recreation agencies can, and should, orchestrate a shift in their strategic direction by using community benefits that are potential outcomes of park and recreation services to sustain or acquire additional budget allocation. It is pointed out that an agency’s stakeholders’ perception of park and recreation services need to be identified as well as issues that are of paramount concern in the community and select a subset of community benefits that parks and recreation can deliver. Furthermore, four strategies are used to deliver those benefits and to communicate that they are being effectively and efficiently delivered. These strategies are identified as real, associative, psychological and competitive repositioning and discussed in the text. The impacts of repositioning strategies were determined by an experiment and its results are summarised in the text. Finally, the relationship to Outcomes Focused Management (OFM) is explained, highlighting that repositioning cannot be attained and sustained without the knowledge about benefits and likewise, OFM cannot be successfully applied and implemented without repositioning.


Repositioning is viewed as the key to a viable future for leisure services. After a brief review of the repositioning concept, the paper’s focus is on the four strategies that can be used to implement repositioning. First is real repositioning. This requires the development of new services or restructuring existing services so they better contribute to addressing the issue(s) expressed in the position statement which articulates the agency’s desired position. Associative repositioning is the second strategy. It includes aligning with other organisations that already possess the desired position and acquiring some of this position from the association. Third is psychological repositioning which focuses on changing stakeholders’ beliefs about the outcomes that emanate from the services an agency offers, so they better align with the position statement. The fourth repositioning strategy is competitive repositioning which seeks to alter stakeholders’ beliefs about what an
agency's competitors do. The paper concludes with a discussion of the pay-off from implementing repositioning strategies.


No further information available.


The article describes a tourism development project for the Banc d'Arguin National Park in Mauritania. The park is a fragile, protected area extending over some 12 000 km², comprising marine areas and desert. It houses an ornithological sanctuary which is home to many species of migratory birds and is one of the most important fishing areas in the world, with a local population of fishermen and desert nomads. The difficulties of developing an ecotourism project for the area are considered. Issues addressed and evaluated include conservation, sustainable development, economic profitability, and cultural and social needs, minimising investment and environmental costs and involving the local inhabitants. The potential benefits of such a project are also discussed.


Leisure as self-actualisation was first observed as a concept of the ancient Greeks and this chapter explores its meaning nowadays, after providing a brief review of how leisure is understood more commonly. Leisure is discussed as activity, as experience and finally self-actualisation. Furthermore, the meaning of self-actualisation is discussed in relation to leisure. A study with focus on the optimal experience and its rewarding features highlights that whenever people enjoy what they are doing, they report very similar experiential states, distinguishing the enjoyable moment from the rest of their life. Furthermore, it is said that some activities provide personal growth more than others. As such, the second part of the chapter examines the promotion of flow and self-actualisation in different forms of leisure, including the family, school and leisure, leisure with peers and leisure and the community.

The first part of the article discusses economic factors associated with environmental protection: the economic benefits of natural areas (contrasting the direct and indirect values of protection and non-protection), the concept of economic impact, the financing of conservation, and methods of measuring the economic impact of tourism. Two methods are described: the Tourism Satellite Account—a statistical instrument or 'satellite' revolving around the concepts, definitions and aggregates of the system of national accounts, which makes it possible to make valid comparisons with other industries, as well as between countries or groups of countries; and input-output models centred around visitor numbers. The last part of the article describes the Money Generation Model (MGM) (originally produced by the US National Park Service) in general terms and goes on to give a detailed account of Version 2.0 of this model (MGM2). MGM2 provides a more refined method than the original MGM for quantifying the impact on the local economy of tourism in protected areas. Applications of the model, the need for quantitative assessment, sources of error and problems in the application of the model are outlined. The article is based on a study carried out by the author in the Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park in Aragón, Spain.

Urban areas with recreational facilities such as green spaces attract dwellers to pass their leisure time in such spaces where they can enjoy the benefits of nature. In Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), recreational activities are very important to improving the quality of students’ lives and the learning environment as a whole. Recreational parks in UTM are not favourable in relation to their distances and locations from students’ residential zones, resulting in the need to investigate suitable locations for a new recreational park in order to encourage students’ participation in the activities of passive recreation. This research was conducted on UTM students with the aim of identifying whether the current recreational parks are efficient in relation to distances, locations, and facilities. Field survey has been conducted, which helped the researchers in coming up with some set of criteria. GIS tools were used in creating different datasets of the study area and the set of criteria generated were integrated into the Multi criteria Decision Process (MCDP). The pair-wise comparison method of Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) was used to evaluate the criteria obtained, and weightings were assigned and calculated. The results of the weightings obtained from this method finally identified the most suitable sites to locate the proposed recreational park.


The Canadian National Historic Park at Signal Hill, Newfoundland, receives over 750,000 visits each year. Structural resources include a visitor centre, trails, ruins, Cabot Tower, roads and car parks. Secondary (measureable economic) benefits to the local area resulting from the park are calculated. The total direct local income associated with Signal Hill was estimated to be about C$470,000 per annum. Of this amount, 14% was attributed to tourism generated expenditures, 10% to local park purchases and 76% to direct park employment. However, the primary intangible benefits, in terms of leisure, recreation, preservation and conservation, are by far the most valuable benefits derived from parks.


No occupational therapy study appears to have identified comprehensively the influence of different variables on the leisure experience. This study aimed to establish: (1) if there was a difference in the needs satisfied by leisure between people of different ages, sex, and relationship and parental status (people with or without or cohabiting with a partner or children); (2) whether or not different needs were satisfied by different leisure activities; and (3) whether the adapted form of the Leisure
Satisfaction Scale (LSS) (Beard and Ragheb 1980) measured leisure satisfaction.

Sixty-five nurses completed an adapted form of the LSS for three leisure activities that they engaged in and rated their overall satisfaction with leisure on a scale of 1–10. Relevant demographic details were requested. The data were analysed using non-parametric statistics. The findings lent support to the use of the adapted form of the LSS as a valid measure of leisure satisfaction. The findings suggested that leisure satisfaction was not affected by demographic factors, but they supported previous findings that leisure satisfaction was affected by different leisure activities. This study supported the therapeutic use of carefully selected activities to meet individual needs. It also suggested the potential benefit of using the LSS (Beard and Ragheb 1980) in occupational therapy. However, further research to develop related knowledge is needed.


This report draws on research from education, recreation, leisure, tourism, sport, adult learning, health, and therapy to highlight the evidence of the positive contributions of outdoor adventure activities. The authors acknowledge the combined effects of difficulties encountered when measuring experiences and benefits with the paucity of Australian and New Zealand research in this area. The evidence-based research reported on here used a variety of methods including meta-analyses, questionnaires (mostly utilising psychometric questioning e.g. Life Effectiveness Questionnaire or LEQ), and in-depth interviews and were either cross-sectional or longitudinal in design. The main benefits of outdoor adventure activities, as shown in the evidence-based literature, include interpersonal and intrapersonal skills developed through engaging in outdoor adventure activities in meaningful ways. Benefits for the natural environment were less directly evidenced, however indirectly were given as developing more nurturing individuals and communities, and the development of environmental awareness and stewardship. Benefits were evident in the psycho-social, psychological, physical and spiritual domains, particularly with regards to developing self-efficacy, intellectual flexibility, personal skills, and relationship building. The benefits that result from participating in outdoor adventure activities are facilitated through the provision of appropriate facilities and natural resources and well as the design of programs that are intentionally working towards particular objectives. This review highlights the need to establish a strategic interdisciplinary research agenda within which researchers, program and activity providers, land managers, policy advisors and other key stakeholders may conduct research and evaluation, and then disseminate the knowledge for others to build upon.

This paper discusses why park managers need to understand how a visitor perceives recreation resource impacts. Visitor pressures on natural resources and the environment will likely increase as more people come out to enjoy and experience the benefits of the natural areas. Therefore, it is suggested that proactive strategies that embrace visitors and their perceptions should be developed to improve the health of the park systems, wilderness areas and tourist destinations.


National parks in England and Wales were set up in the 1950s. This paper describes the ideals on which the parks were based and assesses how far these ideals have been realised. A UK national park may be defined as an extensive area of beautiful and relatively wild country in which, for the nation's benefit: (1) the characteristic landscape beauty is strictly preserved; (2) access and facilities for public open-air enjoyment are amply provided; (3) wildlife and buildings and places of architectural and historic interest are suitably protected; and (4) established farming use is effectively maintained. Successes in these areas are identified but calls are made for: more money; a true government commitment to the national importance of the national parks; clarification of powers and duties in the fields of access to open lands and of footpaths; the second stage of legislation on common lands; Landscape Conservation Orders; a radical shift in policy within the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, based on a truly multi-purpose view of the farming industry; a review of the military use of national park lands and guidelines for land disposal by, or privatisation of, Water Authorities.


This text explains the reasons why an understanding of benefits by leisure professionals has lagged. It aims to link broader understanding of the benefits of leisure to the long existing need for members of a society to recognise and appreciate the fact that leisure services contribute as much or more to individual and social welfare as other public services. Reasons why more progress hasn’t been made are because science-based knowledge about benefits is of recent origin, because many leisure professionals still rely mostly on intuition and personal experience, and due to a lack of sufficient academic or on-the-job training of professionals in the field which focuses on the understanding of benefits of leisure. The importance for leisure professionals as well as the public to understand the concept that leisure services are meritorious is highlighted. The concept is defined and supported by results of selected research. Particular groups of people needing that repositioning include: leisure professionals who work in different specialisations of leisure, elected and appointed officials who determine public
budgetary and other policies related to the provision of leisure services and members of legislative bodies and executive offices, most customer and associated provider stakeholders, other constituents that affect or are affected by leisure services and members of the general public. The need to secure additional and sustained funding was identified as an important reason for the need of enhanced understanding.


This introductory chapter highlights the purpose of the text. Therefore, several terms are put in context and background information are provided about ‘customers and associated providers’, ‘recreation and tourism’, ‘managing recreation resources versus managing customer services’. Furthermore, within Outcomes Focused Management (OFM), the word ‘outcomes’ only refers to the beneficial and non-beneficial consequences of the management and use of recreation, related amenity resources and programs. OFM focuses on the question why practitioners take any actions to provide recreation and related amenity services. The why-question is then answered solely in terms of clearly defined and managerially targeted beneficial and non-beneficial probable outcomes. Furthermore, the scientific documentation of benefits is discussed and results of research about those benefits are summarised. The scientific credibility needed for OFM is discussed, and it is stated that OFM is a science-based management system and therefore supported by the results of scientific research. Finally, the current status of OFM is explained. OFM is receiving wider application by public agencies that offer recreation and related amenity opportunities but nevertheless, OFM should be adopted more widely.


The purpose of this chapter is to explain the reasons for and evolution of the Outcomes Focused Paragon (OFP) and Outcomes-Focused Management (OFM). Therefore, it is highlighted that OFM became an important application of the OFP. The basic concepts, principles, requirements, and advantages of the OFP and OFM are presented. Essential characteristics of the OFM are: (1) It focuses on positive and negative outcomes, (2) it requires collaborative involvement with relevant stakeholders, (3) it describes cause and effect relationships within the recreation opportunity production system, and (4) it requires development of outcome-oriented management objectives that specific targeted outcome goals will be attained. Furthermore, ‘inputs’ and ‘outputs’ of recreation and related amenity systems are identified. The importance to consider relevant outcomes to both on-site and off-site customers is pointed out. Finally, a review of how OFM has been used in different ways provides examples of how to accomplish different but related purposes.

This paper proposes that recreation resource managers need to give more attention to the benefits that a person derives from participation in recreation activities. Behavioural information is described as one of several types of knowledge needed in recreation planning and management decisions. A model outlining the dynamics of a recreationist's behaviour is presented. Within that model sequences of specific types of recreation behaviour are traced from: deciding on a particular recreation activity, planning and preparation, on-site engagement, recall, realising satisfying experiences, to gaining the ultimate benefits these experiences can produce. Personal and social benefits of recreation participation are defined as the ways in which an individual functions or performs more effectively because of their having participated in a recreation activity. The importance to recreation resource management of information on these benefits is described as the state of knowledge for identifying and measuring them. The need for additional research is emphasised throughout.


This book comprises 35 chapters on the benefits of leisure that were written by 57 well-known experts from six countries. Leisure behaviour is commonly considered to be intrinsically rewarding thus the issue is not whether leisure activities produce beneficial consequences, but rather determining: exactly who benefits; the type of pursuits and environments which produce benefits; whether specific beneficial consequences are dependent on particular recreational settings; and how information on these benefits can be applied in leisure policy analysis and in the delivery of leisure services. Practically all of the chapters in this volume point out that too little information exists to answer these questions. The approach adopted considers that there are two basic measures of the beneficial consequences of leisure: measures of beneficial changes in behaviour and introspective measures. Measures based on behavioural change include improvements in physical health, increased productivity, family solidarity etc. The introspective measures comprise two classes, those that focus directly on benefits as improved conditions and those that focus on a construct, such as exercising and being with one's family. Chapters are divided into four sections: (1) chapters which establish the context by describing trends in leisure activity and philosophies about leisure, and identify a need for information on the benefits; (2) chapters that describe the state of knowledge about a particular type of benefit of leisure activity; (3) chapters that represent responses from different disciplinary perspectives which take a strong methodological orientation; (4) the integrative summary chapter. The papers reflect the following disciplinary perspectives: physiological and psychophysiological measures, psychological measures, sociological measures, economic and environmental measures.

No further information available.


No further information available.


This chapter provides understanding of how to apply and implement Outcomes-Focus Management (OFM) model on public nature-based recreation and related amenity resources. Before the different phases of implementation are presented, background to the model is provided including its evolution, the importance of using the outcomes approach in policy decisions, contrasting uses and the cause and effect relationship that describe OFM's recreation opportunity production process. The steps for implementing OFM include eight phases: (1) preparatory actions; (2) Gather, analyse, interpret, and integrate supply and demand information; (3) develop the management plan; (4) develop an implementation plan; (5) adjust management/implementation plan as needed and approve final plan; (6) implement the plan and adjust field operations accordingly; (7) revise the plan as needed or required by agency directives; and (8) ensure that performance reports and evaluations document and recognize the sustained production and attainment of targeted outcome opportunities to the extent feasible. OFM performance reporting and evaluations are discussed including evaluating the performance of public agencies and of field-level personnel. In conclusion, it is highlighted that OFM cannot be successfully implemented by any public park and recreation agency if the lead administrators of that agency do not support and promote OFM. Furthermore, relationships and differences need to be acknowledged between implementing OFM on public wildlands in contrast to implementing it within municipalities. Finally, it is important to grasp the significance and necessity of incorporating outcomes-oriented management objectives and setting prescriptions into management plans.


No further information available.

This introductory chapter establishes definitions and the book’s structure. The terms ‘benefits’ and ‘values’ are introduced as well as ‘leisure’ and ‘recreation’. The book’s aims—to address the lack of information available about recreation and leisure, including the consequences of leisure activities—are introduced and the scope and the philosophical/conceptual orientation are explained.


Within the general theme of the use of wilderness for personal growth, therapy and education, this introductory paper, the first of 32 presented at the 4th World Wilderness Congress in Estes Park, Colorado, USA on September 14–18 1987, establishes some terminology and explains why information on all wilderness-related benefits is needed and why it is presently so limited. Taking a broad perspective, the paper explains the complexities of attempting to define and measure the magnitude of wilderness-related benefits. It finally proposes some methodological issues and needed research directions.


This chapter summarises the first pilot-test application and implementation of outcomes-focused management (OFM)—which was then called benefits-based management (BBM)—on a wildland area. The two purposes of the chapter are to explain why, when, and how that application and implementation happened at the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (MCNCA) and describe the lessons learned. Those lessons contributed to the improvement of OFM, not only in terms of what needs to be done but more importantly how to more effectively apply and implement the many OFM requirements. It is important to realise that when managers adopt OFM they are committing their managerial units to shift internally (to realign recreation programs and initiatives) and externally (to engage other providers as managing partners). Finally, the chapter provides recommended future actions.

In a combined contingent valuation (CV)/travel cost (TC) study, forest recreation benefits were analysed within two regions of Germany. Analyses were based on >2000 face-to-face interviews collected on-site among day-users (within forests in the City of Hamburg and in the nature park 'Pfaelzerwald'), and >500 interviews among holiday-makers (Pfaelzerwald only). CV estimates were elicited by open-ended questions with follow-up and a payment card as visual aid. Several validity investigations were carried out to test this approach. In separate methodological experiments, 'tolerance intervals' due to different strategy incentives and possible embedding effects each lie within a range of 100–150 % of the final estimates; anchoring bias turned out to be insignificant. In the main study, estimates based on the initial valuation question amounted to 60–70 % as compared to those estimates based on the follow-up question; answer refusals seem to have only minor influence. None of the possible CV bias sources tested changed the order of magnitude of the final estimates. The main study revealed that day-users' individual maximum willingness to pay (WTP) was around 100 DM/person/year on average (payment vehicle: annual entrance tickets to all forests in the respective region); holiday-makers' maximum WTP for visits to the Pfaelzerwald amounts to 30 DM/person (payment vehicle: 'forest fee' valid for total length of stay in the region). Existing regional WTP differences are analysed with respect to visitor composition, and use intensities of single forests. Regression analyses lead to the conclusion that the CV results obtained are theory compatible. Separate TC analyses (in the method's zonal version) finally confirmed the order of magnitude of the CV estimates. Total forest recreation benefits in Germany can approximately be put at 4.8b DM/year for day-users, and 0.5b DM/year for holiday-makers respectively.


This paper examines policy guidelines that enhance local community involvement in the tourism management and services of national parks in Thailand. A survey was conducted on four communities involved in tourism within four national parks the: Ban Mae Klang Luang with the Doi Inthanon National Park, Ban Khao Lek the Chalerm Rattankosin National Park, Ban Wang Lung in the Khao Luang National Park, and Tambon Krung Ching in the Khao Luang and Khao Nan National Parks. Community-based tourism (CBT) was successful in the national parks in four aspects: (1) local involvement i.e., support from national parks particularly in providing opportunities to local communities in national park tourism; support from external and local organisations in charge of tourism...
administrative management; (2) national and cultural resource conservation i.e., local awareness in natural resource conservation which will likely come about when the local people discover the benefits of tourism in national parks; (3) social and economic aspects i.e., the willingness of local people to get involved in tourism and acquire tourism service skills, good social relations with the local people and strong leadership as well as good interaction with tour operators; and (4) tourism experiences i.e., the diversity of tourism experiences for visitors. The policy instruments that local communities perceived as important in the success of CBT in national parks were self-regulation, partnerships, institutional arrangements, building of local awareness in conservation and local skill development in tourism management and services. Four strategies were proposed: (1) the enhancement of opportunities for local involvement in national park tourism by establishing effective local organisations in charge of CBT, strengthening cooperation among communities around national parks to attract external support, and establishing a joint management system of CBT in national parks; (2) the improvement of natural resource conservation in national parks by setting up participatory monitoring of tourism impacts, and establishing collaborative conservation actions among stakeholders from tourism revenues; (3) enhancing social and economic development by improving benefits distribution mechanisms from national park tourism to the local economy and building the local capacity of needed skills in CBT business; (4) fostering low-impact tourism in national parks by developing and disseminating the code of conduct for visitors and tour operators, and implementing language interpretation services in national parks.


The Kruger National Park is economically the most important national park in South Africa. It is currently used for conservation and tourism. Some 700 000 people visited the park in 1990–91, of which about 10% were foreigners. One of the main reasons for visiting is to view the wildlife and scenery, which forms the basis of South Africa’s tourist industry. The main economic effects of this are employment creation and an increase in GDP and household income. Other economic benefits are generated by nature conservation, such as research and training, education, biodiversity, consumer surplus and option, and existence values. However, sufficient information is not available to allow accurate monetary estimates of the value of conservation. In an economic analysis, the article compares the net social benefits of the present use of the park for conservation and tourism with the potential benefits from use of the land for agriculture. Estimates are provided to show that the present use of the park creates substantially more net social benefits to society than agricultural use. The question remains whether these benefits are equitably distributed at various levels of South African society.

