

RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

INFLUENCING URBAN PLANNING POLICY: AN EXPLORATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Authors

Jennifer L Kent, Patrick Harris, Peter Sainsbury, Fran Baum, Peter McCue and Susan Thompson

Article Abstract

Human health requires the proper development and management of places through urban planning. This paper demonstrates how concerns for human health can become explicit matters for consideration in urban planning policy systems. Taking advantage of a rare opportunity to examine the policy development process, we combine a realist analysis, with a new institutional policy approach, to study a case of planning system review in Australia. These insights are useful for practitioners presented with similar opportunities for legislative influence. We also demonstrate the way this approach can be used in future research to develop rich insights into the forces at play in positioning health as explicitly related to urban governance.

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Download <https://doi.org/10.1080/08111146.2017.1299704>

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PUBLIC GREEN SPACES AND POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH – INVESTIGATING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ACCESS, QUANTITY AND TYPES OF PARKS AND MENTAL WELLBEING

Authors

Lisa Wood, Paula Hooper, Sarah Foster and Fiona Bull

Article Abstract

Associations between parks and mental health have typically been investigated in relation to the presence or absence of mental illness. This study uses a validated measure of positive mental health and data from RESIDential Environments (RESIDE) Project to investigate the

association between the presence, amount and attributes of public green space in new greenfield neighbourhood developments and the mental health of local residents (n = 492). Both the overall number and total area of public green spaces were significantly associated with greater mental wellbeing, and findings support a dose-response relationship. Positive mental health was not only associated with parks with a nature focus, but also with green spaces characterised by recreational and sporting activity. The study demonstrates that adequate provision of public green space in local neighbourhoods and within walking distance is important for positive mental health.

Published Health & Place (Nov 2017) Volume 48. pp 63-71

Download <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2017.09.002>

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HOW GREEN IS YOUR GARDEN?: URBAN FORM AND SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS INFLUENCE YARD VEGETATION, VISITATION, AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICE BENEFITS

Authors

Lin BB, Gaston KJ, Fuller RA, Wu D, Bush R and Shanahan DF

Article Abstract

Private yards provide city residents with access to ecosystem services that can be realised through passive (vegetation availability) and active (time spent in yards: frequency and duration) means. However, urban densification is leading to smaller yards with less vegetation. Here, we examine how urban form and socio-demographic factors affect the potential ecosystem service benefits people can gain via passive (eg. climate regulation) and active (eg. recreation) pathways. Two measures of vegetation cover (0.15–2 m, >2 m) are used as a proxy for passive ecosystem service benefits, and two measures of yard use (use frequency, total time spent across a week) are used for active ecosystem service benefits. We use survey and GIS data to measure personal and physical predictors that could influence these variables for 520 residents

of detached housing in Brisbane, Australia. We found house age and yard size were positively correlated with vegetation cover, and people with a greater nature relatedness and lower socio-economic disadvantage also had greater vegetation cover. Yard size was an important predictor of yard use, as was nature relatedness, householder age, and presence of children in the home. Vegetation cover showed no relationship, indicating that greater cover alone does not promote ecosystem service delivery through the active use pathway. Together our results show that people who have higher nature relatedness may receive greater benefits from their yards via both passive and active means as they have more vegetation available to them in their yards and they interact with this space more frequently and for longer time periods.

Published Landscape and Urban Planning (2017). Volume 157. pp 239-246

Download <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/landscape-and-urban-planning/vol/157>

Price FREE

SPORT GOVERNANCE IN AUSTRALIA: QUESTIONS OF BOARD STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE

Authors

Kat Ingram and Ian O'Boyle

Article Abstract

Governance within sport is receiving increasing attention with the rise of commercialisation and professionalism within the industry. The purpose of this research was to examine the current state of sport governance within an Australian context particularly in relation to board structure at the National Sport Organisation (NSO) level. A qualitative method was adopted employing five Australian NSOs as the sample. Interviews were conducted (n=10) with various board members of these organisations to uncover the major challenges they are facing in relation to their organisation's governance. Results showed that there are significant challenges facing these organisations in relation to board composition, independence,

performance, and evaluation. These issues are reflective of pressures arising from government agencies and members of these organisations amongst other stakeholders. A number of theoretical implications arise from the current study including the need for further study examining the delegate versus independent model of board composition and other issues that were salient as part of the reported emergent thematic structure. The results within the current study expand our understanding of what was previously known about the complex issues of board composition and board performance assessment within non-profit sporting organisations. These results may have implications for the selection process of boards within the non-profit sport industry and how these boards are assessed in terms of their performance.

