

ABSTRACT:

Most of the European population and half of the world population lives in cities and their share will probably continue to increase (UN, 2010). With increasing urbanization, urban green spaces are becoming the most available means of contact with „nature“ for more and more people.

The aim of this bachelor thesis was to try to determine which factors affect the recreational use of urban green spaces. As the main factor was expected the availability of green spaces, ie. their quantity in the area of residence. The basis of the thesis was available literature on this subject, confronted with the outcomes of visitors monitoring in five forests in Prague between May 2009 and April 2010. The visitors monitoring followed a long series of studies, which were executed mainly by Institute for Environmental Studies, Faculty of Science, Charles University, mostly as a dissertation theses, in Prague forests and in Czech national parks. In this submitted thesis, particular attention was paid to data from the Prokopske udoli, where the author coordinated the visitors monitoring.

During the 12 days of visitors monitoring, 14 359 visitors passed through the intersection of the main counting station – of which 59% walkers and 41% cyclists, moreover 868 dogs, 388 cars and 456 prams. Total estimated traffic is in the Prokopske udoli 1,219,163 visitors per year (UEP, 2010b). The most common visitor of the Prokopske udoli was a university educated woman in the age of 25-39 years living in the city district Prague 5. The most common response to a question regarding the frequency of visits to the Prokopske udoli was the answer „irregularly“ in 33,6% of cases. Most visitors in the Prokopske udoli stayed 1-2 hours (52,9% of respondents). The most common journey time from home to the Prokopske udoli was „less than 15 minutes“ (54% of respondents). Surprisingly strong consensus showed the comparison of motives for visiting the site among the respondents from the Prokopske udoli and NP Sumava, ie. short and long term vacationers.

The outcomes of the visitors monitoring in Prague forests 2009/2010 convincingly demonstrate the important influence of the distance from the residence to the visitors traffic of the site, but it should be noted that were not processed by statistical methods. Results of the Prokopske udoli show that the number of visitors and the frequency of visits decrease with increasing journey time from home. Most visitors (70%) live in the city district Prague 5 in which the Prokopske udoli is located.