

## Built Environment Dominates over the Natural Environment

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**Abstract** – There is a growing financial burden of touristic infrastructure in forests on the owners by development and maintenance. The main reason is an ever-increasing expectation for higher quality of built elements in natural environment, unlike we expected in our preconception as a growing touristic load.

**Keywords:** forest-use / overuse of naturalresources / tourists habits in forest / forestusage close to settlement

In our research we survey the load and types of tourism in the Soproni and Kőszegi mountains, furthermore we examine the material and immaterial benefits of local population. Diffuse and linear element characterize the green-field system in both cities – in a relatively large share of the area of the cities – but this elements of the green-field system have not connected to each other so far, there for functionally mean a decreased value. (Figure 1, 2)

The very low green space ratio in the area of the historical downtown is also a characteristic of both cities. There is an other problem - especially in Sopron – that the green spaces is privately owned, which shows a quite high proportion of green field, but they are useless for the purposes of community recreation.

Compensating for the deficiency of this two problem citizens of both cities use the surrounding mountains as urban green spaces, and expect as high value towards infrastructure as high use to be in urban spaces.



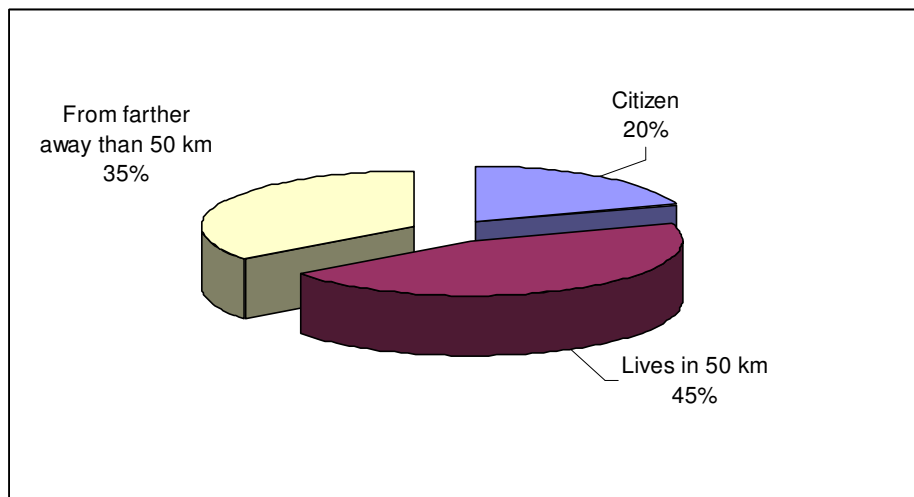
*Figure 1. Scech of greenfield system of Sopron, with the directions of forest touristic routes towards the closest targets*



*Figure 2. Outline of greenfield system of Kőszeg, with the directions of forest touristic routes towards the closest targets*

Our surveys show, that more than 20% of visitors in the mountains are local residents, and further 45% arrive from within 50 km, thus 65% of visitors are familiar with the visited area. ( Figure 3)

About 15% of respondents said that their last visit in the forest was more than one year ago. Therefore it seems clear, that the surrounding mountains of the cities are the key recreational targets for citizens of the investigated settlements.



*Figure 3. Forest visiting habits by distance*

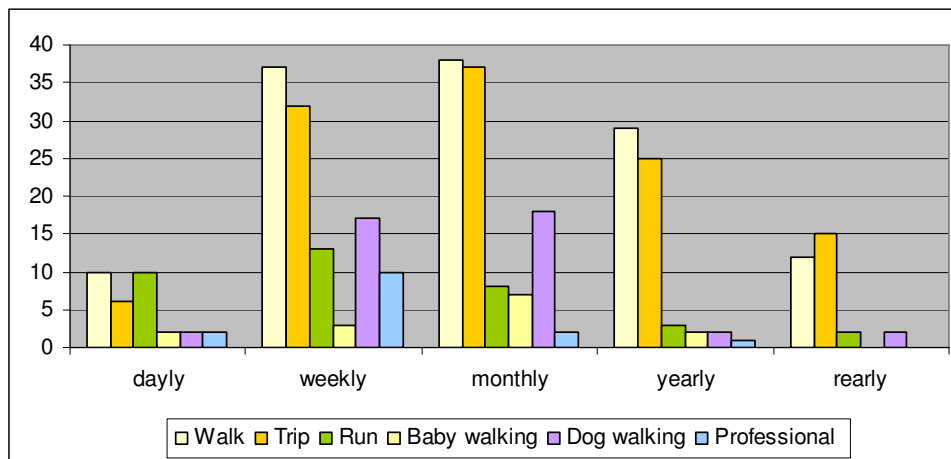


Figure 4. Usual activities of forest visitors by visiting frequency

Observed at the majority of respondents that the typical activity, the support and needs for infrastructure development depends on the frequency of forest visiting habits. (Figure 4)

There is a higher needs for infrastructure development with more frequent visit attitude. (Figure 5)

