

## ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF URBAN PARK DEVELOPMENT IN BATURAJA, OGAN KOMERING ULU REGENCY

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### ABSTRACT

Urban parks are a form of development located in urban areas that hold significant value due to their large-scale function in assisting urban spatial planning. This research is a descriptive qualitative study that aims to illustrate the social, economic, cultural, and ecological impacts resulting from the development of urban parks in Baturaja, Ogan Komering Ulu Regency. Based on data analysis and field findings, it can be concluded that urban park development is one of the elements of urban development that brings both positive and negative impacts to the communities around Baturaja City, across various sectors including Economy, Society, Culture, and Ecology. Moreover, the park contributes to enhancing social interaction among Baturaja residents, fostering a sense of pride in the local area, and serving as a reminder of the historical origins of Baturaja as the capital of Ogan Komering Ulu Regency. On the other hand, the most significant negative impact experienced by the local community from an ecological perspective is the lack of cleanliness in the urban park environment, primarily due to the community's low awareness in maintaining the park's cleanliness and beauty.

**Keywords:** *Development Impact, Urban Park*

### A. INTRODUCTION

Development planning is one of the key supporting factors in the advancement of a region. In order for a region to effectively manage its development, it must consider which aspects need to be preserved and further developed. In this regard, urban spatial planning becomes an area of interest for the author, with a particular focus on the planning and development of urban design elements based on Kevin Lynch's concept—specifically, the *landmark* element, which plays a vital role in enriching urban spaces. Recently, Baturaja has developed a park in the city center, which is expected to become one of the favorite places for the community to relax or engage in recreational activities.

However, up to this point, the development of urban parks in various regions has often been considered solely from an aesthetic perspective, without giving sufficient attention to other impacts such as economic, social, and ecological aspects, or even the actual function of the park itself. As we know, any development must take into account its environmental impact, and conversely, environmental factors must also be considered in relation to the development. Ecological impact assessment is crucial in development planning, as it can serve as a measure of a region's success in achieving sustainable development. These phenomena form the foundation for the writing of this paper.

In any regional development effort, environmental and other related aspects must be carefully considered in order to achieve development goals. Furthermore, such development can also be transformed into a regional asset—for example, by promoting it as a culinary tourism destination. Based on the background outlined above, the research question can be formulated as follows: How do the social, cultural, economic, and ecological impacts of urban park development influence regional development in Baturaja?

## **B. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Type of Research**

This study is a qualitative descriptive research that aims to illustrate the social, economic, cultural, and ecological impacts arising from the development of urban parks in Baturaja Regency, Ogan Komering Ulu. It is concluded that the development of urban parks is one of the elements of urban development that brings both positive and negative impacts to the surrounding community in various sectors including the economy, society, culture, and ecology.

### **Research Focus**

The development of urban parks is one of the key elements in urban development that creates both positive and negative impacts on the surrounding communities. In order for a region to effectively manage its development, it must pay attention to aspects that need to be preserved and enhanced. In this context, urban spatial planning becomes a subject of particular interest to the author, especially in the management of urban governance.

### **Data Collection Techniques**

This interview technique is carried out using an interview guide to ensure that the questions asked are more structured and focused. During the interviews, the instruments used include a voice recorder and supplementary field notes taken by the researcher. The purpose of the interviews is to explore the urban spatial planning process, particularly regarding the planning and development of city elements.

Observation data consists of factual, detailed, and accurate descriptions of field conditions, human activities, social situations, and the context in which these activities occur. In qualitative research, direct observation of the object is conducted to understand the existence, situation, condition, space, and the meaning of those elements in an effort to collect research data.

### **Data Analysis Techniques**

Data reduction involves summarizing, selecting essential information, focusing on important elements, identifying themes and patterns, and discarding irrelevant data. The data obtained in the field is documented in detailed narratives or reports. In this study, the researcher selects and filters data based on aspects relevant to the performance of village governments in providing administrative population services in Wangun Village.

After the data reduction stage, the next step is data presentation. Presenting the data helps in understanding what has occurred and planning subsequent steps based on that understanding. In this study, technically, the organized data will be presented in narrative text form and structured in a data analysis matrix.

Data analysis is a continuous activity from the beginning to the end of the research. In qualitative research, data analysis begins in the field, although intensive analysis is usually carried out after data collection is completed. Guided by the research problems, the researcher is directed toward certain frameworks which may or may not align with the collected data. During the data collection process in the field, the data must be analyzed

immediately after collection and recorded in the field report.

This analysis helps to reveal what additional data is needed, which information must be verified, what questions need to be answered, what methods are necessary to gather new information, and what errors must be corrected.

## C. DISCUSSION

### The Concept of City Park Development in Baturaja

#### Baturaja City Overview

Baturaja is the capital city of the Ogan Komering Ulu (OKU) Regency in South Sumatra, covering an area of 10,408 km<sup>2</sup> and inhabited by approximately one million people. The majority of the population relies on rubber and palm oil farming for their livelihood. The region has a General Allocation Fund (DAU) of Rp 375,426,926,000.

In 2003, OKU Regency was split into three regions based on Law No. 37 of 2003. The division created three regencies: the original Ogan Komering Ulu, Ogan Komering Ulu Timur, and Ogan Komering Ulu Selatan.

