

# PATHWAYS TO SOCIAL COHESION – AN URBAN FORESTRY PERSPECTIVE

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# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Be able to explain what is meant with 'social cohesion' and why social cohesion is important from a health & wellbeing perspective
- Describe some of the pathways through which urban forests and other green spaces impact social cohesion



# CULTURAL SERVICES DEFINED

The *nonmaterial benefits* people obtain from ecosystems through spiritual enrichment, cognitive development, reflection, recreation, and aesthetic experiences



Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2003)

**What is social cohesion?**

# SOCIAL COHESION DEFINED (1)

- Broad, wide-ranging concept with many definitions
- *(Social) 'glue' or 'bonds'* that keep societies (at different levels) integrated (Toye, 2007)
- Alternative: belief held by citizens of a given nation-state that they share a *moral community*, which enables them to *trust each other* (Larsen, 2013)



## SOCIAL COHESION DEFINED (2) – A SPATIAL PERSPECTIVE

- “The extent to which a *geographical space* achieves ‘community’ in the sense of *shared values, cooperation and interaction*” (Beckley, 2004)
- *Interactions* in daily life, e.g., across cultural / ethnic groups are crucial
  - *Interactions with other people help individuals to participate in society and to create feelings of acceptance* (Putnam, 2000)



## RELATED TERMS

**Social capital:** generally refers to resources that are accessible through social interactions and social networks, reciprocity, norms and mutual trust, and is seen as a prerequisite for social cohesion

(Peters et al., 2010)



**Social integration:** the process that leads to social cohesion (Larsen, s.a.)

**Place identity, place attachment, sense of place:** concepts for relating social cohesion to the physical environment, landscape

# WHY IS SOCIAL COHESION IMPORTANT?

- Shift from 'Gemeinschaft' (community) to 'Gesellschaft' (society) (Toennies, 1887)
- Shift from 'embeddedness' to 'disembeddedness' (Giddens, 1990)
- Social exclusion as a major societal problem
- Social integration, for example of 'newcomers', minorities
- Civic life, democracy
- *Health implications; social wellbeing*



**Negative Effects of  
Loneliness on Physical  
and Mental Health**





# THE SOCIAL ANIMAL



A Story of How Success Happens



*New York Times* bestselling author

# DAVID BROOKS

# LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION AS RISK FACTORS FOR MORTALITY



- More dangerous to health than **smoking** 15 cigarettes a day
- Inflammation, heart disease, stroke, dementia, obesity, mortality
- **60 million** sufferers in America alone
- The number has **doubled** since the 1980s
- More common among immigrants, the elderly, the disabled, and those in low-income families
- More common in **big cities**

Holt-Lundstad et al. (2015); slide  
courtesy of Matilda van den Bosch

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Extreme cities

## What's the world's loneliest city?

In Tokyo, you can rent a cuddle. Loneliness is a health issue in Manchester. And perhaps nobody is as isolated as a migrant worker in Shenzhen. But can we really know what makes a city lonely?



“The Vancouver Foundation think-tank asked community leaders and charities to identify the biggest issues facing Vancouverites and were told it wasn’t homelessness or poverty; it was **isolation**.”

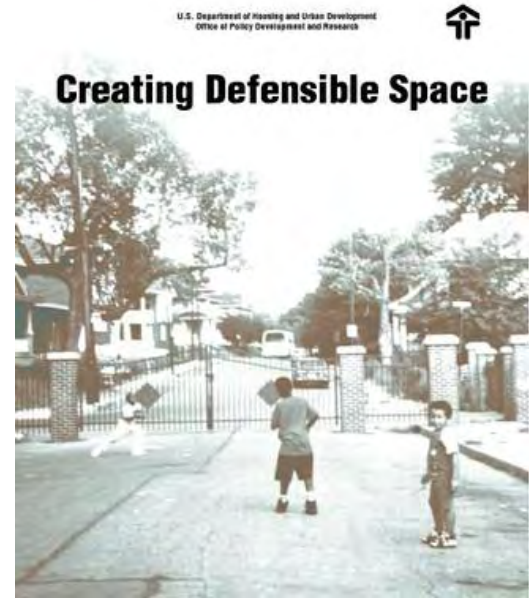
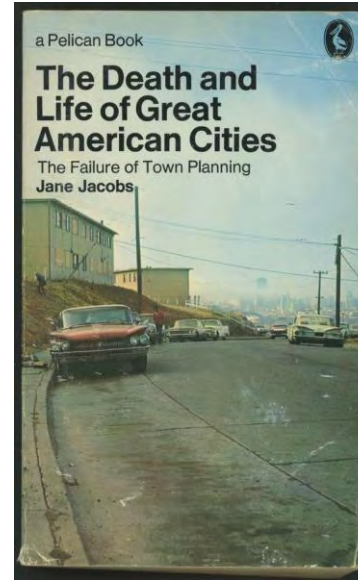
The Guardian, April 7, 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/apr/07/loneliest-city-in-world>



