
INCLUSIVE STIMULATING SPACE PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN AGGLOMERATION

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Abstract: Open Spaces provides space for the expression of diversity, both personal and cultural. The social and cultural values of open space include attitudes towards nature and the desire for contact with it. Open space is now Inclusive part of statutory and community planning processes. Urban Spaces must be stimulating for all age groups encouraging their activities, events and gatherings via sustainable planning and design. This paper focuses on need, unconventional, visions and principles for urban open space in this modern era of planning. The social, cultural and physiological values of open space include attitudes towards nature and the desire for contact with it.

Keywords: Open Spaces, Sustainability, Stimulating Spaces, Community Planning.

1. Introduction: Urban planners have tremendous opportunity to utilize and safeguard open spaces in urban agglomeration to improve the community Spaces, recreation areas, fringe towns, groups and neighborhoods, where urban community lives. Conserving natural places is one of the essential elements of being a green and sustainable community. Protection and foundation of urban parks, scenic routes, trailways, and waterfront help to maintain and improve our quality of urban life. The urban spaces are key feature of the city planning and at most care is necessary while planning for the same. Open spaces likewise create the fundamental green network inside the city that empowers us to manage environmental change while providing wildlife habitats, sporting facilities or beautiful parks. This paper centers around visualizing broader view of planning, and some of the time unusual, dreams and standards for urban open space in this new era of sustainable planning. Understandings of human nature is important while developing strategic approach of open space planning. As a planner I emphasize the open spaces maximizes its potential to contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable future of urban areas at local, regional and national level.

2. Open Space in the Public Arena: Today about half of the global populace live in urban settlements. Human mind demands assorted variety in needs, attitudes and expression of their emotions from the City Scape. The City scape with Monuments, Historic parks and green open space designs offer the correct framework for the emotional needs of community. Today, urban community require understanding of process in order to identify, and provide for, the needs and desires of our urban cultures.

Rather than provision of parks as "mixture", we need the "salad bowl", where different cultures can find individual expression. An overview of urban park use indicates that the majority of users want to come by foot and will only do so on a regular basis if the park is within 3–5 minutes' walk of their home or workplace (Kaplan and Kaplan, 1989, Comedia /Demos, 1995; Godbey et al., 1992).The general population who maybe have most requirement for access to open parks and opportunity for sociability in a safe, outdoor setting will always be those who are least freely mobile (through age, economic status, lack of private transport, etc.)—children, older people, disabled people, the unemployed—and so there will always be a demand for good access to appropriate, local open spaces. Just what form these spaces take continues to be the challenge.

Global Cities occupy less than three percent of the global terrestrial surface, but account for 78% percent of carbon emissions, 60% percent of residential water use, and 76% percent of wood used for industrial purposes.

In context with Indian urban spaces the population density of the Cities is so high that Mumbai planners cannot able to provide even 30% of the standard required open green spaces for the urban community. The Real estate prizes are so high that the encroachment of the open spaces is concerned at the moment for the Local governments. The 80% of urban Population in India is deprived from the access to the open spaces resulted in emotional and Mental health hazard. The urban areas have a need for open space and the importance of it as a land use type cannot be negated. Again, the question that arises here is that how much open space is required for a given unit of urban population. The other need of concern is the spatial pattern of open space within a city

3. The Urban Open Space Organize as Social Space: In today's situation across the globe the significance of good-quality parks and open spaces is highlighted

Healthy weight, healthy lives – across-government strategy for England (Department of Health 2008) highlights the importance of open space in encouraging people to adopt healthier and more active lifestyles. Green infrastructure is a multifunctional network of green spaces and other natural elements such as waterways, lakes and coastline that provide a range of social, environmental and economic benefits. A green infrastructure strategy sets out an integrated approach to the delivery, protection and enhancement of this network. In London, the Mayor produces statutory strategies on other relevant issues, including biodiversity and ambient noise (www.cabe.org.uk)

In this century, experts in Germany, Japan and other countries proposed a standard of 40 square meters urban green space in high quality or 140 sq. m. suburb forest area per capita for reaching a balance between carbon dioxide and oxygen, to meet the ecological balance of human well-being. Currently, developed countries have tended to adopt a general standard of green space of 20 sq. m. park area per capita (Wang et al 2009). International minimum standard suggested by World Health Organization (WHO) and adopted by the publications of United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a minimum availability of 9 sq. m. green open space per city dweller (Kuchelmeister, 1998)