Ongoing constraint of budgets in the public sector has brought increasing attention to the capability of municipal parks and recreation departments to generate revenue. In this context various approaches to setting user fees are discussed. The article describes the steps being taken by the North York Parks and Recreation Department, Ontario, Canada, to develop an approach to calculate fees and charges. A study was undertaken to determine the appropriate level of subsidisation for each of the department’s services. A catalogue identifying 27 benefits of parks and recreation services grouped into four general headings: personal, social, economic and environmental was produced.


To assess how the natural environment and social interaction foster emotional outcomes, this study surveyed recreational visitors to the Dalton Highway in northern Alaska (258 guided visitors, 187 independent travellers) about a special experience they had, the factors that influenced it, and the emotions it engendered. Scenery—especially mountains—was the most commonly mentioned feature, with vastness, contrasts, and colours emerging as important dimensions. Seeing wildlife was important in half of the special experiences, especially when it involved being near animals, watching natural behaviour, or seeing young animals. Surprising, novel, or unexpected circumstances were explicitly described by nearly one fifth of respondents. The emotions of awe, excitement, and pleasure were strongly associated with special experiences. Experiences in which wildlife and scenery were experienced either as part of a social group or during a recreational activity generated significantly higher levels of positive affect. These findings emphasise the importance of positive emotions as a benefit of recreational activities and provide insight into the nature of extraordinary experiences.


Tourism is not only an economic but also a social and political agent that affects a wider natural and socio-cultural environment. To be successful as a tool of poverty reduction, tourism must be seen as one dimension of a destination’s economy and society. In the context of a world-class urban national park yielding major economic benefits for the Cape Town and Western Cape tourism economies, this paper focuses on a variety of symbiotic relationships existing between the people of Cape Town and the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP). First, the current literature is reviewed to provide a conceptual base for protected areas (PAs) within urban environments and to appraise the importance of the local community’s appreciation of this natural resource base. Secondly, the wide user base of the TMNP is placed within its socio-economic
context. Thirdly, two poverty-relief projects, Ukuvuku and Mountain of Jobs, are introduced to reflect on TMNP’s commitments to biodiversity conservation and social responsibility. Fourthly, the value Capetonians place on being the custodians of this world-class natural heritage site is discussed. Lastly, this paper appeals to other cities in the developing world to manage and nurture salubrious relationships between PAs and their neighbours carefully.


This section is devoted to outdoor sports and the benefits of outdoor recreation. Managing stress through outdoor recreation (Finnicum and Zeiger, pp.46–51) shows that while outdoor activities are excellent providers of physical exertion, they can also double as extraordinary stress busters providing a break from the normal routine. ‘Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument: the politics of environmental preservation’ (Dustin and Barbar, pp.52–57) describes how the designation of a 1.7m acre parcel of federal land in Utah as a national monument incurred the wrath of developers and commercial opponents whilst gaining support from environmentalists and conservationists. Reflections on an outdoor recreation experience (Hill, pp.58–64) describes the re-enactment of the Mormon Trail Wagon Train, which involved some 10 000 individuals in pioneer attire covering 1100 miles of prairie and mountain terrain through Nebraska, Wyoming and Utah. ‘What’s gone amok in outdoor recreation?’ (Cottrell and Cottrell, pp.65–69) describes how a series of events, including decreased funding for land acquisition, cutbacks in operating funds, and fewer jobs in the profession, have altered the face of outdoor recreation. ‘Volunteer-based recreation land-management’ (Bristow, pp.70–76) details the corridor monitoring program initiated by the Appalachian Trail Conference, which enlists volunteers to serve as its eyes and ears, saving taxpayers thousands of dollars.


The purpose of this chapter is to examine attempts at implementing experience-based and outcomes-focus management (OFM) in the context of wildlife management. The particular focus of the chapter is on efforts directed at wildlife-based recreation but it is argued that OFM is an appropriate framework for wildlife management in general and not only the management of wildlife-based recreation. The history of experienced focus studies is summarised in three parts: hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing. It examines how an OFM approach can be used as a broader planning framework to manage wildlife, fisheries and related resources for recreational and non-recreational outcomes. Barriers to implementation are discussed and two case studies are presented providing examples how to overcome them. Most of the responsible managers and biologists in the fish and wildlife agencies are professional
fisheries and wildlife biologists, though academic programs require social science training. Most of the leaders and decision-makers have limited training or experience in the social aspects of recreation management and social aspects of natural resource management. Therefore, training and mid-career education is essential. Finally, to obtain successful use of OFM it needs to be presented as a system to address desired visitor and social community outcomes within the context of adaptive management currently embraced by fish and wildlife agencies.

The categories of recreation benefits have been identified as national economic development, environmental quality, regional development and social wellbeing. A case study of an inland water storage recreation area in New South Wales, Australia is used to illustrate the significance of the first of these categories. The travel cost method estimated the 124 000 visitors enjoying Glenbawn State Recreation Area in 1979/80 yielded some A$768 000 in benefits.


Once an opencast coal site, the Rother Valley Country Park is an example of how close and willing cooperation between local government, nationalised industry and regional organisations can benefit both the nation as a whole and the region in particular. As coal was worked from each section of the site progressive restoration of the land took place. The design and development of the recreational facilities are described including landscape work, the restoration of old buildings and the construction of new ones, lake construction, nature conservation, and recreational activities provided.


Use of open spaces in North America has reflected the British pattern: before the age of industrial development common land was available for recreation by all. With industrialisation many areas of previously common land were requisitioned by the rich and, in the latter part of the 19th century, many villages and towns began to provide public parks, swimming baths and libraries funded by donations. The evolution of public parks with recreational facilities for adults and children is traced and the influence of changes in North American society on Colombian life is considered. With the trend for decentralisation of industry, city areas become increasingly more available for the pursuit of leisure, cultural and educational activities, with many economic benefits to the community. Changes in urban financial support with the recent economic restrictions of federal government are described, together with changing patterns of social behaviour in family units, the role of the women in society, and the increase in older people seeking recreation.


Reviewing the mass consumption society that many developed countries, and the USA in particular, have become, the paper examines the development of parks and recreation services. It notes that the common concept of this area was a rigid one, with an unchanging mandate over a lifetime. However as with other jobs, the paper argues parks and recreation services need to develop flexibly and become more agile, developing partnerships with other agencies concerned with the health and
wellbeing of the nation. The structure of the National Recreation and Parks Association is examined to see if it fits criteria of flexibility and agility. Benefits-based and wellbeing as mission statements are proposed as the way forward for US park and recreation organisations.


The purpose of this investigation was to examine selected aspects of local park usage by older urban residents. Specifically the study examined: (1) meaning, motivation, and satisfactions associated with local park usage; (2) logistics of usage such as travel mode, duration of stay, companionship and others; (3) on-site behaviour moods, attitudes and states of mind; and (4) critiques of the park environment. Data were collected in five large cities—San Francisco, Houston, Atlanta, Chicago and Boston—which were selected to provide variation in climate, geography and ethnic makeup. An interview schedule was developed and pilot-tested in Philadelphia in March of 1981. Subsequently, 695 personal interviews were conducted with users aged 55 and over in five parks within the five cities. Interviews took place in randomly selected parks which were designed for neighbourhood use. Older users were found to be diverse in demographic characteristics. Park use was found to frequently represent routine behaviour in which a wide variety of leisure behaviour occurred. Park visitation had important perceived benefits for approximately half of all older users.


No further information available.


The aim of the study is to create a list of the benefits of local recreation and park services as perceived by the American public. Participants were divided into two groups: users of local recreation and park services and non-users. Results show that 71% of non-users said they received some benefit from their communities’ parks and recreational services. Benefits identified by non-users included kids (e.g. keeping kids off the streets, giving kids place to go, kids’ enjoyment). Benefits identified by users were of personal, social, facility/activity, environmental and economic nature. Results also include a list of benefits ranked by recreation and parks professionals. The study concludes that the majority of the American public uses local recreation and park services with park and playground use being the most common. Recreational participation declines with age, but park use does not. The majority of people who do not use parks and recreation services still perceive substantial benefit from them and local parks and recreation are associated with a sense of community.

The article reports on a study undertaken to determine the benefits of local government park and recreation services as perceived by the American public. It was concerned with use of services, types of benefits perceived at the individual, household and community level; the comparative importance of such benefits; and relations between the respondent’s perception of benefits and his or her socio-economic and demographic status and use of such services. The study was funded by the National Recreation Foundation and carried out through the National Recreation and Park Association in cooperation with Penn State University’s Leisure Studies Program. A total of 1305 households were randomly surveyed. The findings show that most Americans feel they have less time available for leisure compared to five years ago. Seventy five per cent of all respondents had used parks and playgrounds during the last 12 months. Respondents were asked about benefits received from local parks at an individual, household and community level. The vast majority perceived benefits at all levels but particularly at the community level. Park and recreation services use is somewhat concentrated among families, but continues across the life cycle. In terms of benefits, exercise and health-related benefits predominate.


This text aims to describe why park and recreation services provide so much physical activity for so little money, explaining the scientific basis for the change of the role parks and recreation services play in the healthcare system. It presents a background to the services parks and recreation provide as well as the development of how the new role emerged. The physical activity benefits provided by park/recreation services are discussed including results of studies which support the argument. A high number of people who use parks and recreation services are physically active. Results also show that increasing the availability of structured, supervised activities will likely increase park use. A small increase per person in spending for parks and recreation therefore may have significant positive effects on amount of physical activity, in health cost savings and human happiness. Suggestions include: bringing park and recreation services closer to people and increasing accessibility; improving parks renovation and design to pull in larger numbers of visitors; promoting parks and recreation services as an essential component of the healthcare system; enhancing partnership strategies enhanced and promoting and increasing physical activity. The need to develop new policy and funding alternatives to expand the physical activity impact of parks and recreation is highlighted. Finally, park and recreation services’ contribution needs to be evaluated using more advanced monitoring tools and systems.

This article examines why park and recreation services provide so much physical activity for so little money. The benefits of outdoor recreation and open space in Australian parks and leisure providers are identified as integral to a more holistic preventative health strategy. In doing so, it is identified that physical activity benefits are increased through investment in park and recreation services, through having park and recreation services close to home and through appropriate park and recreation service design. To achieve these benefits it needs to be ensured that park and recreation providers and participants focus on physical activity and health outcomes. Partnership strategies with health-related organisations need to be enhanced, while new policy and funding alternatives need to be developed. Park and recreation services’ contributions to physical activity also need to be evaluated.


This study explores the recreation pattern of Puerto Ricans in Southbridge, Massachusetts—to date, a relatively understudied Latino ethnic group in the field of recreation and leisure studies. Employing several OLS regression analyses it identifies the individual, residency and neighbourhood factors associated with patterns of Puerto Rican park use and perceived park use benefits. The findings suggest factors associated with ethnicity, socio-economic status, park alternatives and neighbourhood characteristics affect park use and perceived benefits, especially when used in combination. Lastly, findings indicate that objective measures of distance to the resource do not significantly impact park use or perceived park use benefits.


Public parks provide opportunities to enrich the quality of life for person of all ages and abilities. Parks are the key contributor to the aesthetic and physical quality of the surroundings. The study evaluates health, social, personal and environmental benefits associated with parks. In total 200 respondents belonging to different age, profession, education, income and age group were interviewed—70% of whom strongly agreed that parks have potential to contribute to improved health status and psychological wellbeing of park visitors; 7% were uncertain about it. Similarly 83% of respondents agreed that parks enhance the beauty of the city, while 86% believe plants reduce air pollution by purifying our environment. Data recorded on health benefits showed that 60% of the visitors feel relaxed and reduce mental stress and tension. A total of 68% of visitors agreed that by visiting parks increases thinking concentration. Similarly data related to social benefits showed that 52% of park visitors find opportunity to talking with people and improve their living standard.

Indonesia possesses many kinds of natural resources within its rich forest and marine ecosystem. The government policy for managing natural resources is based on the desire to promote cultural and social development as well as the economic growth of Indonesia, in harmony with the country's natural environment. Natural resources are managed to produce economic benefits, but parts of the forest and marine ecosystems are designated as protected areas to conserve specific and unique tropical ecosystems. National parks both preserve the resources and allow limited utilisation (e.g. for research, educational and recreational purposes). Compared with other types of protected areas, national parks receive special attention in terms of management and funds. Management of national parks is separate from other protected areas. The article describes the legal basis of national park management and discusses the criteria for their designation. Ten national parks are managed by the National Park Office while the other 14 are under the control of the Regional Office of Nature Conservation. Besides government sources, funds for developing some national parks come from international donors in the form of loans or grants. The developmental, planning and educational aspects of park management are discussed.


A review is presented which discusses Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (BIF) in Uganda in terms of the importance of protected area status, local people as beneficiaries of and participants in management and biodiversity conservation. It is suggested that BIF is the most important forest in Uganda for conservation of biodiversity as it contains over half the world’s mountain gorillas and many other rare or near-endemic species. It is surrounded by densely populated agricultural land and lies within a region of political instability. Gazetted as a forest reserve in 1932, little forest now remains outside its boundaries. Transformation of nearby communal swampland to farmland (largely owned by a few individuals) indicates the probable fate of Bwindi if it had not been declared a protected area. Widespread illegal logging and other activities were among reasons why the status of the forest was raised to a national park in 1991. This resulted in local resentment, fed by inadequate consultation and concern about the local people's loss of access to resources. Fires were set in the forest and threats made against the gorillas. Three schemes to provide benefits from the existence of the forest to communities and involve them in park management were then instituted, these were (i) agreements allowing controlled harvesting of resources in the park, (ii) receipt of some revenue from tourism and (iii) establishment of a trust fund partly for community development. Tension
between people and the park was reduced, and it is concluded that this case demonstrates the importance of protected areas and community involvement in such circumstances. It is suggested that community support is especially critical when resources available to park managers are limited and political instability endemic.


Urban forests and parks are forested areas that can serve as refuges for privacy. This article presents a conceptual argument for urban forests and parks as privacy refuges, and data that support the argument. On-site visitors (n=610) to four Cleveland, Ohio, USA, Metroparks were surveyed in 1995. Results indicated that considerable amounts of privacy were obtained during visits to the urban forests and parks, that people spent an average of two-plus hours per visit to these privacy refuges, that certain settings (habitats) within the refuges were preferred over others for privacy, and that ‘reflective thought’ was the most important function (benefit) that privacy served within the refuges. The findings have implications for preserving and managing urban forests and parks as nearby refuges where the basic human need for privacy can be found.


Two methodologies for valuing non-market benefits (contingent valuation and the travel cost method) are briefly described. Both are then applied to the problem of valuing non-market recreation benefits derived by visitors to a part of the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park in central Scotland, UK. Results, in terms of consumer surplus estimates, are presented for each method, and problems found in applying the two methodologies are pointed out.


Over the past decade, public parks and recreation agencies have been called upon to be more accountable for their services and the allocation of resources. At the same time, an increased awareness of the value of personal health and fitness and a cultural reawakening have created greater demand for recreation services. These and other factors led the public parks and recreation system to recognise that their services could no longer be justified solely on the basis of satisfying public demand. Improved analytical measures were necessary in order to provide a more logical and rational basis for decision-making. Once in place, they could then be used to evaluate services, measure their benefit and allocate resources. In an effort to develop analytical approaches to decision-making, the Perc Priority Rating Scale and Basic Services Model were developed.
This paper builds on these initiatives and suggests an alternative approach to estimate the perceived benefit of parks and recreation services. It broadly defines benefit in environmental, social, personal, intangible and economic terms. It then describes the process used to assess the relative benefits of 19 parks and recreation services and explains the significance of this approach with respect to decision-making and resource allocation in the public sector.


This article describes a national survey developed to determine Canadians’ perceptions of parks and recreation service benefits provided directly or indirectly by local government. The study focuses on: time available for leisure and whether individuals are experiencing feelings of being rushed; the value Canadians place on work and leisure; the use of local government parks and recreation services and reasons for non-use of these services; benefits of using these services at the individual, household and community level; the impact of withdrawing parks and recreation services; the monetary value (C$) Canadians associate with the benefits they receive from these services and how services should be financed; and the demographic, health status and socio-economic profile of survey respondents. It is concluded that the Canadian public recognises public parks and recreation promotes health and wellness, public safety, environmental protection and helps to develop strong communities.


Wildlife resources are a major tourist attraction in Zimbabwe. Tourism is seen by the government of Zimbabwe as an important earner of foreign exchange but not at the expense of local social values or natural resources. The current strategy is to cater for the upper end of the market and encourage high-value, low-volume tourism. The article discusses Zimbabwe's resource base of: national parks; safari areas; recreational parks; sanctuaries; botanical reserves; and botanical gardens. It traces the growth of foreign tourism to the country since before the 1960s. It then briefly reviews the nature of tourism activity within the parks and wildlife estate and the role of safari operators and professional hunters. In assessing the actual and potential benefits from wildlife-based tourism for the rural economy it is shown that only a limited amount of formal employment and a limited market for local products and skills are created. The opportunity cost lost to local populations because of land set aside for national parks must be weighed against the tourism benefits which accrue to them.

The purpose of this study was to assess a health impact assessment (HIA) tool to determine the perceived health impact by the public of a public park. The authors conducted a cross-sectional study from March to April, 2011, using this HIA questionnaire to collect data and through focus group discussions. They also assessed community concerns about the park and obtained recommendations of how to mitigate possible negative aspects. Four aspects were listed as possible benefits of the park: physical, mental, social, and spiritual health. The negative aspects mentioned by participants were that a park could be a potential place of assembly for teenagers, a place for theft and crime and accidents among children. The HIA tool used for this research seemed appropriate. The next challenge is to use this tool to assess a more controversial project.


A non-market environmental valuation technique, referred to as individual travel cost method, was used to value the recreational benefits of the Udawattekele Forest in Sri Lanka. Primary data were collected in April–June 2002 through a survey of 167 visitors. The estimated total travel cost was regressed against the respective number of visits to determine the demand function for the recreational value of Udawattekele. The study indicated that an increase in travel cost has an impact on the number of visits to the park. The estimated consumer surplus for the year 2001 was Rs. 7,905,438 (Rs. 7.90m). The total income collected at the park entrance during 2001 was Rs. 1027m. The estimated consumer surplus indicated that the users of the park gained considerable benefits. Therefore, the park entrance fee can be increased considerably from the present per capita entrance fee of Rs. 20.00. This clearly indicates that the present entrance fee is undervalued.


This article outlines the expressed purpose of a new Canadian national committee called the National Values and Benefits Working Group. This committee aims to promote and support recreation practitioners, volunteers and decision-makers in delivering personal, social, economic, and environmental benefits from parks and recreation for Canadian communities. It outlines how individual practitioners can become involved in this initiative by describing 11 fora which they can join.


This article examines the benefits of recreation from the following perspectives: active living, wellbeing and preventive health; community prevention programs; economic development; and environmental education and protection.

The contingent valuation method (CVM) and the contingent activity method (CAM) are applied to Dartmoor National Park, England, UK. The results of a parallel Travel Cost Method (TCM) based study are also presented. The analysis is based on the results of a visitor survey conducted at the Park during Summer 1996: a total of 980 questionnaires were collected. Results are presented and assessed in the context of each other and existing valuation studies. The potential benefits and costs of an elicitation question based on willingness to travel rather than willingness to pay are explored. The motivations of individuals in providing bids are also considered. Estimates of the aggregate recreational benefit generated by the Park are compared using the different valuation tools and found to be between £20 million and £250 million per year. Weaknesses in the analysis are identified and policy implications are considered.


