

BARRIERS TO NATURE ACCESS

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Physical Barriers

- Distance to nature from home
- Lack of transportation (not owning a car)
- Lack of signage or damaged signs
- Where signs exist they create feelings of separation and fear of nature (WARNING! DANGEROUS SLIDE AREAS)
- Accessibility for those with a disability

Economic Barriers

- Immigrants face economic challenges and greater levels of poverty as compared to non-immigrants for urban demographics this burden is greater on racial minorities, new immigrants, and youth
- Cost of transportation
- Entry or pass fees
- Available free time for people working long or unusual hours in low paying jobs
- Lack of appropriate clothing for the weather

Cultural and Language Barriers

- New immigrants do not understand signage
- White Canadian leisure context is different than nature connection to other cultures
- Nature may be a place of community for some cultures, needing space for food serving or larger groups to congregate
- Lack of knowledge about sites or locations (and difficulty engaging with signage)
- Lack of representation in public nature spaces - feeling of being 'other'
- Removal of Indigenous people and destruction of their culture
- Absence of Black people in environmentalism connected to history of slavery

Psychological Barriers

- Fear of crime in open spaces, especially for the elderly and visible minorities
- Women may fear sexual crimes
- Racial minorities may fear race-based crimes or fear of intolerance or prejudice
- LGBTQ2S+ folks may fear hate crimes
- Endless portrayal in media of nature as pristine forests etc mean most people don't connect to their nearby nature (which for majority of Canada is urban green space)