Master Rogers' Urban Task Force report (1999) says "to accomplish urban integration means considering of urban open space not as an isolated unit—be it a road, park or square—but as a energetic part of urban landscape with its own specific set of functions. Open spaces and public parks work best when they build up an immediate connection between the space and the general population who live and work around it"



Fig 1: Salmiya Park Kuwait

The Best examples of such planning is observed in cities like Kuwait. The City Centre Markets are planned near the central park. The People are encouraged to utilize recreational open spaces and footfall is increased by developing 10-15% of central park as hyper market or City Centre. Fig 1 explains the same concept as Above

It is observed that the Parks are being used more often when you increase the footfall by accommodating Hyper markets in same Area.

A network of well-designed and cared-for open spaces adds to the character of places where people want to live, work and visit. Open space is now firmly part of statutory and community planning processes. Comprehensive planning policies for open space are fundamental to social incorporation, community cohesion, health and well-being. It provides densely populated towns and cities maintain green spaces and streetscapes.

Corraliza (2000) has completed research on individuals inclination for "pathways" and "stay places" (parks, squares, and so on.) and found that the non-spatial characteristics of scene are similarly as vital as any spatial characteristics (enthusiastic and individual issues, for example, inspiration, age, and so on., represent 32% of the difference) yet in addition that individuals (at least in Spain) preferred pathways to "stay places". He suggests that there are numerous opportunities to engage with other people and with the environment (shops, cafés, shady boulevards) in streets than in parks or plazas and wonders whether urban public parks are becoming places for special categories of people, e.g. children, old people, etc., and the street is the truly representative public open space, the one which the whole population may feel good in utilizing. The Boulevard open Garden Restaurants along side pathways is the Example of the Same; Fig 2



Fig: 2 The Boulevard open Garden Restaurants

4. The Need for Contact with "Nature": Linear parks and greenways serve an important function in connecting residential areas to the larger urban parks, and to the small neighborhood parks, both of which are highly utilized and valued in our densely populated urban areas. Countryside landscapes and our buildings are focused more with no consideration to culturally appropriate patterns of urban landscape design and use.

The Canal side Parks in the urban area act as buffer zone as well as it serves the need of Linear Park to Connect the neighborhoods with urban Areas . The Old Canal Road From BMCC Road to Prabhat Road is best Example of the Same; Fig 3



Fig 3: Canal Road Garden, Pune

5. Green Networks As "Stimulating Open" Places: The key to Stimulating open spaces is the means by which they are utilized and designed to be used to uplift the mood of user, therefore the illusion that open, empty space is not constrained is incorrect— Osho Nala Park,Pune, is the example of conversion of dirty stagnant water body into stimulating open space

It is very important for [lanners to identify , semi-wild or neglected spaces and convert them into Stimulating Open spaces which is the answer to balance urban ecological networks.

Osho Nala Park: Punes Osho Nala Park one of the most beautiful garden built in 1994 on a nullah (Rivulate) known as Nala Park. The park is so beautiful and magnificent that you will never come to know that it was once a nullah until you read it somewhere. In fact, it is very difficult to believe so. It allows you to get closer with inner self and nature. The beauty and the picturesque view of the garden will captivate you from the word go. The holding ponds along with selected plants and stones were used to purify the polluted water.

