

RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

PERCEPTIONS OF 'NATURALNESS' BY URBAN PARK VISITORS: INSIGHTS FROM PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Authors Krapez, A, Hughes, M & Newsome, D

Abstract Urban greenspaces, such as urban public parks, may provide a range of benefits to people visiting those spaces. The extent and type of visitor benefits may be influenced by a range of park characteristics such as the presence of manicured and naturalistic features, the urban setting and visitor perceptions of park naturalness. Understanding visitor perceptions of park naturalness contributes to understanding the role different types of urban greenspace play in providing nature contact and associated benefits for urban populations. Hence, our study set out to determine visitor perceptions of the naturalness and associated benefits of two parks in different urban settings, suburban and peri-urban, in the city of Perth, Western Australia. Each park had different zones in terms of naturalistic and manicured areas for public use. An on-site visitor intercept survey using convenience sampling was conducted simultaneously at both parks in 2017. Sampling was conducted in the naturalistic and manicured zones of each park. The questionnaire included a seven-point perceived naturalness scale (ranging from completely artificial to completely natural) and a park visitor benefits question, drawn from the literature, where respondents rated seven items on a five-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree). We found the suburban park was rated as significantly less natural than the Peri urban park. However, there was no significant difference in perceived naturalness between zone types within each park (manicured versus naturalistic). A moderate positive relationship was identified between perceived naturalness and perceived key benefits at both parks. This study further highlights the importance of retaining naturalistic areas within urban environments.

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Cost FREE

LIFEGUARD TURNOVER IN AQUATIC AND RECREATION CENTRES: PERSPECTIVES FROM MANAGERS

Authors Butson, M, Tower, J & Schwarz, E

Abstract Employee turnover is the loss of talent in the workforce. High employee turnover is expensive and disruptive. Young employees are more likely to leave one job for a better one and are often less attached to an organisation while they are completing their education. The aquatics industry has been described as being in a crisis, experiencing unprecedented levels of turnover amongst lifeguards. A first important step is to understand the reasons for turnover amongst lifeguards. This study utilised semi-structured interviews with aquatic and recreation centre managers (N = 16; 69% female) to explore their insights about lifeguard turnover. A deductive content analysis determined that lifeguards leave their current position for four main reasons: lifeguarding being a temporary position, a negative working environment, pursuing employment in a higher paying lifeguard position and location. Consequently, centre managers need to consider short and long-term strategies to retain lifeguards.

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Cost £29

AN ANALYSIS OF LIFEGUARD RECRUITMENT PROCESSES IN VICTORIAN AQUATIC AND RECREATION CENTERS (ARCS)

Authors Butson, M, Tower, J & Schwarz, E

Abstract Employee turnover is the loss of talent in the workforce. High employee turnover is expensive and disruptive. Young employees are more likely to leave one job for a better one and are often less attached to an organisation while they are completing their education. The aquatics industry has been described as being in a crisis, experiencing unprecedented levels of turnover amongst lifeguards. A first important step is to understand the reasons for turnover amongst lifeguards. This study utilised semi-structured interviews with aquatic and recreation centre managers (N = 16; 69% female) to explore their insights about lifeguard turnover. A deductive content analysis determined that lifeguards leave their current position for four main reasons:

lifeguarding being a temporary position, a negative working environment, pursuing employment in a higher paying lifeguard position and location. Consequently, centre managers need to consider short and long-term strategies to retain lifeguards.

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ECONOMICS OF SPORTS INJURY AND PARTICIPATION (PRELIMINARY RESULTS)

Authors Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Abstract In June 2020, the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) commissioned the AIHW to investigate the benefits and costs to the health system associated with participation in physical activity. This analysis is part of a broader project to gather evidence around injuries arising by sport participation and the potential population benefits to be achieved through improved injury prevention and management and increased physical activity. The purpose of this project is to quantify the health spending related to physical activity within the Australian population. This is done by assessing:

- Costs due to immediate and long term risk of injuries; and
- The avoided health spending due to better health status

Published Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2022. Economics of sports injury and participation – Preliminary results. Cat# INJCAT 224. Canberra: AIHW.