Social and ecological deprivation in city landscapes – eventually culminating in **‘broken places’** within the urban environment (Krasny and Tidball, 2015)

Pruitt-Igoe. Photo: US Geographical Survey



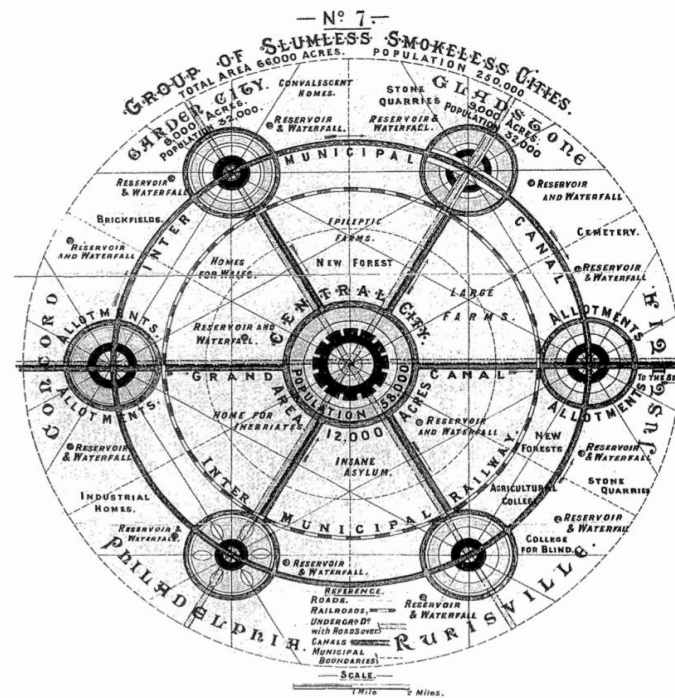


GARDEN  
CITIES OF  
TOMORROW



BY  
SIR EBENEZER HOWARD

Forgotten Books



# WHAT HELPS BUILD (OR MAINTAIN) SOCIAL COHESION?

Key elements as necessary and interactive parts of social cohesion:

- Participation (in community and social life)
- Bonds (trust, connections, networks)
- Bridges and institutions
- Income distribution, equity, inclusion, and access



*From: Toye (2007)*

# WHAT ARE THE 'URBAN FOREST' PATHWAYS TO SOCIAL COHESION?



# WHAT IS THE ROLE OF URBAN FORESTS?

- (Democratic) meeting places
- Place identity, place attachment
- Community involvement







“Democracy depends on having a safe space—a commons—for citizens to come together.”



2013 Taksim Gezi Park protests, a view from Taksim Gezi Park on 4th June 2013 – [WikiPicture](#), [Wikimedia Commons](#)





By Wojtek at Plwiki. - pl-wiki, CC BY-SA 2.5,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1476233>



