

GENERAL INFORMATION

author(s)	Moerdijk F
year	2009
English title	Quantification of the accessibility of the forests in East-Flanders
original title	Kwantificering van de toegankelijkheid van de bossen in Oost-Vlaanderen
reference	Msc thesis, Universiteit Gent, Gent
pages	106
type	dissertation (d2)
ecosystem service	cultural – recreation
keywords	
taxa	
project	Msc thesis Moerdijk 2009
supervisor	Verheyen K
institution	Ghent University, Faculty of Bioscience engineering, Laboratory of Forestry
document	pdf, hardcopy
data	

MATERIALS & METHODS

study area	36 forested areas
time period	
goal	Gather data on the accessibility of forests in Flanders Protocol for measuring the accessibility of forests
set-up	SOP for the evaluation of the accessibility (p 52) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Legal accessibility (% of forest with prohibition signs, appropriate order signs)- Physical accessibility: within reach? (proximity of public transport, roads, number of parking places for cars/bikes), useful? (path density/type/width, accessible for wheelchair users, play area, picnic place, catering)- Communicative accessibility (presence of centre/panel with information, indicated routes for walking/biking/horse-riding, information in brochures or via websites)
data collection	
remarks	Indices of legal accessibility, reachability, usefulness, communicative accessibility (p 65)

RESULTS

The legal accessibility (64 %) is rather low, which is probably caused by the high number of private forests. Public forests have a better accessibility (for the four types) than private forests; forests owned by the province, municipality or OCMW had the best score.

The mean path density was 68.04 m/ha; the path density can be considered high (> 50 m/ha) in ¼ of the studied forests.