

GARDEN CULTURE: EFFORTS TO REALIZE A LIVABLE CITY

Rully Besari Budiyanthi¹

¹Department of Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Technology, Universitas Trisakti, Jakarta, Indonesia, 11440

Corresponding Author: Rully Besari Budiyanthi

Email : rully@trisakti.ac.id

Received : February 2021

Revised : June 2021

Accepted : August 2021

DOI: [10.25105/tjssl.v1i1.9942](https://doi.org/10.25105/tjssl.v1i1.9942)

ABSTRACT

Park, as a form of physical culture, is a place for people to experience nature and engage in physical activities while having fun. Therefore, its design must be attractive, easily understood by visitors, and act as a magnet for outdoor activities. Parks play an essential role in facilitating the economy of a city, thereby making it livable. In such conditions, its meaning is in accordance with the setting system formed through a cultural process, which tends to take place continuously over a certain period. Parks produce a culture by interpreting the area located in the habitat to ensure the associated garden is a collection of plants, and various systems, thereby leading to social interaction, cultural manifestations, and nature. The process of interpreting the area as a form of culture can be measured through ideas, concepts, activities, and objects. The park's construction is often followed by the design of a mall equipped with a cooling room, thereby making it a place for social interaction. This study aims to assess Ayodya Park (*Taman Ayodya*), located in Kebayoran Baru, to determine whether *Taman Ayodya* has the ability to awaken a gardening culture. Data were collected using survey and observation methods and analyzed using the assessment methods. The results showed that *Taman Ayodya* had not fully evoked a park culture, rather *it* is only interpreted as a social interaction park that has provided maximum benefits socially, economically, and environmentally.

Keywords: *park culture, assessment method, park benefits, setting system, cultural form*

INTRODUCTION

Culture is simply described as the outcome of human creativity, initiative, and taste. Creativity is the mental ability to engage in new activities, while the taste is centered on varying opinions. Simultaneously, the intention is the power or strength that causes living beings to act or behave in a certain manner (Soemardjan, 2014). According to Koentjaraningrat (2000), culture consists of 3 forms, namely

1. Ideas in the form of abstract opinions, values, norms, rules, etc.
2. Activities or concrete patterned actions involving humans interacting and associating with one another tend to be observed and documented.
3. Works or artifacts are forms of physical culture that include all human activities, actions, and visibly documented objects. Its nature is the most concrete among the three forms of culture.

In reality, all 3 forms are inseparable.

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, a park is a form of physical culture and a place to have fun (KBBI, 2021). In line with this view, a garden is described as a culturally developed space. The continuous existence of this process led to the emergence of park culture, described as an embodiment of reality formed through habits, beliefs, and traditions. Therefore, the park is not only regarded as a space with a collection of plants, it also comprises various social interactions, cultural, and natural forms, thereby leading to a system setting (Williams, 1962; Carmona 2003; Penalosa, 2001; Madanipour, 2003; Setiadi, 2007). According to Budiyantri (2014), the park is related to visitors and their activities, when the place system is related to a series of physical elements.

Park culture as a concept is based on managing urban spaces to create a livable city. However, its suitability depends on the functional and social aspects of the city, which includes the ability to meet the physical needs of its citizens and the needed comfort and security in terms of utilizing the provided facilities, such as gardens (Ekomadyo, 2009). Presently, there are relatively hundreds or even thousands of parks in DKI Jakarta. The addition of a mall also contributed to the expansion of green open space in various ways. The multi-story building, with air conditioning, has unwittingly brought about a new realism for city residents to gather and engage in various activities throughout the day, thereby creating a new lifestyle (Halim, 2008). The mall has been able to change the lifestyle of people in urban areas, thereby

replacing the park culture. This study aims to determine the park culture, which is described as gardens developed through a setting system where the Jakarta citizens engage in series of activities.

RESEARCH METHODS

Research Design and Variables

This research adopted a case study approach to describe the meaning of the park. However, data were collected using survey and observation methods, while the analysis was carried out by applying a scoring system performed in 3 stages to get an overview of the park culture. The first stage is weighted normatively, while the second is awarded a maximum score of 5. The final stage was evaluated using a Likert scale, 5 for the highest and 1 for the least.

Observations were made for 5 consecutive days, namely Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, for 24 hours. Tuesday and Thursday are not observed because they are considered to be similar to other working days. Mondays and Wednesdays are regarded as the beginning and middle of the week. In addition, Friday marks the beginning of the weekend or holiday.