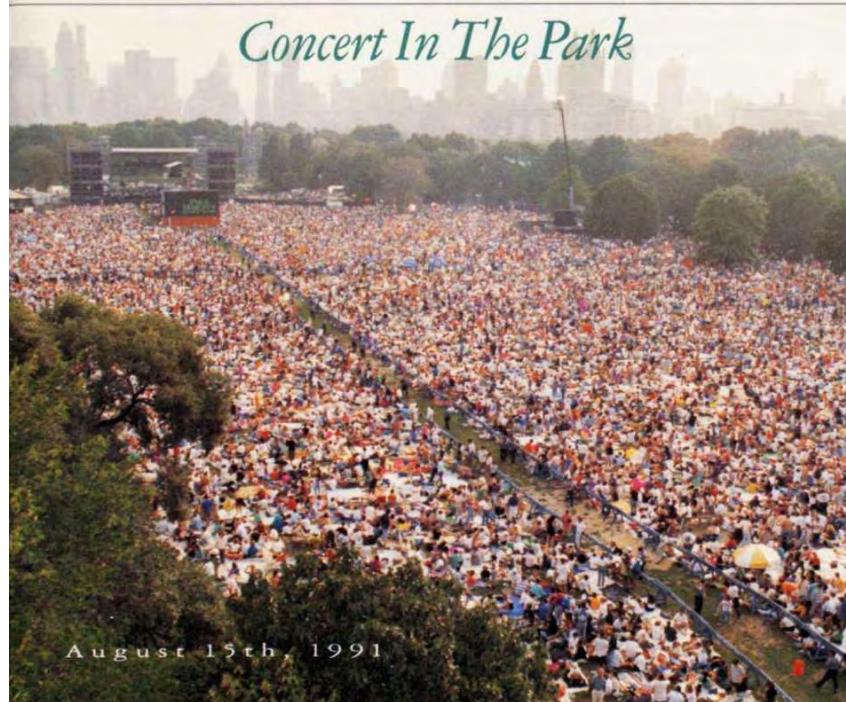






# Paul Simon's

*Concert In The Park*



August 15th, 1991



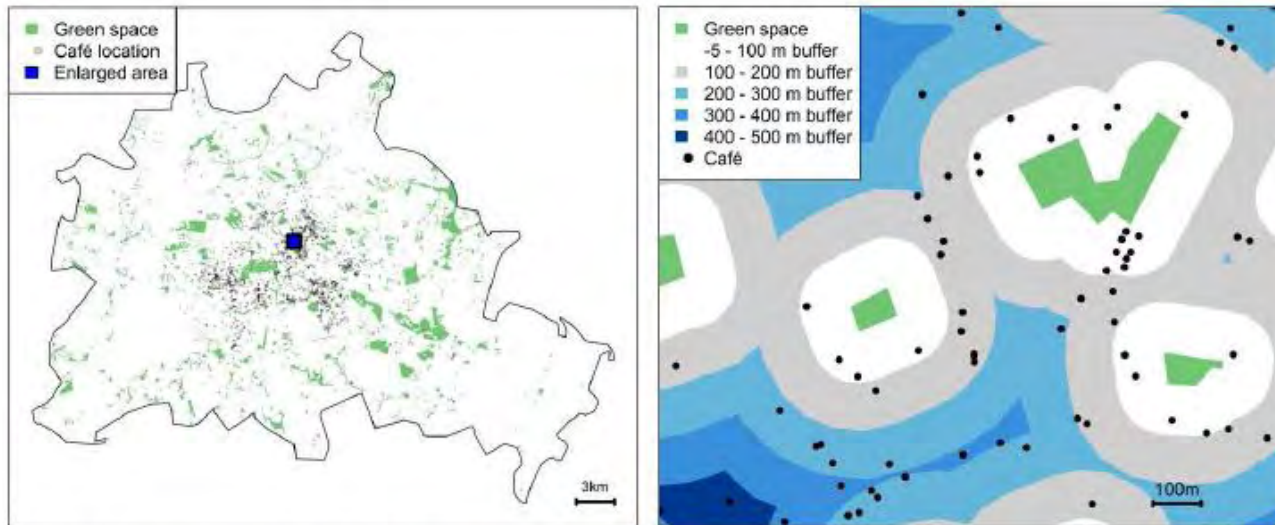






Wikimedia Commons – Paul  
Symmington





**Figure 1:** Green spaces and café locations in Berlin. The figure on the right shows buffer rings of 100 m around green spaces for an enlarged section.

