

An evaluation of public parks performance in the cities Analysis of three main public parks of Damascus city Centre

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Abstract

Urban green spaces are important component of the urban environment, which are key condition of improving the quality of life. This is becoming increasingly an important component with the general trend of global and local recognition to foster sustainable development and reduce the impacts of climate change. This confirms the importance of examining last standards, specifications and regulations that define the quantitative and qualitative qualities of urban green spaces, which is necessary to work accordingly to achieve the visions and intangible results on the ground.

The research confirms the importance of urban green spaces, particularly public parks and its essential role at various levels: social, health, environmental and economic. The theoretical part clarifies the terminology used in the classification of green spaces and multiple functions and potential benefits of public parks within the city. While the practical part focuses on the through definition of a scientific tool to measure the performance of green spaces in the city analyzing and assessing the performance of three main public parks in the city of Damascus. The results of the analysis show that quantity and quality of public parks specifications are acceptable, while indicators relating to the use and management of parks have recorded low levels. The research sets out a set of possible recommendations to improve the "green performance" of public parks.

Key words: Urban Ecology- Green Infrastructure – Green spaces- Public parks-Damascus.

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