The respondents comprise visitors and residents living approximately 100 to 500 m from the park. The variables in the study include

1. Ideas in the form of a design concept, benefits, attractiveness
2. Activities particularly carried out in the park by visitors
3. Works associated with garden facilities and attractions.

The research variables are shown in table 1.

Table 1: Research Variable

No	Cultural Form	Variable
1	Ideas	Design concept
		park benefits
		park attraction
2	Activities	Activities undertaken in parks
3	Work	facilities and master plan

Time and Location

This research was carried out from 2012 to 2014 in several parks located in Central and South Jakarta. However, only one of the parks was reported in this study, namely Ayodya Park (*Taman Ayodya*) in Pela village, Kebayoran Baru Sub-District, South Jakarta. Taman Ayodya is one of the oldest parks in South Jakarta (above 50 years old) and one of the assets of the DKI Jakarta provincial government. It is situated approximately 2 km from the commercial center of Blok M South Jakarta. Barito Street (*Jalan Barito*) surrounds *Taman Ayodya* in the form of residential, religious, and commercial places (hotels, restaurants, pharmacies, apartments), as well as Langsat Park (*Taman Langsat*), which the DKI Jakarta provincial government also owns. This park is relatively 25 meters from Taman Ayodya, as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: The Location of Taman Ayodya (A) with a distance circa 2 km from the Blok M
Source: Google Maps 2012

Data Collection

1. The Ideas

1.1. The design concept

The previous *Taman Ayodya*, designed by Soesilo, an architect, was presumed as the life wire of the city and a recreational center for the Kebayoran Baru residents (Budiyanti, 2014). During its development, ornamental plant traders sold cut flowers and fish and also erected stalls to cover the lake, which is the park's uniqueness. Lake water is sourced from springs, therefore drought is never experienced. Taman Ayodya, which used to be one of the pride parks for the Kebayoran Baru residents, is in an increasingly dilapidated condition, as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Taman Ayodya circa 1980 surroundings by the fish-shop and the florist
Source: <https://www.google.com/search?q=pasar+barito&client>

The location was renovated to a green recreational designation through Governor's Instruction No. 36/2006 (*Peruntukan Hijau Rekreasi - PHR*). This was aimed to build city parks for the residents as well as increase the percentage of green open spaces in South Jakarta. However, through the Department of Parks and City Beauty of DKI Jakarta Province, the government organized a competition for the *Taman Ayodya* design concept with the theme "Oase of the City," which was won by Basuki Triwidodo. Geographically an oasis is described as a fertile and remote area in the middle of a desert, surrounded by a spring and trees (figure 2a). It is also a habitat for animals and even humans, assuming the area is large enough (<https://id.m.wikipedia.org>). Basuki's idea had already described the theme (figure 2b), thereby obtaining the maximum score (table 2). The construction of *Taman Ayodya* started in 2008, and on March 15, 2009, it was inaugurated as a city park by the Governor of DKI Fauzi Bowo (*Koran Kompas* March 15, 2008; *Koran Sindo*, January 22, 2008).



Figure 2a: The Oase of Taman Ayodya
(Source: Dinas Pertamanan dan Keindahan Kota Provinsi DKI Jakarta 2007)



Figure 2b: The Oase of Taman Ayodya
(Source: Dinas Pertamanan dan Keindahan Kota Provinsi DKI Jakarta 2007)

Table 2: The Obtaining score of ideas

Criteria	Indicators	Weight	Max. Score	Score Value					Score
				5	4	3	2	1	
Concept field	Description of theme	50%	2,50	Appropriate	-	-	-	-	2,50
	implementation Them	50%	2,50	Appropriate	-	-	-	-	2,50
Total score		100%	5,00						5,00

1.2. The Park Benefits

There are several benefits associated with the development of *Taman Ayodya* 7,500 m² (75% in the form of contoured land and 25% in lakes) as a Recreational Green Designation. Consequently, several visits were made by approximately 12,370 visitors in 1 week, and the number was dominated by male and female teenagers, as shown in Figure 3.

