

## GENERAL INFORMATION

author(s)	De Corte J
year	1973
English title	Study of the frequency, amount, character, and motivation of forest recreation in Gontrode and Landskouter
original title	Studie van de frequentie, omvang, aard en motivering van het bosbezoek te Gontrode-Landskouter
reference	Msc thesis, Rijksuniversiteit Gent, Gent
pages	84
type	dissertation (d2)
ecosystem service	cultural – recreation
keywords	
taxa	
project	
supervisor	Van Miegroet M
institution	Laboratory of Forestry
document	hardcopy
data	

## MATERIALS & METHODS

study area	
time period	April 1972–March 1973 (test counts in July/August 1971)
goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Gain insight into the qualitative (character of visit, use and evaluation of infrastructure) and quantitative (number, distribution, origin, transport means, visitors) aspects of the recreation in the Aelmoeseneie forest</li><li>- Investigation of the impact of recreation on forest management</li><li>- Formulate ideas for further recreational infrastructure</li></ul>
set-up	
data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Visitor counts at the end of the alley to the parking lot: daily in July-August, 2 weekends in September-November, 1 weekend in December-June</li><li>- Questionnaire handed out at 7 days (Sun 16/07/1972, Tue 18/07/1972, Sat 29/07/1972, Sat 04/08/1972, Sun 20/08/1972, Sun 07/10/1972, Sun 13/01/1972) and filled out by 68 persons</li></ul>
remarks	No information about dates and duration of countings. Refers to an unpublished forest inventory of Goossens R (1967) For the position of the picnic tables and the bench, see the map in 1970_SylvGand.

## RESULTS

### Frequency and scale of visits

- 68 interviewees: 4 % morning, 96 % afternoon (most between 4-5 pm) – mainly during weekends and holidays – 20 % first time visit, frequency relatively high (daily 9 %, weekly 28 %, 2/month 20 %, 1/month 43 %) – 58 % car, 20 % bike, 22 % pedestrian (4.6 person/car, 15-20 cars parked near the forest on peak days)
- counts: highest number of weekend visitors in Jul, Jun, Aug, Sept, Oct – peak days (Sun 23/07 and Sun 20/08) with 249 and 234 visitors
- estimates: 5000 visitors/year (excl. school visits/scouting organizations)
- carrying capacity overwhelmed? 20 % interviewees finds enough restfulness

### Character and motivation forest visits

- 68 interviewees: 65 % walking – 19 % uses the 3 picnic tables, 75 % uses the 2 benches – 37 % wants extra picnic tables, 41 % extra benches, 40 % more than 4 trash cans – 85 % thinks there are enough quiet areas – 54 % positively evaluates the installation of a shelter (camping area, pond, café and sunbathing area are unnecessary) – youth movements do not keep to the forest tracks – 65 % visits with family (mean 4.8 persons, mainly parents with children) – mean stay = 2h8min – 60 % visitors enters via the parking lot

### Origin

- 68 interviewees: Destelbergen (3 %), Gent (13 %), Gentbrugge (12 %), Gijzenzele (3 %), Gontrode (10 %), Herzele (2 %), Heusden (2 %), Kalken (4 %), Laarne (2 %), Landskouter (10 %), Ledeborg (2 %), Melle (13 %), Merelbeke (3 %), Moortsele (10 %), Overmere (2 %), St Martens Latem (2 %), Torhout (2 %), Wetteren (6 %), Zaventem (2 %) – origin lies within a radius of 15 km – bikers/pedestrians live < 5 km from the forest

### Impact of recreation

- 68 interviewees: 65 % againts tree felling, 61 % argues that too much trees are felled in the forest
- The expected potential pressure on the forest is high.