RESEARCH OF THE RECREATIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE CITY AND SUBURBAN AREA – CONCEPTUAL APPROACHES

With the development of large cities, stable and dynamic development of recreational areas becomes relevant both directly in cities and in suburban areas for short-term stay of urban residents. The problems of organizing recreation in the city and suburban area were dealt with by specialists in architecture and urban planning, specialists in recreational geography and researchers noted that recreational activities are clearly differentiated geographically and are directly related to the natural properties of the territory. The methodological problem of such developments is their predominant orientation to commercial forms of recreational activities, in particular to tourism and to mass organized recreation, which has its own management and marketing. Other types of recreational activities – mass unorganized recreation and domestic forms of recreation and leisure – are practically considered in this context, experience not considered in this context, experience has shown that recreation is actually a complex phenomenon. A typical problem has become an intersectoral one, which requires the joint work of many specialists. The aim of the study is to deepen the concept of the recreational environment of the city and suburban area. Currently, the «city-suburban zone» system is considered as a single whole with its own connections, interdependencies and interactions, with its own principles of integrated and synergistic development. One of the main functions of the suburban area is recreation and recreation of the city’s population. There is a practical need to consider the recreational resources of the city and suburban area together and term this combination as the «recreational environment of the city».

The recreational environment of the city and suburban area is considered as a multicomponent system that combines components – natural, historical and cultural, social, economic, man-made, environmental, legal, managerial, information environments. The recreational environment, formalized as a result of the overlap and interaction of the original environmental environments – natural, historical, cultural, and social, technogenic, economic, ecological is a set of resource components united by a common social function—ensuring the recreational needs of the population.

Keywords: recreational environment of the city, suburban area, recreational needs of the population, recreational and tourist activities.
INTRODUCTION

With the development of large cities, stable and dynamic development of recreational areas becomes relevant both directly in cities and in suburban areas for short-term stay of urban residents. It should be noted that the view of the recreational environment has also changed, which for a long time was understood only as specialized recreational areas of long-term recreational activity – recreation areas, resorts (Kravtsov, Grynyv, Kopach, Kuzyk, 1999). So, according to the definition of V.I. Stafiychuk «Recreation is the process of restoring a person’s physical, spiritual and neuropsychic strength, which is provided by a system of appropriate measures and carried out in their spare time. It is the restorative function of recreation that is important. In addition, recreation is also a specific type of activity that has a clearly defined natural resource orientation» (Stafiychuk, 2006). At the same time, insufficient attention was paid to recreational areas for short-term recreation, such as forest parks, green areas of cities, water bodies, etc., which are mainly used by local residents.

In recent decades, due to the increased interest in a healthy lifestyle and increased incomes of the population, the demand for health and sports complexes and recreational facilities, as well as leisure facilities, has increased. Until recently, it seemed sufficient to define several parameters to predict the recreational needs of society. However, experience has shown that recreation is actually a complex phenomenon. A typical problem is of an intersectoral nature, which requires the joint work of many specialists, as the authors of the article have repeatedly noted (Topchiev, Sych, Yavorskaya, 2020).

As a rule, the problems of organizing recreation in the city and suburban area were dealt with by specialists in architecture and urban planning, and the city itself was considered mainly as a source of demand for recreation services on the one hand for tourists, on the other – for local residents who carry out daily and weekly cycles of recreational activities (Panchenko, 2009).

But there are many developments of geographers focused on organizing recreational activities in the city and suburban area. Among them is the study of A.P. Golod, which considers the features of recreational potential and promising directions of recreational and tourist use of the suburban area of a large city on the example of Lviv. Research by O.O. Lyubitseva and I.V. Kochetkova are aimed at justifying the directions of solving the issue of optimizing recreational and tourist nature management in the capital in accordance with the recreational cycles of the local, suburban population and tourists (Lyubitseva, Kochetkova, 2009). The work of Shashero A.M., Trigub V.I. is devoted to the issues of modern features (geographical, legislation) of the allocation and use of recreational land (Shashero, Trigub, 2021).

Specialists in recreational geography have noted that «recreational activities are clearly differentiated geographically and directly related to the natural properties of the territory» (Grodzinskaya, Nezdoiminov, Guseva, Zamkova, 2014). The
methodological problem of such developments is their predominant orientation to commercial forms of recreational activities, in particular to tourism and to mass organized (having its own management and marketing) recreation. Other types of recreational activities – mass unorganized (amateur) recreation and domestic forms of recreation – are practically not considered in this context, which has already been repeatedly noted.