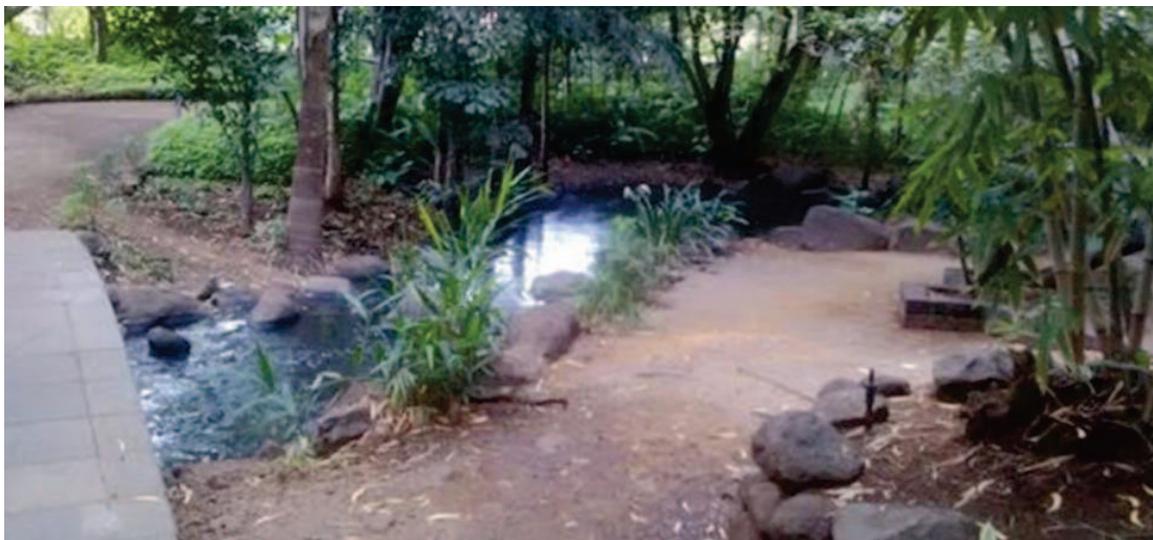


Fig 4: OSHO Teerth Park

In fact, it is very difficult to believe so. The very beauty lies in the environment that it provides, which is very natural, calming, and soothing. It allows you to get closer with inner self and nature. The beauty and the picturesque view of the garden will captivate you from the word go. The Upliftment of area from dirty water body to beautiful stimulating Park enhance the vibes of Area.

6. Sustainable green spaces Planning Approach: In the present urban scenario the sustainability of the open spaces is important aspect of Planning. The wildlife or forest area conservation inside the city limits can boost the sustainability of Open spaces. The community participation in increasing the

vegetation cover on Hilltops and Hill slopes in the city will boost the reduction of Co₂ emission in the City. The conservation of Hilltops and Hillslopes will maintain the ecological balance of urban scape.

The Example of Pune city or Mumbai city in context to conservation of natural wild life and hill tops and Hill slopes should be followed. In pune more than five Hills are conserved by Local governments and this lush green spaces of Taljai Hill, Baner Hill, Chaturshrungi Hill, Vetal Hill, Ram Hill Hadapsar naturally poised the ecological balance of Urban Community.



Fig 5: Vetal Hill Pune

The Rajiv Gandhi National Park in western suburbs of Mumbai , Goregaon to Borivali is another best example of sustainable Open space maintaining the ecological balance of city of Mumbai. The protection of such sustainable green spaces is duty of Urban communities of modern era. Apart from Stringent legislature community awareness for protection of the sustainable green spaces is more relevant. The Urban community should come forward on their own to conserve and protect the sustainable green spaces. The Community training and capacity Building programmes will make this possible in near future. The Fig: 6 & 7 shows how wild life island is conserved inside the high density metropolitan region of Mumbai



Fig 6: Dense Forest of Borivali National Park



Fig. 7: Island of National Park Surrounded by Most Dense Urban Population in the World

Conclusion: In the present trend of urbanization the pressure on urban planners is mounting enormously to identify and allocate enough place for recreation and open spaces. In past planners use to say Open spaces act as a lungs of the cities but **in the present world open spaces are rejuvenating spa's for the mental and emotional health of Urban communities.** Urban Communities can produce a symbiotic connection between the natural many-sided quality of the landscape, open spaces and the social and functional relevance of human infrastructure. Urban open space must provide a public place for the meeting of strangers and a place where one can transcend the crowd and be anonymous or alone. And in all of this, the urban park will continue to serve a central function in society's self definition.

Ultimately, open space in cities as places to celebrate cultural diversity, to engage with natural processes and to conserve memories.

Longer time-frame for engaging effectively with the natural networks which structure our towns and cities, some free-fit spaces may move around over time within our urban fabric. They reflect the dynamic, mixed, sometimes ambiguous landscapes which are likely to develop as expansive networks of infrastructure slice through and re-knit the existing fabric

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