



INDONESIAN JOURNAL OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

APPRAISING URBAN NATURE: A CASE STUDY OF SEOUL FOREST PARK

Syakir Amir Ab Rahman ^{1*}, Nur Sabrina Huda Zul Bahari², Nurul Aina Najwa Mustaffa³, Fatin Nabila Rosli⁴, Fadzli Irwan Bahrudin⁵, Aliah Saidin⁶

^{1,2,3,4}Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, 53100, Malaysia

⁵Department of Applied Arts and Design, Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, 53100, Malaysia

⁶Department of Climate, Energy and Environment, Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul, South Korea

*Corresponding author: syakiramir@iium.edu.my

ABSTRACT

The case study appraises Seoul Forest Park, focusing on its design, features, and impact on the community. The purpose of the study is to analyze how the park integrates natural and man-made elements to provide a multifunctional urban space that enhances the quality of life for residents and visitors. The approach involves examining various park components, including softscape elements like themed gardens and ecological fields, and hardscape features such as pathways, boardwalks, and cultural venues. The results highlight the park's success in promoting physical and mental well-being through outdoor activities, fostering community cohesion with social and cultural events, and advancing environmental education and conservation efforts. The study concludes that Seoul Forest Park is a model of urban planning, offering recreational, educational, and ecological benefits that contribute to a greener and more sustainable city environment.

MANUSCRIPT HISTORY

Received
 22 April 2026
 Revised
 25 April 2026
 Accepted
 04 May 2026
 Available online
 05 July 2026

KEYWORDS

- Urbanpark
- Seoul Forest Park
- Seoul

1. INTRODUCTION

Urban parks play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life in cities by providing green spaces for recreation, social interaction, and ecological balance (Azenan et al., 2021; Liao et al., 2025). These parks are essential for maintaining the well-being of urban residents, offering a respite from the concrete and steel of city life, and providing spaces where people can engage in physical activities, relax, and connect with nature. They also serve as crucial social hubs where communities can come together for events, celebrations, and everyday interactions, fostering a sense of community and belonging (Benita et al., 2019). Moreover, urban parks contribute significantly to the ecological health of cities by supporting biodiversity, improving air quality, and mitigating urban heat island effects (Alidi & Ismail, 2019).

Seoul Forest Park, located in the heart of South Korea's capital, exemplifies the city's commitment to sustainable urban development. Officially opened in 2005, the park is a testament to Seoul's innovative approach to integrating nature into urban planning. Covering approximately 1.16 million square meters, Seoul Forest Park has transformed a former industrial site into a multifunctional green space that caters to the diverse needs of its urban population. The park's design incorporates various zones, each with its unique focus, ranging from cultural arts to ecological conservation, reflecting a holistic approach to urban green space development.

This case study aims to explore the various elements of Seoul Forest Park, including its history, design, and usage. By examining the park's evolution from the Joseon Dynasty to an industrial area and, finally, to a modern urban park, this study highlights the dynamic processes involved in urban redevelopment. Additionally, the design elements that make Seoul Forest Park a multifunctional and inclusive space will be analyzed, along with the diverse ways in which the public uses it. Furthermore, this study conducts a comparative analysis of park development in Korea and Malaysia to identify commonalities and differences in their approaches. Both countries have made significant strides in urban green space development, yet their strategies and outcomes vary due to differences in cultural, environmental, and urban planning contexts. By comparing Seoul Forest Park with key parks in Malaysia, such as KLCC Park in Kuala Lumpur, this study seeks to draw insights into the factors that influence successful park development and how these insights can be applied to other urban contexts. Through this comparative lens, the study aims to contribute to the broader discourse on sustainable urban planning and the critical role of parks in enhancing urban life (Amir et al., 2020).