... GREEN SURGE

## CASH FLOWS GENERATED BY URBAN GREEN SPACES

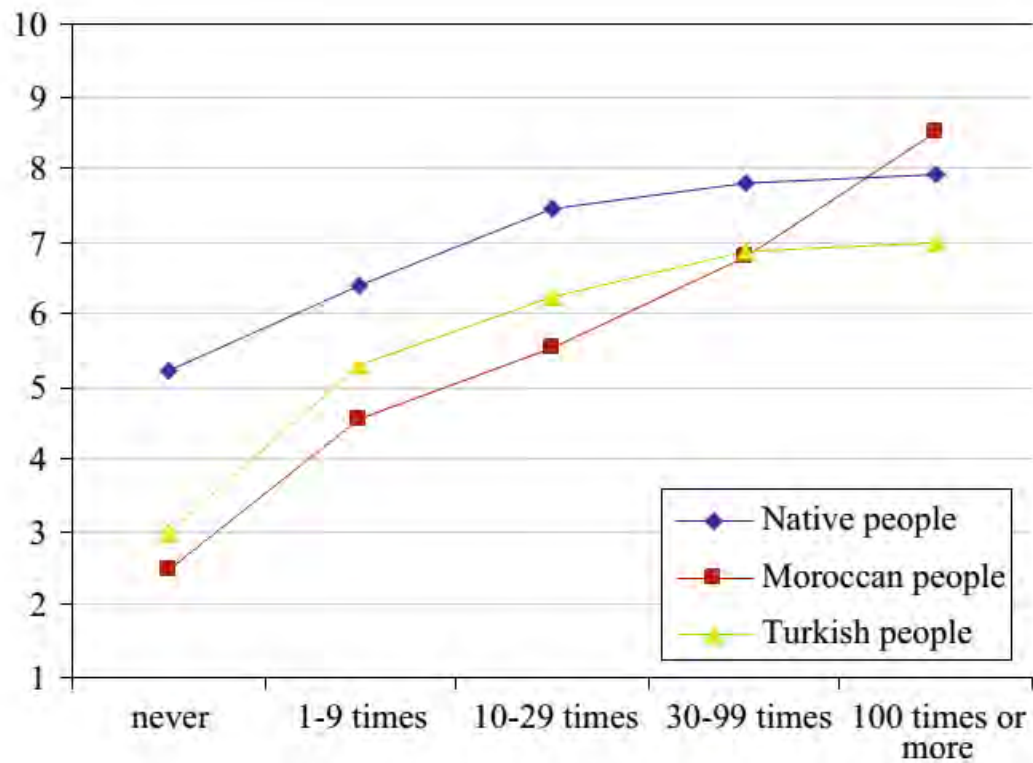
*Methods for identifying indirect values of UGI*

WP 4

SRC, UL0D, UBER

Erik Andersson, Jakub Kronenberg, Dagmar Haase, Michael Strohbach, Nadja Kabisch, Gustav Engström, Piotr Czembrowski