Published World Leisure Journal (2018) Issue 2. Volume 60. pp 156-172

Download <https://doi.org/10.1080/16078055.2017.1340332>

Price \$42.50 (USD)

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF SPORT

Authors

Chris Hume and Dr Ralph Richards

Article Abstract

The economic contribution of a specific sector in terms of its 'value' is often used by governments to better inform public policy and investment. All sectors of the economy generally leverage public infrastructure and assets to provide a range of benefits. The aim in many cases is to balance available resources (while reconciling costs, barriers and liabilities) with outcomes that represent best value. This value can be measured as a return on investment. Sport, as a sector, uses substantial resources (land, labour, capital, infrastructure) but also provides a wide range of benefits to the Australian community and wider economy. It is important for sporting organisations, and the Australian sport sector more broadly, to understand the potential and actual impact that sport can have on a local, regional, and national economy. Insights such as these can help influence and build a strong case when advocating for recognition, investment and support.

Published Clearinghouse for Sport. Australian Sports Commission.

Download https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/knowledge_base/organised_sport/value_of_sport/economic_contribution_of_sport

Price FREE

BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR THE HUMAN USE OF MORETON BAY FOLLOWING MARINE PARK ZONING

Authors

R A Kenyon, R C Babcock, Q Dell, E Lawrence, C Moeseneder and M L Tonks

Article Abstract

The multiple-use Moreton Bay Marine Park in eastern Australia was rezoned in 2009, increasing the total no-take marine national park (MNP) from 0.5 to 16%. In the present study we measured trends in the human use of no-take areas using observed vessel position and categorisation during on-water and aerial surveys before and after rezoning. Measured changes in spatial patterns of fishing showed that the effects of rezoning on most fishing activity was minimal. After rezoning, the proportion of recreational fishing declined from 6.3 to 2.6% of the footprint in the new MNPs. The proportion of commercial fishing declined from 25 to 1%, although the amount of commercial fishing was low. There was an overall increase in fishing activity on Moreton Bay. Low recreational fisher displacement suggests that the expansion of the MNP area did not have a high social cost. However, most of the no-take zones



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were areas not previously subject to high recreational fishing pressure. If a significant proportion of the no-take zones were placed in areas of low ecological production, the biodiversity conservation impact achieved by the rezoning of Moreton Bay may have been less than the 16% increase in no-take areas would imply.

Published Marine and Freshwater Research (2018). Volume 69. Number 2. pp 277-289

Download <http://www.publish.csiro.au/mf/issue/8769>

Price \$25

NATIVE SEED FOR RESTORATION: A DISCUSSION OF KEY ISSUES USING EXAMPLES FROM THE FLORA OF SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA

Authors

Linda Broadhurst, Cathy Waters and David Coates

Article Summary

Land clearing across southern Australia since European settlement has fundamentally changed the amount and distribution of native vegetation; it has also substantially reduced genetic diversity in plant species throughout Australia, especially in agricultural regions. The most recent State of the Environment report indicates that Australian biodiversity continues to decline. Many approaches to restoration are used in Australia including re-establishing plant populations using tube stock or by direct seeding. Native seed for these projects is often assumed to be plentiful and available for the majority of species we wish to restore but these assumptions are rarely true. We also rely on a small number of species for the majority of restoration projects despite the vast number of species required to fully restore complex plant communities. The majority of seed for restoration is still primarily collected from native vegetation despite longstanding concerns regarding the sustainability

of this practice and the globally recognised impacts of vegetation fragmentation on seed production and genetic diversity. Climate change is also expected to challenge seed production as temperatures rise and water availability becomes more limited; changes to current planting practices may also be required. Until now native seed collection has relied on market forces to build a strong and efficient industry sector, but in reality the Australian native seed market is primarily driven by Federal, State and Territory funding. In addition, unlike other seed-based agri-businesses native seed collection lacks national industry standards. A new approach is required to support development of the native seed collection and use sector into an innovative industry.

Published The Rangeland Journal (Dec 2017) 39(6). pp 487-498

Download <https://doi.org/10.1071/RJ17055>

Price \$25

AUSTRALIAN ISLAND ARKS: CONSERVATION, MANAGEMENT AND OPPORTUNITIES

Edited By

Dorian Moro, Derek Ball and Sally Bryant

Book Summary

Australia is the custodian of a diverse range of continental and oceanic islands. From Heard and Macquarie in the sub-Antarctic, to temperate Lord Howe and Norfolk, to the tropical Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the islands of the Great Barrier Reef, Australia's islands contain some of the nation's most iconic fauna, flora and ecosystems. They are a refuge for over 35% of Australia's threatened species and for many others declining on mainland Australia. They also have significant cultural value, especially for Indigenous communities, and economic value as centres for tourism. Australian Island Arks presents a compelling case for restoring and managing islands to conserve our natural heritage. With contributions from island practitioners, researchers and policy-makers, it reviews current island management practices and discusses the need and options for future conservation work. Chapters focus on the management of invasive species, threatened species recovery, conservation planning, Indigenous cultural values and partnerships, tourism enterprises, visitor management, and policy and legislature. Case studies show how island restoration and conservation approaches are working in Australia and what the emerging themes are for the future.

