

DETERMINE THE SUCCESS OF NEIGHBORHOOD PARK: TAMAN TASIK LIPUR KOTA MUADZAM SHAH, PAHANG, MALAYSIA

Hanisah binti Othman^{1*}, Nur Shafinda Wani binti Shaikh Azmee², Maisarah binti Awang³

¹²³Department of Tourism and Hospitality, Polytechnic of Muadzam Shah, Pahang, Malaysia

ORCID ID (ex: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6119-867X>)

*¹Corresponding author: hanisah@pms.edu.my, ²shafinda@pms.edu.my, ³maisarah@pms.edu.my

Received : 27 November 2024

Published : 16 January 2025

Revised : 09 December 2024

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.54443/ijerlas.v5i1.2356>

Accepted : 28 December 2024

Link Publish : <https://radjapublika.com/index.php/IJERLAS>

Abstract

A good park gives a lot of benefits to the community. There are 3 main benefits of public parks, such as economic, environment and social. The public park is managed by the Local Authorities of the area. This study aimed to examine the successful of neighborhood park Taman Tasik Lipur Kota Muadzam Shah, Pahang. The study area is Taman Tasik Lipur Kota, Muadzam Shah, Pahang. The respondents involved are 125 respondents, it was the communities that visited the area during their leisure time. The method adopted in these studies included procedures using quantitative variables and measures such as Likert scale. Overall, the findings show that the mean of Good Accessibility and Linkages (GAL) is 3.30, Comfort and Image (DCI) is 3.26, User and Activities (UAC) is 3.87 and Sociability (SOC) is 3.86. The result found the Taman Tasik Lipur kota Muadzam Shah still needs improvement in terms of Accessibilities and linkages, comfort and image, user and activities and sociability. However, the number of visitors to the park is high during weekends and evenings. In conclusion, this study recommends that the park should increase the safety of the park. The behavior of the visitor during their visit of the park such as bringing the car and the motorbikes inside the park make the other visitor feel insecure. On the other hand, the government also can increase the public transportation and Bus Stop to increase the number of visitor of the park. The local government can encourage in term of Good Accessibility and linkages (GAL) and Comfort and Image (DCI) of Taman Lipur Kota Muadzam Shah, Pahang.

Keywords: *Public Park, Maintenance, sociability, safety.*

1. INTRODUCTION

A Public Park is an exterior space that completes the development of the nation. It functions as a natural buffer in sustainable development, sound and air pollution, positive mental growth, and social interaction (Ismail et al., 2017). Parks and recreation areas are places that have their own attractions for tourists and visitors. The purpose of visiting the park is to enjoy the natural scenery (Abdullah Sani et al, 2022). While, based on National landscape Malaysia (2018) there are three benefits of the public park which are to the society, the environment, and the economy. For society, to increase interaction between communities, it will increase good relationships between communities; a wide range of activities to decrease human stress. For the economy, the stalls that are built surrounding the park will increase community incomes and increase the standard of living. For the environment, it will increase knowledge regarding conservation of natural resources such as hills, flora, and fauna. Taman Tasik Lipur Kota is located at Muadzam Shah, Pahang. This is the main park in Muadzam Shah. It was managed by Majlis Daerah Rompin (MDR). The size of the park is 7.13 hectares. refer to picture 1 below. The facilities that are provided by MDR such as parking areas, sitting areas such as Benches, Gazebo, Stalls and Pedestrian Walkway, etc.



Figure 1: Reflexology area



Figure 2: Signage Do and Don't of the park



Figure 2 : Playground with theme of local fruit



Figure 1 : Step to the main pedestrian walkway around water body



Figure 5: Toilet in Taman Lipur Kota, Muadzam Shah



Figure 6: Stall in the parking area of the park.