As urbanization accelerates worldwide, cities face mounting challenges in preserving natural environments within their boundaries. Green spaces, such as urban parks, play a pivotal role in mitigating the environmental, social, and psychological impacts of urbanization (Chen et al., 2019; Alberti, 2017). Seoul Forest Park, situated in the heart of South Korea's capital, stands as a testament to the potential of urban nature to enrich city life while fostering biodiversity and ecological balance. This literature review explores the significance of urban parks like Seoul Forest Park, examining their benefits, management strategies, and the broader implications for sustainable urban development.

Urbanization transforms landscapes, often at the expense of natural habitats and green areas (Ab Rahman et al., 2023). The rapid expansion of cities leads to increased pollution, reduced biodiversity, and compromised quality of life for urban residents. In response, urban planners and policymakers advocate for the preservation and creation of green spaces within cities to counteract these negative effects. Green spaces not only provide recreational opportunities but also improve air quality, regulate temperatures, and support urban biodiversity (Davies & Laforzezza, 2020).

Urban nature encompasses a spectrum of green spaces ranging from small neighborhood parks to extensive urban forests. These spaces serve as vital refuges for flora and fauna, offering residents a connection to the natural world amid concrete jungles (Kabisch et al., 2017). The concept underscores the importance of integrating nature into urban planning and design to promote environmental sustainability and human well-being.

The park features four distinct zones: Culture and Art Park, Ecological Forest, Nature Experiencing Study Field, and Han River Waterside Park. These zones support a variety of habitats, including wetlands, woodlands, and meadows, promoting biodiversity within an urban setting. Seoul Forest Park integrates cultural heritage with modern amenities, hosting art installations, historical relics, and outdoor performance spaces. Its popularity among residents and tourists alike underscores its role as a social hub and cultural landmark.

Types of Parks in Seoul can be included few - Pocket Parks are small, often irregularly shaped green spaces strategically located within urban neighbourhoods to provide accessible recreational opportunities and enhance local aesthetics. These parks serve as green lungs amidst concrete landscapes, offering seating areas, greenery, and sometimes playground equipment. They are designed to improve the quality of urban life by promoting social interactions among residents and providing a respite from the urban hustle.

Urban Parks located within densely built-up urban areas, urban parks like Seoul Forest Park in Seoul offer larger green spaces that cater to a broader population. These parks not only provide recreational facilities such as jogging paths, sports fields, and cultural amenities like outdoor theatres but also serve as important landmarks and focal points within the cityscape. Urban parks contribute significantly to urban biodiversity conservation, mitigate urban heat island effects, and provide essential ecosystem services such as air purification and storm water management.

Neighborhood Parks in Seoul serve specific residential communities, providing amenities such as playgrounds, picnic areas, and walking paths. These parks play a crucial role in promoting physical activity, community engagement, and social cohesion among local residents. They are designed to be easily accessible within walking distance, fostering a sense of ownership and pride among neighborhood residents while contributing to overall public health and well-being (Mahamod et al., 2021)

District Parks larger than neighborhood parks, district parks like Yangjae Citizen's Forest serve multiple neighborhoods or districts within Seoul. These parks are characterized by their expansive green spaces, diverse recreational facilities, and natural habitats that support local flora and fauna. District parks often feature ecological ponds, hiking trails, and cultural amenities such as art installations or community centres. They are essential for providing residents with opportunities for outdoor recreation, nature appreciation, and cultural enrichment.

Metropolitan Parks cover significant expanses of land and serve as major recreational and cultural destinations within Seoul. Examples include Seoul Forest, which offers diverse ecosystems, educational facilities, and recreational activities spread across several zones. Metropolitan parks not only preserve large natural landscapes but also support biodiversity conservation, provide habitats for wildlife, and serve as urban oases where residents can connect with nature amidst the bustling city environment.

Regional Parks located on the outskirts of Seoul, regional parks such as Bukhansan National Park provide extensive natural areas and outdoor recreational opportunities. These parks are characterized by their rugged terrain, scenic hiking trails, and historic landmarks, attracting visitors from both Seoul and surrounding regions. Regional parks play a crucial role in protecting natural ecosystems, promoting sustainable tourism, and offering educational programs that highlight the ecological and cultural significance of the region.

