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1 **RELATION BETWEEN VISITORS' BEHAVIOUR AND CHARACTERISTICS OF GREEN**
2 **SPACES IN THE CITY OF GRANADA, SOUTH-EASTERN SPAIN**

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26 **Abstract:** This paper examines the relation between visitor behaviour and certain features of a
27 number of major green spaces in the city of Granada, south-eastern Spain, focussing on key urban,
28 ecological and landscape-related issues. Information on user profiles and numbers, the various uses
29 made of these areas, their design, plant species richness and local urban and sociological
30 background, was collected by means of in situ observation in a total of ten urban green spaces with
31 surface areas of over 5,000 m². Findings indicated that these spaces were used largely for purposes
32 directly related to well-being: recreational and sporting activities, socialising, or simply relaxing.
33 Interestingly, the most common activities in each space were governed by features intrinsic to the
34 space itself: accessibility, design, maintenance and plant richness and distribution, all of which
35 affected the health-related attributes and aesthetic value of the space. The study also highlighted a
36 number of serious deficiencies in certain green spaces, which will need to be addressed in future
37 action plans and replanning projects as an essential step in ensuring that they meet the real needs
38 and expectations of the target population. The information provided by this research may prove
39 particularly valuable for improving the systemic functions of green spaces in Mediterranean cities
40 sharing similar bioclimatic and sociological features, and for ensuring that they fulfil the role
41 assigned to green spaces in sustainable cities.

42 **Keywords:** Green spaces, Urban Parks, Environmental services, Mediterranean urban green zones,
43 Visitors' Behaviour

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