2. LITERATUR

2.1 Local Authority

In Malaysia, the public parks are managed by the federal, state, and municipal governments or private organizations (Samad et al., 2021). The local Authority is the third tier of Malaysia's government (Khalid & Abdullah Kamar, 2022). Developers of the industrial, housing and education area should provide 10 percent of the development area as a public area according to the Malaysia Town and Country planning Act. (Ismail et al., 2017). Based on the Local Government Department, (2021) there are three categories of local authority: City Council, Municipal and District Council. The difference between categories is shown in the table below. Table 1.

Table 1: Categories of local authority (Local Government Department, 2021)

	City Council	Municipal	District Council
People	People not less than 500,000	People not less than 150,000	Inhabitants less than 150,000 people
Revenue	Total annual outcome not less from RM100 million	Total annual outcome not less from RM20 million	Total annual revenue less than RM20 million; and
Infrastructure	Complete infrastructural facility, adequate public utility such as OKU amenities, public transportation, traffic management system and efficient road and network services.	Encourage local citizen to develop community respectively	Overall citizen needs focused to infrastructure facility and public utility

2.2 Public Park

Public Park is the area that provides recreation space for communities (Jogdande, 2022). Park provided a lot of benefits to humans, such as increasing the quality of mind and character, reducing human stress and tension while increasing internal wellness in the human body. The benefits of public parks to people are social, physical, ecological, and economical (Jogdande, 2022).

However, according to Alice, (2017) benefits of public parks are social benefit, physical benefit, environmental benefit, psychological benefit, and economic benefit. According to A. Samad (2021), open space offers a lot of benefits, such as enjoyment of the area, cultural activities, education purpose, sport, nature and aesthetic views and research.

2.3 Classification of park facilities

Park facilities are important to increase the efficiency of public open space. (Ismail et al., 2017). Based on Silverberg et al., (1999) planning of the open area categories into five criteria; the size of the open area, identification of the needs of society, function of the park toward the development of urban areas, the types of green vegetation including landscaping design, and the facilities provided and compensation. Based on Cheong Peng Au-Yong, Xing Ni Gan, Nur Farhana Azmi1 (2022), the facility park is used as a guide for management and planning of the open area. The classification of the facilities is in table 2 below. The classification of facilities helps the stakeholder identify the essential facilities and value-added park facilities.

Table 2: Classification of park facilities (Cheong, 2022)

Classification	Park facilities
Essential Park facilities	Rubbish bin
	Park lighting
	Washroom
	Signage
	Park furniture
	Track/Path
	Natural Landscape
	Designed landscape – softscape
	Designed landscape – Hardscape
	Prayer Room
Value-added Park facilities	Indoor Sport facilities
	Water activities facilities
	Recreational facilities
	Outdoor sport facilities
	Outdoor gym facilities
	Kiosk
	Drinking fountain
	Children playground
Picnic/ Camping area	

2.4 Satisfaction of public parks

Based on Abdullah Sani et al (2022), there are elements that give satisfaction to the visitor in the park are maintenance of the softscape in the park, location of the park, cleanliness of the park, pedestrian walkway in the park, location of the gazebo/table/benches in the park, and jogger track. The maintenance of the park is important, especially the softscape. Softscape is an important element in the design of the park. It is part of vegetation, tree, and shrub (Endang Wahyuni, Qamarun, 2013). Maintenance such as pruning, trimming, and watering is important for the satisfaction of visitors to the park. Based on Narh et al., (2020) maintenance of the park is important because the attraction of the park is a first impression visitors towards the park.

3. METHODS

3.1 Data collection dan data sampling

Research design in this research using confirmatory because adopted for the previous research. Research method that is used in quantitative as a main method. The respondent of the survey is a visitor of the Taman Tasik Lipur Kota Muadzam Shah. From the observation of the researcher, the packing time of the visitor during the evening from 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm. Due to that, the researcher distributed the questionnaire during the weekend from 5.30 pm until 7.00 pm. In this research, the sampling using nonprobability sampling dan the data sampling is using G power version 3.1.9.4. effect size f is 0.15 and err prob is 0.05, the power is 0.90 (90%) and the number of predictors is 4 and the total sample size of this research is 108. while in this research the total respondent is 124.