The Peak Park Leisure Walks project (UK) aims to promote health and increase access to the countryside by encouraging disadvantaged groups of people living in the Peak District to take advantage of their local environment through a supported walking program. An evaluation of the success of the scheme was conducted through the use of a questionnaire distributed to 85 households in the autumn of 1998. From the 22 completed questionnaires received, the most significant finding was that socialising was found to be the most important factor in continued participation in the scheme. Future schemes should emphasise this factor in their promotion ahead of other factors such as their health benefits.


This paper reviews current research on the holistic health benefits of park and recreation services. Therefore, health benefits according to park users are identified. Findings of previous studies show that active park users were healthier due to regular physical activity. Stress-reduction benefits of park use are discussed. Therefore, studies indicate that outdoor recreation and park use might improve positive moods, decrease negative moods and alleviate stress. Also, observing nature in parks and associated benefits are identified as well as the overall health of park and recreation users. To decrease sedentary behaviour and increase people’s use of parks to achieve optimal health, environmental and policy interventions are needed which include the creation of shaded areas and lighted trails, increased funding to develop programs and facilities as well as social marketing campaigns.

This paper examined how gender and ethnicity are related to preferences for various park characteristics, visitation to urban parks and open spaces, and perception of park benefits as reported by participants in a mail survey of residents in two metropolitan areas in eastern USA. In total, 1570 questionnaires were completed, but 65 cases were deleted because they failed to identify their ethnicity or gender. The overall response rate for the survey was approximately 27%. Although women were more likely than men to evaluate some park characteristics as ‘important,’ there were no significant gender differences/variation in the types of visits or the perceived benefits of parks. There was significant ethnic variation in preferred park attributes, frequency and type of visits, and perceptions of the positive and negative effects of parks. However, the effects of ethnicity were not found to differ for men and women.


This chapter aims to describe how outcomes-focused management (OFM) was implemented on Red Hill and to identify the contributions of this application to the refinement of OFM. Therefore, the use of OFM to guide the planning and managing of the Red Hill Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) is reviewed. The chapter outlines how the application of OFM on the Red Hill SRMA differs from the other applications of OFM on public wildlands. The application contributed to improve and refine OFM and included contributions to the development of the BLM’s guidelines for planning and managing recreation resources and visitor services, and the contribution to the development of the comprehensive normative model. Therefore, the application of the normative model is discussed in detail. Furthermore, the importance of collaborating with local residents is highlighted.


Basic services in Finnish national parks and state-owned recreation areas have traditionally been publicly financed and thus free of charge for users. Since the benefits of public recreation are not captured by market demand, government spending on recreation services must be motivated in some other way. The study elicits individuals’ (n=1871) willingness to pay (WTP) for services in the country’s state-owned parks to obtain an estimate of the value of outdoor recreation in monetary terms. A variant of the Tobit model is used in the econometric analysis to examine the WTP responses elicited by a payment card format. The study also looks at who the current users of recreation services are in order to enable policymakers to anticipate the redistribution effects of a potential implementation of user fees.
Finally, the motives for WTP are discussed, revealing concerns such as equity and ability to pay that are relevant for planning public recreation in general and for the introduction of fees in particular.


Promoting physical activity through parks and recreation: a focus on youth and adolescence (Hultsman, pp. 66–70) identifies actions for incorporating physical activity into one’s lifestyle. ‘Building an intergenerational activity program for older adults: implications for physical activity’ (Harper, pp. 68–70) provides an overview of the benefits of physical activity for older adults and some basic steps in development and implementation of an intergenerational physical activity program.


This paper reports on an ongoing community-based nature/heritage tourism project in Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park, Bhutan. It is indicated that the project’s potential socio-economic benefits for the local communities could be substantial.


The purpose of the study was to explore the constraints and benefits associated with the use of an urban park by a sample of elderly people in Hong Kong. The proportion of elderly in the population of Hong Kong is increasing rapidly. Although a substantial body of research on leisure and the elderly exists in Western societies, no previous research on this subject in Hong Kong has been reported, and it seemed likely that cultural differences would lead to some different perspectives. A purposive sample of 25 elderly respondents, 13 within Tsuen Wan Jockey Club Tak Wah Park and 12 outside the park, were interviewed. Representatives from three age cohorts, 60–69, 70–79, and 80+ were selected. Both park and non-park users reported major constraints associated with not using the park more to be: poor health, being too busy and poor park management, which incorporated crowding, the poor hygiene of other park users and illicit behaviour in the park. Non-park users cited a number of additional reasons. Respondents perceived that multiple health, social and psychological benefits accrued from park use. Cultural differences were identified suggesting that the implications for facilitating urban park use in Hong Kong may be different from those in Western societies.

This study explored positioning strategies for a recreation and park department in a large US mid-western city. Using Importance-Performance (I-P) analysis as a guide, the study found Midwest City Parks and Recreation (MCPR) could position itself by focusing on the desired public benefits falling in the quadrant 'keep up the good work'. These benefits included increasing community pride, enhancing family recreation opportunities, helping residents stay healthy, preserving natural areas, and making the city a better place to live. These benefits, however, were deemed to lack the political clout to secure increased funding since MCPR was meeting residents’ expectations in these areas and were struggling to maintain existing funding. Although benefits within this quadrant (increase property values, help residents meet other people, educate residents about the environment, make businesses want to relocate, bring tourists to the city) may be viable in the eyes of park and recreation academicians and practitioners, residents regarded these benefits as relatively unimportant to American cities and felt that MCPR were not delivering them to residents. Selecting one of these positions would require moving residents’ perceptions of the MCPR a great distance. Public opinion is difficult to change and efforts might be more rewarding if focused on keeping youth out of trouble. Keeping youth out of trouble was felt to be a viable positioning strategy for two reasons. First, a large proportion (78%) of residents agreed or strongly agreed that recreation and park agencies in the USA are instrumental in doing this. Thus, at present residents felt youth services to be a mandate of the recreation and park profession. Second, residents reported that MCPR is performing inadequately in this area. The combined importance of keeping youth out of trouble, in combination with Midwest City’s poor performance in this area, make this a position Parks and Recreation officials might plausibly consider. The article also describes how Midwest City might engage in real, competitive, and psychological positioning in terms of keeping youth out of trouble.


The author conducted a survey of foreign guests at Mfuwe Lodge in South Luangwa National Park, Zambia, to investigate the role of various benefits in visitor expectations of a rewarding visit to Zambia, and to assess visitor satisfaction with the tourism benefits. It emerged that the Zambian tourism product is highly undiversified. Wildlife, scenery and opportunities for experiencing African culture were the benefits most sought by visitors, and visitors defined the entire tourism product and their experience of it according to those benefits. Long stay visitors and those aged 30–49 displayed the most rigorous demands for a satisfying visit, in terms of opportunities for experiencing African culture, travel around the country, and the desire for interesting cuisine.

The objective of the study is to examine the recreational pattern of Dibeen National Park (DNP) in Jerash, Jordan and to estimate the use value that would be used to demonstrate the potential magnitude of this environmental amenity that cannot be ignored in policy making in Jordan. Two non-market evaluation techniques namely the contingent valuation method and travel cost model (TCM) are used to estimate the economic value that Jordanians, place on improving DNP. A survey of 300 questionnaires was used to elicit the recreational value of DNP. Several models have been developed using the TCM and the open-ended contingent valuation method (OEWTP). Poisson regression analysis was used to estimate the TCM while the Tobit regression analysis was used to estimate the willingness to pay (WTP) models. Using the TCM estimates, the average value of recreation in DNP is JD 71.55 (US$100) per person per recreation day. The mean of willingness to pay for conserving and improving the services on DNP from the OEWTP approach was JD 5.53 (US$7.8). The value of DNP to its users is can be estimated at approximately JD13.6m (US$19.2 m) a year using the TCM. This figure would vary from year to year depending on number of visitors. These findings suggest that the recreation values should be integrated in multiple use decision-making process. According to the recently launched biodiversity strategy and action plan, the Government of Jordan is intending to implement a conservation projects in Dibeen and Ajloun regions, the two most important forest in Jordan. The results of this study could be used by researchers and policy analysts at the Ministry of Environment to justify the implementation of conservation of the two forests. Nevertheless, public goods should be managed to maximise the public benefits and recreation is indeed a public benefit of the forest resource.


National parks in India besides being a place for the conservation of flora and fauna are also meant to be an important tourist attraction. The study shows how each park contributes to the recreational or tourist geography of the country. The economic benefits as well as the main problems, such as lack of suitable tourist accommodation are discussed. It is suggested that the parks and sanctuaries be transferred from under the administration of the Forest Department to the Department of Tourism where they would receive high priority in State plans.

This chapter provides an overview of how the USDA Forest Service manages the forests’ outdoor recreation resources and to compare the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) with the outcomes-focused management (OFM). The nation’s forests have a long and rich history of providing outdoor recreation opportunities and part of that history is the development and application of methods, including management systems, to manage the public wildlands under agency administration. Recreation was not recognised as a primary use of the national forest until 1960 when the focus on a more professional approach to managing recreation opportunities grew with the publication of the Outdoor Recreation Resource Review Commission. An explicit outcomes-oriented management focus was lacking until the evolution of the ROS which was implemented in 1982 as the basic framework for inventorying, planning, and managing the recreation resources. Even though the US Forest Services (USFS) makes progress of implementing at least some elements of OFM in recreation resources management, the ROS only considers satisfying recreation experiences and in many if not most applications they are not explicitly articulated. The OFM on the other hand requires giving the experiences a more explicit focus in management objectives. In conclusion it is highlighted that the ROS is a limited type of OFM.


This chapter outlines the importance of parks and recreation and starts with a summary of the parks situation, highlighting the difficulties of proving its significance. To overcome these, statistics are asked for to convince decision-makers and help to change peoples’ minds about parks. The creation of pleasure grounds, playgrounds, recreation facilities and nature preserves do not only protect nature but also serve the public. Recreation is identified to provide healthful activities and to develop social relationships. The value of parks is discussed and it is highlighted that it is impossible to put a price on all the benefits of parks and recreation such as health improvement, increase of social relationships and the decline of crime. Nevertheless, the services parks provide need to be acknowledged and supported to overcome the social challenges of the 90s.

Persistent public scrutiny and shrinking public funding of leisure services have required recreation administrators to seek new ways to maintain support for their programs. Economic impact studies have proved to be a valuable tool in the 'battle' for tax dollars. This study examines the economic impact of public leisure services on the economy of Illinois, USA. Visitor expenditure surveys and an examination of leisure service agencies purchases, productions, and employee compensations were incorporated into an input-output model of the Illinois economy using MicroIMPLAN, a microcomputer-based system for regional economic analysis. Results indicate that Illinois park districts had a total output multiplier of 1.58 and an employment multiplier of 1.47, and forest preserves had a total output multiplier of 1.66 and a 1.32 employment multiplier. The total economic impact of Illinois leisure services was about US$3100m. These data support the argument that the people of Illinois receive economic benefits that exceed their costs for the recreation services provided by park districts, forest preserve, and conservation districts.


Directed attention plays an important role in human information processing; its fatigue, in turn, has far-reaching consequences. Attention Restoration Theory provides an analysis of the kinds of experiences that lead to recovery from such fatigue. Natural environments turn out to be particularly rich in the characteristics necessary for restorative experiences. An integrative framework is proposed that places both directed attention and stress in the larger context of human-environment relationships.


Positioning is concerned with influencing the place an organisation holds in the minds of stakeholders relative to competitors. It has been advocated as key to public park and recreation agencies' efforts to compete successfully for tax allocations. The centrality of positioning in the parks and recreation field has been accentuated in recent years by the emergence of (i) the Benefits Approach to Leisure and (ii) by the development of a new theoretical paradigm to explain public sector marketing. The revised paradigm replaces the traditional notion of voluntary exchange with the concept of redistribution controlled by elected officials and voters. Both of these two movements have caused agencies to recognise that the key to resource acquisition is establishing the public benefits of parks and recreation in elected officials' and voters' minds. This is accomplished using real, psychological, and competitive repositioning strategies. To implement an effective repositioning strategy, agencies need to empirically identify priority issues in a community and stakeholders' perceptions of the
strengths and weaknesses of park and recreation services in addressing those issues. To do this an instrument was developed to enable agencies to identify the issues deemed most important in the community, and to measure stakeholders’ perceptions of the performance of park and recreation agencies and their ‘competitors’ in addressing those issues. Initially, the park and recreation repositioning scale (PARRS) was conceptualised to be comprised of ten domains represented by a total of 55 items. A content validity check by expert judges resulted in ten of the original items being discarded and an additional six being created. In addition, the judges’ input led to one of the domains being expanded to embrace a broader mandate and to another domain being removed. The remaining 51 items were administered to a sample of undergraduate students, who were asked to rate the importance of the items in the context of their hometown. This pre-test resulted in a reduced set of 40 items, which was formatted to solicit views on the importance of the nine issues from a sample of residents in a municipality of 45,000. The 3312 useable questionnaires that were returned (40.1% response rate) were analysed to produce a final PARRS instrument that is comprised of 36 items which measure nine potential repositioning domains. In some contexts, a 36-item scale which has to be completed twice to measure both importance and performance elements may be too long to be practical. Hence, three alternate options are offered: (i) use of a shorter, 26-item instrument that measures all nine domains; (ii) address only those domains that an agency believes to be important in its community, rather than all nine domains; and (iii) adopt a two-stage process whereby the important domains are identified in the first stage, and the second stage investigates an agency's perceived performance, and potentially that of relevant competitors as well, on only those high priority domains.


A sample of 331 residents of Grapevine, Texas, responded to an instrument designed to assess their perspectives of the priority issues related to economic development in their community. The instrument also assessed the parks and recreation department’s contributions to these issues, and compared them with those of the police department in the area of preventing youth crime. The data were used to suggest a repositioning strategy for the city’s parks and recreation department. The instrumentation and processes used in this case study are designed to offer a generalisable operational tool for leisure service agencies to use to determine an optimal repositioning strategy.


This research was conducted to examine the efficacy of repositioning public parks and recreation services in the public mind. Respondents were recruited at various venues throughout a large Canadian city and randomly assigned to
one of five groups. After reading hypothetical newspaper format articles, respondents completed questionnaires investigating their beliefs, attitudes, and behavioural intentions regarding a local recreation agency’s efforts to reduce youth crime. Four treatment messages contained various combinations of real, psychological, and competitive repositioning messages, while a control group received no information. All types of repositioning messages were effective in improving beliefs and behavioural intentions, but not attitudes. There was no significant evidence that numerical treatment messages were more effective than non-numerical messages or that the cumulative effects of various repositioning messages were more effective than a single type of message. Discussion focuses on efficacy of various framing messages, on suggestions for future research related to repositioning, and on considerations related to social marketing efforts of this nature.


In the past, efforts to place a dollar value on non-market recreation have been dominated by the requirements of federal agencies to measure the contribution to national accounts. However, a number of questions have been raised about limitations. Economic premises, measurement inconsistencies, and strategic biases have been made issues for debate. Also, non-economic benefits have been added to the possibilities for inclusion. Based on a summary analysis of the past and present, a proposal for a future strategy is offered that is thoroughly interdisciplinary, multi-centred, and inclusive. Both on-site and household-based data would be incorporated in a program that includes economic measures of actual expenditures and willingness-to-pay, social-psychological and sociological indicators of personal and social benefits, and 'behavioural economics' expectation theory. Further, a model of 'investment theory' is added to include longer-term benefits for those engaging in recreation.


This study describes and predicts segments of urban park visitors to support park planning and policy making. A latent class analysis is used to identify segments of park users who differ regarding their preferences for park characteristics, benefits sought in park visits, and socio-demographics. Data for the present study were obtained using a mail-back survey on park choice behaviour from 1107 residents in the Eindhoven region in The Netherlands in 2002. The latent class analysis resulted in four segments of residents based on clearly different park preferences and benefits sought in the parks. The segments are characterised as ‘local nature lovers,’ ‘passive park users,’ ‘visitors of pleasant neighbourhood parks,’ and ‘active large park users.’ Socio-demographics did not discriminate between the various segments of park visitors. These findings emphasise the
importance of taking into account different leisure preferences and benefits sought by individuals when evaluating the impact of urban green space facilities.


Based on data from direct observations, questionnaires and interviews, this paper examines the socio-economic impacts of tourism on poor rural communities (particularly the Mpembeni community) adjacent to the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa. It is shown that the Mpembeni community benefits to a certain extent from tourism. The benefits include the accessibility of natural resources, tourism development, participation in the operation and management of the park, as well as education and training programs. It is also shown that there is a range of opportunities for positive interactions between the park management and staff, tourists and the community. Examples include job opportunities, income generation, good working relations and joint problem-solving ventures. Finally, it is revealed that tourism has the potential to contribute to the socio-economic development of the communities bordering the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park.


Within the US federal government, researchers have developed many tools for measuring intangible and tangible outdoor recreation human benefits. Benefits based management (BBM) focuses on effects of activities rather than on the activity itself. The six key measurement areas are physical, mental, emotional, social, economic, and environmental. USDA Forest Service recreation managers are skilled in applying more concrete measurement tools that focus on outputs, resource condition, and other tangible recreation opportunities. These include the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum, the Limits of Acceptable Change, INFR, NSRE and the National Visitor Use Monitoring program, which are briefly discussed in this paper.


In recent years awareness has increased of the importance of open landscapes (natural and semi-natural) for human use, including provision of life-supporting ecological benefits and services. In addition there has been an increase in awareness and demand for recreational activities in nature: cultural, social, sport, and spiritual activities outside of the urban setting. A partial list of all of the environmental benefits or services could
add up to dozens of economical, biological, and social benefits. Social benefits such as recreation are just one component of the spectrum of benefits and services that can be derived from natural systems. This research assesses the ecosystem service of recreation in a natural setting in the Mediterranean region in Israel, focusing on two specific benefits: picnics and hikes. It assesses recreationers’ preferences using questionnaire-based surveys that were administered directly at the research site, Ramat Hanadiv Park (RH park), while people were conducting the study activity (picnic or hike). The research aim was to estimate the preferences of hikers and picnickers for different types of natural vegetation formations. The study found that visitors preferred to hike in the open garrigue compared to either the dense scrub or the pine forest, whereas for picnics both the open garrigue and the planted pine forest were preferred over the dense scrub. Testing the attractiveness of each component of the landscape (e.g., trees, flowers, animals, archaeology) for hikers and picnickers, surveys showed that scenery was highly and unanimously ranked. Flowering plants, birds, native trees, and to some extent gazelles, deer, and butterflies were ranked high, while reptiles, beetles, and cattle received a much lower attractiveness rank. The ranking of archaeological sites and pine forest was more variable, and intermediate to the two main groups above. Preferences were analysed according to different age and population distributions of park visitors, finding only slight effects of the level of education. The answers from this research can facilitate land managers and decision-makers in providing the ecosystem service of recreation, and to guide management for obtaining the desired vegetation formations for this aim, according to the preferences of hikers and picnickers.


As countries and destinations try to increase their share of the international and national tourism market, it is important to understand why people travel and why they choose a specific destination. This paper determines and compares travel motives of visitors to Kruger and Tsitsikamma National Parks. 2899 questionnaires were administered in the Kruger National Park and 829 in the Tsitsikamma National Park. A factor analysis was used to determine the travel motives and six factors were identified respectively for both parks. Results showed that tourists have common as well as unique motives in the two parks. Common motives in both parks include escape from city life and relaxation as well as knowledge seeking, nostalgia and park attributes. Unique to the Kruger National Park are activities and novelty compared to nature experience and photography for the Tsitsikamma National Park. This research confirmed that different attractions and destinations feed different travel motives even when classified as similar types of products. Marketers can use this information to position these parks and focus their marketing communication more effectively.

