**Streszczenie – język angielski**

**Title:** The impact of institutional aspects on the availability, accessibility, and attractiveness of green spaces in Lodz

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Urban green spaces (UGS) influence the quality of life and health of city residents by providing them with a number of ecosystem services. Limiting UGS provision (and thus – ecosystem services) has a negative impact on the psychophysical condition of people. However, the mere existence of UGS (both formal, such as parks and forests, and informal, such as brownfields) is not enough. From the point of view of many potential benefits, and, consequently, spatial planning adapted to social needs, physical access to UGS and their attractiveness are also important. In turn, these benefits can significantly reduce a variety of barriers. Meanwhile, the scientific literature lacks unanimity in defining various concepts related to UGS provision. Some scientists use the different terms interchangeably, e.g., ‘availability’ and ‘accessibility’, are often used in the broad sense of ‘proximity’. In turn, the attractiveness of UGS is often equated with their availability and collectively referred to as quality. This is the research problem that I address in my dissertation.

In response to the above challenges and uncertainties, the main goal of my dissertation was to classify institutional barriers affecting UGS provision, and to differentiate the levels of this provision. At the same time, I intended to operationalize the proposed classification of barriers by creating a set of indicators that could be used in other research related to the creation and management of UGS, as well as in planning practice. The main goal of my doctoral dissertation arose from the need to better organize the issues related to the availability, accessibility, and attractiveness of UGS, which are described in the literature in an incongruent way.

This thesis consists of an introduction, four interconnected scientific articles published in international journals, and discussion and conclusions wrapping up the whole series of articles. Everything has been prepared in English. The case study that I use in all articles is Lodz. I chose this city because of the numerous studies related to UGS (mainly parks) that have been carried out so far. They concerned, inter alia, valuation of UGS, attachment to the place, social functions of parks and the perception of informal green spaces. The issues related to the systematization of aspects related to UGS provision in the city remained a significant gap in these studies, which I dealt with in my dissertation.

The first article constitutes the basis for further analysis. In it, I formulated the analytical framework related to UGS provision, described the institutional barriers that affect this provision, classified UGS, and distinguished key actors who have an impact on the creation and management of UGS. This article addresses the following hypotheses:

* + - 1. UGS availability, accessibility, and attractiveness are affected by respective, clearly identifiable institutional barriers;
      2. Formal institutions have a greater influence on the existence of barriers than informal institutions.

The second article analyzes how various institutional barriers that limit UGS provision affect the delivery of ecosystem services. The study looked at three different case studies. The first study, related to the liberalization of the Environmental Protection Law, covered the entire territory of Poland, while the other two examples were located in Lodz. In this article, I addressed the following hypotheses:

UGS provision at each of the three levels (availability, accessibility, and attractiveness) affects ecosystem services differently;

Physical access to UGS is not always the same as access to ecosystem services.

The third article involved the creation of a set of indicators and their calculation (for parks in Lodz) based on the three levels of UGS provision and barriers affecting the provision of these spaces, which were described in the first article. At this stage, I also took into account the conclusions of the second article on ecosystem services. In this third article, I addressed the hypothesis that each park in the city is exposed to barriers, although these barriers affect UGS provision to different extents.

The last article in the series was again based on the analytical framework introduced in the first article and investigated socio-economic composition of people living around parks assessed in terms of the presence of barriers. In the last article, I directly referred to the classification of parks based on the previously calculated set of indicators. In this article, I tested the hypothesis that the most vulnerable groups of inhabitants concentrate around parks whose provision is affected by the largest number of barriers at each of the three levels of UGS provision, while the least vulnerable benefit from the proximity of parks that are the least affected.

My research has shown that institutional aspects have a very large impact on UGS provision in the city, as well as on the provision of ecosystem services, which also translates into limitations in access to UGS and the related benefits for the most vulnerable groups of residents. Identifying barriers, analysing indicators, and embedding these aspects in the context of environmental justice can help policymakers and planners to make the best possible decisions about creating new UGS and managing those that already exist. It is worth emphasizing that the analytical framework that I developed and used in my articles was also successfully used by other researchers.