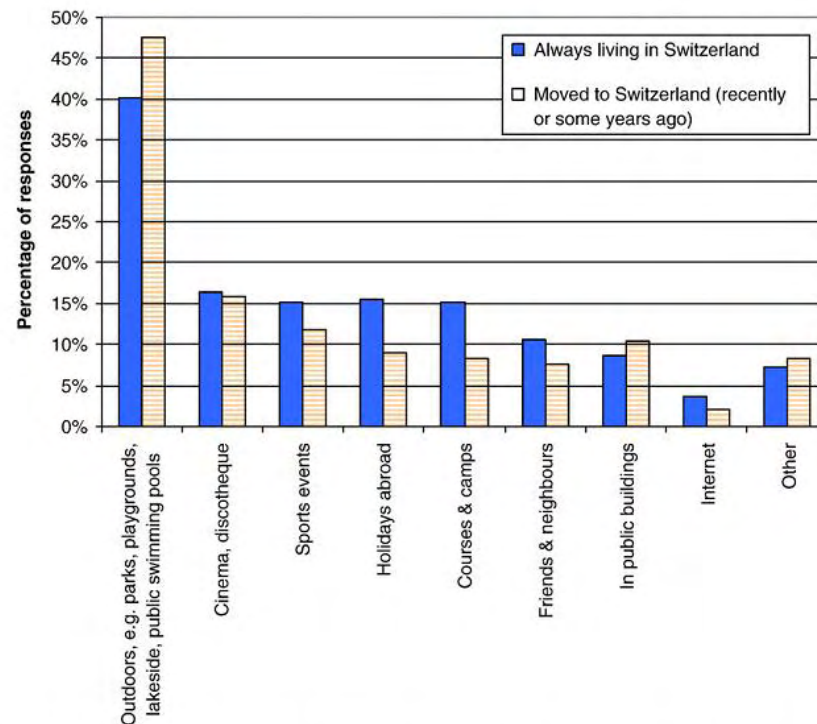
Deliverable D4.2



**Fig. 1.** Urban park attachment of native, Turkish and Moroccan people (scale 1–10) based upon frequency of park use per year.

## Making friends in Zurich's urban forests and parks: The role of public green space for social inclusion of youths from different cultures

Klaus Seeland <sup>\*</sup>, Sabine Dübendorfer, Ralf Hansmann

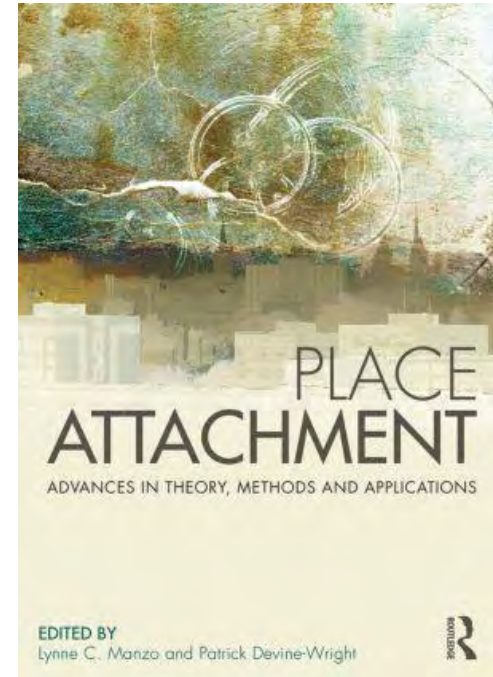


**Fig. 2.** 'Where, besides school, can you easily make new friends?' Answers of pupils who had always lived in Switzerland or had moved to Switzerland either recently or some years ago ( $N=437$ ,  $n_{\text{always in Switzerland}}=292$ ,  $n_{\text{moved to Switzerland}}=145$ ; several entries were possible).

# PLACE ATTACHMENT

Place attachments are the positive bonds people form with places, arising from affective, behavioural, and cognitive ties between individuals or groups and their sociophysical settings (Brown et al., 2012)

Forming profound attachments to homes and neighbourhoods, which facilitate stability, identity, and positive experiences (Brown et al., 2012)



WHAT CONNECTS YOU TO  
VANCOUVER OR THE  
TOWN WHERE YOU LIVE?







My Top Vancouver Restaurants



# WHEN SPACE BECOMES PLACE

Featuring selected MAY 17, 2012  
photographic works by: 7:00 - 10:00 pm

ADAM BATEMAN  
MONIKA BRAVO  
STEFAN HAGEN  
JOSH WINEGAR

LIGHT SPOT  
2927 S. Highland Dr.  
Salt Lake City, Utah

mondo  
fine art

# PLACE & PLACE MAKING

*Place* relates to:

- The **spatial environment** in which one lives or spends time
- The ***social environment***, made up of residents and other users of a place
- The **political and cultural context**, where decisions made and trends can directly influence a place



*Place making* involves:

- Planning, designing, shaping, making
- Of high quality places





## **Citizen participation:**

*Citizen participation is a categorical term for citizen power. It is the redistribution of power that enables the have-not citizens, presently excluded from the political and economic processes, to be deliberately included in the future....*

Arnstein (1969)

## **Volunteerism:**

*Voluntary work can be defined as unpaid work, that can be left freely, and without any sanctions. The work is formally organised – often on a specific cause and with a carrying idea. Other mechanisms are in play than when it comes to ordinary paid jobs. The volunteers are doing the work entirely on behalf of engagement, motivation and passion.*