High expectations are frequently placed on the benefits from national park tourism. Surprisingly, there is a lack (at least for the Alpine region) of comprehensive studies of the importance of national park tourism for regional economies. The present paper aims to address this information deficit. Extensive visitor surveys carried out in and around the Swiss National Park in the summer of 1998 revealed that national park tourists booking accommodation in this region of 16 communities generated demand to the value of SFr 20.6m. SFr 10.2m of this amount was gross value added. This is the lower limit of the value added from national park tourism in the study area, representing 2.5% of the regional GDP. Indirect and induced regional economic effects from national park tourism are also taken into account and based on key parameters provided by the relevant literature. In this way, the upper limit of value added by national park tourism can be estimated to be approximately SFr 17.4m or 4.25% of the regional GDP. On the other hand, the comparative economic impact of national park day tourism can be considered very small. National park tourism contributes about one quarter of the total estimated value added of the region's summer tourism. This means that the national park can be considered to be a major attraction for summer tourism in the surrounding region. However, the surveys also revealed that visitors to the national park region appreciate the variety of activities offered, indicating that a national park on its own would likely be insufficient to promote a region's tourism or economy.

The National Parks System’s (NPS) abundance of trails and other outdoor recreation opportunities makes the NPS ideally suited to enable visitors’ attainment of healthy physical activity. Given the physiological and psychological benefits of leisure, their availability in outdoor settings and the efficiencies of market segmentation, media campaigns may be an effective means of influencing visitor physical activity behaviour. However, research is first needed to identify visitor market segments based on importance of physical and mental benefits, to evaluate the relationships between visitor demographics and physical activity, and investigate the effects of media campaigns on benefits-based visitor market segments. The study identified the perception of importance Acadia National Park visitors attached to a suite of mental and physical health benefits within the benefits-based management framework. Data were collected through an on-site questionnaire during July (pre-media) and August (post-media) of 2007. In addition to demographic information, the questionnaire included questions about use history, access transportation, recreation activities, group size, time on the trail, preferable trail attributes, social and personal constraints, and benefit importance. Relying on Driver’s (1983) Recreation Experience Preference (REP) scale, the questionnaire included a total of 20 benefit items: five items measured the perceptions of importance visitors had of physical health benefits, four items measured mental health benefits, four items measured social experience benefits, four items measured escape benefits, two items measured nature experience benefits, and one item measured creative benefits. A total of 158 people were contacted pre-media and 131 questionnaires were completed. During the post-media time period, 229 people were contacted and 213 questionnaires were collected. Four primary benefits-based market segments were identified exhibiting several key differences: Fitness Isolates, Trail Moderates, Casual Social Groups, and Trail Enthusiasts. The effects of the media campaign also had varied impacts on the four visitor market segments. Understanding benefit importance among different visitor segments can assist park planners and managers in providing more desirable experience opportunities. In addition, an evaluation of visitor segments identified potential relationships with physical activity behaviour. The results are helpful in identifying how knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour can help guide future media campaigns. Park planners and managers can use the results to anticipate how different visitor market segments may respond to other media campaigns. The outcomes of the research can include better communication with visitors and improved benefit opportunity provision.

No further information available.


This chapter discusses the integration of concepts of outcomes-focused management (OFM) into management planning for the Sedona Area of the Red Rock Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest. It summarises the research and management decisions made in applying the benefits approach on the Sedona Area. A brief background of the area is provided as well as a summary of the Sedona Red Rock visitor study, which was the first task of planning and describes the existing condition of the site. Results show that visitors desired restorative experiences such as getting away from crowds and the demands of life, experiencing quiet and solitude where they can rest mentally, enjoying the natural scenery, and learning about the natural and cultural environment. Furthermore, visitors were asked to: indicate the characteristics of the recreation sites and how much they preferred those, rate the environmental amenities in terms of their relative importance to achieve their desired experiences, and provide information about their demographics and other characteristics. The survey results provided useful information about visitors’ preferences and opinions that are connected to recreation-related activities. In the management plan, some specific beneficial outcomes were targeted overtly by management objectives but most of them can only be inferred. The plan did not adopt all the requirements of OFM; though, many targeted outcomes have helped guide preparation of the plan. Furthermore, during the implementation, projects have been completed and many more are planned to facilitate many beneficial outcomes and reduce the magnitudes of unwanted outcomes on the visitors, local communities and the ecosystem involved.


The purpose of this chapter is to describe the introduction of the outcomes approach to help guide policy, planning, and management decisions of the Natural Resource Management section of the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE). It provides a brief background, summarising the history of one of the oldest federal land management agencies before discussing the COS’s recreation program focusing of program’s nature and scope. The COE is a major provider of outdoor recreation opportunities in the US with primarily water-based outdoor. Furthermore, outcomes-focused policies and management focusing on experiential benefits are discussed, highlighting the
development and the increasing importance of OFM. The Corps worked on a strategy that incorporated the concepts of OFM and published a brochure which reviewed the many benefits of the Corps’ recreation program. Since then, the Corps have been involved to enhance the understanding of OFM, supporting several studies of the benefits of visitors to Corps projects. The gained understanding helped the Corps to more effectively serve recreational visitors and to nurture mutually satisfactory relations with local residents.


This issue contains nine papers that illustrate how social science research can aid natural areas planning and management. They all recognize the challenges faced by resource managers to balance efforts to sustain biophysical resources with efforts to provide continuing benefits and quality opportunities for people who use and are interested in natural areas. It is suggested that the contributions that social sciences can make to natural areas management is growing and represent a significant factor in protecting resources and in providing for quality leisure opportunities and other benefits. Issues explored include: the social carrying capacity of natural areas, the extent and control of resource damage due to non-compliant visitor behaviour, recreation management, forest management, and integrating human habitat requirements into ecosystem management strategies.


The purpose of this chapter is to explore and suggest suitable ways to manage natural resources in tourism. It deals with the most important of nature’s resources, national parks, and their management. National parks are extensive tracts of countryside selected for their natural beauty, unique nature and landscape, and serve to preserve the natural diversity of rare plants and animals. On the other hand, they must also provide educational, recreational, scientific, economic and cultural benefits to domestic and foreign visitors, the surrounding communities and society in general.


This article reports on a study on the use of the travel cost method (TCM) by government agencies in England. The TCM is commonly used by government agencies to evaluate the benefits users derive from access to parks and other recreational sites. The results of such studies can provide useful input into policy-design, in informing park designation decisions and in helping guide management on issues such as visitor access. The authors investigate various aspects of the application of the methodology in the context of a case study of the Dartmoor National Park in England. Results show that two principal benefits derived from the operation of a
National Park are conservation and use by visitors (recreation). The consumer surplus was estimated to be £12.76 for a day visitor and £25.16 for an overnight visitor. These estimates are substantially higher than those from existing studies of other open-access recreational sites in the UK and are much closer to the estimated consumer surplus of comparable sites in the USA, Australia and elsewhere. It is highlighted that failure to use count methods in estimation can create misleading numbers and therefore, as those numbers influence policy, misleading policy. Therefore, the understanding of the TCM developed by the author must help in policy appraisal and assessment.


From Brooklyn's parks and parkways, across the Iowa prairie, to Big Sur's coastal highway, people in the USA are drawing green lines on local maps and building 'greenways', linear open spaces that preserve and restore the skein of nature in cities, suburbs, and rural areas. The book describes this remarkable citizen-led effort to get Americans out of their cars and into the landscape via greenways. Such greenways provide paths or trails for recreation and 'link' a region's traditional parks and open spaces. They preserve natural corridors for wildlife migration and protect scenic and historic routes from commercial development. This first comprehensive account of the greenways movement describes dozens of projects that have preserved outdoor space, improved environmental quality, and invigorated local economies. It traces the 'invention' of the modern American greenway to Frederick Law Olmsted's designs for the Berkeley campus of the College of California and for 'parkways' to lead into and out of Prospect Park in Brooklyn. Preserving strips of parkland for pathways, borders, and scenic drives, Olmsted's plans have inspired new innovative uses of open space. By offering ecological, economic, and social benefits, greenways have captured the imagination of environmentalists, planning officials, developers, and average citizens. It is shown how a greenway can cost less than traditional parkland and be easier to acquire. Abandoned railroad corridors, banks of rivers and streams, all excellent sites for greenways, are seldom suitable for commercial development and are often publicly held property. A greenway also offers significantly more perimeter, or 'edge', per acre than traditional, consolidated parkland. Cutting across a large city, or following the course of a river, modern greenways offer thousands of citizens in many neighbourhoods a new kind of linear common perfect for walking, jogging, cycling and enjoying the natural environment. The planning, political and engineering work required to achieve greenway preservation is discussed.


This book contains 26 chapters on the latest thinking on the intricacies of contemporary protected area management. The first seven chapters consider the core context of protected areas: natural heritage, the social
dimension, major protected area types and supporting institutions, values and benefits, governance modes, management processes and capacity development. The next 18 chapters cover the essential practice of protected area management. Each of these chapters concludes with a set of principles that have been distilled from the text. The final chapter offers a view on the future of protected areas on a global scale.


Over the last few decades, especially in urban areas, there has been a revival of the notion of quality of life in connection with peri-urban green spaces, the presence of which is thought to improve emotional wellbeing. This paper aims to determine how far the monetary valuation of this environmental resource is influenced by aspects relating to users' emotional experience and satisfaction. The contingent valuation method is used to estimate monetary valuation and structural equation models allow examination of the relationships between visitor attitude and behaviour variables. The study focuses on two peri-urban green spaces in Spain and the data are obtained by means of face-to-face, in situ surveys of visitors. The findings support the relationship between visitor attitudes and the monetary valuation of this environmental good, revealing the need to advance further in exploring the potential of such natural resources to enhance urban social wellbeing.


This paper presents the findings of an economic analysis of Ream National Park, a protected area located in southern Cambodia. The objective is to assess how the establishment or destruction of the Park distributes benefits and costs among different stakeholders. A household survey of local communities was undertaken to provide social, economic and ecological data. The paper determines the costs and benefits of three management options: (1) The 'experimental park' scenario corresponds to the base case where some level of protection is achieved, but fisheries eventually collapse; (2) the 'ghost park' scenario assumes that all timber and fish are harvested, destroying the area; and (3) the 'dream park' scenario only allows subsistence activities, recreation, education and research. At a 10% discount rate, the 'dream park' has the highest net present value (US$11.9m). This compares with US $10m for the 'ghost park' and US$9.8m for the 'experimental park'. Although the 'dream park' scenario has the highest net present value, it exceeds that of the 'ghost park' by less than US $2.0m. However, protection scenarios allocate the bulk of the Park’s benefits to local communities. The 'dream park' confers three times more benefit value to villagers compared with the 'ghost park'. Local communities, whose traditional livelihoods depend on the sustainable use of the Park, stand to lose most; commercial loggers and fishing fleets, as well as the Armed Forces, stand to gain most from the wanton exploitation of timber and marine resources.

The unique observations and experiences of users of suburban natural areas lead them to perceive their surroundings in a manner associated with their personal values. It follows that every individual has a unique cognitive decision-making structure. This paper examines users' affective and cognitive evaluation of a particular suburban natural area by applying the means-end chain method to reveal the cognitive mechanism by which users link the attributes and benefits of an environmental public good with their own personal values. Analysis of a survey conducted of visitors to a Spanish suburban natural area (park) reveals the main attributes to be the opportunity to practice sports and proximity of the park, and the main potential benefits to be the improvement of physical and psychological wellbeing. The desired personal values include fun, quality of life and self-fulfilment at the individual level and improved social relationships at the collective level. The paper also tests for cross-group, cognitive-structure differences in visitor groups, segmented by level of satisfaction and reported range of emotions, and finds that perceived physical and psychological health improvements and individual and social awareness increase with higher levels of satisfaction and emotional response. Therefore, the recommendations for natural area management suggested by these findings include enhancing the scenic beauty and peacefulness of suburban natural areas in order to improve the affective state of visitors because this could contribute to reducing social costs (including health care) within the area of influence of the natural area.

The spatial distribution of protected area direct benefits and losses were mapped for 25 villages around Kibale National Park, Uganda. Benefits included park-based employment, tourism revenue sharing, integrated conservation and development projects, and resource access agreements. Losses were caused by park-protected animals raiding crops and preying on livestock. Local perceptions of benefit and loss associated with the park were collected from focus groups and a household survey. Valuation data were derived from interviews, the survey, and measurement of crop losses. Eight villages accrued an annual net benefit as a result of the park, while 17 villages accrued a net loss. Net benefitting villages were located near park-based employment and resource access associations involved in beekeeping. Households within 0.5 km of the park boundary accrued the highest losses, while benefits distributed up to 15 km away. The Ugandan Wildlife Authority (UWA) needs to focus benefits closer to the park boundary to support those who lose most from park-protected animals, and away from areas with park-based employment to more evenly distribute benefits around the circumference of the park. Attitudes toward the park appear to be shaped by loss aversion, suggesting UWA and conservation agencies should focus on loss mitigation, rather than benefit provision.


The article considers the general problem of evaluating the benefits of increments to existing systems of public facilities in the context of an empirical case study of an Australian park system. The area considered is to the east of Armidale, New South Wales, where there are already nine established parks. Analysis concerns the benefits which would accrue from the addition of two alternative parks offering slightly different attractions to the others. The paper then develops a general conceptual framework (a ‘new demand theory’) to evaluate increments to the existing system of facilities and explores within this framework the nature and significance of substitution relationships. It uses this conceptual framework to develop a set of empirical hypotheses relating to the magnitude of benefits of proposed parks considered in isolation and as increments to existing systems of facilities; the relative size of visitor and non-visitor benefits; and the factors that may explain differences in individual households’ willingness to pay. The benefits of the parks in isolation are considered substantially greater than the benefits of the same parks considered as increments to the existing parks system.

Whilst urban-dwelling individuals who seek out parks and gardens appear to intuitively understand the personal health and wellbeing benefits arising from 'contact with nature', public health strategies are yet to maximise the untapped resource nature provides, including the benefits of nature contact as an upstream health promotion intervention for populations. This paper presents a summary of empirical, theoretical and anecdotal evidence drawn from a literature review of the human health benefits of contact with nature. Initial findings indicate that nature plays a vital role in human health and wellbeing, and that parks and nature reserves play a significant role by providing access to nature for individuals. Implications suggest contact with nature may provide an effective population-wide strategy in prevention of mental ill health, with potential application for sub-populations, communities and individuals at higher risk of ill health. Recommendations include further investigation of contact with nature in population health, and examination of the benefits of nature-based interventions. To maximise use of contact with nature in the health promotion of populations, collaborative strategies between researchers and primary health, social services, urban planning and environmental management sectors are required. This approach offers not only an augmentation of existing health promotion and prevention activities, but provides the basis for a socio-ecological approach to public health that incorporates environmental sustainability.


Parks Victoria has adopted ‘Healthy parks, healthy people’ as its key message to the community of Victoria. Over recent years, other state-based park management bodies have adopted a similar message, and the Parks Forum (the peak body for park management agencies within Australia and New Zealand) has established as one of its Standing Committees a National Coordination Group for ‘Healthy parks, healthy people’. The availability of up-to-date information is essential if these agencies are to increase their understanding of what the ‘Healthy parks, healthy people’ message means, and to have the capacity to communicate the importance of parks and nature for human health and wellbeing to governments and the community at large. This project is the result of a joint initiative between Parks Victoria and the NiCHE (Nature in Community, Health and Environment) Research Group of Deakin University. This revised review updates research compiled and published in an earlier edition (completed in 2002 with funding provided by Parks Victoria and the International Park Strategic Partners Group) and aims to provide key information for park and open space...
managers, health professionals, researchers, and others with an interest in this area, while retaining its status as a platform for future research. The significance of the health and wellbeing benefits from interacting with nature, including in park settings, the implications for public health, and the need for collated up-to-date information on this topic cannot be over-estimated.


This chapter explores the contribution of leisure and recreation to the quality of life of the individual and to the quality of communities. Three categories of leisure resources are identified: natural recreation resources, man-made (sports-related) recreation resources and cultural resources. A literature review provides background to the concept of individual wellbeing and a link is drawn to the contributions of leisure to individual wellbeing. The contribution of recreation and leisure to community quality is addressed, highlighting, that no clear consensus exists of how to measure community quality. Therefore, a number of alternative approaches to assess community quality are presented such as the wage-differential approach and the liveability-comparison approach. A range of attributes is examined and issues such as methodology, inconsistency, and insufficient theoretical background are named. Furthermore, a conceptual model is presented suggesting multiple relationships among recreation resources, individual wellbeing and the quality of communities. Finally, directions for future research include the various components of leisure identified in the literature and their exploration (such as their measurement), determining interrelationships in testing the model presented and examining the use of the knowledge by policymakers.


This chapter describes the Chandler Park, Detroit, Revitalisation Project, focusing on its background, elements of the master plan and its impacts. Chandler Park and its surroundings are described from a historical perspective to provide context and the planning process, which evolved in the mid-1990s, is explained including how outcomes-focus management (OFM) was addressed at several stages. Elements of the master plan which are categorised into physical components and social programs and their anticipated benefits are presented. The physical components are divided into several zones and each zone has to potential to provide different benefits. The active recreation zone could increase year-round physical activity and exercise and the accompanying health benefits, social activities between families, the provision of an intergenerational social setting, and enhances creation of employment opportunities for teenagers. The picnic/play zone could provide an increase sense of adventure and challenge for young people, instilling in them feelings of confidence and
competence, provision of sense of tranquillity and relaxation, as well as increased social interaction. The passive recreational zone could provide places to learn about the environment, relaxation, social and cultural benefits; and it could promote an increased sense of community. Finally, the garden-market zone has the potential to provide families with the opportunity to grow their own vegetables, produce could also be bartered or sold in the market, and it could become an important meeting place. The planned social programs including recreational and social programs, educational programs and service programs could provide benefits including increased physical activity, social contact among park visitors, creation of sense of community and greater community involvement. Furthermore, they could provide individuals or the community with new skills, a sense of independence, problem solving abilities, increased feeling of security, high levels of satisfaction with the community, shared responsibility for the environment, pride and ownership, and an enhanced quality of life. In conclusion, this text enhances the understanding of the process of using the leisure benefits concept in planning for the revitalisation of an urban park and how this instrument can be used for community revitalisation.


The article examines major difficulties in assigning a value to outdoor recreation and looks at both the impact of the use of protected natural resources and the benefits enjoyed by users. This monetary analysis uses several different environmental and economic criteria to estimate values. The analysis is applied to the Orechiella National Park (5200 ha, located in the Appenines). First the economic effects of the Park’s establishment on the economy of the province are calculated using the travel cost method. The demand for outdoor recreation is projected at a range of prices. The hypothetical value method is also demonstrated. The analysis points to the value of outdoor recreation in the park as a means of making use of marginal land in places where job provision is expensive but occupation of land is important. Estimated values are compared for six Italian recreation areas.


The principal issues (both theoretical and empirical) involved in evaluating the economic impact of a protected area of Northern Tuscany, Italy: the 'Orecchiella' Natural Park, are outlined. An appraisal of the economic impact of the park is first carried out through a sub-regional input/output matrix. The I/O multipliers are applied in order to estimate the global effect of visitors’ expenditures on the economy of the surrounding area. The users' recreational benefits are then
evaluated using the Clawson approach (travel cost method). This estimate is then improved by considering the role of time in the outdoor recreation demand model. Finally, the results are compared with the values obtained by means of the contingent valuation method. It is concluded that outdoor recreation can play an important part in the development of disadvantaged areas where other land uses have very few chances of success and where it is particularly difficult to realise new employment and protect the environment.