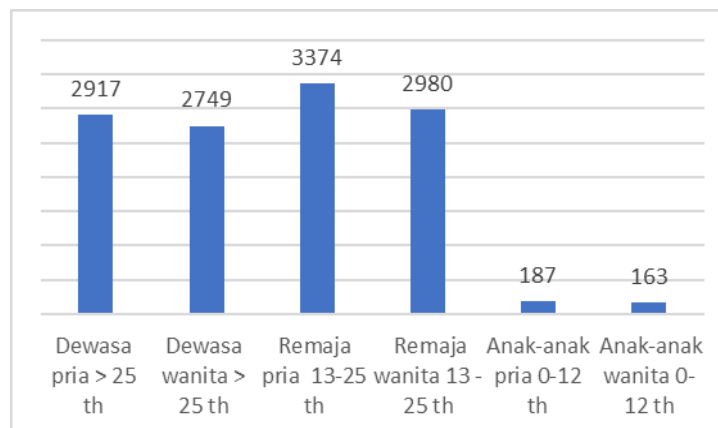


Figure 3: The number of park visitors in 1 week

According to Balch et al. (2000), the benefits of city parks as a hue for public activities are defined as the impact of the performance on the socio-cultural needs of the population. Dunnett (2002) and the Landscape Planning Laboratory of IPB (2005) reported that the benefits of urban parks are direct or indirect, and socially, economically, and environmentally felt by the residents (Dunnett, 2002; Landscape Planning Laboratory of IPB, 2005). The benefits of *Taman Ayodya* include positive changes in terms of identity, cohesion, reducing conflicts, and building new networks. However, the survey results show that this area has not succeeded in providing absolute benefits.

The presence of *Taman Ayodya* does not offer much economic change to the surrounding community. The value of properties continues to increase due to the strategic importance of the Kebayoran Baru area. Some residents reported that generally, property enthusiasts around the park intend to convert these buildings into business centers rather than as a place of residence. In addition, the head of the local RT stated that most people residing close to the park feel insecure and uncomfortable, especially at night, for fear of conflict, crowded areas, and lots of street vendors.

Taman Ayodya does not contribute positively to job opportunities in the formal sector. The security officer of one of the restaurants located on the western side of the park reported that their place of duty had been sold 3 times. The cafe on the southern side had experienced 5 modifications within one year, indicating that the parks' presence has been unable to affect business opportunities in the formal sector.

In terms of employment opportunities in the informal sector, *Taman Ayodya* is not just a public park, rather it has been converted into a snack center, especially at night. Dozens of street vendors surround some of the areas and are ready to serve the visitors, as shown in figure 4. Traders usually have carts layout mats for visitors to enjoy their food and the serene atmosphere of the park. Based on records from the village, approximately 20 traders were reported on a daily basis, and officially they pay cleaning and security levies. In accordance with the information obtained from the village officials, since 2012, enforcement has been carried out by registering street vendors, and the number is limited to 20 traders per day.



Figure 4: The street vendors at *Taman Ayodya*
Source: Personal Documentation

The environmental benefits of *Taman Ayodya* are a form of landmark although, it failed to realize a micro-climate, natural resource protection, and environmental aesthetics. Overall, *Taman Ayodya* failed to offer maximum benefits because the acquisition score was still below 5, as shown in table 3.

Table 3: The Obtained benefit score

Elements of benefit	Criteria	Indicator	Max score	Score
Social benefits	Impact of Social change	Identity	1,25	1,25
		Social cohesion	1,25	0,25
		Reduction of social conflict	1,25	0,75
		new social networking	1,25	1,00
	Total score		5,00	3,25
Economic benefits	Impact of economic change	Changes in property values	2,00	0,40
		Employment opportunities in the formal sector	2,00	0,40
		Employment opportunities in the informal sector	1,00	0,80
	Total score		5,00	1,60
Environmental benefits	Impacts of environmental change	Temperature differences inside and outside the park	1,50	0,60
		Protection of natural resources	1,50	0,60
		Environmental aesthetics	1,00	0,80
		Environmental landmarks	1,00	0,80
	Total score		5,00	2,80

1.3. The Attractiveness

Attraction is built from 3 aspects, namely responsiveness, meaning, and democracy. Location, atmosphere, and design are indicators that create the park's responsiveness because it is not far from the trading and commercial centre of the contoured Blok M. In

addition, there is a lake with an open platform that has a grandstand-built *Taman Ayodya*. The park, which is always crowded, especially at night, is also an indicator of a magnet for regional life. *Taman Ayodya* also means an open park with an environmental and democratic orientation because it has no fence and offers visitors the freedom to express themselves. However, the overall score for the attractiveness element is shown in table 4.