The Volunteer Centre in Denmark

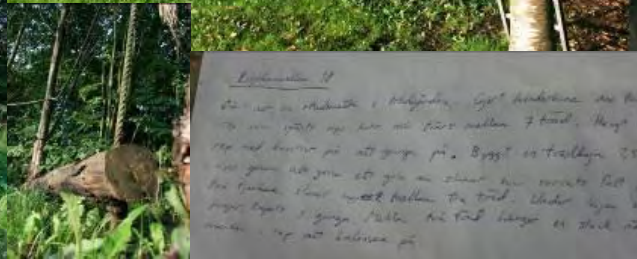




Slide: Anders B. Nielsen



Woodland co-management in Denmark



# BARRIERS TO BUILDING SOCIAL COHESION THROUGH GREEN SPACE





PRIVATE  
PROPERTY  
NO  
TRESPASSING

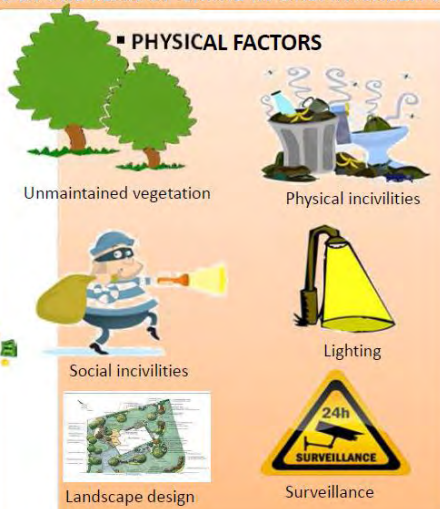


## FACTORS EVOKE FEAR OF CRIME IN URBAN GREEN SPACES

### PERSONAL FACTORS



### PHYSICAL FACTORS



### SOCIAL FACTORS



### TIME OF THE DAY



Sreetheran M. (2015)

		PEOPLE /DISORDER			
CONCEALMENT		With People/With Disorder		Without People/Without Disorder	
		With People/Without Disorder		Without People/With Disorder	
Low	Low				
	Medium				
	High				



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## When green is White: The cultural politics of race, nature and social exclusion in a Los Angeles urban national park

Jason Byrne\*

*School of Environment, Griffith University, Gold Coast, Queensland 4222, Australia*

**Dolores:** My sister and I went there. We were really afraid because we thought that we were going to be thrown out. I didn't want to make any noise and I didn't want to talk loud or anything.

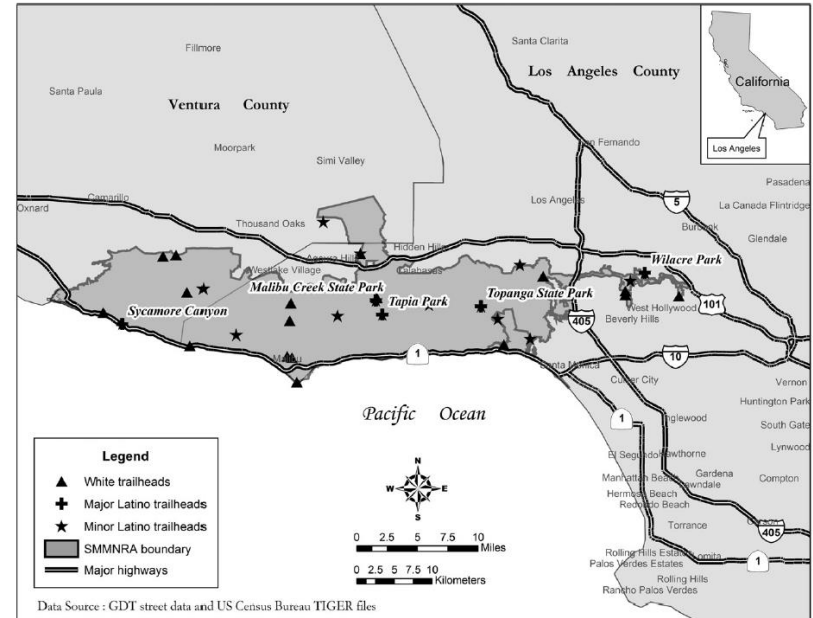
**MOD:** Santiago, can you tell me who ...goes out to the mountains? Who uses those areas?

