

Sustainable development of urban parks

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Abstract:

Sustainable development of urban parks aims to provide a healthy and sustainable urban environment for the population and visitors. Here are some important strategies and practices in this regard: Comprehensive planning: Sustainable urban park development requires comprehensive planning that takes into account a balance between environmental and social and economic needs. Planning must include local environmental challenges and provide amenities for recreation, sports and social communication in parks. Biodiversity conservation: Urban parks must be diverse green spaces that support local flora and fauna. Healthy soils must be preserved and biodiversity promoted through native species cultivation and the development of natural ecosystems. Sustainable water resources: A sustainable water management system must be provided in urban parks. This includes the use of advanced irrigation techniques, rainwater collection, water reuse and improved water efficiency in parks and parks. Sustainable energy use: Sustainable energy use in urban parks should be promoted, such as solar panel installation and high efficiency LED lighting use. Green transportation such as bicycles and public transport within parks can also be encouraged.

Awareness and community participation: Community participation in the development and management of sustainable urban parks must be encouraged. Environmental awareness campaigns, educational programmes and events can be organized to encourage communities to participate actively in the preservation and use of parks. Effective waste management: An effective waste management system must be provided in urban parks. This includes the promotion of recycling, correct waste disposal and the provision of appropriate collection areas. By implementing

these strategies and practices, sustainable development of urban parks can be achieved and provide a comfortable and sustainable environment for residents and visitors.

Keywords: Sustainable development - urban parks- Green transportation- local .environmental

Introduction:

This study aimed to clarify the role of community participation in sustainable urban development in Khanyounis - a case study of Khanyounis municipality, as well as researching the relationship between community participation and its level in achieving urban development in Khanyounis. The study sheds light on one of the means of community participation, which is the neighborhood committees in Khanyounis in terms of their presence, role, importance, obstacles, and problems related to them. This study seeks to provide officials and those in charge of community development programs in the city of Khanyounis with sufficient information about these committees, in addition to educating the people of the importance of participating in them for the sake of developing the local community. To achieve these goals, the researcher used the descriptive analytical approach, and the field descriptive approach, depending on primary and secondary sources of information. The researcher also conducted the study on a sample of community members, in addition to interviewing members of neighborhood committees in Khanyounis governorate and with community program officials in some institutions operating in Khanyounis.

The results of the study indicated that there is a desire and positive orientation among the study sample towards community participation and the importance of its role in urban development. They are aware of the role of neighborhood committees as a tool for community participation to achieve urban development and that the population understands and participates in the nature of activities carried out by neighborhood committees. The study also showed that there is a diversification in the fields of voluntary work, between health, cultural, environmental and social, especially social volunteering. The members of the study sample also believe that

community participation is required in all areas of life and society, and the city of Khanyounis suffers from many environmental problems, including environmental problems, sound (noise), and sanitation. The results also showed that there were no statistically significant differences between the averages of the respondents' responses about the role of community participation in sustainable urban development in Khanyounis due to the variables: (gender, age, educational qualification, and profession). There is also a decline in the level of urban development in the area under study, especially electricity and fixed-line services, and afforestation in the city. The study recommended the necessity of expanding the scope of volunteer work for neighborhood members in order to enhance the capabilities of neighborhood committees to confront and address problems, as well as the necessity of educating residents about the importance of volunteering and urging them with their families to actively participate in the activities of neighborhood committees. The study also emphasized the importance of the concerned authorities inspecting the needs of society and identifying the demands of its members.

Sustainable urban development refers to the planning, construction and management of cities and urban areas in a sustainable manner, balancing the economic, social and environmental needs of current populations and future generations.

Definition of sustainable urban development:

In the context of sustainable urban development, emphasis is placed on reducing the negative impacts of unsustainable urban growth, such as environmental pollution, resource depletion and quality-of-life degradation. It promotes sustainable practices in areas such as urban planning, infrastructure, transport, water resources and waste management and energy. The principles of sustainable urban development include preserving cities' cultural and environmental heritage, promoting social sustainability through the provision of adequate housing, public services and utilities, and promoting community participation in planning and decision-making.

Overall, sustainable urban development aims to create environmentally friendly, inclusive and equitable cities that meet the current and future needs of the

population without negatively affecting natural resources and the environment, and promote the quality of life and overall sustainability in cities. Sustainable development means meeting the needs of the current generation without compromising future generations' ability to meet their needs. It is a comprehensive approach aimed at balancing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development by coordinating and integrating decisions and policies in various areas.

Principles of sustainable development include many aspects, including:

Sustainable economy: includes promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, with a focus on generating decent jobs and promoting the social and economic development of all population groups. It also involves promoting innovation, using resources efficiently and diversifying the base of the economy.
Sustainable meeting: focuses on achieving equitable and inclusive social development, ensuring equality and social justice, access to education, health care, housing, culture and sustainable human development for all.
Sustainable environment: aims to preserve and improve the quality of the environment and to provide for the sustainability of natural resources such as water, air, soil and biodiversity. It also involves addressing climate changes, reducing pollution and promoting environmental sustainability in all aspects of development.