3.2 Questionnaire Development and Instrument

The main constructs that were used in this research are stated in the table below (figure 1.1). For the construct of good access and linkage (GAL) there are three indicators that use the Public Transport System (PTS), pedestrian system (PS) and Vehicular Circulation (VC). Concurrently, for comfort and image (DCI), there are three dimensions, such as safety of park (SOP), placing of sitting area (PSA), and Maintenance (MAI). The user and activities (UAC) construct there are four indicators that are used are physical activities (PHY), social activities (SAC), User (USE) and Special; attraction (SAT). Finally, construct sociability (SOC) employs two indicator environments (ENV) and opportunity of socializing (OPS). The measurement of construct is using Likert scale which is from Highly Disagree to Highly Agree using numbers 1 to 6.

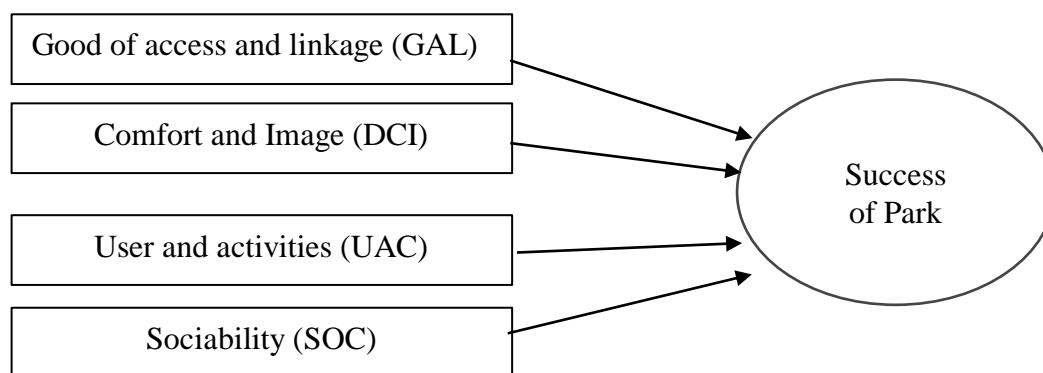


Figure 7: Construct of the success of park

3.3 Statistical Technique

Based on Sakip et al (2015), Cronbach ‘alpha for the construct is an average value of 0.7 to 1.0, which is accepted. The Cronbach alpha for the four constructs above are GAL = 0.89, DCI = 0.82, UAC = 0.82 and SOC = 0.82.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of data of the level of success of the Taman Tasik Lipur Kota, Muadzam Shah using questionnaires (google form). The respondent is a community that visited the study area. The analysis data is based on SPSS analysis 24.0. It was separated based on four (4) constructs below. There are four constructs used in this research which are Good Accessibility and Linkages (GAL), Comfort and Image (DCI), Users and Activities (UAC) and Sociability (SOC). The questionnaire is based on 3 sections. The first section is demographic factors which are ages, status, educational background, and job. The second sections are Good Accessibility and Linkages (GAL), Comfort and Image (DCI), User and Activities (UAC) And Sociability (SOC).

4.1 Factor demographics.

There are 5 demographic factors that have been analyzed such as gender, age, status, education level and job. It is stated in the table below (table 3).