According to integrated natural resources management, interrelated resources have to be managed by maintaining their environmental quality, and visitors are stakeholders who have to be involved in natural park management decisions. This paper simultaneously examines the conservation and recreational values from grasslands for visitors to two Italian Regional Parks. A contingent valuation survey was carried out in 2007 for estimating non-use benefits to visitors from a grasslands conservation project in these parks. Two scenarios were considered: the present landscape composed of grasslands and forests, and a hypothetical scenario of forests without grasslands. Respondents were asked the quality rating of the parks as places for recreational activities, and their willingness to donate (WTD) per year to a project for maintaining the status quo. Results show that the majority of respondents give a high rating to these parks, are in favour of the project implementation, and willing to donate mainly for the benefit of future generations. Among the WTD determinants, by estimating a Tobit model and a two-stage model, giving a high quality rating to the park for recreational activities corresponds to a higher WTD for grassland conservation. This seems to suggest that the recreational motivation tends to coincide with the need to conserve habitats and biodiversity, and that the decision-maker should pay specific attention to the maintenance of the quality of the recreational activities as well as the maintenance of a diversified landscape in these parks.


State parks are generally mandated to protect socially important natural and cultural values. Yet the value of state parks as important components of a local economy is increasingly recognised in tourism development policies. Understanding the attractiveness of state parks to different tourist segments is a prerequisite to effective policy implementation. While segmenting a park's clients can be conducted in many different ways, this study, conducted in three state parks in Montana, USA, used expected benefits from a visit to a park as the segmentation approach. Four benefit segments were identified: Enthusiasts, Group Naturalists, Nature Escapists and Passive Players. The
current study shows how the four segments are associated with different evaluations of the park setting and visitor expenditure patterns. Such information allows managers and planners to identify, develop and promote those aspects that not only maintain its mission but are also attractive to visitors.


A new concept in recreation and leisure activities for older adults, life review, is explored. This concept involves park and recreation practitioners helping elderly people remember past events through recreational activities. These reminiscences can benefit the elderly, reaffirming their sense of worth, self-identity, and self-esteem.


In recognition of the need for relevant information on its urban parks and reflecting the growing awareness of the importance of these recreational resources, Brisbane City Council, Brisbane, Australia, commissioned a major study of a selection of its inner-city parks in 1989. The study involved on-site interviews, surveys of households and observation studies of park visitors over a period of three months in the Autumn of 1989. This article reports on one aspect of the on-site interviews in which the benefits perceived as arising from park visits were explored using the Recreation Experience Preference Scale. In the context of this study the aim was to explore the various ‘packages’ of perceived benefits that visitors nominated as important and to relate these to specific characteristics of the urban park setting. The perceived benefits of urban parks were identified as: nature appreciation, novelty, social familiar and personal development. Having identified the ‘packages’ of benefits derived, the second stage of the analysis involved classifying the respondents into four homogeneous sub-groups or market segments based on their preferences for these perceived benefits. The analysis demonstrates that a market segmentation approach to the study of park users can provide managers with relevant information on which to base inner-city park development and planning.


Since the first national park was created at Yellowstone in the USA in 1872, over 8500 protected areas have been established worldwide. Virtually all countries have seen the wisdom of protecting areas of outstanding importance to society, and such sites cover over 5% of Earth’s land surface. However, many of these protected areas exist only on paper, not on the ground. Most are suffering from a combination of threats, including pollution, over-exploitation, poaching and encroachment. In a period of growing demands on resources and shrinking government budgets, new approaches are required to ensure that protected areas can continue to contribute to society. First and foremost, protected...
areas must be designed and managed in order to provide tangible and intangible benefits to society. This will involve integrating protected areas into larger planning and management frameworks; linking protected areas to biodiversity and climate change; promoting greater financial support for protected areas; and expanding international cooperation in the finance, development and management of protected areas.


This study explored the health, wellbeing, and social capital benefits gained by community members who are involved in the management of land for conservation in six rural communities across Victoria. A total of 102 people participated in the study (64 males; 38 females) comprising 51 members of a community-based land management group and 51 controls matched by age and gender. Mixed methods were employed, including the use of an adapted version of Buckner’s (1988) Community Cohesion Scale. The results indicate that involvement in the management of land for conservation may contribute to both the health and wellbeing of members, and to the social capital of the local community. The members of the land management groups rated their general health higher, reported visiting the doctor less often, felt safer in the local community, and utilised the skills that they have acquired in their lifetime more frequently than the control participants. Male members reported the highest level of general health, and the greatest satisfaction with daily activities. Members also reported a greater sense of belonging to the local community and a greater willingness to work toward improving their community than their control counterparts. Of equal importance is evidence that involvement in voluntary conservation work constitutes a means of building social capital in rural communities which may help reduce some of the negative aspects of rural life.


No further information available.


Parks provide benefits for the physical, psychological, and social wellbeing of residents in neighbourhood environments. Multilevel logistic regression was used to examine associations between neighbourhood- and individual-level characteristics and the lack of park use in Montreal. Data on park use were collected from 787 adults residing in 299 different neighbourhoods. Results found that older adults who lived in areas with a younger age composition were more likely not to use their nearby parks as compared to older adults living in areas with an older age composition. Forms of social participation were also important for the park use of older
adults. Public policies should consider targeting aspects of the social environment to improve neighbourhood park use.


Benefits-based management has become a dominant framework among recreation managers at the municipal, state, and federal levels. Yet, researchers have expressed growing doubts about the conceptual, methodological, and policy ramifications of this good news approach to leisure behaviour. Specifically, researchers are troubled by 1) the all-inclusive conceptualisation of the benefit construct, 2) its rational actor theoretical foundation, 3) its inherent contextuality that is often ignored by practitioners and researchers, and 4) a methodology that attempts to identify specific benefits with certain activities and/or settings. This paper explores conceptual, theoretical, and methodological limitations of the benefits construct, and suggests potential management alternatives.


Adopting the standpoint that the supply of recreation opportunities on the Southern Appalachian national forests, USA, has not increased as planned because appropriated budgets have been less than the costs of fully implemented forest plans, this paper examines the implications of budget shortfalls on the national forest planning process and on sustaining recreation resources in the face of increasing demand. The psychological, social and environmental benefits of recreation are briefly presented followed by an examination of the direct and indirect benefits to the regional economy from sustaining the recreation resource in the Southern Appalachians. The paper ends with a discussion of policy options for addressing the fiscal and management concerns identified.


Local and national public sector stakeholders are considered to be primary stakeholders and their knowledge and support for conservation initiatives of transfrontier parks are important for sustainable management of resources. Hence, it is critical to assess the attitudes and opinions of a major stakeholder group in order to establish partnerships between protected areas (PAs), adjacent communities and other management agencies. This study employed a qualitative inquiry to identify and assess factors that influence public sector stakeholder support for community-based ecotourism (CBE) development and for conservation of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP). In-depth semi-structured interviews were used to solicit data from 15 local and national representatives who have worked or resided in the Kgalagadi region for a period of at least 6 months. Findings revealed variations in opinion between local and national representatives in
relation to collaboration and partnership initiatives, conservation projects, park management, tourism development and park benefits to local communities. There was overall uncertainty with respect to the designation of the KTP, since it had generated unfavourable conditions for adjacent local people, local authorities and village leaders. Nearly all local representatives indicated an imbalance with regard to resident collaboration and partnership in KTP conservation-related projects, and the general management activities. The contentions included concerns about land ownership and control, human-wildlife interactions, perceptions about communication with park authorities, lack of transparency with respect to activities and inequality of park benefits. Two major policy concerns were a low level of community participation in park activities and a lack of collaboration and communication between management and residents.


This article covers various aspects of the increasing popularity of rural recreation, including the psychological benefits of escaping from the city; the protection of the environment; the role of farmers in rural recreation and tourism; and the objectives, management and finance of nature reserve areas in France. A short case study is made of the Vercors Park which extends over 135 000 ha of the Rhône-Alpes region.


The objective of this study is the evaluation of protective and pleasure value of forests and parks in Iran. Required information and data were collected through questionnaires administered to citizens and visitors of forest and parks of Tehran, Khorasan, Fars and Golestan, determining information such as: social and economical, viewpoints or mental inclinations, measure of information about forests, how much they intend to pay. Using information in ‘willingness to pay’ identifying factors that are used in estimating how much they want to pay according to respondents’ gender, education, marriage and age, as well as salary, family dimension, bio-environmental inclinations and distance from home. In order to understand the factors affecting willingness to pay people, three patterns and two Probit rating Tobit model were used. Also, data indicated that women compared with men showed a higher willingness to pay.
Park and recreation partnerships may be effective in raising health awareness and promoting enhanced levels of physical activity and health (Spangler & Caldwell, 2007). While there have been individual health partnership evaluations and case studies, a more comprehensive assessment of health partnership practices across park and recreation organisations remains elusive. To address this gap, a nationwide survey of park and recreation agencies was conducted to document health partnership practices, characteristics, and effectiveness. To better understand and promote circumstances that favour health partnership participation, the study compared the characteristics of park and recreation agencies that engaged in health partnerships to those that did not. Results indicated that a large number of park and recreation organisations (88%) had participated in at least one health partnership, with some participating in several at a time. Larger organisations (e.g., larger budgets, larger populations served) were more likely to participate in health partnerships. Among health partnership non-participants, lack of resources to initiate the partnership was a key barrier to participation. Schools and public health agencies were frequently cited as partners and physical activity promotion, obesity prevention, and general wellness were the core issues partnerships addressed. Organisations with physical activity partnerships emphasised programmatic (e.g., special event) and environmental approaches (e.g., creation of active park features). Facilities and access to the public were described as key contributions that park and recreation agencies brought to their health partnership(s). Respondents felt that visibility, meeting the mission statement, and image were key partnership benefits and perceived their partnerships as being somewhat or very effective. Findings suggest that park and recreation agencies are recognising the need to leverage their resources with outside organisations to address the nation’s health concerns. Despite these findings, there is still room for improvement, for example agencies serving rural, smaller populations were less likely to engage in health partnerships. Efforts to create activity-friendly policies and environments (in addition to current programmatic efforts) could be better integrated into future partnership activities. This study may serve as a basis from which to evaluate future health partnership participation and progress. However, further inquiry is warranted. Future health partnership research should assess the perspectives and activities of other health partnership stakeholders (education, public health) and evaluate community health outcomes that result due to partnership efforts.
Green spaces contribute to the urban environment by producing positive ecological impacts and providing spaces for recreation and contact with nature. It is proven in various researches that urban green spaces and especially parks increase the quality of life by presenting a variety of recreational experiences. Benefits and performances of green spaces are assessed by user satisfaction studies. This study aims to reveal the satisfaction level of users by using gap analyses method in significant green spaces of Ankara namely Altınpark, Gençlik Parkı, Gökşu Parkı, Harikalar Diyarı and Mogan Park. In these daily used recreation areas, quality of service, important comments (importance) of the users prior to their visits and experiences after use (satisfaction) are evaluated by ranking. Achieved through a questionnaire administered to 289 people in September and November 2009. The results show that in order to raise the satisfaction level of users, the number of entertainment areas should be increased and access to information services, park keepers and wards that can react immediately to the needs of the visitors should be provided.


Using the individual Travel Cost Method, the economic benefits from water and forest recreation activities were estimated and compared for a representative sample of visitors to Puyehue and Vicente Pérez Rosales national parks. Individual consumer surplus attached to forest-based activities (such as trekking or canopying) equalled US$176 per trip and was significantly higher than the consumer surplus from water-based activities (such as visiting waterfalls) that equalled US$46 per trip. The high values attached to forest recreation activities suggest that there might be good opportunities for new recreation products based on opening and improving existing forest areas within the parks.

The purpose of this chapter is to highlight how outcomes-focused management (OFM) and outcomes-focused paragon (OFP) have contributed to improved planning, management, and evaluation, and more recently, program renewal within Parks Canada. A brief background is provided of the agency and its responses as well as its situation within the broader Canadian context. OFM in parks and recreation in Canada is discussed as well as OFM in Parks Canada. Members of the staff of Parks Canada were early adopters of the OFP which led to policy change and new policy development. Studies between 2000 and 2005 called for a renewed emphasis on OFM, and Parks Canada has started reviewing what its true program delivery outcomes are so it can achieve improved integrated program delivery. In conclusion, the text highlights the role of Parks Canada as a protected areas agency and illustrates the extent to which OFM has been adopted in the Canadian parks and recreation context.


The study reported in this paper represents one of the first attempts at exploring the perspectives of the local communities on the designation of Langkawi Island in Malaysia as a UNESCO Global Geopark. It is premised on the widely acknowledged assertion that the local communities constitute an important group of stakeholders in the planning and implementation of development activities. Hence, the communities living in the geopark areas in Langkawi are considered important stakeholders who play a crucial role in the development of heritage tourism in Langkawi Global Geopark. This paper examines their views on their appreciation of the geopark as heritage, the interpretation of their shared values, the benefits and opportunities afforded by the geopark, and the extent of their involvement in the implementation of geopark activities. The findings point to the need for more support for public education programs, and awareness initiatives aimed not only at ensuring community engagement with the development of Langkawi Geopark but also at generating stewardship actions from the community.


The understanding of needs aspect is important. A lot of people share common needs; however, identifying each person's unique needs will help answer why people use a particular space in the first place. Various studies also confirm the link between high quality green spaces with the increased property value; benefits in improving the image of an area as to attract investment; contribution to biodiversity; contribution in promoting physical activities and the benefits to health; and finally overcoming anti-social behaviour through design and
management. The purpose of this review paper is to help fill in gaps that more methods are required for evaluating projects so as to obtain high quality evidence for better outdoor recreational venues such as neighbourhood parks. This review suggests that natural settings, safety, aesthetic appeal, convenience, psychological comfort, and symbolic ownership, policy on use, cost and interaction with natural environment are significantly important to park users’ need attributes relating to the design of a neighbourhood green open space. This paper provides a critical review of past and current research and its theoretical fundamentals on park users’ needs for successful, quality neighbourhood green open spaces. It should be of interest to landscape architects, park designers, urban designers, city planners, architects, developers as well as any other professional involved in the development of new residential neighbourhoods.


The objectives of this study are to determine visitors’ willingness to pay for conservation of the resources at Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park (TNGP), and to determine the satisfaction of visitors towards the use of the ecotourism resources of the park. The dichotomous choice Contingent Valuation Method (CVM) was employed to determine the willingness to pay (WTP). A total of 423 respondents were interviewed face-to-face to collect the data. The results show that most visitors are satisfied with the ecotourism resources in TNGP—many visiting more than once. In order to sustain the benefits derived from the resources at the park, visitors agree that the various organisations involved must cooperate to conserve and protect the ecotourism resources. The economic benefit of conservation of the ecotourism resources at TNGP was measured using the visitors’ WTP for a higher entrance fee to the park. A logit regression model was used to determine visitors’ willingness to pay. The results indicate that income, gender (male) and residential (urban) were the significant factors influencing visitors’ WTP for the entrance fee to TNGP. The mean WTP is found to be RP 7629.77 per visit. It is estimated that in 2004 the benefits of conservation of the ecotourism resources in TNGP amounts to RP452m.

This paper examines the socio-economic determinants of on-day site demand of a national park in Nigeria. The services provided by the park include recreation that correlates positively with stress removal and enhanced productivity. These are not properly understood and appreciated by the people. Neither are the environmentally sound and sustainable development functions it provides. Purposive sampling technique was applied in selecting the respondents and data were collected with a well structured questionnaire. The on-site individual observation Travel Cost Method and Count Data Distributions were applied in estimating the on-day site demand equation. The very active age classes, males of middle class income who are highly educated constitute the park’s tourists. The average length of days spent in the park was two and the preference was for booked chalet accommodation rather than open camping. The on-site day recreation (number of days spent in the park) has a negative and significant relationship (p.01) with recreation cost. Educational level attained has a positive and significant relationship (p.05) with the number of days spent in the park. Age and income, though negative and not significant, did not agree with the logic of the elderly and the rich having more tendencies to seek recreation. Infrastructural facilities that will reduce recreational cost and free and functional education need to be put in place, as well as employing an awareness campaign that emphasises the positive benefits of recreation that engender good health, enhanced productivity and wellbeing of the environment.


This paper deals with the valuation of the recreational benefits of a national park that provides enormous and invaluable recreational benefits to the society through ecotourism. The threat to its existence, however, persists through deforestation and, on the one hand, a lack of environmental awareness by the government that results in the starvation of funds for their maintenance and development, and by the populace on the other. The socio-economic characteristics of the tourists and the welfare benefits derived by them were assessed. The recreational use value of the park was also quantified. Purposive sampling technique was applied to select a sample size of 50 tourists, and the data used were primary and secondary. An on-site individual observation travel cost model and count data distributions were used to estimate a measure for the present recreation use of the site. The empirical estimates of the average representative visitor’s present equivalent surplus willingness to pay based on the impact assumption of closure or loss of the access to the park were Naira 22.00 per day per visit and Naira 26,400.00 for same for all sampled visitors. This translates to Naira 63,360,000.00 for all 1200 tourists at mean length of stay of two days per visit.
for one calendar year. The welfare measure reflected by the Marshalian consumer surplus was Naira 24.30 per day of stay in the park. These values suggest that recreational use of national parks has a higher value than certain economic activities in the area and government needs to budget resources for their maintenance and development.


Stress can have a negative influence on psychological and physical health, particularly among older adults. However, park-based leisure experiences can have a positive influence upon mood states, stress, and health of this population. This study examined the relationship between stress, park-based leisure, and physiological/psychological health among older adults (n=100) aged 50–86 years. There were significant interactive effects between: (1) stress and length of park stay and, (2) stress and desired health benefits in their relationship to the physiological health indicator, body mass index (BMI). There were also direct relationships between park companionship and perceived physical health and between length of park stay and lower systolic blood pressures. This study offers early evidence that park-based leisure experiences correspond with physiological health indicators among older adults. Implications for future health-based leisure research and policy are discussed.


This chapter reviews the research and theory on the role leisure experience can play in family bonding. Companionship and shared interest in activities are increasingly important goals for marriage. The benefits leisure has for families are summarised in three dimensions: leisure and family satisfaction, leisure and marital interaction, and leisure and family stability. Findings show that husbands and wives who share leisure time together in joint activities tend to be much more satisfied with their marriages. Furthermore, shared leisure activities have positive impacts on marital communication and increase family satisfaction and stability. The area of barriers and constraints is also discussed with a focus on one or more child-related variables. Work issues have also been identified as barriers to shared leisure experiences. In addition, the next section discusses models of leisure and family bonding, including the exchange theory, the family development theory, the symbolic interaction theory and the systems theory including implications for leisure interactions and research.

This chapter aims to describe the transition of the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Recreation and Visitor Services program to outcomes focused management (OFM). First, the agency’s OFM approach is described as being recommended by the 12 BLM State Recreation Leaders and its Executive Leadership Team and other Washington Office Advisors who comprise the Recreation and Visitor Services Advisory Team (RVSAT). The Recreation and Visitor Services Program direction and strategy for the BLM is explained as it transitions from activity-focused management to OFM. The application of OFM is described which was achieved through the integration with the recreation program policy outlined in ‘A Unified Strategy if Implement The BLM’s Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services’ and the recreation and planning policy outlined in the BLM’s ‘Land Use Planning Handbook’. Implementation planning and field operations are discussed, interim management, recreation training and the consequences of implementing OFM that need to be considered. OFM broadens the agency’s definition of customer to include affected community residents and other key touring, resort, special event and city/village markets, as well as those who come to visit friends and relatives. It encourages the engagement of key service-providing businesses and local government as managing partners with the BLM.


This special issue introduces the US National Recreation and Park Association’s (NRPA’s) Active Living Healthy Lifestyles Campaign, which vocalises the benefits of physical fitness through enjoyable recreation activities and park utilisation. This campaign will establish the recreation and parks movement as a critical provider of the opportunities for improving physical activity levels nationwide. Collaboration between the NRPA and health, medicine and exercise organisations is encouraged under this campaign. Areas covered in this issue include: guidelines for recreation providers to enable them to reposition their marketing efforts to fall in line with this strategy; suggestions as to why active living has become important in contemporary society; lists the goals and priorities of a national agenda for active living; and illustrates how these recommendations are indeed consistent with achieving desirable health outcomes. The penultimate section presents an example of market repositioning by examining the marketing approach of Foothills Park and Recreation District, Colorado, USA. The final section summarises the main issues raised concerning this strategy.