Governance and partnerships: includes enhancing effective and transparent governance and responsibility for decision-making and implementation, and promoting collaboration and partnerships between different sectors, institutions, civil society, the private sector and the international community.

To achieve sustainable development, effective and inclusive action is required at the national and international levels, providing for the sustainability of the economy, society and the environment, promoting transboundary cooperation, technology transfer and sustainable financing. There are several areas related to sustainable development and its promotion. Some of the main areas are:
Sustainable energy: includes promoting the use of renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind and water, promoting energy efficiency across all sectors, and improving energy distribution and storage systems.
Sustainable agriculture: focuses on

achieving food security and developing agriculture in sustainable ways that preserve biodiversity, reduce the use of chemical pesticides and promote sustainable rural development.

Water and sanitation: aims to ensure the availability of clean and healthy water for all, improve water resources management, enhance water efficiency and develop sustainable sanitation systems.

Sustainable transport: focuses on developing sustainable public transport and improving transport infrastructure, encouraging the use of green transport methods such as bicycles and pedestrians, improving fuel efficiency and reducing harmful emissions. Education and Awareness: aims to promote awareness and education on sustainable development issues, promote sustainable knowledge and skills of individuals and communities, and promote environmental education and sustainability in schools and universities.

Urban and regional planning: includes the development of sustainable urban planning models, improved land use and sustainable urban community development, and the promotion of public transport, utilities and green spaces. Sustainable economic development: focuses on promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, promoting investment in innovation and green industries and promoting fair trade and financial inclusion. These are just some of the important areas in sustainable development, and there are many others that relate to preserving the environment, improving the quality of life and promoting development in sustainable ways.

sustainable development goals:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 global goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These goals aim to address various social, economic, and environmental challenges to achieve sustainable development worldwide. The SDGs are interconnected and encompass a wide range of issues, including poverty eradication, education, health, gender equality, clean energy, sustainable cities, climate action, and biodiversity conservation, among others. The 17 SDGs are as follows:

- No Poverty
- Zero Hunger
- Good Health and Well-being
- Quality Education
- Gender Equality
- Clean Water and Sanitation
- Affordable and Clean Energy
- Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- Reduced Inequalities
- Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Responsible Consumption and Production
- Climate Action
- Life Below Water
- Life on Land
- Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
- Partnerships for the Goals

-The SDGs provide a framework for governments, organizations, and individuals to work collectively towards achieving a more sustainable and equitable world by 2030. Each goal includes specific targets and indicators to measure progress and guide action at the global, national, and local levels.

The foundations of sustainable development contain several basic principles and concepts, most notably:

Integration: Sustainable development requires integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions, where decisions and policies in these dimensions must be aligned to achieve development in a comprehensive and balanced manner. **Social justice:** Sustainable development includes ensuring equality and social justice, where all must benefit from development opportunities regardless of their gender, race, religion or economic status.

Conservation of natural resources: Conservation and sustainability of natural resources is one of the foundations of sustainable development. Development must be environmentally sustainable and not adversely affect environmental heritage and biodiversity. **Cooperation and partnership:** achieving sustainable development requires cooperation between Governments, civil society, the private sector and international institutions to share knowledge, technology and resources and strengthen strong partnerships. **Comprehensive planning:** Sustainable development must be planned in a comprehensive and integrated manner, taking into account and balancing the economic, social and environmental needs of all. **Community participation:** Decision-making and implementation must include the effective and inclusive participation of the community and affected individuals, allowing for consensus and enhancing legitimacy and responsibility. **Innovation and technology:** Innovation and technology play an important role in achieving sustainable development. The development and adoption of sustainable technologies and innovative solutions contribute to improving efficiency and reducing negative environmental impacts.

Urban development:

Urban development refers to the process of sustainable development and growth of urban cities and communities. Includes planning and organizing land, infrastructure and services in cities, promoting quality of life and providing employment, housing, education, health, culture and recreation to urban people. Sustainable urban development requires a comprehensive concept that takes into account environmental, economic, social and cultural factors. It aims to achieve sustainability in cities by: **Sustainable urban planning:** includes the development of urban strategies and plans aimed at guiding the city's growth in a balanced and

effective manner, providing public space and green space, and improving the population's access to basic services.

Urban resource management: includes waste, water, energy, transport and pollution management, improving efficiency and sustainable use of these resources to reduce adverse impacts on the environment and improve quality of life.

Diversity and social inclusion: is concerned with providing equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender, race or class, and promoting peaceful coexistence and social interaction in urban communities. Improvement of public transport: Includes the development of sustainable and effective public transport networks, and improvement of public transport to provide comfortable and reliable access for urban residents.

Sustainable economic development: aims to encourage innovation and Sustainable urban development refers to the process of planning, designing, and managing cities in a way that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It involves integrating social, economic, and environmental considerations to create livable, inclusive, and environmentally friendly urban spaces.

