

Final ~~PROGRESS~~ REPORT  
FOREST SERVICE GRANT NO. 08-99-50-G-22

Period covered by this report: August 15, 1999 through June 30, 2001

*NOTE: Please review the following information and revise complete as necessary.*

**Issued to:** Clemson University  
**Address:** Dept. of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, Lehotsky Hall, Clemson, SC 29634-

**Congressional District Number: 3**

**Project Name:** Managing Urban Forest Fear/Safety and Vegetation/Privacy: Alternatives to Clearing the Trees

**Contact Person/Principal Investigator:**

**Name:** Dr. William Hammitt  
**Mailing Address:** Same as above  
**Phone Number:** (864) 656-0787  
**Fax Number:** (864) 656-2226  
**E-Mail Address:** [Hammitw@clemson.edu](mailto:Hammitw@clemson.edu)

Dr Bill Hammitt is retiring. All additional correspondence should be sent to Robert D. Bixler at (864)6564849, [rbixler@clemson.edu](mailto:rbixler@clemson.edu) or at the same address above.

**Your Organization's internet home page address:**

**Date of Award:** August 15, 1999

**Grant Modifications:** N/A

**Date of Expiration:** August 15, 2001

**Funding:** Federal Share: \$39,950 plus **Grantee Share:** \$40,496 = **Total Project:** \$80,446

---

**FS Grant Manager:** Ed Macie

**Address:** USDA Forest Service, 1720 Peachtree Road, N.W., Atlanta, GA 30367

**Phone Number:** (404) 347-7203

**Fax Number:** (404) 347-2776

---

**Provide a 100-word abstract on your project as defined by your initial proposal and contract. This abstract will be posted on the Council's internet home page.**

100 word abstract

Urban forest settings that provide for public needs of vegetative naturalness and privacy are also settings rated high for public fear and safety concerns. Clearing native vegetation may address the fear/safety concerns of these settings, but it destroys the vegetative naturalness/privacy attributes of the settings. This project surveys and analyzes the fear/safety concerns and vegetative/privacy needs of on-site visitors to a diversity of micro-site settings in urban forests/parks, in order to provide alternative management techniques to vegetation clearing of natural/privacy settings with fear/safety concerns.

## Project objectives:

### Project objectives

- 1) To describe the visitors of urban forest settings, their desire for privacy, and their use patterns of various forest settings for privacy opportunities.
- 2) To determine the privacy preferences of urban forest visitors through visitor ratings of photos (photo-questionnaire) of a spectrum of micro-site settings within urban forests. Visitors will also indicate their privacy preferences for verbal descriptions (scale items) of micro-site, vegetative settings. Thus, privacy/vegetation preferences will be determined through a visual perception technique, as well as the more standard survey item approach.
- 3) To determine the amount of privacy achieved during visits to urban forests and the functions (benefits) that privacy serves in urban environments.
- 4) To understand the fear and safety perceptions of visitors in various micro-site vegetation density settings in urban forests and the interactions of these fears with privacy seeking opportunities.
- 5) Based on the findings of the previously stated objectives, to suggest means to manage urban forest settings for privacy opportunities in relatively safe and non-fearful environments.

### Objectives met successfully to-date:

All Objectives have been met. Attached to this progress report is the final report.

### Objectives not yet met:

All Objectives have been met. Attached to this progress report is the final report.

How will this project increase the knowledge we have about urban forestry? how will the public benefit?

The public will benefit by having yet another benefit of urban forests described and articulated, helping to increase the importance of urban forests in the minds of all citizens.

The effectiveness of the design and placement of recreational amenities within urban forests is enhanced through the understanding of preferences of different segments of urban park users.

What specific quantifiable results will be produced?

We have identified the types of urban forest environments preferred by users with different privacy motivations.

We have identified the types of urban forest environments preferred by users with differing levels of concern about safety and comfort.

We have identified and described the different types of privacy obtained from urban forest visits, and which ones are most significant.

We have documented that people who seek privacy in urban forest environments are moderately successful at fulfilling these goals.

We have identified the most significant safety and comfort concerns of forest users who differ in what settings within an urban park they prefer.

How will the results be disseminated to the public?

Results disseminated

While we have produced a final report, we feel that we can disseminate the information better through articles and conference presentations. We are beginning to prepare an article on the importance of positioning some trails through urban forests running along the sides of roads to deal with safety concerns. We have been tentatively invited to present at an urban forestry conference. We will present information at the Southeastern Recreation Research Conference.