No further information available.

This chapter discusses: the role that parks, recreation and leisure plays in all facets of life for all people; the different types of benefits associated with parks, recreation and leisure (viz., individual and personal benefits, social and community benefits, environmental benefits, and economic benefits); and the unique qualities and opportunities afforded by the professional field of leisure.


Understanding how different cultural and ethnic groups value and use urban parks is crucial in developing appropriate design and management strategies for urban greenspaces. However, little is known about how Turkish people respond to and use urban parks in their daily life. This study explores public attitudes towards urban parks in the Turkish cultural context through a questionnaire survey (n=300) carried out in two popular urban parks of Isparta, Turkey. The results revealed some universal similarities to, as well as some distinct differences from, other cultures in attitudes towards urban parks. People in Turkey use urban parks generally for passive recreational activities such as picnicking, resting and relaxing, in contrast to Western countries where urban parks are generally used for walking, dog walking, sports activities and exercise. In contrast to a common concern about personal safety in urban parks, this study determined a positive perception of safety among Turkish people. Appreciation of natural features, experienced benefits, the need for recreational facilities and concerns for general cleanliness and maintenance were found as universally similar attitudes in urban parks.

This chapter illustrates the health benefits of physical activity. The physical activity studies dealing with physical fitness, health, and longevity remain among the most complex and most important that we are being expected to deal with today. A definition of physical activity is provided before findings of previous research is summarised. Findings show that regular physical activity reduces the risk of coronary heart disease, reduces resting heart rate and lowers blood pressure levels. Furthermore, exercise reduces blood glucose levels, decreases fat body mass and increases lean body mass. In childhood, habitual physical activity leads to increased bone mass and increases muscle strength. In addition, physical activity reduces the symptoms of mild or moderate depression and anxiety by improving self-image, social skills, mental health and total wellbeing. It also influences mortality from all causes and longevity together with fitness and other considerations of lifestyle. Finally, future research needs are identified including the question of what kinds of physical activities are likely to become available, or to be available from the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Forest Service or comparable recreational resources. Furthermore, there is a need to know what sort of physical activities are being considered for whom.


This text deals with: the redevelopment of New Britain Parks and Recreation Department in Connecticut; the significance of parks and recreation; the secret behind New Britain’s high level of public respect and admiration; and the implementation of the National Recreation and Park Association’s Benefits program.


The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association developed this catalogue to present the benefits of parks and recreation to convince key stakeholders including public, politicians and senior administrators that recreation and park services are important and essential, and that these services warrant continued investment. The purpose was to provide a resource and catalyst that can be used to reposition, promote and provide recreation services that truly are essential. The document is separated into benefit statements, focus statements and documentation. The benefit statements relate to parks and recreation in four different categories: personal, social, economic and environmental. The focus statements provide overview arguments that sum up much of the evidence about a benefit statement and the documentation backs up and supports each of the benefit statements with different types of evidence drawn from research studies, consensus reports and other sources.

The revitalisation of inner cities offers many potential benefits in economic, social and cultural terms. Making use of hitherto neglected space restores public places like parks and squares and introduces historic parts of cities such as docks and canals to residents and tourists alike. The image of a city becomes increasingly enhanced as an attractive place for living, working and spending leisure time. In the province of Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, a densely populated area, revitalisation processes are especially relevant. Discussing urban renewal within this geographical context the role of leisure and tourism is considered central in linking other sectors together and in contributing to the image of the city.


Health practitioners suggest that building walking trails and parks that are available and accessible to the public are useful interventions to promote physical activity; however few studies exist on factors that promote public park or trail use. The purpose of this exploratory study was to investigate determinants of, and correlates to, public park and trail use. A random-digit-dialed, cross-sectional telephone survey was administered to 2117 residents in South Carolina, USA, in two adjacent counties.

Participants more likely to use trails were employed (p<0.001), African American (p<0.001), younger (aged 18–34, p<0.001), perceived the community as safe for physical activity (p<0.05), knew one or more mapped out routes for walking/jogging and bicycle routes (p<0.001), and reported one or more available trails or parks they might use (p<0.001). Similar to participants reporting trial use, park users were more likely to be employed (p<0.001), male (p<0.05), African American (p<0.001), aged 18–34 (p<0.001), knew of two or more walking/jogging or bicycle routes (p<0.001), perceived the community was safe (p<0.05) and perceived that physical activity was important to citizens in the county (p<0.05). Convenient and accessible trails and parks may be of particular importance/benefit for promoting physical activity among persons of ethnic minority groups.


This study undertaken by the US National Recreation and Park Association with the help of the Pennsylvania State University and Cleveland Metroparks, examines how local park use is related to the health of older adults. Specific information sought included: the demographic and health characteristics of older park users and how they differ from those who do not use local parks; the logistics of use of older park users, how often they visit, how they get to the park, length of stay and with whom they visit; what older people do in the park that might have health consequences; what benefits older park users ascribe to
their visit and how such benefits are related to health; how individual blood pressure and stress level are related to park visitation; and how older park users differ from non-users in terms of visits to personal physicians for purposes other than general checkups. A total of 1506 questionnaires were completed and the results reveal that people use the park as a means of moderating their stress. While it is likely that adults in better health are more likely to use parks, it also seems likely that the use of parks is an important factor in maintaining or enhancing personal health. Parks should be given a higher priority for health-promotion purposes.


Less than half of youth engage in sufficient physical activity to achieve health benefits. Key environmental factors of park and recreation spaces may influence youth physical activity. The study sought to ascertain youth characteristics and behaviours that attract youth to parks with specific amenities and encourage physical activity while at the parks in a rural, predominantly Latino community. It examined the quality of amenities in the 13 parks and recreation spaces that middle school-aged youth have access to in their community using the Environmental Assessment of Parks and Recreation Spaces (EAPRS) tool. Middle school students completed surveys in the school classroom (n= 102) regarding park use, physical activity, and intrapersonal characteristics (e.g., motivators). Logistic regression identified correlates of any park use, use of higher quality field and court parks, and active and sedentary park use. Younger age, participation in after school activities, and identification of a team as a motivator were positively associated with any park use. Use of higher quality court and field parks was associated with participation in an after school activity and being Latino. The odds of being active in the parks were greater for boys and Latinos. Older age and alcohol use are correlated with being sedentary at the park, while odds of being sedentary at the park were lower for boys and youth who met physical activity guidelines. Organised team activities may encourage active use of higher quality fields and court parks by Latino youth, increasing their level of physical activity.


This study explores the recreation opportunity production process by focusing on the inputs to the process, specifically the activities and settings that facilitate certain types of outcomes. Using results from nine US outdoor recreation studies, a meta-analysis was conducted to examine how specific production process outcomes (benefits) are affected by inputs (activities and settings). It is hypothesised that some benefits are more sensitive to activity and setting than others and that one cannot assume inputs to the process (settings and activities) equally influence.
the outcomes realised by recreation users. This study can help managers direct their attention to salient inputs when managing for certain benefit opportunities.


This case study describes an example of a protected area, the Bonaire Marine Park in the Dutch Antilles. That in its capacity as a tourist centre for scuba diving has become ecologically sustainable and economically feasible for the community and the individual. It determines whether the objectives of the park are successful, asks who benefits from the park, who pays, and whether exploitation of the park is sustainable. Two major kinds of benefits have been distinguished: financial (private) and economic (public). These benefits can occur through the collection of various taxes, through the creation of employment, and through foreign exchange. An assessment of the ecological sustainability of the park is achieved through an investigation of the perceived carrying capacity of the resource and through a photo-analysis of coral cover in areas of high diving pressure. It concludes that the Bonaire Marine Park provides a good example of an area where biodiversity conservation and economic development have been mutually reinforcing. Close monitoring of the health of the reefs as a function of the number of divers is necessary to set eventual limits, whereas strict pollution control is essential.


The social benefits derived from public environment improvement projects are one important justification for increasing such projects. Economic theory predicts environmental benefits are capitalised as increased property values. This paper reviews several empirical studies which use differential property values to demonstrate this capitalisation. These include park related studies and open space preservation studies.


There is evidence that contact with the natural environment and green space promotes good health. It is also well known that participation in regular physical activity generates physical and psychological health benefits. The authors have hypothesised that 'green exercise' will improve health and psychological wellbeing, yet few studies have quantified these effects. This study measured the effects of 10 green exercise case studies (including walking, cycling, horse-riding, fishing, canal-boating and conservation activities) in four regions of the UK on 263 participants. Even though these participants were generally an active and healthy group, it was found that green exercise led to a significant improvement in self-esteem and total mood.
disturbance (with anger-hostility, confusion-bewilderment, depression-dejection and tension-anxiety all improving post-activity). Self-esteem and mood were found not to be affected by the type, intensity or duration of the green exercise, as the results were similar for all 10 case studies. Thus all these activities generated mental health benefits, indicating the potential for a wider health and wellbeing dividend from green exercise. Green exercise thus has important implications for public and environmental health, and for a wide range of policy sectors.


Both physical activity and exposure to nature are known separately to have positive effects on physical and mental health. This study investigated whether there is a synergistic benefit in adopting physical activities whilst being directly exposed to nature ('green exercise'). Five groups of 20 subjects were exposed to a sequence of 30 scenes projected on a wall whilst exercising on a treadmill. Four categories of scenes were tested: rural pleasant, rural unpleasant, urban pleasant and urban unpleasant. The control was running without exposure to images. Blood pressure and two psychological measures (self-esteem and mood) were measured before and after the intervention. There was a clear effect of both exercise and different scenes on blood pressure, self-esteem and mood. Exercise alone significantly reduced blood pressure, increased self-esteem, and had a positive significant effect on 4 of 6 mood measures. Both rural and urban pleasant scenes produced a significantly greater positive effect on self-esteem than the exercise-only control. This shows the synergistic effect of green exercise in both rural and urban environments. By contrast, both rural and urban unpleasant scenes reduced the positive effects of exercise on self-esteem. The rural unpleasant scenes had the most dramatic effect, depressing the beneficial effects of exercise on three different measures of mood. It appears that threats to the countryside depicted in rural unpleasant scenes have a greater negative effect on mood than already urban unpleasant scenes. It concludes that green exercise has important public and environmental health consequences.

Weather conditions may affect the quality of an outdoor recreation experience. Quality of the recreation may be reflected in the visitor’s willingness to pay or their net economic benefits of recreation. The present study used the contingent valuation method to measure the effects of weather on net willingness to pay (WTP) for trips to Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, USA. A visitor survey (with 967 respondents) was used to elicit responses to a dichotomous-choice WTP question and to gather information about recreation activities. Results were analysed with daily weather data to test for climate effects on recreation benefits. It was found that temperature and precipitation were statistically significant determinants of WTP. The study estimated increases in recreation benefits of 4.9% and 6.7% for two climate change scenarios.


New Zealand’s indigenous forests are assets which produce a range of benefits including timber, recreational opportunities and erosion control. For the crown to efficiently allocate the forest resources it controls it must have some estimate of the value of a forest. This paper reports the empirical results of a contingent valuation study of forest in the Kauaeranga Valley of the Coromandel Peninsula. This valley is the largest single block within the Coromandel State Forest Park. The sample was taken from the Waikato parliamentary district electoral roll. The area includes both urban and rural constituents giving a cross-section of lifestyles. A 71.8% response rate was obtained from the postal survey (122 replies). The study indicates that the Kauaeranga Valley has a net present use value of approximately NZ$0.5m and a total net present value of NZ$1.1m assuming a 10% discount rate. These recreational and non-use values are significant and should be considered when management decisions are made concerning this valley.


Despite the global environmental benefits of increasing the amount of protected areas, how these conservation policies affect the wellbeing of nearby individuals is still under debate. Using household surveys with highly disaggregated geographic references, the study explored how national parks affect local wages in Costa Rica and how these effects vary within different areas of a park and among different social groups. The author’s found that a park’s effects on wages vary according to economic activity and proximity to the entrance of the park: wages close to parks are higher only for people living near tourist entrances. Workers close to entrances are not only employed in higher-paid activities (non-agricultural activities) but also receive higher wages for these activities. Agricultural workers, however,
are never better off close to parks (neither close to, nor far from, the entrances). Also, workers close to parks but far away from tourist entrances earn similar or lower wages than comparable workers far away from parks. The results are robust to different econometric approaches (Ordinal Least Squares and matching techniques). The location of national park entrances and the possibility that agricultural workers can switch to higher-paid service activities near tourist entrances may be important tools for helping local workers take advantage of the economic benefits of protected areas.


The Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), one of the most highly visited national parks in the USA, is an important cultural symbol in the San Francisco Bay Area. Traditionally absent groups are expressing a desire to enjoy the benefits associated with outdoor recreation including public lands that may be lesser known to them. Understanding how national parks are used by ethnic minorities is of increasing importance to both the public and the National Park Service. In 2006, the GGNRA commissioned a focus-group study with nearly 100 people of colour living in the Bay Area to provide indicators of constraints to park use. While identifying physical, mental, and spiritual benefits of access to nature in parks, many participants expressed frustration with limited physical access, subtle racism, and general exclusion from the culture of parks as reasons why they avoid these public spaces. The results of this study corroborate over four decades of research on park constraints. This article presents results of narratives provided by those who experience constraints and their desire to participate. For national parks to become representative of the people they serve, the authors suggest the need to mitigate silent exclusion and move toward proactive inclusion both inside and outside the parks. Key considerations include outreach through more intentional communication strategies, multilingual signage, responding to complaints of discrimination, and more representative hiring practices.


A list of nine benefits which can accrue through leisure education in youth settings in the USA is outlined. These benefits include: develop acceptable outlets for stress; identify activities which serve as alternatives to drug and alcohol abuse; foster interpersonal skills such as trust, cooperation and teamwork; enhance self Esteem through realising success with a given pursuit; increase access to new social environments; foster new interests; develop awareness of personal needs and appropriate avenues to satisfy them; discover ways to overcome specific barriers to participation; and develop decision-making and problem solving skills. Guidelines for establishing a leisure education program which contains all of these components are outlined. The specific components to be used are
dependent on the nature and needs of the group for whom the program is being developed. However, they should all contain at least some of the following: leisure awareness, self-awareness, needs identification, values, attitudes, knowledge, interests, constraints, goal setting, leisure skills and leisure resources.


Having experienced unprecedented tourism growth in the last 25 years, Nepal is now one of the most popular alternative tourism destinations. While massive increases in tourists to this area have generated a variety of economic and social benefits at both local and national levels, these increases have also pushed the region's carrying capacity to almost critical limits. The study sought to increase the understanding of tourism impacts on alternative tourism destinations which are both culturally and ecologically sensitive, by examining tourism impacts on Nepal's Sagarmatha (Everest) National Park. The study sample consisted of 70 Western tourists who had recently completed three or more consecutive weeks trekking in the Khumbu district of Sagarmatha National Park. They were questioned during October–November 1990. The aim was to provide a contemporary example of an alternative tourism destination where capacity levels are apparently ignored by centralised decision-making agencies and to identify aspects of the Nepalese experience relevant to the development of sustainable tourism in other culturally and ecologically sensitive areas of the world. Some respondents expressed reservations, but most were generally supportive of tourism for the area, and also felt that it had improved the quality of life of the Sherpa people who inhabit this region of Nepal. However, in contrast to the intentions of the Nepalese Government to substantially increase tourism volume in this region within the next ten years, most respondents felt that visitor numbers should not be increased.


This paper focuses on those purported leisure learning outcomes which society at large defines as desirable. According to the author, these socially accepted learning benefits are: (1) learning of specific recreational activities and skills in specific environments, (2) learning about the natural and cultural environment, (3) developing more positive attitudes about the environment and resource management and becoming more effective environmental decision-makers, (4) learning different behaviours towards the environment, (5) developing pride in the community and nation and becoming a more involved citizen, and (6) learning about the self. To understand leisure learning, an integrative model is presented. Furthermore, two approaches are explained which document the learning benefits of leisure: First, learning
as a motive for leisure and second, measures of leisure learning outcomes. Different types of learning are identified including behaviour change and skill learning, information learning, concept learning, metacognition learning and attitude and value learning. In conclusion, leisure researchers did not approach the study of learning from theories of learning psychology. Its focus rather lies on factual information gain, attitude change or behaviour change. It is summarised that many individual differences and contextual variables affect the degree and nature of learning in leisure settings. Only limited research addressed visual and recognition memory learning even though they occur during leisure experiences and limited research focused on the conceptual, schemata, and metacognition levels of learning. Finally, the text provides an example of a leisure learning benefit (environmental sensitivity and citizenship).


Physical inactivity, overweight, and obesity are growing national concerns owing to their associations with chronic diseases and overall wellbeing. Parks and recreation providers play a pivotal role in addressing these public health issues by providing the public with infrastructure that enables outdoor physical activity. Information about the health-related benefits of outdoor recreation can aid parks and recreation managers and policymakers in describing the benefits associated with recreation infrastructure and in their decision-making regarding investments of scarce financial resources to provide high-quality recreation opportunities. Analysis of county-level data for Oregon, USA, shows a measurable relationship between adult physical activity, overweight, obesity, and recreation supply and demand. The proportions of adults that are physically active are positively associated with the proportion of overweight adults, recreational trail densities, and the frequency of participation in recreational activities. The proportions of adults that are overweight are positively associated with the proportion of physically active adults, but negatively associated with hiking trail densities and frequency of participation in recreational activities. The proportions of adults that are obese, however, are negatively associated with frequency of participation in non-motorised trail-related recreational activities. The results of this macro-level model are consistent with information provided by micro-level analyses described in previous literature, in particular that the supply of and demand for recreation activities are associated with physically active people. In turn, counties comprising more active residents are associated with healthier counties as measured by the proportion of adults considered to be overweight. These macro-level relationships can be used by parks and recreation providers to indicate ‘at-risk’ communities—those with low recreation supply and demand, and high proportions of overweight and obese people. Several policy recommendations emerge for parks and recreation providers based on the model results combined with evidence from the
reviewed literature. First, parks and recreation providers should support the development of local recreation facilities, including non-motorised trails, and promote their use by providing information about them and other existing resources. Second, providers should promote the overall health benefits of being physically active via outdoor recreation. Third, providers should identify at-risk communities and allocate resources to these communities in developing and promoting recreation opportunities. Each recommendation is illustrated with examples of how they are being addressed in Oregon.

Tourism has been labelled the economic driver of the 21st century due to the multiplier effect of tourist spending and the linkage of this industry to almost all other industries. This paper estimates the economic impact of visitor spending in the Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa, setting two objectives: (1) to determine the spending pattern of a typical tourist visiting the Kruger National Park; and (2) to determine the contribution of tourists visiting the park to the economy of the region. The methodology used includes both a survey and an input-output analysis. A survey conducted in June 2002 was used to determine the spending pattern of tourists (n=323) visiting the park and together with additional secondary data determined the contribution of visitor spending in the park to the economy of the region. The results of the survey indicate that tourists spend an average of R4400 in the park, and most of their expenditure is on accommodation and transport. The South African National Parks (SANP) has created an environment that induces spending, but recommendations are made to encourage even more spending by tourists, thereby enhancing the economic benefits of the park.


Traditionally, conservation has been mainly addressed in relation to large pristine ecosystems such as forests that deliver a wide variety of ecosystem services. This perception of large green patches providing more services seems to be strongly entrenched in the minds of people. So much so, that even though cities comprise mainly of several small neighbourhood parks and a few large heritage parks, the large parks seem to attract the attention and support of naturalists, ecologists, and citizens. The large parks, undoubtedly, provide a wider range of services as compared to small ones. However, small parks also provide services that benefit the neighbourhood society, which cannot be undervalued. Apart from recreational services, the field surveys show that these small parks are important pockets for migratory birds and other local biodiversity. This study, through social surveys with park users across the city of Bengaluru, attempts to understand people’s perception towards a gradient of green spaces—‘forests, heritage parks, and neighbourhood parks’.