However, obviously, given the promising nature of recreational activities in suburban areas of large cities, research in this direction requires deepening and additional theoretical and methodological justification. In previous author’s developments, the concept of recreational environments was proposed and justified (Topchiev, Sych, Yavorskaya, 2020). By recreational environment, we mean the traditional set (complex, set, etc.) of resources, conditions, and factors that determine the recreational potential of territories and administrative-territorial objects. The recreational environment enhances the neospatial aspect of the study of recreational and tourist potential: they consider not a simple «set of conditions and resources» regardless of the territory, but the resource function of the environment tied to geographical space. The recreational environment forms a new systemic quality – the ability (potential) of recreational conditions and resources to meet the needs of the population in recreational and tourist activities, and performs the functions of an object of taxonomy and assessment of recreational and tourist potential. The purpose of our research is to deepen the concept of the recreational environment of the city and suburban area.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

As a methodological basis, the developments described in scientific works of Fomenko N.V. (2001), Lyubitseva O.O. (2009), Panchenko T.F. (2009), Stafiychuk V.I. (2006) Topchiev O.G. (2005) and previous authors’ research developments are used (Topchiev, Sych, Yavorska. 2020). The research is based on general scientific methods in geographical research, fundamental philosophical methods, in particular, a systematic approach. Accordingly, a systematic approach is used to analyze the recreational environment of the city and suburban areas, which includes: integrity, a significant number of constituent elements, the presence of internal and external relations, the presence of structure and hierarchy. In addition, research methods that are inherent in the empirical and theoretical levels are used: abstraction, analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND THEIR DISCUSSION

Today, the principles and methods of recreational assessment of the urban environment remain ignored by geographers, urban planners, and leisure organizers. Descriptive characteristics of greater or lesser convenience of building a city and its Planning Organization for the life of the population are common (Brayer, Simonot,
2003; Panchenko, 2019). Traditionally, sanitary standards and regulations for urban and rural development, planning surveys in the use of residential areas are developed (Planuvannia, 2019). Methods of qualitative and quantitative assessment of the urban environment for the needs of domestic and other forms of recreation are practically absent. Secondly, according to modern views, the suburban area is a mandatory component of the city. Powerful urban complexes are common in the world-megacities (they are called «megacities»), conurbations, agglomerations, in which cities themselves are combined with «urbanized zones». But even for individual cities, suburban areas serve as their «continuation» and «functional addition».

Currently, the «city-suburban zone» system is considered as a single whole with its own connections, interdependencies and interactions, with its own principles of integrated and synergistic development. In the methodological aspect, it is necessary to distinguish: 1) the influence of the city on the suburban zone; 2) the influence of the suburban zone on the city; 3) interaction and interdependence in the «city – suburban zone» system and the synergistic effect of such activity. The recreational environment of the city and suburban area should be considered comprehensively – both the architectural monument and the green inner-block territory are parts of a single recreational environment that can be used by both visitors and local residents.

The main feature of the suburban zone of Odesa is that it covers both the territory (the continental part of the suburban zone) and the water area (the coastal part of the sea and estuaries). The aquatic part of the suburban area reaches 40–60% of its area when sea waters are incorporated into it. The functional burden on suburban land is doubled compared to «continental cities», and planning the actual territories in the suburban area becomes particularly difficult and stressful. On the other hand, the aquatic part of the suburban area forms its highly valuable and specific natural resource, the proper use of which provides qualitatively new opportunities for the development of Odesa and the entire agglomeration. Unfortunately, the domestic experience of planning water spaces-sea, estuary, river, lake-is only taking the first steps.

A suburban area is an area adjacent to the city. Approximate sizes of suburban areas of large cities are estimated by the following radii: 1) for millionaire cities-35–40 km, 2) for large cities (250–1000 thousand inhabitants) – 20–25 km. It consists of forest areas (forests of green zones, sanitary protection zones, forest parks, country parks, special purpose Forests), National Nature Parks, regional landscape parks, nature reserves, nature reserves, hunting farms, forest reclamation complexes, forest strips along railway and automobile tracks, forest strips along gullies, ravines, etc., plantings along the banks of large reservoirs, rivers; fruit and berry plantations and vineyards, collective gardens, fields, plantings of residential zones. Within a suburban area, select the green zone of a city or locality. Often their configuration and area coincide.