Studies demonstrate that access to urban parks enhances physical activity levels, reduces stress, and improves overall health outcomes (Gascon et al., 2016). Green spaces provide opportunities for exercise, relaxation, and social interaction, contributing to public health and well-being (Amir et al., 2014). Urban parks offer psychological benefits by alleviating mental fatigue, promoting cognitive restoration, and fostering a sense of community belonging (Ahmad Shafee & Kamaruddin, 2019). They serve as inclusive spaces where diverse populations can connect with nature and each other, enhancing social cohesion and cultural diversity. Seoul Forest Park stimulates local economies through

tourism, increased property values, and job creation in adjacent sectors (Chiesura, 2004; Alidi & ismail 2019). Economic analyses underscore the value of urban parks as strategic investments that yield substantial returns in terms of public health, environmental quality, and social capital.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 Methods

This study focuses on Seoul Forest Park, a major urban park located in the heart of Seoul, South Korea. Site inventory was chosen as the data collection method. As part of the overall design process, analysis and synthesis are used to develop appropriate solutions that can meet the goal and objectives. Analysing precedent and case studies was crucial for benchmarking best practices and innovative approaches in urban park development. This involved a comparative analysis of parks with similar contexts to Seoul Forest Park, especially with Malaysia's parks. These case studies provided valuable examples of successful design strategies, management practices, and community integration. Key features, such as the balance between natural and built environments, recreational facilities, and cultural elements, were compared and contrasted with Seoul Forest Park. Field visits to Seoul Forest Park were conducted to observe and document its physical characteristics, user behaviors, and overall functionality. These visits involved detailed observations of different park zones, including themed gardens, ecological fields, and recreational areas. The study recorded various activities, patterns of movement, and interactions among visitors. Accessibility and connectivity with public transportation and adjacent neighborhoods were also assessed. Direct observations were supplemented with informal interviews and interactions with park users to gather qualitative insights.

2.2 Study Area

Seoul Forest Park, located in Seongdong-gu, is a vital recreational area for city residents, providing a natural haven amidst the bustling city of Seoul. The park is separated into several zones, including Hangang Riverside Park, Wetlands Ecological Field, Nature Experiencing Study Field, Cultural Art Park, and Ecological Forest. Its total area is roughly 1.16 million square meters (288 acres).

Initially a royal hunting place during the Joseon Dynasty, the land has changed dramatically. In the twentieth century, it became part of Seoul's industrial infrastructure, with a golf course and a water treatment plant. However, these projects did not hamper its development into a green space due to its large open spaces and proximity to the Han River. Currently, there are significant residential and commercial developments flank the park, including the luxury residential complex Acro Seoul Forest and the mixed-use Galleria Foret. These developments blend well with the park, increasing its accessibility and appeal. Furthermore, educational institutions like Hanyang University and transportation hubs like Ttukseom Resort Station help to improve the park's accessibility and usability. Other than that, Seoul Forest Park is easily accessible via public transport, including the Seoul Forest Station on the Bundang Line and the Ttukseom Resort Station on Seoul Subway Line 7. The park's advantageous location within Seoul's well-planned road network makes it easily accessible by private automobiles. This connectedness is critical for locals and visitors, making the park a central urban refuge.

The park's many zones provide various recreational and educational activities. The Cultural Art Park features several art installations and cultural activities, whereas the Ecological Forest and Wetlands Ecological Field prioritize biodiversity and environmental education. These regions offer recreational opportunities and develop a stronger bond between urban life and nature. Firstly, the Cultural Art Park is a vibrant area dedicated to arts and culture. Visitors can enjoy various art installations, sculptures, and cultural events, making it a lively hub for contemporary art and cultural

