

Interaction between nature protection and leisure's groups, by example of the largest protected area in the region of Zurich, Switzerland

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Lake Greifensee is surrounded by the most continuous protection area within the kanton Zürich (Switzerland). On beautiful summer days you will find thousands of people spending their leisure time e.g. on mountain bikes, roller skates or swimming. On the other hand, the lake shelters many national moorlands and other biotopes in distress. In 1994 a new protection regulation became effective, which allows for intensive utilization and protection of the nature and separates diverse demands. With various measures the sanctuaries and the recreation areas are spatially separated and the visitors are guided to keep them off the sanctuaries. During the entire year rangers inform visitors on the possibilities of nature observation, explain them where the recreation areas are located and remind them to keep off the sanctuaries. The number of violations such as trespassing of shore and sanctuaries continuously dropped thanks to the effective publicity and the presence of rangers. As a consequence, the vegetation is visibly recovering from the burden of trespassing. But it has also repeatedly occurred that infrastructure has been damaged. To further increase the awareness of the sanctuary, it is, therefore, important that the rangers continue to regularly supervise the protected and the recreation area and inform and guide the visitors.