Table 4: The attractiveness scores

Criteria	Indicators	Weight	Max. Score	Score Value					Score
				5	4	3	2	1	
Responsive	Location	25%	1.25	-	Strategically easy to reach connected to public transportation	-	-	-	1.00
	Atmosphere	25%	1.25	-	Calm, quiet, beautiful and safe atmosphere	-	-	-	1.00
	Facilities	20%	1.00	-	-	-	More for passive	-	0.40
	Design	20%	1.00	-	Simple, easy to understand, blends with the environment	-	-	-	0.80
	Others (snacks, programs)	10%	0.50	-	-	An ordinary program, with lots of snacks around the park	-	-	0.30
Total score		100%	5.00						3.50
Meaning	<i>Welcoming</i>	25%	1.25	Very open gives a friendly impression	-	-	-	-	1.25
	Contribution of the park with its surroundings	25%	1.25	-	-	As part of the environmental gardening system	-	-	0.75
	Context of	25%	1.25	-	-	Become an	-	-	0.75

	the park with its surroundings					identity, orientation, and landmark of the surrounding environment			
	Impression and experience	25%	1.25	-	-	-	-	No interesting impression or experience is built	0.25
Total score		100%	5.00						3.00
Democratic	Free expression	50%	2.50	-	-	Free	-	-	1.50
	Active time utilization	50%	2.50	24 hours	-	-	-	-	2.50
Total score		100%	5.00						4.00

2. The Activities

These are dominated by passive activities, namely sitting and socially interacting with individuals or groups. The residents generally engage in many physical exercises usually carried out in the mornings and evenings. Moreover, some enjoy dating and culinary activities. The scores are shown in table 5.

Table 5: The activity scores

Criteria	Indicators	Weight	Max. Score	Score Value					Score
				5	4	3	2	1	
Variety of activities	Dominant activity	50%	2,50	-	Social interaction and picnic	-	-	-	2,00
	Ratio of active to passive activities	50%	2,50	-		-	-	Passive is more dominant	0,50
Total score		100%	100%	5,00					5,00

3. The Works

This was determined by variable facilities. The park is dominated by lakes (75%), therefore, there are only a few facilities and open spaces. An outstanding facility is an open stage equipped with stands that accommodate approximately 100 visitors, regarded as icons. In addition, the lake whose water is sourced from a spring is also a prominent element of the park and an artifact. There is also a banyan tree, a trace of the park's history. As a form of

material culture, *Taman Ayodya* is a landscape that has aesthetic values because there is a harmonization between the spatial and green patterns. On the contrary, this creates monotony and does not have a spatial hierarchy. The only shape that embodies the dynamics is the entrance, including the properly maintained contours and the strong axle that forms the terminus in the lake (figure 5). The overall score for the work is close to that of the maximum (4.1), as shown in table 6.



Figure 5: *Taman Ayodya* after being changed to a green recreational designation (*Peruntukan Hijau Rekreasi - PHR*).

(Source: Dinas Pertamanan dan Keindahan Kota Provinsi DKI Jakarta 2007)

Table 6: Score for garden design work

Criteria	Indicators	Weight	Max. Score	Score Value					Score
				5	4	3	2	1	
Work Garden design	Design concept	20%	1.00	informal, following the shape of the site	-	-	-	-	1.00
	Spatial concept	10%	0.50	-	-	There is a pattern, although no hierarchy of spatial functions.	-	-	0.30
	Green space ratio: Pavement	30%	1.50	20: 80	-	-	-	-	1.50
	Color composition	10%	0.50	-	-	In certain places, enough gradations and accentuations are formed,	Color composition	10 %	0.50
	Composition of garden elements	10%	0.50	-	-	-	No hierarchy, however there is a	-	0.20

							relationship between one form and another.		
	Concept implementation in the field	20%	1.00	-	80%	-	-	-	0.80
Total score		100%	5.00						4.10

No	Cultural Form	Variable
1	Ideas	design concept
		park benefits
		park attraction
2	Activities	Activities undertaken in parks
3	Work	facilities and master plan

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Taman Ayodya is not considered a cultural form because it is yet to meet the maximum score obtained in ideas, namely the concept variable, based on the theme, city oasis. However, the idea measured through the benefit variable is yet to receive a maximum score. Applying it during the renovation of *Taman Ayodya* to a green recreational designation has failed to provide much attraction, which is not vitality for the area. In terms of activities, it is still homogeneous because social interaction is dominant. In addition, *Taman Ayodya* is not perceived as a magnet for outdoor activity centers.

As a green recreation designation, it needs to create dynamic spaces for the needs of its various elements, such as open spaces for large trees that do not require pruning, and shades for the children to play under, thereby building and generating positive and fun experiences (Mass, 2008; Miller, 2009). Meanwhile, under such conditions, space is abstract rather than physical, does not appear as it is, and is an arena for human interpretation of themselves.

