Survey of blind and visually impaired people's perceptions of urban green spaces

Dear Respondent,

With the leadership of the University of Debrecen, we conduct nationwide research aiming to obtain a comprehensive picture of the use of urban green spaces. In this research, we pay special attention to understanding how blind and visually impaired people travel to and use urban green spaces and their perceptions of such amenities. In addition, we seek to obtain information about the factors supporting or hindering blind and visually impaired people from using urban green spaces. Based on the survey results, we would like to set recommendations for park designers and urban planners on how to design and create urban parks that offer a more convenient use for everyone living in the settlement, including blind and visually impaired people.

We kindly ask you to complete the questionnaire below to support our goals. The questionnaire is anonymous and requires about 15 minutes to complete.

Thank you for your cooperation!

1. Age:

2. Sex:

3. Place of residence (settlement):

4. What is the degree of your vision loss?
- Moderate visual impairment
- Severe visual impairment
- Blind

5. What recreational places and cultural events do you visit frequently in the settlement where you live? Please indicate those you visit at least twice a year. (Multiple responses can be indicated.)
- Cinema
- Theatre
- Shopping mall
- Outdoor events (e.g., concerts and fairs)
- Events organized by community centers
- Sporting events
- Swimming pool
- Other types of sporting facilities
- Urban green spaces (e.g., urban parks and gardens)
- Other types of local institutions

6. How often do you visit urban green spaces?
- Multiple times a week
- Once a week (e.g., at weekends)
- A few times a month
- A few times a year
- Never

7. On what basis do you choose which park you visit?

- I visit the parks because of the events organized there, so I do not visit a specific one regularly.
- I prefer to visit parks that offer high-quality natural and cultural ecosystem services.
- I prefer to visit the park, which is located closest to my home.
- I prefer to visit the park that is the most convenient to approach, even if it is not the closest one.
- I prefer to visit parks specifically designed for blind and visually impaired people (e.g., the Sensory Garden in Budapest).
- My helper has chosen which park we should visit.
- I choose the park I shall visit based on other factors: …

8. What transportation mode do you usually use to get to the park you most often visit?

- On foot
- Public transportation
- Private car
- Other: …

9. Do you usually visit the park on your own or with a helper?

- I usually visit the park on my own.
- I usually visit the park with a helper.

10. What distance do you travel to the park you most often visit?

- Less than 300 meters.
- 301-1000 meters.
- More than 1001 meters.

11. If you walk to the park you most often visit, how easy or difficult do you think to reach the park? (Please indicate three responses at the maximum.)

- Reaching the park is not difficult at all.
- Reaching the park is difficult because of the lack of sidewalks.
- Reaching the park is difficult because of the poor quality of the sidewalks.
- Reaching the park is difficult because of the cars parked on the sidewalks.
- Reaching the park is difficult because of the bikers riding on the sidewalks.
- Reaching the park is difficult because of the lack of tactile guidance strips and other pavement markings (e.g., those warning people that stairs are coming).
- Reaching the park is difficult because of the lack of pedestrian crossings.
- Reaching the park is difficult because of the lack of supportive devices and facilities at crossings (e.g., tactile paving and acoustic traffic signals).
- Other: …

12. If you travel to the park, you most often visit it by public transportation. How easy or difficult do you think it is to reach the park? (Please indicate three responses at the maximum.)

- Reaching the park is not difficult at all.
- Reaching the park is problematic because it is difficult to approach the public transportation stops.
- Reaching the park is problematic because getting on and off the public vehicles is difficult.
- Reaching the park is difficult because public vehicles are often overcrowded.
- Reaching the park is difficult because of the poor frequency of public transportation services.
- Reaching the park is difficult because the vehicles do not announce the next stop.
- Other: …

13. How satisfied are you with the quality of the park you most often visit in terms of safety and convenience?

- The park is carefully designed and created, and its use is safe and convenient.
- Using the park is difficult because of the lack of tactile signs and the quality of the paths.
- Using the park is difficult because of the improperly placed park furniture.
- Using the park is difficult because of the twigs and boughs on the trails.
- There is no public toilet in the park, or it is out of service.
- Other: …

14. Do you usually feel safe in the park?

- Yes, I do.

What factors make you feel safe in the park? …

- No, I do not.

What factors make you feel unsafe in the park? …

15. Is the park you most often visit equipped with supportive devices and facilities that help you navigate and use the park? (Multiple responses can be indicated.)

- Yes, sound beacons and audio signs help me approach and use the park.
- Yes, tactile signs help me approach and use the park.
- Yes, tactile maps help me navigate in the park.
- Yes, audio descriptions help me use the park.
- Yes, facilities in the park are equipped with Braille signs.
- Yes, QR codes and NaviLens guidance systems support park use.
- Other: …

16. For what purpose do you most often visit the park? (Please indicate three responses at the maximum.)

- To relax
- To observe nature
- To do sports
- To take children to the playground
- To meet friends
- To walk the dog
- To attend events and concerts
- Other: …

17. Have you visited an urban park with a guide dog, and if yes, what were your experiences?
…

18. Do you think that when designing and creating urban parks, the needs of blind and visually impaired people are considered, and if not, what kind of future developments do you recommend?
…

Thank you for your cooperation!