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INTERNATIONAL

COMMUNITY LEISURE AND RECREATION PLANNING

Authors Marriott, K, Tower, J & McDonald, K

Abstract *Community Leisure and Recreation Planning* offers an up-to-date, evidence-based approach to planning community leisure and recreation facilities, programs and services. It introduces readers to key theory and best practice in the planning of effective leisure and recreation projects. The book defines planning, leisure, recreation and other key concepts and explains why a thorough planning process is essential

to achieving effective outcomes. It presents a comprehensive, integrative four phase model for undertaking leisure and recreation planning, including: pre-planning, planning research, preparing a plan, and implementing, monitoring and evaluating the outputs and outcomes of a plan. It provides a conceptual rationale for each component of the planning process, a detailed explanation of the tools and techniques that can be used, and extensive examples and international case study materials from eight countries to demonstrate their use. The principles and techniques explained in the book are applicable at a range of community levels from small individual sites to regions, states and even countries.

Published Community Leisure and Recreation Planning. London: Routledge.

Download routledge.com/Community-Leisure-and-Recreation-Planning/Marriott-Tower-McDonald/p/book/9780367342944

Cost \$56 (AUD)

MAPPING THE LANDSCAPE OF ORGANIZED SPORT IN A COMMUNITY: IMPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Authors Doherty, A, Patil, S, Robar, J, Perfetti, A & Squire, K

Abstract This study presents the landscape of private community sport organizations in the City of London, Ontario, Canada based on a profile of organizational features that align conceptually with critical aspects of community development. Features representing the scope – variety of sports offered, program age targets, and other offerings – and operations – nonprofit/commercial sector, open/closed program type, independent/affiliated/franchise status, and shared/exclusive facility use – of community sport organizations were captured from publicly available information about the population of 218 organizations. The location of sport delivery points for each organization was also mapped. The landscape is characterized by a balance of nonprofit and commercial organizations, offering a wide variety of sports, across all ages and City districts, but predominantly offered through closed programming that typically requires an extended financial commitment. Community sport organizations in this city are also most likely to operate independently, and share facilities. These features, and the landscape, are conceptualized as having

implications for access, social inclusion, engagement and citizenship, and social capital that are fundamental to community development. Mapping the landscape in this community provides a valuable resource for understanding that potential.

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THE IMPACT OF THE CLOSURE AND REOPENING OF GOLF COURSES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM ON WELLBEING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A MULTI-STUDY APPROACH

Authors Sorbie, G, Beaumont, A, Williams, A, Glen, J & Lavallee, D

Abstract The purpose of this multi-study was to assess what impact the closure and reopening of golf courses had on: personal competence; sense of belonging; enjoyment; self-esteem; self-confidence; resilience; social connections; wellbeing and life satisfaction (hereafter referred to collectively as "key variables of interest") during the COVID-19 pandemic. Golfers (Study 1: n = 298, Study 2: n = 124) ≥16 years old residing in the UK participated in this study which collected data using online surveys. Study 1 was conducted during a period of quarantine restrictions (4–12th May 2020), whilst study 2 took place following the easing of the COVID-19 quarantine restrictions (6–14th July 2020). Within study 1 and study 2, key variables of interest levels were also collected to investigate the association with golf related activities. The findings of study 1 highlighted that negligible and non-significant correlations were observed between golf physical and sedentary activities and key variables of interest ($r < 0.3$, $p > 0.05$) except sense of belonging and sedentary golf activities ($r = 0.178$, $p = 0.003$). Study 2 highlighted that sense of belonging, enjoyment and wellbeing were significantly associated with outdoor golf course activity ($r = 0.186$ – 0.252 , $p \leq 0.05$). Furthermore, when comparing study 1 and study 2, sense of belonging and life satisfaction significantly improved ($p < 0.05$, $d = 0.2$). Based on these findings, playing golf on outdoor golf courses appears to be positively related to sense of belonging, enjoyment and wellbeing. Also, with the reopening of golf courses life satisfaction improved which, together,

highlights the beneficial impact that outdoor golf can impart.

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THEORIZING COMMUNITY FOR SPORT MANAGEMENT RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

Authors Rich, K, Spaaij, R & Misener, L

Abstract Community is a context for much research in sport, sport management, and sport policy, yet relatively few authors explicitly articulate the theoretical frameworks with which they interrogate the concept. In this paper, we draw from communitarian theory and politics in order to contribute to a robust discussion and conceptualization of community in and for sport management research and practice. We provide a synthesis of current sport management and related research in order to highlight contemporary theoretical and methodological approaches to studying community. We distinguish between community as a context, as an outcome, as a site for struggle or resistance, as well as a form of regulation or social control. We then advance a critical communitarian agenda and consider the practical implications and considerations for research and practice. This paper synthesizes current research and establishes a foundation upon which sport management scholars and practitioners might critically reflect on community and deliberately articulate its implications in both future research and practice.

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