Reviewer's report

Title: A systematic review of the evidence for direct health benefits of natural environments

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Reviewer: Jolanda Maas

Reviewer's report:

This is a very interesting paper which reviews the literature on the added benefits of activities in natural environments over and above those in more synthetic environments. The outcomes are very relevant for the health sector because they show that activities in natural environments have beneficial effects compared to activities in synthetic environments.

I have only a few minor comments.

Minor essential revisions

Title: the title suggest that literature concerning the relation between green space and health is reviewed, however the content of this paper is more specific than that. The paper investigates the possible added benefits of activities in natural versus synthetic environment. This should be made clear in the title.

Introduction:

On page 5, line 10, the authors state that it is of "specific interest to know whether there is a difference between an activity......."

However, the authors have not provided any arguments for why it is of specific interest to know this. What is the social and scientific relevance of this question. What can we do with the knowledge which is gained from this study?

Furthermore, I would like some more information on why it is important to look at added benefits of activities in natural environments.

Conclusion:

I would like the authors to add a part on what we can do with the outcomes of this study.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests