In the field of environmental psychology there is rapidly growing interest in the concept of connectivity with nature, describing an individual’s sense of being connected with nature. The author developed a new scale for assessing feelings toward nature, including connectedness. Confirmatory factor analysis indicated a five-factor model consisting of restorativeness, oneness, mystery, care, and aversion. Then, the relationships among availability of nature in respondents’ neighborhood, age, and each subscale score of the Feelings Toward Nature Scale were analyzed using structural equation modeling. The availability of nature in neighborhoods was assessed using a geographic information system and respondents’ subjective evaluations. Results indicate that overall connectedness to nature is weaker as availability of nature decreases, as assessed by subjective evaluation. Results also suggest that aversion toward nature in younger people is relatively stronger than in older generations.

Keywords: feelings toward nature, nature connectedness, nearby nature, Geographic Information System, environmental psychology.

The Japanese Journal of Psychology
2016, Vol.87, No.1,