In urban planning regulations and bylaws, it is assumed that in order to ensure territorial conditions for the development of cities in the long term, it is necessary to
allocate suburban areas of multifunctional purpose in the territories adjacent to the
city (Kizima, 2007; Planuvannia, 2019). One of the main functions of the suburban
area is health improvement and recreation of the city’s population. Various forms
of domestic and mass organized recreation are common – short-term and long-term.
In suburban areas, there is a cottage and dacha settlement of the population, which
have all the signs of recreational activities. Gardening activities, which should be
considered as a special form of recreation and which requires special study, became
widespread in Soviet times (Yatsenko, 2014). There is a practical need to consider
the recreational resources of the city and suburban area together (a cross-section
analysis of their recreational conditions and resources is also possible) and term such
a combination as the «recreational environment of the city». According to the system
approach, the recreational environment is the result of the overlap and interaction of
component geospheres of the Earth’s shell – the natural environment (biosphere),
population (anthroposphere), production (technosphere), spiritual activity (cultural
sphere and sphere of knowledge). The recreational environment is also considered
as a combination of its constituent environments – natural, historical and cultural,
social, economic, man-made, ecological.

It is significant that in domestic urban planning there are standards of urban and
rural development that provide favorable living conditions for the population. In the
opposite direction, the taxonomy of the population’s requirements for the development
and functional organization of cities in relation to recreational conditions has not
yet been practically considered. Domestic recreation is the most widespread and
permanent type of recreational and tourist activities.

Researchers have already considered the cycles of recreational activity of the
population associated with the time order of its life activity (Fomenko, 2001). Daily
recreation is determined by the daily organization of life of the population and
combines several dozen different forms of recreation and restoration of the physical
and spiritual state of a person. Weekly recreation is focused on the working week (for
the employed population), and it is associated with the problems of using so – called
«weekends» – days off at the end of the week. In the conditions of high urbanization
and accelerated development of information and transport communications, the
importance of this form of health improvement and recreation of the population
is growing rapidly. Seasonal domestic recreation is focused on the use of working
holidays, the duration of which is gradually increasing. The traditional orientation
of holidays for the summer months is noticeably weakening, as the global tourism
industry is quite successfully overcoming such seasonality.

Domestic recreation is in urgent need of an appropriate organization of the living
environment of the population for the needs of recreational and tourist activities.
First of all, this applies to recreational environments of large and medium-sized
cities, suburban areas and urbanized areas.

The functional organization of the urban recreational environment should be
multi-level. The organization of adjacent and inter-block spaces should meet the
needs of the population for daily recreation. Functional zoning of the city includes areas and territories of short-term and long-term recreation, the suburban area has a natural environment and recreational infrastructure that provides recreation and recreation of the population according to modern standards (Lyubitseva, Kochetkova, 2009). We emphasize that the necessary scientific development of the environment of domestic recreation has not yet been received either in domestic urban planning or in recreational geography.

Let’s look at examples of more detailed and typological characteristics of the components of recreational environments in cities and suburban areas.

The natural recreational environment of the city should be characterized by the existing natural conditions and natural resources that provide recreational and tourist activities – parks with green spaces, arboretums, squares, water bodies – artificial reservoirs, the coast of lakes, rivers, seas. The purpose of resource assessment of the natural environment is to determine what types and forms of recreational and tourist activities and to what extent it can provide.

Social recreational environment of the city – despite the fact that visitors and local residents are in the same conditions, their perception of the city differs significantly. For the former, the city appears as a certain integrity, the image of which they are trying to grasp, for the latter, the city is a living environment that is clearly structured and in which both more and less developed areas are distinguished. Thus, on the one hand, the population forms flows of recreants and tourists, the volume and composition of which is determined by the quality of life of the population and the level of its economic well-being. Secondly, the population receives and serves incoming tourists and recreants and forms its local and regional «level of hospitality» depending on the appropriate professional training of the population, the quality of service for recreants and tourists, and the level of the service sector.

