

THE INTERACTION BETWEEN "WILD" TOURISM AND LOCAL RECREATIONAL SPACE

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Abstract. The problem of interaction between “wild” tourism and local recreational space is considered. The situation in the periods of 1970–1980 versus 2014–2016 is under study. The basic research methods are the questionnaire survey of the local population and the survey area monitoring. Tourist camps area division within the local recreational space is revealed. The main processes and reasons for recreational space development by “wild” tourists are explained.

Key words: “wild” tourism and recreation, local recreational space

The background of amateur (“wild”) tourism can be found in school excursions to nature since the 18th century. A great contribution to the development of amateur tourism was made by social communities of the last third of the 19th century. Before the revolution of 1917 outdoor recreation for workers was organized by the representatives of social-democratic parties [1, p. 128]. However, the latter united educational goals with the publicity of revolutionary ideas. Military and sports oriented and also scientific-research independent tourist hikes are typical for the 1920–1930s [1, p.146]. Since 1960–1970s trips are coming en masse, especially in the vicinity of large cities. This was also facilitated by a number of government measures to produce sports equipment and clothing [3, 4].

In the Leningrad region the main areas of “wild” tourism are connected, first of all, with hydrological objects. The Karelian Isthmus is the richest in water basins. Lakes Makarovskoye and Lamskoye in the vicinity of the village Veshchevo of the Leningrad Region were examined. Field observations were conducted in the summer months from 2014 to 2016, followed by the questionnaire survey of the local population. The situation for the Soviet period (1970–1980s) and the current period (2014–2016) was analyzed and compared. The study area is 130 km north of St. Petersburg and 30 km south-east of the city of Vyborg. The place is considered to form the local watershed between Ladoga Lake and the Baltic. Waterways begin in Veshchevo. The route makes it way to the Vuoksa river through Makarovskoye lake system. By the Vuoksa river you can reach Lake Ladoga, which is the main water route. By Lamskoye and a number of other lakes it’s easy to stand out to Vyborg Bay of the Gulf of Finland in the vicinity of Vyborg.

The analysis of interaction between “wild” tourism and local recreational space was carried out (fig. 1). The criteria for the allocation of recreational areas are: remoteness from the place of residence, availability of farming and hunting acreage (berry, mushroom, hunting, fishing), and duration of rest period. The close-in area is the complex of recreational acreage located at a distance of 1,5 km from the place of residence, with the recreational activities taking just a few hours. The mid area is determined by the availability of recreational land with the distance from the place of residence for about 1,5–3 km and by the road affordability. Day-long recreation activities usually take place in this area. The distant area is located at a distance from 3 to 10 km from the place of residence. It by all means should possess farming and hunting acreage and transport availability, in as much as it can be reached only by transport. As a rule, it needs more than one day recreational activities [2, p.86]

The analysis of the tourist camps spatial distribution, the holidaymaker’s profile, the purpose and duration of rest period made it possible to evolve the types of tourist camps. They are as follows:

1. Permanent camps. These are stationary campsites (board houses, farm buildings) located at the end of Makarovskoye lake, owned by factory employees and assigned to a certain holiday-maker or his family;
2. Camping sites. These are transit tourist or holiday makers camps on the lake at weekends and holidays without any personal identification (places for tents, campfire);



3. "Occupation" camps. These are long-term tent sites assigned to a group of people (for example, children's camps, hobby communities);

4. "Occasional" camps. These are single-use sites occurring in new locations.

"Wild" recreational development of lakes began in the early 1960s. The Leningrad enterprises and institutions (the Metallist plant, the Central Design Bureau of the Khimmash plant, the State Optical Institute, the Kozitsky plant) had one or two wooden houses (bases) on the farm. These houses served as "staging grounds" for factory employees who spent their weekends and holidays on the lake. Thus, permanent camps appeared at the end of Lake Makarovskoye. On the islands there were about 15 equipped permanent camps, and one camp was located on the coast. All camps were used regularly in the summer season by certain families. Therefore, non-local and local holidaymakers considered the camps as private ones. These resulted in some specific local toponyms associated with permanent camp users.

"Wild" transit tourists floating on kayaks to the Vuoksa and Vyborg Bay and hikers relaxing on the lakeshore, had their own camping sites. At Lake Makarovskoye there were about 14 camps on the shore, access to which was possible only by transport. One of them was an "occupation" camp and 4 were located on the islands. Thus, in the Soviet period there were 33 tourist camps here. As for Lake Lamskoye, there were 7 shore camps on it." Wild" tourists preferred mid and distant recreational areas (table 1). Camps in the close-in area could lead to conflicts with local residents.