Key principles of sustainable urban development include:

Compact and efficient design: Promoting compact and well-connected cities reduces urban sprawl, minimizes the need for long-distance travel, and maximizes the efficient use of resources and infrastructure. Mixed land use: Encouraging a mix of residential, commercial, and recreational land uses within urban areas promotes walkability, reduces commuting distances, and supports vibrant and diverse communities. Sustainable transportation: Developing efficient and sustainable transportation systems, including public transit, cycling infrastructure, and pedestrian-friendly streets, reduces congestion, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Affordable and energy-efficient housing: Ensuring access to safe, affordable, and energy-efficient housing for all urban residents promotes social equity and reduces energy consumption and carbon emissions. Conservation of natural areas and green

spaces: Preserving and creating green spaces, parks, and urban forests improves air and water quality, provides recreational opportunities, and enhances the overall well-being of urban dwellers. Integrated waste management: Implementing sustainable waste management practices, such as recycling, composting, and waste reduction, reduces landfill waste and environmental pollution.

Access to basic services: Ensuring equitable access to basic services like clean water, sanitation, healthcare, education, and public amenities for all urban residents enhances their quality of life and promotes social inclusion. Community participation and engagement: Engaging local communities, stakeholders, and residents in the decision-making process fosters a sense of ownership, empowers communities, and leads to more sustainable and responsive urban development outcomes.

Sustainable urban development recognizes the interdependencies between social, economic, and environmental aspects of urban life and seeks to create cities that are resilient, inclusive, and environmentally responsible. Sustainable urban development encompasses several dimensions that need to be considered for achieving holistic and balanced urban growth. The dimensions of sustainable urban development include: Environmental Dimension: This dimension focuses on promoting environmentally friendly practices and minimizing the ecological footprint of urban areas. It includes conserving natural resources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air and water quality, managing waste effectively, and protecting and enhancing biodiversity within urban environments.

Social Dimension: The social dimension of sustainable urban development emphasizes the well-being and quality of life of urban residents. It involves ensuring social equity, inclusivity, and access to basic services such as healthcare, education, housing, and social amenities for all residents. It also includes promoting social cohesion, community engagement, cultural diversity, and enhancing safety and security in urban areas.

Economic Dimension:

The economic dimension emphasizes the sustainable and inclusive economic development of urban areas. It involves promoting job creation, entrepreneurship, and innovation, fostering a diverse and resilient economy, supporting local businesses, improving access to economic opportunities, and ensuring equitable distribution of wealth and resources.

Spatial Dimension: The spatial dimension focuses on the efficient and sustainable use of land and spatial planning in urban areas. It involves promoting compact and well-connected urban forms, mixed land use patterns, efficient transportation systems, and the preservation of natural areas, green spaces, and cultural heritage sites. It also includes effective urban governance and land management practices.

Governance Dimension: The governance dimension highlights the importance of effective governance structures and processes in sustainable urban development. It involves promoting participatory decision-making, transparency, accountability, and collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, private sector entities, civil society organizations, and local communities. It also includes promoting integrated and long-term planning, policy coherence, and capacity-building for urban governance.

By addressing and integrating these dimensions, cities can strive for sustainable urban development that balances environmental, social, and economic considerations, leading to resilient, inclusive, and livable urban environments for present and future generations.

Conclusion:

The sustainable development of urban parks is vital for creating healthy, vibrant, and inclusive cities. Urban parks play a crucial role in providing recreational spaces, promoting biodiversity, mitigating climate change, enhancing the quality of life, and fostering community well-being. Here are some key points regarding the sustainable development of urban parks: **Environmental Sustainability:** Urban parks contribute to environmental sustainability by providing green spaces, improving air quality, reducing urban heat island effects, conserving water, and supporting biodiversity. They can also serve as carbon sinks and help mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Social Inclusivity: Urban parks should be designed and managed in a way that promotes inclusivity and accessibility for all members of the community, regardless of age, ability, or socioeconomic background. They should offer a range of amenities and activities that cater to diverse user needs and preferences.

Community Engagement: Engaging the local community in the planning, design, and maintenance of urban parks fosters a sense of ownership, strengthens social connections, and encourages stewardship. Community involvement ensures that parks reflect the needs and aspirations of the people who use them.

Sustainable Design and Management: Urban parks should be designed and managed using sustainable practices. This includes using environmentally friendly materials, employing water and energy-efficient systems, implementing sustainable landscaping techniques, and adopting responsible waste management strategies.

Multi functionality and Flexibility: Sustainable urban parks should be designed to accommodate a variety of functions and activities. They can serve as recreational spaces, cultural hubs, educational venues, and places for community events. Flexibility in design allows for adaptability and meeting changing community needs over time.

Integration with Urban Fabric: Integrating urban parks within the broader urban fabric promotes connectivity, walkability, and seamless transitions between natural and built environments. Well-connected park networks and green corridors contribute to creating a cohesive and sustainable urban landscape.

Maintenance and Monitoring: Ensuring ongoing maintenance and monitoring of urban parks is essential for their long-term sustainability. Regular upkeep, proper management of vegetation, monitoring of water and soil quality, and addressing issues of safety and security contribute to the park's vitality and longevity. By embracing sustainable practices in the development and management of urban parks, cities can create resilient and inclusive green spaces that enhance the overall well-being of their residents while conserving natural resources and promoting environmental stewardship.

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