Table 4 : Demographic factor that highlight in this research

Demographic	Criteria	Frequency	Percentage %
Gender	Male	44	35.5
	Female	80	64.5
	Total gender	124	100
Ages	<20 years old	2	1.6
	20-29 years old	19	15.3
	30-39 years old	50	40.3
	40-49 years old	42	33.9
	50-59 years old	9	7.3
	> 60 years old	2	1.6
	Total Ages	124	100
Status	Single	32	25.8
	Married	92	74.2
	Total Status	124	100
Education's level	PHD	4	3.2
	Master	27	21.8
	Ijazah Sarjana Muda	43	34.7
	Diploma	33	26.6
	SPM	17	13.7
	Total Education	124	100
Job	Government Servant	85	68.6
	Private Sector	25	20.2
	Businessman	2	1.6
	Student	10	8.1
	Retirement	2	1.6
	Total Job	124	100

The demographic data analysis on gender shows 64.5% of the respondents are female, which indicates most respondents of the research. The demographic data analysis reveals that 40.3% of the survey respondents are between the ages of 30 to 39 years old, with a significant majority holding at least a bachelor's degree, indicating a young and highly educated population.

4.2. Good Accessibility and linkages (GAL)

Good Accessibility and Linkages (GAL) are crucial factors for a successful park as they determine how easily people can access and navigate within the park. There are three (3) dimensions of good accessibility and linkages (GAL) factors which are vehicular circulation, pedestrian system, and public transport. The results of the analysis demonstrated the good accessibility and linkages (GAL) factor achieved an accumulation mean value of 3.30, which suggests that respondents somewhat disagree on this factor where public transport indicates the lowest mean among three dimensions. The Park should be easily accessible by various modes of transportation, including walking, cycling, public transportation, and cars (Xu et al., 2024). It should be well connected to the nearby neighbourhood, making it convenient for residents and visitors to reach. Taman Tasik Lipur Kota Muadzam Shah is located near the neighbourhood area where the public can reach there by walking distance, but there is no public transportation that passes through the area. Apart from that, there is no transit route for public transportation within Muadzam Shah as well, where most of the users reach the park using personal vehicles. However, the mean dimension of the vehicular circulation is 3.26 and the highest for this construct is the pedestrian system of the Taman Lipur Kota which is 3.61.

Table 5: The mean table for Good Accessibility and linkages (GAL)

Construct/ Factor	Dimension	Items	Description of items	Mean	Mean by dimension	Accumulation means
Good Accessibility and linkages (GAL)	Vehicular circulation (VC)	1	The condition is good.	3.64	3.26	3.30
		2	Entrance statement is very clear.	3.19		
		3	Route-clear from entrance to exit.	3.25		
		4	Parking space visible outer route.	3.17		
		5	The size of the parking space is good.	3.08		
	Pedestrian system (PS)	1	Pedestrian entrances are good.	3.78	3.61	
		2	Road crossing is good.	3.10		
		3	Connections to the main route are good.	3.27		
		4	Walking sizes are good.	4.05		
		5	The Conditions of the walkway are good.	3.8		
		6	Signage to facilities is clearly explained.	3.65		
	Public transport (PTS)	1	Proximity to the bus stop.	3.09	3.04	
		2	The public transport within the transit route.	2.99		

4.3 Comfort and Image (DCI)

Comfort and Image (DCI) are important factors for a successful park, as they contribute to a welcoming environment where people feel safe, relaxed, and inclined to stay longer. The construct of comfort and image employed two dimensions, namely: placing of sitting area and maintenance and safety of the park. Both dimensions accumulate 3.26 mean value where respondents somewhat argue about the comfort and image of the park. Safety of the park accumulated the lowest mean value of 3.02 which means respondents somewhat disagree. Based on the National Recreation and Park Association (2014), Addressing the problem of ensuring safety in parks and open spaces is a complicated undertaking. A single action or solely by design cannot resolve the problem. Creating and sustaining safer park spaces necessitates a comprehensive strategy that includes design, programming, maintenance, and community engagement. Based on table 6 below, the visitor of the park does not agree that the other visitor should bring the car and motorcycle into the park. The misuse of open areas is that the vehicle is parked in the park while it should be parked only in designated authorized areas. (Ibrahim, 2016).