There is increasing and widespread public support for public park provision in urban areas given that they provide an array of different recreational activities enhancing the citizen’s quality of life. A contingent valuation survey of 900 randomly chosen inhabitants was undertaken in Valencia (Spain) to estimate the non-market benefits derived from the provision of a new urban park where there is currently an old train station. The study distinguishes between the districts of the city (more and less) affected by the project according to their proximity to the future park. The main finding is that the mean willingness to pay (WTP) is considerably higher for people who live closer to the planned park as it is more accessible to them. The fact that this finding may be rather obvious does not in any case reduce its importance in light of the policy implications that could be derived from it. To give further credence to this result both parametric and non-parametric approaches yielded similar results. Finally, an equation was estimated in order to validate the results obtained from a theoretical point of view.


Measuring the value of non-market goods such as protected natural areas provides valuable information on which to base public sector decision-making related to their management (e.g., investment in conservation and new amenities, recovery of degraded landscape, etc.). Two methods are applied to estimate the recreational use value of L’Albufera Natural Park (Spain): the contingent valuation method (CVM) and the travel cost method (TCM). Estimating recreational benefits is important because of the negative impact of urban and agricultural developments on the park, there being a traditional conflict between private land use and the social interest in preservation for leisure purposes. The results obtained are based on a survey of 501 park users carried out summer/autumn 1995 and they demonstrate how CVM yields a lower use value than TCM, although theoretically the opposite outcome was expected; recent studies in Spain and elsewhere, however, are in line with these results.


Data from a large-scale discrete choice contingent valuation study are used to estimate the recreational benefits from forest parks in the Irish Republic. In particular, the precision and differences in welfare estimates arising from linear and logarithmic bid transformations vis-à-vis the intermediate Box-Cox transformation are investigated. These models are estimated on both site-specific and pooled data from referendum contingent valuation responses with one follow-up. It was found that flexible forms such as the Box-
Cox transformation may considerably improve the fit in terms of parameter estimates, but that their benefit in terms of more precise welfare estimates requires large samples.


National parks have complex relationships with local communities that impact both conservation success and community wellbeing. Integrated conservation and development projects have been a key approach to managing these relationships, although their effectiveness has been increasingly questioned. Park–people relationships of the Armando Bermudez National Park in the Dominican Republic were studied, focusing on forests, aquatic resources, community wellbeing and development, and ecotourism. The park, established in 1956, is well respected by the community, based on its long history and its role in protecting water resources that are critical to the community. However, management of riparian vegetation and local fisheries present challenges in terms of finding a balance between conservation and development. Hiking and trekking opportunities attract both national and international tourists to the park, and community members benefit from employment as tour guides and providing mule rentals. At the same time, tourism activities also present continuing challenges related to: the distribution of tourism benefits between local people and outsiders, and within the local community; maintaining the local economic benefits of tourism while protecting park resources; and developing park- or conservation-related economic opportunities to complement tourism. The results highlight the need to develop site-specific strategies to manage park–people relationships through interdisciplinary analysis.


This document identifies the many documented benefits of participation in the forms of recreation most often provided in the Canadian public sector. It presents a powerful argument to support the valuable contribution that recreation, leisure and park services can make within a community ethos, as well as giving employees a new understanding of the importance of their mission. It contains summaries of research findings under the following headings: personal benefits of recreation, including both physical and psychological benefits, generally, for youth, and for older adults; social benefits of recreation; economic benefits of recreation; and finally, the environmental benefits of recreation.


Findings from a study on the recreational value of US state parks are presented. The study indicates that state parks contribute roughly one-third of all nature recreation in the USA, measured in hours of nature recreation per capita. Using conventional economic approaches to estimate the value of recreation time combined with relatively conservative assumptions, the estimated annual
contribution of the state park system is around US$14 billion. That value is considerably larger than the annual operation and management costs of state parks.


Reflecting the possible benefits generated through tourism practiced in natural areas, the objective of this research was investigating the extent to which a local organisation, targeted to this activity, could contribute to the increase social, economic and environmental benefits of Protected Areas. The relationship between the community, agency manager and the Catimbau's Tourist Guide Association—AGTURC, in Buíque, State of Pernambuco was investigated to this end. It was found that this association is not perceived by residents as a local organisation. Most residents do not understand tourism as an alternative to local development. Therefore, the lack of incentives for integration of residents hinders the implementation of sustainable tourism and can undermine the conservational objective of the protected area.


Brief results are presented in the first paper (Smith, pp.151–156) of a survey of visitors from France and Japan to US and Canadian national parks. Data are provided on sources of information, motivations, benefits sought, socio-economic characteristics, preferred activities, and relative perceptions of the USA and Canada as potential destinations. The second paper (O'Leary and Uysal, pp.157–164) considers how the data gathered from surveys of international visitors regarding activities, motivations, constraints and concerns, can be linked to the 'product', and the results presented in such a way as to be interesting and useful to the people who need to use it for policy and decision-making.


Increasingly, research has demonstrated that participation in various forms of recreation can contribute to mental and physical health while keeping healthcare costs lower than they would be otherwise. This chapter reports on the nature and contribution of several health initiatives of the National Recreation and
The importance of health for the evolution of the benefits movement in parks and recreation is reviewed before NRPA’s health initiative ‘Hearts N’ Parks’ is introduced. The initiative’s aim was to reduce the growing trend of obesity and the risk of coronary heart disease in the USA. To achieve this, the Hearts N’ Parks Y2K pilot program was developed and types of evaluation are discussed. The program was a success and following studies were undertaken over the years 2002–04. Findings show that community-based organisations such as park and recreation departments have the ability to positively impact heart-healthy knowledge and potentially behaviour changes among residents of all ages. It is discussed how to advance leisure science and health and the current NRPA models are presented, including the ‘7Ps of community mobilisation’. It is summarised that the role for NRPA is aligned well for leadership in advancing the benefits-based strategies that engage citizen stewardship, improve professional practice and advance the relevant work of the field.


The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) is a transboundary protected area that straddles the borders of Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The park’s development was partly motivated by the ecological objective of re-establishing traditional migratory wildlife routes once fences between the three countries are dismantled. Besides biodiversity conservation benefits, the park may also provide a basis to generate revenue for conservation and local economic development through tourism. This paper describes current state and private sector tourism within the GLTP and planning initiatives that may promote responsible tourism, and describes the achievements by community-based tourism enterprises and public-private partnerships in generating economic, social and environmental benefits. The livelihoods of people living in the park are outlined in relation to government policies on land redistribution, resettlement and options for the future, and progress in biodiversity conservation and responsible nature-based tourism development within the GLTP over the past five years is evaluated.


Volunteers are an important resource to park districts. However, it is less clear how well park districts benefit the health and wellbeing of their volunteers. This study aims: (1) to try to replicate findings of positive relationships of volunteering to physical health and physical activity, and (2) to extend previous research to examine the relationships of the characteristics of volunteerism to health and physical activity. The sample comprised 271 volunteers and visitors at a Midwestern park district (USA) aged 50 and older. Results suggest that park volunteers had better physical health than non-volunteers and that volunteer
physical activity level was significantly related to both physical health and leisure-time physical activity. Qualitative findings also suggest that some park volunteers valued park volunteer opportunities for their physical activity. These results indicated that park districts should try to match volunteers based on their interests in health-promoting volunteer opportunities.

211. Staszczuk, J. (1986). Attitudes towards the forest environment as factors determining the level of recreational activity within Polish society (pp. 90–105). Warsaw: Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego w Warszawie.

The psychological decisions and factors involved in the social recreational use of the forest environment in Poland are investigated. The social factors determining individuals' attitudes to tourism are examined in an empirical study, involving 1500 individuals pursuing recreational activities in the summer months and at weekends in forests, woodlands and parks. The basis for an individual's choice of recreational environment is examined according to knowledge of and emotional reaction to the recreational benefits of the forest, together with the inbuilt psychological tendency to pursue recreational activities in the forest environment. Conclusions are drawn on the different combinations of the three factors identified within the sample of Polish tourists interviewed.


As more people move to rural areas, incorporating the diverse values they hold for the landscape becomes a greater challenge for landscape planners and managers. This study attempts to develop a better understanding of rural residents’ landscape values within an ecosystem and benefits-management context. Using a two-phase approach, researchers first conducted three focus/nominal group meetings to identify valued ecological features in the Leech Lake Watershed (LLW) of northern Minnesota, benefits they attain from the watershed, and changes they would like to see to the planning and management of the region. Next researchers purposely sampled LLW stakeholders to measure their attitudes and values for the role of nature in their community, valued ecological features, potential landscape benefits, and potential planning and management changes. Results show stakeholders value the natural ecosystem and experiential benefits associated with nature, but they also indicate values directly tied to their community. Future planning of the LLW must focus on sustaining ecosystem-related experiential benefits in an area faced with a growing population. Increased collaboration with locals appears to be the most supported strategy to achieve this difficult goal.

This study used quantitative and qualitative methods to identify how two state parks in northern Minnesota benefit rural communities. It is based on the emerging recreation resource management framework, benefits-based management (BBM), which requires recreation managers and planners to understand and manage for the multitude of benefits recreation areas can potentially provide to society. Mail-back questionnaires were used to identify stakeholders’ perceived important community benefits, the degree parks contribute to those benefits, and management techniques that can better provide for important benefits. Results show stakeholders believed the parks contribute important economic and noneconomic benefits to surrounding communities. Stakeholders believed the parks helped protect and conserve natural qualities in the area and gave surrounding communities a unique sense of pride. They also believed the parks helped attract tourism dollars to surrounding communities; however, the parks’ stakeholders differed on the degree park staff should focus management on attracting and managing for visitors. Three management implications were suggested: (1) target benefits to specific community needs, (2) market parks to balance community and visitor needs, and (3) create opportunities for communities to partner with parks in providing benefits.


This study investigates the relationship between benefits desired by recreationists and the activities and setting (physical, social, and managerial) characteristics that may facilitate realisation of those benefits. Information was gathered from 1025 visitors to a dispersed recreation area in western Colorado. Cluster analysis was used to group visitors into one of four benefit ‘types’ based on their desires for particular recreation benefits. Chi square and analysis of variance were used to compare activity participation and preferences for various physical, social, and managerial setting characteristics among the four groups. Two of seven activities, mountain biking and viewing dinosaur fossils, differed significantly among the four benefit types suggesting that participation in a variety of activities may lead to multiple benefits. Significant differences (pl .05) were found in the desired contact with other visitors, level of facility development, and management presence among the four groups. Further research is needed to assess the consistency of these relationships over a variety of recreation settings.

The objectives of this study were to: (1) identify the benefits of parks for Mexican-American urban residents and the roles they play in the dynamics of their communities, and (2) explore issues related to their existence and utilisation in Latino communities. Bedimo-Rung, Mowen, and Cohen’s (2005) model of the Role of Parks in Public Health was employed as a conceptual framework in this study. Data were collected in the summer of 2007 with two focus groups with 26 Mexican-American residents from two predominantly minority Chicago communities. Benefits of urban parks for Mexican-American residents were classified into five categories: environmental, social, psychological health, physical health and cultural. The study also identified many problems related to the existence and utilisation of parks in Latino communities that detracted from the benefits Mexican-Americans could obtain from visiting parks. They included insufficient access to parks, poor maintenance of the existing parks, crime and safety issues, and inter-racial conflict and discrimination. A new framework was proposed to model the benefits of parks for minority urban residents and factors that affect utilisation of parks in minority communities.


The purpose of this text is to: explain the basic concepts and methods for estimating local economic impacts of recreation and tourism activities, and demonstrate the application of the National Park Service’s Money Generation Model (MGM2) to estimate local employment and income effects of visitor spending. A common outcome of recreation and tourism is the contribution to local economies which has been used by tourism and recreation providers as a justification for many programs. To best measure outcomes of particular actions the underlying cause-effect relationships are determined, captured within an input-output model of an area's economy. The MGM2 model illustrates the procedures for estimating economic impacts resulting from changes in recreation or tourism activity in a region. The model’s functions are explained and demonstrated by applying the model to the case of the Grand Canyon National Park. Furthermore, the steps for estimating economic impacts of recreation visitors are named. It is concluded that the same method can be applied to estimate impacts of more specific management, policy, or marketing actions.

The travel cost method (TCM) has been used to evaluate recreational benefits. This method needs individual information about visits to recreation sites. In general, there are two ways to gain such information. One is an on-site survey; the other is an off-site survey. But on-site data lack information about visitors who had never visited the site during the survey periods. So, using off-site data, the authors discuss TCM estimation and benefit evaluation, setting up three models—model A (containing 0 visits data), model B (excluding 0 visits data) and model C (excluding 0 visits data)—and considered truncation, comparing them using AIC. Results showed that model A was more desirable than the other two models. The authors also used model A to evaluate recreation benefits derived by individual visitors to the Kurondo Park and the Hoshida Park. Results estimated average consumer surplus per visit is 3125 and 1851 yen and the total economic value of recreational benefits was estimated at 7.2m and 16.1m yen annually. The conclusion is that not using 0 visits data in TCM leads to overestimates of recreational benefit.
 Numerous studies have profiled ecotourists but these have been done mainly in the context of North American ecotourists. This study provides one of the few examinations of the rapidly developing Asian ecotourism market in the context of domestic visitation to Taiwan’s Taroko National Park. Responses from a questionnaire survey of 404 park visitors are analysed. The study uses an innovative self-defined approach to defining an ecotourist. Findings include demographic results, benefits sought, travel motivation, and activities. The most significant benefits sought by self-defined ecotourists were 'learning about nature' and 'participating in recreation activities'. Other benefits with similar importance to self-defined and non self-defined ecotourists were 'having fun, being entertained', 'being physically active', 'getting a change from a busy job', 'travelling to places I feel safe and secure', 'being free to act the way I feel', 'seeing as much as possible in the time available' and 'experiencing new and different lifestyles'. Comparisons between Taiwanese and North American ecotourists are also made.

In this study, a needs-based taxonomy of leisure activities is proposed. Respondents experienced in a given leisure activity were asked to indicate the extent to which it met different psychological needs, as measured by the Paragraphs About Leisure (PAL) questionnaire. Each of the 3,771 participants completed the PAL on only 1 of the 82 leisure activities for which data were collected. The leisure activities were cluster analysed with the scores on the PAL, and 12 leisure activity clusters...
were revealed. One group was judged to be a residual, and the other 11 groups were named agency, novelty, belongingness, service, sensual enjoyment, cognitive stimulation, self-expression, creativity, competition, vicarious competition, and relaxation. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2010 APA, all rights reserved).


Structured interviews were conducted with African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American and Caucasian-American park users (463) during one of their visits to a large urban park. Participants varied from 55-93 years of age. Most (77%) of the interviews were conducted by interviewers of the same ethnicity as the interviewee, with interviews conducted in Spanish or Chinese when that was the preferred language of the interviewee. A stratified quota sampling plan was established to ensure interviews were conducted in all areas of the park, at all times of the day, on weekdays and weekends. Preliminary analyses indicated that neither gender nor age differences accounted for a meaningful percentage of the variance in the dependent variables. Chi-square analyses and analyses of variance were performed with ethnicity as the independent variable. Significant differences were found among the ethnic groups in their use of park facilities, the social milieu within which they visit the park, and their ratings of the psychosocial benefits of park use.


With economic growth, development and change, the world’s natural areas have been modified. Having looked at the nature and availability of natural areas, this text explores the benefits and uses of such areas, before describing and using the travel cost method of estimating the value of a natural area. Contingency valuation of natural areas is then explored, followed by an analysis of hedonic price valuation of natural areas. The economic valuations of natural areas are human-centred, relying on the ability of individuals to express their values in money terms.


This study’s four objectives were to identify: (1) the level of visitor expectations associated with service quality domains; (2) the relative importance of service quality domains; (3) perceptions of performance of service quality domains; and (4) the benefits sought by visitors. Managerial implications were derived from the discrepancy scores between performance and expectations. Service quality is defined by expectancy-disconfirmation theory, which states that a visitor’s expectancy level provides a baseline from which confirmatory or disconfirmatory judgments are made about level of performance. The expectations data were collected from adult respondents before they entered
the zoo. Data to measure the other constructs were collected from a questionnaire which respondents mailed back after their visit. The sample comprised 606 visitors, of whom 373 (62%) returned the mail-back questionnaire. Seven service quality domains were measured by 28 items. They were: wildlife, wildlife information, overall cleanliness and accessibility, general information, staffing, comfort amenities, and education. Six benefits sought domains were measured by 27 items. They were: family togetherness, wildlife enjoyment, wildlife appreciation and learning, companionship, escape, and introspection. The most important service quality domains and those for which visitors had the highest expectations were wildlife and wildlife information. The results indicated that the zoo performed well on these key domains. The education domain was rated lowest in performance and in importance, and next to lowest in expectations. This creates a challenge for the zoo, since education is a central element in its mission statement. The most important benefits sought were family togetherness and wildlife enjoyment. Substantially less important were wildlife appreciation and companionship, while escape and introspection were relatively unimportant. The emphasis on family was reflected in the profile of visitor groups, 80% of which contained children. These types of studies enable organisations to benchmark their performance against visitors’ expectations and what is important to them. The benchmarking could be extended by replicating the study periodically to monitor progress over time, and by implementing it at other zoos to identify Fort Worth Zoo’s strengths and weaknesses compared to its peer organisations.


Recent research by a team from Deakin University explored the health and wellbeing benefits of civic environmentalism – voluntary communal actions undertaken to promote ecosystem sustainability, typified by membership of a ‘friends of parks’ group. The research confirmed what was known intuitively: that belonging to such a group and undertaking the activities associated with such a group exposes people not only to the benefits of the natural environment, but also to other people and to opportunities to make a contribution which is socially valued. On the basis of those findings, a pilot project involving intentional engagement of people suffering depression and related disorders in supported nature-based activities in a woodland environment is being implemented and evaluated. This article reports on that project and discusses the implications of its findings to date, and the findings of the three earlier projects, both for urban woodland/forest managers and for the health sector. As this contribution indicates, there appears to be potential for the use of civic environmentalism to promote health, wellbeing and social connectedness for individuals and the wider population, as well as for groups with identified health vulnerabilities. However, the realisation of the benefits
of such an approach will be dependent on cooperation between the environment and health sectors to create and promote opportunities for increased civic environmentalism, and to identify and address the barriers to their effective use.


Phu Rua National Park, Loei Province, Thailand, was created in 1979 to protect biological diversity, to stimulate the expansion of recreation and tourism, and to provide opportunities for conservation education and scientific research. Although the park was established for the benefit of the public and local communities, there are conflicts between the peasants and the park administration that threaten the management and conservation of the area’s biological diversity. Some possible solutions to the problems of encroachment and poaching through community education and increased benefits to local communities are discussed. Community education which emphasises the role of cultural values, identification with the park, and the increased flow of benefits from the buffer zone through agroforestry to local communities should play a key role in new programs to protect the resources of the park. This paper was presented at the workshop on Protected areas and biological diversity at the East-West Center, Hawaii, USA, held from 6 July–15 August 1987.


This text focuses on the implementation of outcomes focused management (OFM) in municipal parks and recreation departments and specifically addresses its unique issues. To do so, it examines the role of outcome measurements for municipalities, the steps for OFM implementation and the impact of OFM on program development and outcomes-focused programming (OFP). Additionally, ‘real world’ examples are infused throughout the chapter to highlight concepts. The implementing OFM in municipal parks and recreation departments is subdivided into four steps: (1) identify target issues and outcomes, (2) develop programs to specifically address targeted goals, (3) measure program goals, including outcomes, and (4) realise impacts and communicate success. The process of implementing OFM is not an overnight process and can be implemented in steps or stages. Its implementation is a significant cultural change for some park and recreation departments; however, its benefits far outweigh its costs or consternation. It is important to recognise that there is flexibility in implementing OFM to accommodate particular situations and managerial objectives for municipalities.

