

BASIS OF REGIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT IN METROPOLITAN AREA. A CASE STUDY OF CHOJNOWSKI REGIONAL PARK, POLAND

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Abstract

The aim of the paper is to present method of solving problems between urbanization, nature protection and social demands in regional park located in metropolitan area. This method was worked out during elaboration of Chojnowski Regional Park conservation plan. In Poland conservation plans are fundamental tools for management of protected areas.

Chojnowski Regional Park is a vast, fragmented forest located in southern part of Warsaw Metropolitan Area (WMA). It is a part of Warsaw's green belt and important element of WMA's ecological system. As other regional parks in Poland it is an element of system of protected areas, which the main role is recreation.

Location in the vicinity of Warsaw affects strong urban pressure on the Park and its buffer zone. Predominant function of communities located within boundaries of WMA has been changed during the last years. All communities transform from typical rural to suburban with prevailing residential function. This phenomenon brings many conflicts between nature protection and new developments. It also affects in changes of recreational use of Park and recreational demands of visitors.

All above mentioned problems were taken into consideration in preparing the conservation plan. The landscape research was based on ecological structure identification. Next, the ecological structure was compared with provisions of existing land use plans of Park's communities. One of the most important tasks was also a monitoring of tourist flow. This monitoring was based on monitoring points and questioners. It allows description of the main recreational activities and demands of visitors.

The landscape structure and its evaluation were taken on as the main principles of zoning, therefore the regulation reflects the protection of natural values and needs of visitors. The authors indicated optimal zoning as the solution of identified conflicts.

According to these studies the zoning with provisions was proposed for new conservation plan of the Park.

Key Words

management of protected areas, forest recreation, regional park, conservation plan,