Among the main characteristics of the social environment are the quantitative and qualitative composition of the population, the economic level and quality of life of the population, which form the overall level of recreational and tourist activities, the activity of recreants and the flow of outbound tourists. Population settlement is ordered by multi-level territorial settlement systems. The position of recreational facilities in settlement systems is a significant factor in the formation of its resource potential, and it has an official status: settlement systems in domestic urban planning are divided into national, regional and local. Cities serve as organizational centers of recreational and tourist activities, urban and rural settlements are direct objects of tourism and recreational activities.

The historical and cultural recreational environment of the city is formed by monuments and artifacts that characterize the history of the region, features of its economic development and civilizational growth. As a rule, it is the city center, especially a large city, that includes the historical core, the most significant cultural institutions, and public buildings. This creates a center of attraction for both visiting tourists and residents of the city.
The ethnogeographic recreational environment of the city is characterized by ethno-national features of material and spiritual culture, traditions of economic activity, settlement, features of development of the city’s territory and suburban area. Here it should be mentioned that almost all major cities have certain areas where certain ethnic minorities live compactly. A peculiar component is ethno-national culture and folklore, which finds its expression in the specific and socio-political organization of an ethnic group in national traditions and norms, in national culture and life.

As part of the recreational environment of the city, its manmade components are represented by economic objects – industrial, agro-industrial, transport and logistics, engineering and technical, man-made complexes and networks, anthropogenic landscapes. The problem of transport security is becoming increasingly relevant against the background of the need to create and develop natural recreational areas on the outskirts of the city, in more environmentally friendly areas that contribute to meeting the needs of quiet and family recreation and unloading the central areas from the influx of vacationers on weekends and holidays (Tsigichko, 2012). Traditionally, suburban areas tend more towards outdoor recreation and, most likely, will not become competitive systems for cultural recreation facilities, restaurants and entertainment centers, but they may well be a worthy alternative to walks and picnics in parks, especially since the infrastructure of a remote area is much more focused on this. Difficulties with transport undoubtedly become an obstacle to visiting a particular recreational area.

The economic environment characterizes the level of general economic development of the territory, its use for various socio-economic needs and the corresponding functional (economic) zoning of the territory. Resource characteristics of the economic environment depend on its economic specialization, the combination of certain industries and types of economic activity, the technological level of individual industries and types of economic activity. The economic environment forms the recreational infrastructure, respectively, we can talk about the environment of recreational infrastructure, covering institutions and objects of recreational and tourist activities, systems of accommodation, food and consumer services for recreants and tourists, transport and information and communication services, engineering and technical complexes of entertainment and sports improvement, complexes of medical and recreational services, institutions of creative, scientific, technical and business communication, institutions and entertainment complexes, etc. The level of development of recreational infrastructure is one of the main characteristics of the recreational potential of cities and suburban areas.

The ecological recreational environment as a component of the overall resource and recreational potential characterizes the greater or lesser favorability of the territory for recreational and tourist activities, depending on its socio-ecological conditions. The ecological situation in a city largely depends on how much its functional and planning structure corresponds to the landscape properties of the territory. In the
landscape-ecological approach to the placement of functional zones, the criterion of compatibility or polarization in the functional zoning of the urban landscape becomes decisive, that is, the maximum separation of environmentally incompatible uses of territories and the convergence of environmentally complementary functional territorial structures. Buffer (compensation) zones are created between natural and ecological elements and economic structures that ensure the ecological well-being of the urban landscape. Special-purpose territories (sanitary protection zones, technical corridors and Forest Park belts, city boulevards) and territories with the functions of Forestry and agriculture (Topchiev, 2005; Tsigichko, 2012) are used as buffers.

The service sector as a component of the recreational environment is available and designated in many of its component varieties. The level and quality of service provided to vacationers and tourists largely determine the recreational potential of the territory. The modern service sector covers a huge number of services, the list of which is constantly growing. Recreational and tourism activities combine professional services that serve a contingent of recreants and tourists, and general services that form a convenient recreational environment.