Table 6: The Mean table of Comfort and Images (DCI)

Construct	Dimension	Items	Description of items	Mean	Mean by dimension	Accumulation means		
Comfort and Image (DCI)	Sitting and maintenance	1	Most benches are placed in shade areas placed in areas with high activities.	3.30	3.49			
		2	Easy to get the sitting area.	3.06				
		3	50% benches or sitting area under shelter.	3.30				
		4	50% benches' or sitting area in an open area.	3.54				
		5	The area shows good maintenance.	3.77				
		6	All facilities that were provided in good condition.	3.43				
		7	50% of the facilities are in good condition.	3.74				
		8	50% of the facilities are in a bad condition.	3.75				
	Safety of the park		1	Near the road.	5.02		3.02	3.26
			2	Near the resident area.	4.90			
			3	Near the commercial area.	3.58			
4			Near the natural area.	4.56				
5			Presence of security such as police, security park.	2.6				
6			Safety of signboard such as community surveillance	3.35				
7			The existence of CCTV	2.21				
8			Vehicles are allowed into the park	2.02				
9			Bicycles are allowed into the park.	2.99				
10			Motorcycles are allowed into the park.	1.95				
11			Cars are allowed into the park.	1.45				

4.4 User and activities (UAC)

User and activities factors are crucial for the success of a park because they determine how well the space meets the needs of its visitors and how effectively it encourages engagement and participation. This factor accumulates 3.87 mean value which indicates respondents somewhat disagree that the park meets the needs of visitors. While the highest of the mean in terms of user and social activities with 4.48 mean. Offering a wide variety of activities, from recreational facilities to organized events and flexible spaces, ensures that the park remains dynamic and engaging throughout the year. However, the dimension of activities and special attractions shows that the study area does not offer a wide range of activities that can appeal to different user groups especially for skating areas.

Table 7 : The mean table of User and activities

Construct	Dimension	Items	Description of items	Mean	Mean by dimension	Accumulation means
User and activities (UAC)	User and social activities (USA)	1	Family	5.15	4.48	
		2	Teenagers	5.04		
		3	Less abled/Disabled people (Handicapper/senior citizen/Pregnancy woman)	3.37		
		4	Toddlers	4.65		
		5	Community	4.99		
		6	Space for fly a kite	2.40		
		7	Space for boating	2.46		
		8	Space for picnic	4.23		
		9	Space for meeting friend	4.44		
		10	Space for eating	4.14		
		11	Scenic view for capture the photo	4.52		
	12	Playing at playground	3.93			
	Activities and Special attraction (ASA)	1	Jogging areas are provided	4.98	3.26	
		2	Walking areas are good	4.18		
3		Place for playing roller blade is provided	2.24			
4		Skating area is provided	1.77			
5		Cycling area is provided	2.54			
6		Relaxing area is provided	4.38			
7		Area purposely for reading are provided	3.44			
8		Water fountain is very attractive	2.02			
9		Playground very attractive	2.95			
10		Statues are very attractive	2.81			
11		Park layout design is very attractive	3.48			
12		Hardscape elements are very Attractive	3.43			
13		Softscape elements are very Attractive	3.30			
14	Plant material selection is very attractive	3.49				
						3.87

4.5 Sociability (SOC)

Sociability factors play a key role in making a park vibrant and engaging public space. A socially successful park fosters interaction among its visitors, encourages a sense of community, and becomes a place where people feel comfortable spending time together. The cumulative mean value for sociability factor is 3.83 which indicates respondents somewhat disagree that the park is socially successful especially for the opportunity to socialize

dimension.

The Opportunity to Socialize (OPS) dimension is about creating environments and opportunities that make it easy and inviting for people to interact with one another. The Opportunity to Socialize (OPS) dimension is about creating environments and opportunities that make it easy and inviting for people to interact with one another.