**Yolanda:** [translates for Santiago who is very animated]

**Yolanda:** Mostly Americans

**MOD:** Americans? Uh-huh. What kind of Americans?

**Drina:** They are rich. Rich people



Data Source : GDT street data and US Census Bureau TIGER files



# URBANFOREST STEWARD



## Easy-access Paths

### High Beach

High Beach has been a centre for public recreation for over 150 years. There are excellent views from some of its parking spots and the easy-access path starts near the Information Centre. This path is firm-surfaced and winds for half a mile through the trees. It has frequently placed seats. A descriptive leaflet gives features of interest to be seen from the path, and there is a 25-minute trail tape which is available for use on deposit from the nearby Information Centre. A wheelchair is also available. There is level ground suitable for picnicking nearby, and there are refreshment and toilet facilities (including a disabled toilet) in the area. From the car park, there is a small road to cross to reach the easy-access path.

### Connought Water

This large lake was created as an amenity in 1881. The surrounding trees shelter the lake from cold winds, and large numbers of wildfowl winter here.

The lake is most easily accessed from a car park off Rangers Road (A1069). In dry weather it is possible to progress all around the Water, and fishing can be carried out from a wheelchair. A good level all-weather path has been constructed running from the car park towards Fairmead.

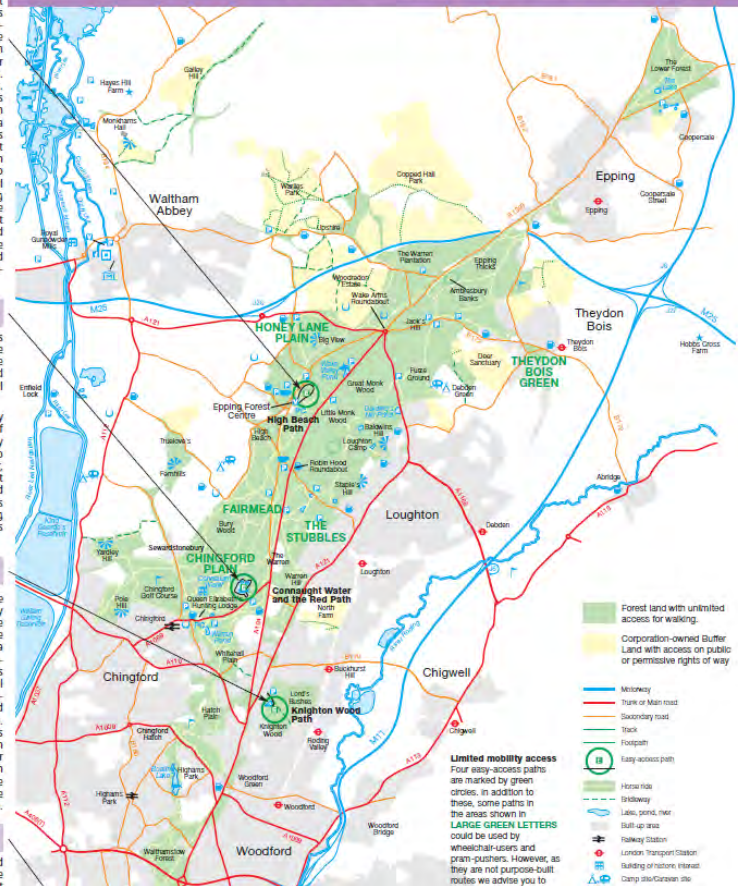
### Knighton Wood

This area was once part of the Buxton Estate and it is very apparent from the ornamental water areas, the variety of trees and a magnificent display of Rhododendrons and spring bulbs that it was once a formal garden. In 1996 an easy-access path was constructed which winds around the lake. There are seats at intervals and, although the total path takes in some inclines, shorter circuits on the flatter area can be chosen. The path can be most easily reached from the car park on Knighton Lane.

### Subike Pond

Jubilee Pond was constructed in the summer of 2002 on the site of the former Model Yacht

## EPHING FOREST Access for All





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