The market infrastructure environment provides organizational and legal, consulting, technological, credit and financial, insurance, leasing, marketing services to enterprises in the field of recreational and tourism activities. In our country, there is a difficult transition from state and trade union forms of ownership of fixed assets and property of recreational and tourism activities to private-corporate ones. The domestic practice of entrepreneurial services for tourism and recreation is still being formed. Entrepreneurial management is common only in tourism and commercial recreation (health resorts, recreation centers, sports and children’s camps, etc.). Most of the recreational activities of the population, in particular domestic and mass unorganized recreation, still remain outside the sphere of entrepreneurship and do not have the appropriate market infrastructure. In assessing the levels of formation of market infrastructure as a factor of recreational potential, the specified asymmetry should be emphasized: to what extent the infrastructure of entrepreneurship is developed in cities and regions, and in particular the market infrastructure of domestic and mass unorganized (non-commercial) recreation.

The recreational management environment is a relatively new component of the overall recreational potential of the territory, cities, and individual administrative-territorial objects and units for our country. Until recently, we did not have any recreational and tourism activities management or structures at all. Direct producers of a tourist product and its sellers are tour operators (more powerful firms) and travel agents. The number of such production units is directly related to the volume of recreational and tourism activities. The second «floor» of recreational management is represented by regional recreation and tourism management, and the third is represented by state structures. Currently, the overall level of formation of the system of recreational and tourist management remains extremely insufficient. It should be expanded – in terms of functions and powers, and deepened – by accelerating the
development of recreational and tourism activities marketing services. Under such conditions, it is the level of formation of recreational management that requires resource assessment, which determines the overall recreational potential of regions, cities, resort areas, and mass recreation areas.

Along with the list of component recreational environments considered, we will name other varieties that are being developed by modern researchers. The legal environment as a component of recreational and tourism activities is considered according to the existing regulatory framework of recreational and tourism activities. Important factors in the legal environment are also the level of democracy and freedom of speech, ensuring public order and personal safety of people. It is clear that all these characteristics and indicators are studied in comparison with recreational and tourist activities. The management and marketing environment (management environment) is characterized by a greater or lesser formation of structures for managing tourist and recreational activities of the population. We are talking about the formation of national and regional management systems for tourism, mass organized health and wellness activities, mass amateur recreation, and all types and forms of domestic recreation. World practice shows the need for all recreational and tourism activities organizations and institutions to reach the national and international level, active marketing, and the formation of national and regional geographical brands of recreational and tourism activities.

CONCLUSIONS

The study of the recreational environment of the city and suburban area should lead to differentiation of the studied territorial units (administrative or residential areas) of the city according to the degree of provision of their population with «recreational resources», green areas and cultural and consumer services. Conduct a study of urban and suburban space, taking into account not only the components mentioned in the list of recreational environments, but also other components that indirectly affect recreation. Such differentiation will make it possible to identify territorial units with insufficient provision of recreational infrastructure and a low level of formation of the recreational and tourist management system and outline ways to improve the situation. The concept of recreational environments is open to further expansion and complexity. There is a real need to study the possibilities of the city’s information environment in strengthening its recreational and tourist potential. Thus, the recreational environment, formalized as a result of the overlap and interaction of the original environmental environments – natural, historical, cultural, social, technogenic, economic, ecological is a set of resource components united by a common social function – ensuring the recreational needs of the population.
REFERENCES


Additional references include studies on ecological and recreational planning, urban architecture, and the use of recreational territories in various contexts. The references span a range of disciplines including geography, recreation management, and architectural planning.

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ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ РЕКРЕАЦІЙНОГО СЕРЕДОВИЩА МІСТА ТА ПРИМІСЬКОЇ ЗОНИ – КОНЦЕПТУАЛІЗАЦІЙНИЙ ПІДХОДИ

З розвитком великих міст актуальним стає стабільний і динамічний розвиток рекреаційних територій як безпосередньо в містах, так і в приміських зонах для короткострокового перебування жителів міст. Проблемами організації рекреації в місті та приміській зоні займалися фахівці з архітектури та містобудівництва, фахівці рекреаційної географії та рекреалогії, наголошували, що «рекреаційна діяльність чітко диференціюється територіально і безпосередньо пов’язана з природними властивостями території». Методологічна проблема таких розробок полягає у їх переважній орієнтації на комерційні форми рекреаційної діяльності та масову організовану рекреацію, таку, що має свій менеджмент і маркетинг. Інші різновиди рекреаційної діяльності – масова неорганізована рекреація і побутові форми відпочинку та оздоровлення, у такому контексті практично не розглядаються. Досвід показав, що

Ключові слова: рекреаційне середовище міста, приміська зона, рекреаційні потреби населення, рекреаційно-туристична діяльність.