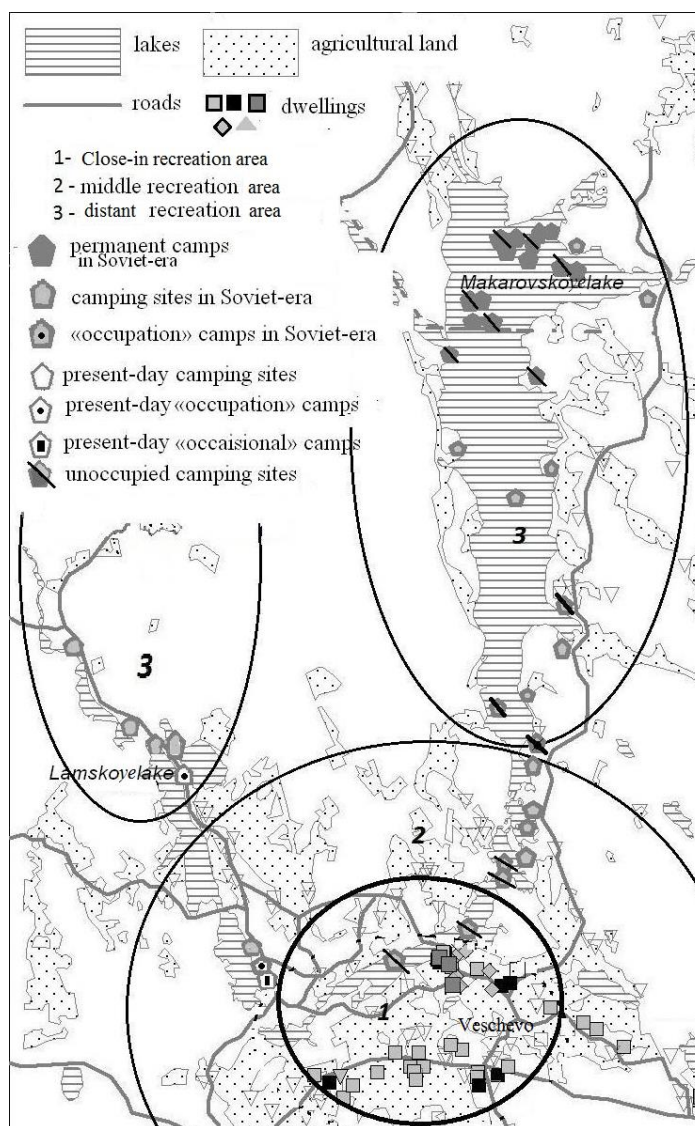


Fig. 1. Interaction between local recreation space and "wild" recreation

For the "wild" recreation of the modern period, development of lakeshores is predominantly carried out by car tourists due to a wide road network. Transport availability results in the increasing number of camps (from 7 to nine "wild" camps) in the mid recreational area on Lake Lamskoye. Good roads here pass close by the lakes. Since 1990s a short distance from recreational areas a holiday village for several dozen of houses is located in this place just nearby the camp sites. At the same time, the number of "kayakers" is reduced. During the Soviet period almost every summer weekend several groups of "watermen" set off from here. On the contrary, just a few of them start during the whole summer season nowadays. Makarovskoye Lake faces the reduction of tourist camps in all recreational areas. Moreover, permanent camps at the end of Makarovskoye Lake are also reduced in their number from 15 to 8, which is primarily due to the aging of former regular users and the inability to legally assign the camp to a certain user.

In the last few years the process of camp "occupation" both on weekdays and weekends for the entire summer period has been resumed. On weekdays the representatives of this group stay there and "guard" the camp (Lamskoye Lake in the mid recreation area, 2 camp sites). In such places the impact on ecosystem increases, which results in expanding the areas with disturbed soil and vegetation cover, destruction of undergrowth, tree injuries and debris. Occasional camps of car tourists are also observed in recreation sites of local residents in the mid and close-in areas. This is largely due to preoccupation of the best places for relaxation and to a short duration of leisure time periods. This accounts for the discomfort of both, local holidaymakers and tourists.

Table 1. The development of local recreational space by tourist camps

Recreational areas of local recreational space	Tourist camps on Makarovskoye Lake		Tourist camps on Lamskoye Lake	
	Soviet-era	Present-day	Soviet-era	Present-day
Close-in	2	0	-	-
mid	6	4	2	4
distant	25 (15 of them permanent, 1 "occupational")	15 (of which 8 are permanent)	5	5 (of which 2 are "occupational")
Total	33	19	7	9

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