This chapter explores the relationship between outcomes focused management (OFM) and youth development by briefly examining the evolution of recreation and youth development before focusing on the role of recreation and leisure on youth development. Therefore, the four steps of implementing outcomes-focused programming (OFP) are used to discuss the congruency between the steps of OFP and positive youth development. The four steps are: (1) identify target issues and outcomes, (2) develop programs to specifically address outcomes, (3) measure program goals and outcomes, and (4) realise impacts and communicate success. In establishing the goals of youth development, it needs to be considered that positive youth development is more about the progress and process than it is about attaining a definitive, measurable goal. Six broad goals for youth development are listed in the text: competence, confidence, connections, character, caring and compassion, and contribution. Even though recreation plays a significant role in positive youth development, collaboration with other organisations, stakeholders, community agencies and schools is important. Programs should also be flexible to adapt to the diversity of young people and their communities.

In summary, recreation and leisure can assist youth with their development of essential life skills by developing competencies through challenging activities and due to its health relationships.


An economic estimation was made of the social benefits generated by the implementation of a recovery and conservation program which impacts the attributes of the Molino de Flores National Park (MFNP). Using the contingent valuation method, it is concluded that the MFNP has a conservation value of US$384,000 per year, and a value in perpetuity of US$4,266,667. Also estimated was the potential entrance fee to the park at Mex$24 (the value a person attaches to the benefit). The rate was estimated using a binomial logit model and the variables hypothetical price to pay, income level, educational level and environmental perception.

Psychological as well as active recreation benefits of a residential park were examined through a questionnaire, open-ended interviews, a photograph rating procedure, and observation of activity. Non-metric factor analysis of questionnaire data indentified two principal factors of perceived park benefits: Passive Nature and Recreation/Social. Although respondents attached greatest importance to the Passive Nature factor, the park's ranking in terms of the importance of its Recreation Social benefits in some instances equalled or surpassed that of other costly facilities that were easily accessible to residents. Low users and even non-users of the park appeared to derive substantial psychological benefits. These findings imply that studies limited to direct users may grossly under-represent park benefits. To account for the non-user results, perceived control is postulated to be a benefit derived from mere awareness of a park's presence. Implications of the findings for urban park design and recreation policy are discussed.


This chapter aims to examine the use of psycho-physiological methods for investigating consequences of leisure experiences. It introduces physiological measures used in psychophysiology that have the potential to help investigate a wide range of responses and beneficial effects associated with leisure and recreation issues. Verbal models and physiological measures are presented. Compared to verbal measures, physiological measures used in psychophysiology have some significant advantages such as allowing temporally continuous recordings of influences of leisure experiences. Also, these findings tend to have scientific credibility. On the other hand, physiological methods are more time consuming and expensive and they can be difficult and awkward to use in field studies. Furthermore, the role of leisure activities and leisure environments is determined, particularly natural environments, in helping people cope with various types of stress. Findings show that recuperation from stress occurs much faster and more completely, when individuals are exposed to natural rather than urban environments. In addition, findings from verbal methods indicate that more recuperation in the psychological components of stress can be produced by natural environments. Finally, the possibilities and challenges for future research are identified including the need for research that investigates longer term psycho-physiological influences of leisure.

This Instruction Memorandum (IM) affirms the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) program direction approved by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) to adopt and expanded conceptual framework for planning and managing recreation on public lands and emphasis to benefits-based recreation management. These changes were affirmed by the Bureau of Land management’s (BLM) recreation constituents and gateway communities as being appropriate direction for the future management of recreation and visitor services. Policy is identified for all new and ongoing Land Use Planning (LUP). For LUPs which do not incorporate identified policies, field managers will assess and evaluate effects of proposed projects in Special Recreation Management Areas on activities, experiences, beneficial outcomes and recreation setting character to ensure consistency with the benefits-based management concept.

This paper reviews the main rationales for leisure planning. The eight rationales are: meeting standards, providing opportunity, managing heritage resources, meeting demand, satisfying stakeholder groups, meeting needs, providing benefits and meeting participation targets.


This chapter summarises a collaborative benefit-oriented research project that was conducted in the late 1990s on Colorado’s Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway which was conducted to help guide future management planning for that resource area. The text provides three separate methodologies/studies that were employed to collect the stakeholder input. Stakeholders were separated into six focus groups and key summary points of each group are provided. The most important benefits indicated by visitors were environmental benefits: providing heightened awareness of the natural world, protection of cultural history/sites, and deeper sensitivity to local cultures. The next most highly rated benefits were in the social category: improved family relations and providing recreation opportunities to communities. Positive contribution to local economies and greater opportunities for youth were also rated at above the moderate level. An overview is presented as well as a section listing the lessons learned to provide perspective and insights for future benefit-oriented research and management projects. It is presented how focus groups and surveys can be used to understand and identify the activities, settings, experiences, and other benefits that residents of local communities and visitors desire from a backcountry byway. Furthermore, it is explained how a benefit-oriented research project can be designed to include diverse input from a variety of community-based and visitor-based stakeholders.

This study examined local attitudes towards protected area tourism and the effects of tourism benefits on local support for Komodo National Park, Indonesia. Komodo National Park is a flagship for tourism in a region where protected areas are becoming increasingly visited and where local support for conservation has not been investigated. Results of a questionnaire survey of 401 local residents revealed positive attitudes towards tourism and high support for conservation (93.7%), as well as a recognition that tourism is dependent upon the existence of the park. Positive attitudes towards tourism were positively related to the receipt of economic benefits and to support for conservation. However, a positive relationship between receipt of tourism benefits and support for conservation was not identified, suggesting that benefits from protected area conservation make no difference to local support for conservation. Local people recognised distributional inequalities in tourism benefits, and the most common complaints were of local inflation and tourist dress code. To fully identify the impacts of protected area tourism, long-term studies of local attitudes alongside traditional economic and ecological assessments are recommended.


The primary purpose of this narrative review was to evaluate the current literature and to provide further insight into the role physical inactivity plays in the development of chronic disease and premature death. The study confirms that there is irrefutable evidence of the effectiveness of regular physical activity in the primary and secondary prevention of several chronic diseases (e.g., cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, hypertension, obesity, depression and osteoporosis) and premature death. It also reveals that the current Health Canada physical activity guidelines are sufficient to elicit health benefits, especially in previously sedentary people. There appears to be a linear relation between physical activity and health status, such that a further increase in physical activity and fitness will lead to additional improvements in health status.


Net economic returns of the two main direct-use economic activities of forestry and tourism in selected New South Wales (NSW, Australia) native forests for the 1997–98 financial year are compared. The research analysis is based on 11 distinct sites of paired, contiguous or proximate native forests, under the management of either NSW State Forests.
or the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The sites are located in the three regions in NSW and provide a geographically dispersed sample of native forests situated on the eastern seaboard of Australia. The logging revenue and management costs derived from selected native forests were calculated from disaggregated raw data supplied by State Forests of NSW. The economic value of recreation at selected national parks was determined by the analysis of on-site survey results, using the travel-cost method. For six of the 11 research sites, recreation confers higher economic benefits than timber production, inclusive of estimated error statistics. For the remaining sites, the magnitude of estimated variance in net economic values precludes the conclusive determination of site differentials. It is of note that there is a negative net value of logging at 12 of 17 state-forest sites. The magnitude of the estimated values for native-forest recreation established by this research challenges the conventional wisdom of the economic primacy of logging compared with alternative non-wood outputs. Modelling based on the research results indicates that the promotion of recreation in native state forests will maximise both the economic values of individual state forests and, in aggregate, the economic benefits accruing to society. In contrast, the failure to incorporate and account for the substantial value of native-forest recreation into the decision-making process breaches the codified National Forest Policy Statement of maximising the economic benefits of native forests within an ecologically sustainable framework.


There are few formal studies on the contribution of botanical gardens as urban green spaces, particularly within developing countries. This paper reports on an assessment of the use and appreciation of botanical gardens as urban green spaces in South Africa. Users and staff were surveyed in six national botanical gardens. The gardens provided numerous benefits in terms of conservation, education and recreation. However, the people using the gardens were not demographically representative of the general population of the surrounding city or town. Generally, most of the visitors were middle- to old-aged, well-educated professionals with medium to high incomes. Most were white and English was their home language. There was an even gender representation. Most visited only a few times per year. The majority of users visited the gardens for recreation and psychological reasons rather than educational ones. However, the staff of each garden placed emphasis on education in the gardens and amongst surrounding schools. Most visitors appreciated the conservation dimensions of botanical gardens, and felt that there was insufficient public green space in their town or city. Understanding how people perceive and use the botanical gardens of South Africa is important to inform future research and strategies regarding the conservation of urban green space within a developing country.
Parks play an important role in improving health and wellbeing. However, lack of understanding of visitor preferences in regards to their recreation experiences and how managers can facilitate desired benefits has limited the contribution of parks to society and impeded adoption of frameworks such as outcomes-focused management. This paper describes a study of two urban and two regional parks that investigated the experience preferences of visitors and how their attainment was influenced by activity and setting preferences. The study approach was informed by theoretical perspectives from resource management, psychology, sociology, and management science. Results revealed a core group of preferences common to all four parks. These included enjoying nature, escaping personal/social pressures, escaping physical pressures, and enjoying the outdoor climate. While there were more similarities than differences between the desires of urban and regional park users, the findings provide valuable insights for managers of such areas in terms of what visitors want and their current level of satisfaction in attaining desired outcomes. The findings also have relevance in terms of market positioning and improving campaigns targeting health benefits.
aligned themselves with health providers and promoted the important role parks play in providing mental and physical health benefits.


The study explores the economic and social policy issues confronting South Africa’s protected areas as a preliminary step towards designing appropriate policy reforms and institutional changes in the biodiversity or wildlife conservation sector. The protected areas generate substantial economic benefits from tourism in addition to their ecological value. The study is divided into six sections. Following an introduction they discuss: wildlife tourism; protected area benefits and costs; increasing local benefits from protected areas; and policy issues. The expansion of tourism is called for to increase the park revenue and at the same time encourage private investment in tourist facilities. Economic analysis of the complementarities and trade-offs between conservation, tourism and alternative development land use options ought to be carried out. A more active role for local communities in park management is called for, although conflicts between local and national interest will have to be overcome. Integrated conservation development projects (ICDPs) are highlighted as possible catalysts for increased local community participation. The lack of progress in this development may perhaps be overcome by the amalgamation of the wildlife conservation authorities from the 10 former homelands and four original provinces into single agencies within each of the nine new provinces. The final section outlines policy recommendations for the government from the findings of the study.


This chapter concerns the impact of national parks on the economy of local communities’ neighbouring national parks, attempting to quantify this impact by using a series of indicators to compare the changes over approximately a decade associated with a long established park (Wilson Promontory National Park) and a relatively new park (Grampians National Park) in Victoria, Australia. Data were collected for three economic indicators: subdivision permits, planning permits, and building permits; accommodation statistics; and information obtained directly from the managing agency. The various indicators of economic activity for the Wilson Promontory Study area show little change for the period 1978–91 except for a moderate increase in day visitors and in planning applications lodged. There is some evidence to suggest that declaration of the Park in the Grampians study area has brought an increase in economic activity in the surrounding area. It concludes that the declaration of the Grampians as a national park has been of some economic benefit because of an increase in tourism.

The relationships between benefits sought during a recreation experience, recreation activities, and user group characteristics are examined. The data comes from an on-site self-administered survey of 4137 visitors to 13 parks in Southeast Michigan, USA. One way analysis of variance, Scheffe’s test, and Linear Regression were used to test the research objectives. The importance of different benefits varied according to user group characteristics and activities. Activity variables slightly outperformed group characteristics in predicting benefit ratings, with one exception. Groups with women rated nature enjoyment higher than men. Male-only groups rated excitement higher. Socialising was rated more important by larger groups. Trail and winter activity participants sought exercise and nature enjoyment. Visitors engaged in general and water-related activities cited socialising and enjoying nature as most important.

This study compared desired psychological benefits of leisure participation in American, Canadian, Japanese, and Taiwanese college students via a sample of 449 respondents who were administered the Recreation Experience Preference (REP) scale during the summer and fall semesters of 1996. Factor analysis of the REP scale resulted in domains of desired psychological benefits: achievement, nature appreciation, solitude or escape, family, and thrills or fun. Two of the five desired psychological benefit domains contributed to significant differences between the four samples of students as determined by a MANOVA procedure. The expectation that North American students would differ from the Asian students was partially supported in the domains of fun or thrills and achievement. No differences were found between the students on the domains of nature appreciation, solitude or escape and family. It is suggested that more research is needed to verify the use of the REP scales and these results.


Collaborative and market-oriented conservation interventions aim to achieve conservation and livelihood improvement outcomes by bringing people together over win-win solutions. Based on intensive interviews and document analysis, this study examines an effort to establish a new protected area in Yunnan Province, China, as an attempt at collaboration to establish a market-based conservation intervention that would include and benefit protected area residents. The result, Pudacuo National Park, is a tourism attraction that creates large revenues for the local government, has ambiguous conservation impact, and sidelines residents. While different collaborators provided resources that enabled the project to proceed, the project was ultimately co-opted by an alliance of state and tourism industry actors. Explicitly addressing power and inequality may assist conservation promoters who wish to facilitate collaborative conservation projects.
Index of Benefits

Index

The list of search terms below has been adapted from the list of benefits of parks compiled by Driver (2008) and serves as an index that can be used to scan this annotated bibliography for topics of interest, such as particular types of benefits or studies on the (re)positioning of parks and leisure services. A number of the terms presented in Table 2 below have been modified based on Driver’s (2008) list, as many of the benefits included in the initial list were phrases rather than terms. Some additional terms have also been added to Driver’s (2008) list to assist with the identification of benefits. Finally, it must also be emphasised that the index has been compiled using a key word search of the abstracts in the annotated bibliography. As such if key words in the table below were not used in the abstracts the reference number will not appear below, even if the reference is relevant to that particular term.

Table 2– Index of Key Search Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key search term</th>
<th>Corresponding Reference Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accident(s)</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adapt</td>
<td>12, 55, 78, 154, 227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventure</td>
<td>13, 56, 146,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air</td>
<td>58, 90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anger</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>178, 188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awareness</td>
<td>39, 41, 42, 56, 72, 95, 126, 140,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>152, 162, 166, 169, 170, 194, 229,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>13, 133, 159, 203, 213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>11, 20, 73, 76, 92, 113, 149, 153,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>167, 186, 199, 209, 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenge</td>
<td>11, 24, 28, 33, 98, 116, 133, 146,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>146, 203, 212, 223, 230, 236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>23, 55, 81, 98, 223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compassion</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>11, 17, 19, 20, 24, 29, 33, 39, 41,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50, 52, 54, 58, 70, 72, 73, 76, 77,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80, 91, 92, 113, 114, 117, 135, 137,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>141, 149, 153, 154, 159, 168, 186,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>188, 192, 199, 201, 203, 206, 209,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>219, 225, 228, 234, 237, 240, 241,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>2, 7, 21, 31, 50, 71, 79, 87, 94,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>97, 99, 102, 113, 117, 135, 139,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>140, 147, 148, 158, 164, 167, 169,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>170, 192, 201, 205, 208, 217, 222,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>226, 229, 236, 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative</td>
<td>8, 129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>98, 116, 120, 121, 215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture</td>
<td>36, 39, 41, 42, 50, 58, 72, 76, 81,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>91, 95, 110, 112, 126, 131, 134, 145,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>146, 150, 177, 181, 193, 195, 196,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>215, 225, 226, 233, 243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>178, 188, 224, 235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease</td>
<td>178, 184, 197, 208, 235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>6, 9, 17, 20, 24, 31, 32, 39, 41,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>42, 45, 50, 52, 54, 63, 72, 73, 74,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>76, 79, 81, 85, 86, 89, 91, 94, 95,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>96, 100, 101, 109, 113, 114, 117,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>120, 122, 124, 125, 126, 128, 134,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>136, 139, 141, 147, 148, 161, 164,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>168, 169, 170, 176, 180, 181, 186,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>187, 190, 192, 195, 198, 203, 204,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>205, 206, 207, 209, 213, 216, 217,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>222, 228, 234, 236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key search term</td>
<td>Corresponding Reference Numbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecosystem</td>
<td>14, 20, 38, 39, 91, 126, 131, 133, 154, 199, 212, 219, 224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>9, 19, 39, 56, 69, 73, 78, 81, 90, 91, 101, 111, 124, 126, 134, 139, 146, 161, 162, 166, 169, 194, 219, 223, 225, 228, 237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly</td>
<td>110, 151, 169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>17, 54, 73, 97, 117, 141, 146, 148, 186, 203, 204, 219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth</td>
<td>13, 51, 69, 91, 97, 195, 222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart</td>
<td>36, 178, 208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage</td>
<td>41, 76, 109, 166, 195, 199, 232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>8, 78, 115, 132, 203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>72, 78, 159, 173, 208, 231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn(ing)</td>
<td>8, 29, 40, 43, 53, 56, 70, 131, 146, 196, 218, 223, 233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health</td>
<td>129, 178, 188, 189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nostalgia</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurturing</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>162, 197, 208, 235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal</td>
<td>43, 51, 56, 59, 62, 69, 74, 83, 85, 90, 95, 100, 122, 129, 140, 143, 152, 176, 177, 180, 183, 184, 194, 204, 238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>1, 8, 9, 16, 18, 23, 37, 56, 63, 77, 87, 88, 89, 98, 104, 108, 125, 129, 133, 140, 146, 156, 162, 167, 171, 174, 178, 182, 184, 188, 189, 193, 197, 204, 208, 210, 214, 215, 218, 235, 238, 239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiological</td>
<td>36, 63, 129, 171, 230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political</td>
<td>45, 76, 92, 111, 136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollution</td>
<td>90, 153, 186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Re)Position</td>
<td>2, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 59, 111, 119, 120, 121, 127, 174, 180, 238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preservation</td>
<td>17, 54, 77, 136, 161, 187, 201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem solving</td>
<td>146, 194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Productivity</td>
<td>63, 169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological</td>
<td>45, 47, 48, 56, 63, 90, 110, 111, 119, 121, 129, 140, 156, 158, 160, 167, 171, 188, 189, 204, 211, 215, 220, 229, 230, 237, 243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of life</td>
<td>1, 38, 90, 138, 140, 145, 146, 163, 195, 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction</td>
<td>1, 43, 55, 83, 112, 138, 140, 146, 154, 163, 168, 172, 238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self</td>
<td>2, 18, 21, 56, 140, 151, 178, 188, 189, 194, 196, 218, 220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensitivity</td>
<td>196, 233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing</td>
<td>12, 141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>56, 72, 97, 146, 154, 178, 194, 196, 227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key search term</td>
<td>Corresponding Reference Numbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td>38, 50, 92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual</td>
<td>56, 98, 126, 193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship</td>
<td>56, 166, 208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team</td>
<td>184, 194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust</td>
<td>9, 35, 92, 194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value(s)</td>
<td>6, 7, 17, 20, 52, 68, 73, 76, 95, 96, 97, 99, 100, 107, 111, 113, 116, 122, 128, 133, 137, 139, 140, 147, 148, 149, 150, 161, 164, 166, 167, 170, 177, 187, 191, 194, 196, 199, 201, 205, 210, 212, 217, 222, 224, 225, 228, 236, 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>37, 77, 100, 210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellness</td>
<td>96, 162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>4, 108, 111, 120, 121, 184, 194, 204, 227, 233</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reference List*


*Reference list only includes sources that were used in the introduction to the annotated bibliography.*