

PEOPLE'S USE OF URBAN SMALL PARKS: A CASE STUDY OF HAIDIAN, BEIJING, CHINA

LUO, CHANG

Beijing Forestry University, llc555118@gmail.com

ROEHR, DANIEL

University of British Columbia, droehr@sala.ubc.ca

1 ABSTRACT

Green spaces play an important role in urban life. In dense cities, large new urban park projects are gradually reducing, and small green spaces such as pocket parks are likely to become more important. However, previous studies on small urban green spaces were usually carried out in the developed countries. Relatively, there's still little research on the use of urban small green spaces in rapidly urbanizing cities in developing countries. Due to the different cultural background, population structure and social structure, the analysis of previous studies on small urban green spaces does not necessarily apply to China.

The case study region was in Haidian District, Beijing. Non-participant observation of local visitors was used to collect qualitative and quantitative data of the visitors in 9 small urban green spaces. These green spaces in the study area have been classified into three different categories based on the Location Based Service (LBS) data from smartphone users. The results of this study demonstrate that people's use of small urban green spaces may relate to the categories based on the LBS data above. Also, the visitor's gender and age could be the factors that influence the use of these spaces.

1.1 Keywords

small urban green space, location based service, non-participant observation, green space use, Chinese cities