CONCLUSION

DKI Jakarta, as a stuffy and congested city, is currently considered successful in strengthening its intention to build more parks. However, the Provincial Government failed to

make these parks a part of the community. Therefore, the gardening culture has not become a lifestyle for the Jakarta people. As one of the city's social facilities, parks need to be designed as a green open space and a setting that includes activities and place systems consisting of various physical elements. The activity system is a series of active actors (Budiyanti, 2014). The park as a public center is perceived as a set of behavior, which generates attraction and absorbs its citizens' activities to take advantage of it without worry and fear.

The park's design needs to be easily understood by its users, similar to a theater where each area is regarded as a stage for various activities (Laurie, 1975; Rutledge, 1992; Cranz, 1982; lamtrakul et al., 2008). As a setting system, it is, in turn, interpreted as a place to carry out various social activities in outdoor spaces, thereby creating a garden culture as an effort to produce a livable city for its components.

REFERENCE

- Aimtrakul, (2000). Evaluation of Public Park Location Using Voronoi Diagram. Department of Civil Engineering, Saga University, Japan. Saga-shi 840-8502, Japan
- Balch, F dan Pfeifer, S. (2000) : Monitoring and Evaluation. DNR Metro Regional Management Team
- Bauto, Laode Monto (2014). "Perspektif Agama Dan Kebudayaan Dalam Kehidupan Masyarakat Indonesia (Suatu Tinjauan Sosiologi Agama)". Jurnal Pendidikan Ilmu Sosial.
- Budiyanti, Besari Rully (2014), Manfaat Taman Kota Sebagai Rona Kegiatan Publik Bagi Masyarakat di Kota Jakarta . Kasus Studi : Taman Ayodya Jakarta Selatan, Taman Menteng, Taman Suropati dan Taman Situ Lembang Jakarta Pusat. Disertasi Program Doktor Program Studi Arsitektur Sekolah Arsitektur Perencanaan dan Pengembangan Kebijakan Institut Teknologi Bandung.
- Dunnett, (2002). : Improving Urban Parks, Play Areas, and Green Spaces. Transport Local Government Regions. Department of Landscape, University of Sheffield Department for Transport, Local Government and the Region London.
- Carmona, (2003). Public Places-Urban Spaces. The Dimension of Urban Design Architectural Press. An imprint of Elsevier Science Linacre House, Jordan Hill, Oxford OX2 8DP 200 Wheeler Road, Burlington MA 01803.
- Ekomadyo, Agus, S (2009). Pengendalian Kualitas Arsitektur Kota Pada Ruang Publik di Kota Pekanbaru. Disertasi Program Doktor Program Studi Arsitektur Sekolah Arsitektur Perencanaan dan Pengembangan Kebijakan Institut Teknologi Bandung.
- e-Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (2021)
<https://www.google.com/search?q=oase+&tbm>
- Halim, DK (2008). Psikologi Lingkungan Perkotaan. Sinar Grafika Offset. Bumi Aksara, Jakarta Timur
- Koentjaraningrat, (2000). Pengantar Ilmu Antropologi. Aksara Baru Jakarta.
- Koran Kompas 15 Maret 2008;
- Koran Sindo, 22 Januari 2008
- Laurie (1986). Pengenalan kepada Arsitektur Pertamanan. Terjemahan oleh Aris K. Onggodiputro. Intermatra Publishing Co. Ltd Bandung Jawa Barat.

- Laboratorium Perencanaan Lansekap IPB, (2005)
- Madanipour (1996). Design of Urban Space, An inquiry into a Sosio-spatial Process. University of Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne UK. Jhon Wiley & Sons Ltd Baffins Lane, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1UD, England.
- Madanipour (2003). Public and Private Spaces of the City. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, London New York
- Miller, (2009). The Economic Benefits of Open Space
- Penalosa (2001). Parks for Livable Cities: Lesson from a Radical Mayor, Paper, Presented at Conference "Why People Need Parks" July 30 2001.
- Peraturan Menteri Pekerjaan Umum No. 05/PRT/M/2008 tentang Pedoman Penyediaan dan Pemanfaatan Ruang Terbuka Hijau di kawasan Perkotaan
- Setiadi Hafid, (2007), Penataan Ruang. Integrasi Nasional dan Wilayah Tertinggal : Sebuah Tinjauan Politik Keruangan Nasional. Makalah disajikan dalam seminar "Membangun Infrastruktur sebagai Salah Satu Solusi Mengurangi Kesenjangan Antar Daerah, tanggal 25-26 Juli 2007 di Hotel Grand Cempaka Jakarta Pusat.
- Wikipedia <https://id.m.wikipedia.org>