Construct	Dimension	Items	Description of items	Mean	Mean based on dimension	Accumulative mean
Sociability (SOC)	Opportunity to Socialize (OPS)	1	user attracted to socialize	3.88	3.7	3.83
		2	Facilities that provided enhance the social activities	3.7		
		3	Signage explanation is very clear make user attracted to socialize	3.54		
	Environment (ENV)	1	Cleanliness of environment makes user enjoy the park	4.09	3.96	
		2	Good maintenance make user enjoy the park	3.88		
		3	The overall view of the park makes user enjoy the park	3.97		
		4	Borrowed surrounding views make user enjoy the park.	3.93		
		5	The Park near to residential area, hence, make user enjoy the park	4.10		
		6	The Park is near commercial area, hence making user enjoy the park	3.56		
		7	The Park is near natural area, hence making user enjoy the park	4.19		

5. CONCLUSIONS

In a nutshell, the park has contributed benefits to the communities in Muadzam Shah, Pahang, Malaysia. The construct the apply for the successful of park based on this research show Taman Lipur Kota Muadzam Shah has Sociability (SOC) and User and activities (UAC). Based on observation of the researcher, visitors in the park enjoy visiting during their weekend during morning and evening. On weekdays visitors come to the park after work. The most activities that visit are jogging, picnicking, remote control boating, chatting, and fishing. Meanwhile, to increase the success of the park, there are two constructs that need to improve are Good Accessibility and linkages (GAL) and Comfort and Image (DCI), the researcher has a recommendation based on the studies as below: Firstly, the municipality can provide the signage of the park. Based on Xu et al., (2024) Clear lines of sight create a sense of genuine security, enabling individuals to see what lies ahead and around them and to detect the presence of others.

Secondly, to increase the number of visitors to the park. MDR should encourage implementation of private bus improvement of public transportation routes in Muadzam Shah. Based on Zhang (2018), Additionally, highlight that the number of bus stations is directly related to park visits, and improving accessibility to bus stations can increase the number of visitors.

REFERENCES

- Cheong Peng Au-Yong, Xing Ni Gan, Nur Farhana Azmi1, R. Z. & I. S. M. R. (2022). Volume 15 (Issue 2) Dec 2022. *ALAM CIPTA International Journal on Sustainable Tropical Design Research and Practice*, 15(2). http://spel2.upm.edu.my/webupm/upload/dokumen/20221229104546Chapter_6_-DEC_22.pdf
- Ibrahim, P. H. B. (2016). *Misuse of Open Spaces According to Park By laws*. 19(5), 1–2. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/321980203_
- Ismail, A. S., Mohidin, H. H. B., & Sani, M. S. M. (2017). The effectiveness of public park management and design for sustainable livelihood in Malaysian context. *Advanced Science Letters*, 23(9), 8402–8407. <https://doi.org/10.1166/asl.2017.9899>
- Khalid, S., & Abdullah Kamar, M. A. (2022). A Pilot Study of Mobility Characteristics of Rural Elderly People to Health Facility. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 12(11). <https://doi.org/10.6007/ijarbss/v12-i11/15237>
- Local Government Department, 2021 *Category of Local authority*. Ministry of Housing and Local Government <https://jkt.kpkt.gov.my/en/local-government/pbt/category-local-authority>
- National Recreation and Park Association. (2014). *Issue Brief Creating Safe Park Environments to Enhance Community Wellness*. 4.
- Sakip, S. R. M., Akhir, N. M., & Omar, S. S. (2015). Determinant Factors of Successful Public Parks in Malaysia. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 170, 422–432. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2015.01.003>
- Samad, N. S. A., Abdul-Rahim, A. S., Afandi, S. H. M., & Mohd Johari, M. Y. (2021). Factors influencing the public park use in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 756(1). <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/756/1/012085>
- Xu, N., Guan, K., & Wang, P. (2024). Improving access to urban parks through public transit optimization. *Frontiers of Architectural Research*, 13(3), 575–592. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foar.2023.12.011>
- Zhang, S., Zhou, W., 2018. Recreational visits to urban parks and factors affecting park visits: evidence from geotagged social media data. *Landsc. Urban Plann.* 180, 27e35 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2018.08.004>.