Published CSIRO Publishing. February

2018. ISBN 9781486306602

Price \$79.95

EFFECTIVE ECOLOGICAL MONITORING (SECOND EDITION)

Authors

David Lindenmayer and Gene Likens

Book Summary

Long-term monitoring programs are fundamental to understanding the natural environment and managing major environmental problems. Yet they are often done very poorly and ineffectively. This second edition of the highly acclaimed Effective Ecological Monitoring describes what makes monitoring programs successful and how to ensure that long-term monitoring studies persist. The book has been fully revised and updated but remains concise, illustrating key aspects of effective monitoring with case studies and examples. It includes new sections comparing surveillance-based and question-based monitoring, analysing environmental observation networks, and provides examples of adaptive monitoring. Based on the authors' 80 years of collective experience in running long-term research and monitoring programs, Effective Ecological Monitoring is a valuable resource for the natural resource management, ecological and environmental science and policy communities.

Published CSIRO Publishing. May 2018. ISBN 9781486308927 224

Price \$49.95

INTERNATIONAL

PROMOTING PARKS AND RECREATION'S ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Authors

The George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis

Report Summary

Parks and recreation supports environmental stewardship and promotes health and wellness in communities across the United States. Less appreciated are these agencies' many contributions to economic prosperity. Park and recreation agencies employ hundreds of thousands of people while their operations and capital spending generate significant economic activity. Moreover, local parks shape perceptions of and enhance the quality of life in communities.

This study builds on previous NRPA research on the economic importance of local park and recreation agencies by exploring the role that quality park

The focus of this edition's research projects is parks, gardens and conservation. Abstracts regarding research projects that may be of interest to others are always welcomed, in particular research relating to:

- Events, Tourism and the Arts. Abstracts required by 01/09/2018.
- Community and Urban Planning. Abstracts required by 08/12/2018.

Please forward material or enquiries to jwcs@bigpond.net.au

amenities play in 21st century regional economic development. It reviews the impact that a community's quality of life has on its ability to attract and retain business and a talented workforce. This report also identifies opportunities where local parks officials can better engage with their communities' economic development entities.

Published National Recreation and Park Association (May 2018)

Download <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/promoting-parks-and-recreations-role-in-economic-development>

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MEASURING THE USE OF PUBLIC NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Authors

Deborah Cohen and Bing Han

Article Summary

Typically, parks only have partial information about how their facilities are used. They can count registered participants of park-sponsored programs and get lists of team members for groups that obtain permits to use park facilities, but this method will likely assess only a fraction of users, since along with registrants, many family members, friends and acquaintances

also visit parks to observe or take advantage of other park facilities. Another method has been to conduct population-based surveys and ask people about their use of park facilities. However, these methods may not be representative, may capture only a fraction of the local residents and may not yield precise information about the specific facilities that are being used. Surveys also rely on the memory and ability of individuals to accurately report their park use. Yet, methods exist that provide robust and comprehensive assessments of park use, and these could be adopted by park and rec departments to document park use, not only by registered users, but also by the population. Following are some of these methods, including potential logistics that would be feasible for park and rec departments to adopt.

Published Parks and Recreation Magazine (March 2018).

Download <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2018/march/measuring-the-use-of-public-neighborhood-parks>

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THE VALUE OF TREES TO THE WORLD'S LARGEST CITIES

Author

Theodore Endreny

Article Intro

Megacities are on the rise. There are currently 47 such areas around the globe, each housing more than 10 million residents. More than half the global population now lives in urban areas, comprising about 3 percent of the Earth. The ecological footprint of this growth is vast and there's far more that can be done to improve life for urban residents around the world. When it comes to natural spaces, trees are keystone species in the urban ecosystem, providing a number of services that benefit people. My research team has calculated just how much a tree matters for many urban areas, particularly megacities. Trees clean the air and water, reduce stormwater floods, improve building energy use and mitigate climate change, among other things. For every dollar invested in planting, cities see an average US\$2.25 return on their investment each year.

Published Web Article. NRPA Smart Brief (April 2018)

Download <https://theconversation.com/we-calculated-how-much-money-trees-save-for-your-city-95198>

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