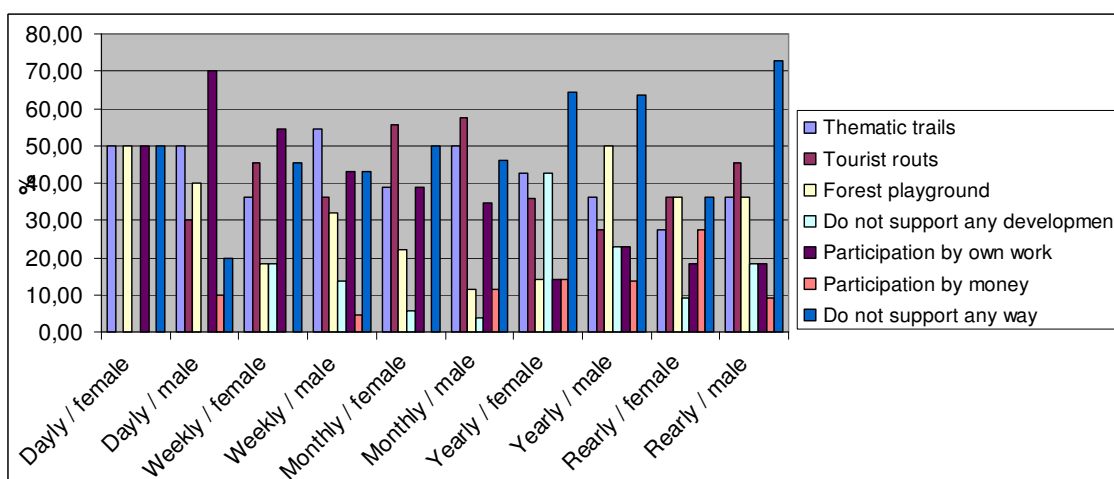


Figure 5. Support and participation of infrastructure development by visiting frequency

The rejection of personal involvement is inversely proportion to the frequency of forest visit. This is a traditionally untapped potential for forestry to involve citizens into touristic developments and maintenance. (Figure 6)

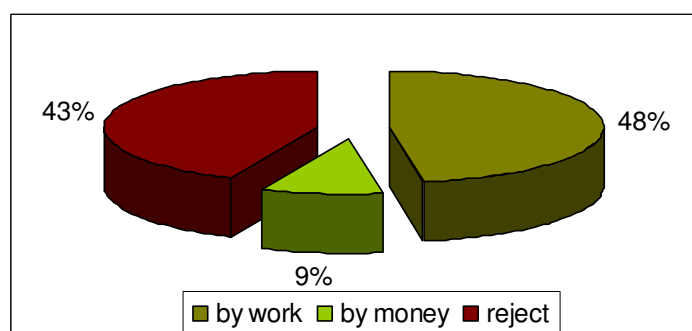


Figure 6. Willingness to participate of infrastructure development in forest

The sensitivity towards different kind of environmental load appeared to be independent from the frequency of forest visit, it appears a generational characteristic. (Figure 7)

A general result was of the research that respondents show a higher tolerance towards touristic load and lower towards pollution than the expected.

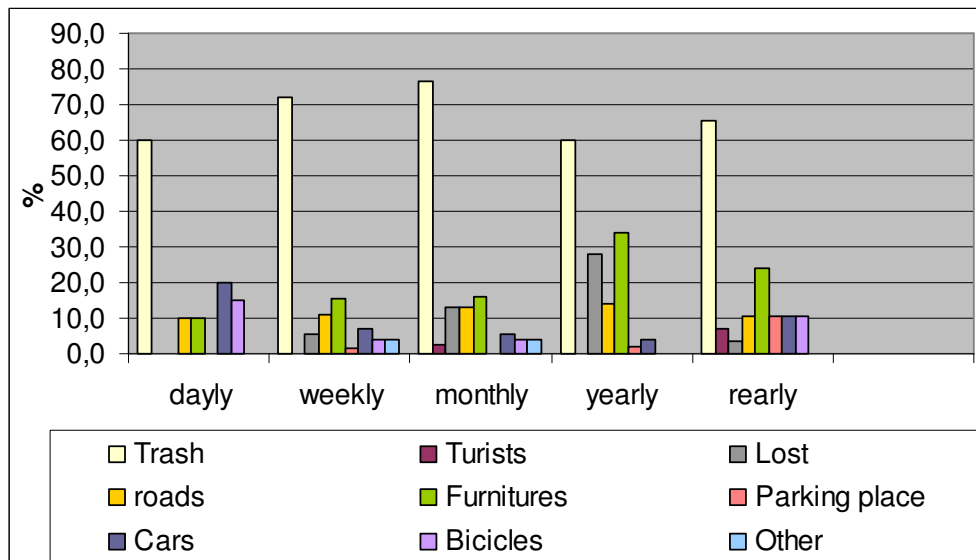


Figure 7. Toleration of load of forest visitors by visiting frequency

## Summary

Our research on built environment in forest was made on element and system level (every containing built elements and their system in the actual scene) which was correlated to questionnaires' made among forest visitors, that all together forecast that expectations towards touristic infrastructure in forest is ever-growing, quite touching the quality of urban space's environment.

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