This administrative restructuring significantly impacted local development and economic activity. Evidence of Baturaja's growing progress is apparent in the establishment of various infrastructures, including a city park located at the heart of Baturaja. This park enhances the city's charm and serves as a symbol and image-building feature, adding unique value to Baturaja.

#### City Park Development in Baturaja

Located in the center of Baturaja, this public space is commonly referred to simply as "The Park." Its strategic location makes it easily accessible. Improvements to the park include the installation of artistic street lights, road monuments, and new trees replacing older ones. The park also features a statue of National Hero Ahmad Yani, positioned on Jalan A. Yani—making it a recognizable landmark for visitors.

Facilities include a jogging and cycling track, areas for skating and juggling, free Wi-Fi, a seating area to relax and enjoy the ambiance, and a spacious parking lot with security personnel—ensuring visitors feel safe and comfortable.

The Head of the Youth, Sports, Culture, and Tourism Office of OKU Regency, Aufa S. Syarkomi, SP, MSc, stated that the park will be developed into a culinary tourism zone. Reported by *Sripo* and *Baturaja Online*, he mentioned plans to coordinate with related agencies and involve local and national-owned enterprises (BUMD and BUMN) to support the initiative—suggesting that each company could sponsor a tent for five food vendors.

The concept is based on mutual symbiosis, where companies can display their brands on vendor tents. Aufa is optimistic that standardized tents (in color and size) would make the culinary zone more visually appealing. This development will beautify Baturaja, attract families, and provide a place for both dining and recreation.

The park is now a multifunctional space used for recreation, exercise, and food vending, especially active between 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM. What began with a few street noodle vendors has evolved into a vibrant culinary scene offering

grilled corn, fried bananas, meatballs, toast, and more—making it a popular nightly destination, particularly on weekends.

With the culinary zone initiative, the City Park of Baturaja is expected to become a productive, economic, and aesthetically pleasing space that continues to serve the local community.

#### **Environmental Management and Legislation**

To ensure sustainable development, the OKU Regency follows the Environmental Management Law, particularly:

1. Chapter 1, Article 1: Environmentally conscious and planned development must integrate environmental resources to ensure present and future well-being.
2. Chapter 5, Article 15: Any project likely to significantly impact the environment must undergo environmental impact analysis (AMDAL), which is further regulated by government decrees.
3. Article 34: Unlawful actions causing environmental damage require the responsible party to provide compensation or take corrective action.
4. Impact Analysis of Development

Development impact analysis involves assessing the consequences of a project on the economic and social environment (Mahesa Respati Gautama, 2007). Key aspects include:

1. A description of all environmental impacts.
2. The balance between short-term human use and long-term productivity.
3. The irreversible use of resources.
4. Effects on labor and household income.

Good governance requires impact analysis to minimize negative effects and maximize positive outcomes. City parks, as public facilities, must be accessible to all citizens—regardless of age, gender, or social status, including people with disabilities. Thus, careful design and planning are critical.

#### **Public Park Design Principles**

Public function principles must be embedded in park planning and design. Zoning helps prevent user conflicts by assigning specific areas for particular activities or visitor groups. Areas with higher visitor intensity require more maintenance, while low-use zones require less.

#### **Social Impact Analysis of the City Park in Baturaja**

**Impact on Individuals:** The park provides Baturaja residents a space to relax, unwind from household duties or academic stress, jog, or enjoy local food.

**Impact on the Community:** It offers a communal space for weekend family or group outings, enhanced by its diverse culinary offerings.

**Impact on Organizations and Groups:** The park is a popular spot for reunions, school alumni gatherings (especially during Ramadan), motorbike groups, and extracurricular meetings. It also supports marketing activities for small businesses and vendors.

**Impact on Institutions and Social Systems:** Local government agencies use the park for public outreach and programs, including the culinary zone initiative by the Youth and Tourism Office.

### **Sectoral Impact Analysis (Economic, Political, Socio-Cultural, Ecological)**

#### **Economic Impact:**

1. Increased regional income.
2. Improved earnings for cleaners and street vendors.
3. Creation of new jobs through vending opportunities.

#### **Political Impact:**

1. Facilitates public outreach and dissemination of local regulations.
2. Encourages political engagement among citizens.

#### **Socio-Cultural Impact:**

1. Preserves local heritage (e.g., large stones symbolizing the origin of the name "Baturaja").
2. Serves as a recreation and culinary destination.
3. Improves transportation (located on a main road).
4. Offers inclusive amenities (Wi-Fi, kids' play areas, sports facilities).
5. Fosters social interaction and local pride.

#### **Negative Socio-Cultural Impacts:**

1. Rivalries among motorbike clubs.
2. Frequent accidents due to racing.
3. Traffic congestion, especially during New Year celebrations and motor parades.
4. Vandalism due to insufficient night security.
5. Increased theft incidents in crowded conditions.

#### **Ecological Impact:**

1. Positive: Serves as urban green lungs, improves soil salinity.
2. Negative: Littering and plant damage by irresponsible visitors.

### **D. CONCLUSION**

From the data analysis and discussion above, it's clear that the development of Baturaja's City Park has both positive and negative effects across various sectors: economic, social, cultural, and ecological. Economically, it boosts local income and job creation. Despite some challenges, especially in maintaining safety and cleanliness, the park has become a valuable public space that enhances quality of life for Baturaja's residents.

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