## GENERAL INFORMATION

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<td>author(s)</td>
<td>De Corte J</td>
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<tr>
<td>year</td>
<td>1973</td>
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<tr>
<td>English title</td>
<td>Study of the frequency, amount, character, and motivation of forest recreation in Gontrode and Landskouter</td>
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<td>original title</td>
<td>Studie van de frequentie, omvang, aard en motivering van het bosbezoek te Gontrode-Landskouter</td>
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<td>reference</td>
<td>Msc thesis, Rijksuniversiteit Gent, Gent</td>
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<td>cultural – recreation</td>
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<td>supervisor</td>
<td>Van Miegroet M</td>
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## MATERIALS & METHODS

<table>
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<tr>
<td>study area</td>
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<td>time period</td>
<td>April 1972–March 1973 (test counts in July/August 1971)</td>
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| goal              | - Gain insight into the qualitative (character of visit, use and evaluation of infrastructure) and quantitative (number, distribution, origin, transport means, visitors) aspects of the recreation in the Aelmoeseneie forest  
|                   | - Investigation of the impact of recreation on forest management  
|                   | - Formulate ideas for further recreational infrastructure             |
| set-up            |                                                                        |
| data collection   | - Visitor counts at the end of the alley to the parking lot: daily in July-August, 2 weekends in September-November, 1 weekend in December-June  
|                   | - Questionnaire handed out at 7 days (Sun 16/07/1972, Tue 18/07/1972, Sat 29/07/1972, Sat 04/08/1972, Sun 20/08/1972, Sun 07/10/1972, Sun 13/01/1972) and filled out by 68 persons  |
| remarks           | No information about dates and duration of countings.  
|                   | Refers to an unpublished forest inventory of Goossens R (1967)  
|                   | For the position of the picnic tables and the bench, see the map in 1970_SylvGand.  |

## RESULTS

### Frequency and scale of visits

- 68 interviewees: 4 % morning, 96 % afternoon (most between 4-5 pm) – mainly during weekends and holidays – 20 % first time visit, frequency relatively high (daily 9 %, weekly 28 %, 2/month 20 %, 1/month 43 %) – 58 % car, 20 % bike, 22 % pedestrian (4.6 person/car, 15-20 cars parked near the forest on peak days  
- counts: highest number of weekend visitors in Jul, Jun, Aug, Sept, Oct – peak days (Sun 23/07 and Sun 20/08) with 249 and 234 visitors  
- estimates: 5000 visitors/year (excl. school visits/scouting organizations)  
- carrying capacity overwhelmed? 20 % interviewees finds enough restfulness
Character and motivation forest visits
- 68 interviewees: 65 % walking – 19 % uses the 3 picnic tables, 75 % uses the 2 benches – 37 % wants extra picnic tables, 41 % extra benches, 40 % more than 4 trash cans – 85 % thinks there are enough quiet areas – 54 % positively evaluates the installation of a shelter (camping area, pond, café and sunbathing area are unnecessary) – youth movements do not keep to the forest tracks – 65 % visits with family (mean 4.8 persons, mainly parents with children) – mean stay = 2h8min – 60 % visitors enters via the parking lot

Origin
- 68 interviewees: Destelbergen (3 %), Gent (13 %), Gentbrugge (12 %), Gijzenzele (3 %), Gontrode (10 %), Herzele (2 %), Heusden (2 %), Kalken (4 %), Laarne (2 %), Landskouter (10 %), Ledeberg (2 %), Melle (13 %), Merelbeke (3 %), Moortsele (10 %), Overmere (2 %), St Martens Latem (2 %), Torhout (2 %), Wetteren (6 %), Zaventem (2 %) – origin lies within a radius of 15 km – bikers/pedestrians live < 5 km from the forest

Impact of recreation
- 68 interviewees: 65 % against tree felling, 61 % argues that too much trees are felled in the forest
- The expected potential pressure on the forest is high.