activities. Next is the Ecological Forest, which is dedicated to preserving natural habitats and promoting biodiversity. This section of the park is home to a variety of native plant and animal species, providing a sanctuary for wildlife amidst the urban environment. It also serves as an educational space to raise awareness about ecological conservation. The Nature Experiencing Study Field is designed to facilitate hands-on learning about nature. Aimed at both children and adults, this zone offers various programs and activities to encourage visitors to explore and understand the natural world. With interactive exhibits and guided tours, it serves as an outdoor classroom to foster a deeper appreciation for the environment. The Wetland Ecological Field focuses on the conservation and education of wetland ecosystems. Here, visitors can observe wetland flora and fauna and learn about the ecological functions and benefits of wetlands. This area highlights the significance of wetlands in maintaining biodiversity, water quality, and flood control. Lastly, the Hangang Riverside Park provides extensive recreational spaces along the Han River. It offers walking and cycling paths, picnic areas, and open spaces for various outdoor activities, contributing to the city's green infrastructure and providing a tranquil environment for relaxation and recreation.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Seoul Forest Park is widely regarded as one of Seoul's premier urban green spaces, and user perspectives highlight its multifaceted appeal. Visitors consistently praise the park for its serene atmosphere, diverse attractions, and the seamless integration of nature and urban design. These aspects contribute to a positive user experience, making the park a beloved destination for both locals and tourists.

3.1 Perspective Analysis

One of the key perspectives shared by users is the park's role as a haven for relaxation and recreation. The vast open spaces, lush greenery, and tranquil environment offer a respite from the bustling city life of Seoul. Many visitors appreciate the well-maintained lawns and shaded areas provided by the park's diverse tree population, which create perfect spots for picnics, leisurely walks, or simply lounging with a book. The presence of seasonal flowers and the changing foliage throughout the year add to the park's visual appeal, making every visit a unique experience. The tranquil ambiance, coupled with the aesthetic beauty of the natural surroundings, allows visitors to unwind and rejuvenate, enhancing their overall well-being.

For fitness enthusiasts and those seeking an active lifestyle, Seoul Forest Park offers a variety of sports and recreational facilities. The well-maintained cycling and jogging paths are popular among runners, cyclists, and walkers. These paths, set against the backdrop of the park's natural beauty, provide an invigorating environment for exercise. The presence of sports facilities, such as basketball courts, tennis courts, and outdoor fitness equipment, adds to the park's appeal for those who enjoy engaging in physical activities. Users appreciate the accessibility and quality of these facilities, which encourage regular exercise and promote a healthy lifestyle. The park's spacious layout allows for these activities without overcrowding, ensuring a pleasant and safe experience for all users.

Families with children find Seoul Forest Park particularly appealing due to its family-friendly facilities and safe environment. The playgrounds are equipped with modern, safe play structures that cater to children of various ages, ensuring that young visitors can engage in physical activity and enjoy their time outdoors. Parents value the park's clean and well-organized amenities, such as restrooms, picnic areas, and drinking fountains, which contribute to a hassle-free outing. The park's educational zones, like the butterfly garden and nature study field, provide interactive and educational experiences for children, fostering a connection with nature and promoting environmental awareness. This

combination of play and learning opportunities makes Seoul Forest Park a favoured destination for family outings.

Cultural enthusiasts and art lovers find Seoul Forest Park's cultural and arts park area particularly compelling. The amphitheatres and open-air stages host a variety of cultural events, including concerts, performances, and festivals. These events draw diverse audiences and provide a platform for artistic expression, enriching the cultural fabric of the community. The strategically placed art installations and sculptures add to the park's aesthetic charm and offer thought-provoking experiences. Visitors often express appreciation for the park's role in promoting cultural activities and providing a venue for community engagement. The blend of natural beauty and cultural offerings creates a unique and enriching experience that resonates with many users.

Another significant aspect highlighted by users is the park's accessibility and convenience. Located in a central area of Seoul, the park is easily reachable by various modes of public transportation, including the subway and bus services. The proximity to major transportation hubs ensures that visitors can conveniently access the park without the need for private vehicles. Within the park, clear signage and well-placed amenities such as restrooms, drinking fountains, and seating areas enhance the visitor experience. The availability of these facilities ensures that visitors can enjoy their time in the park comfortably and without inconvenience. Additionally, the park's design, which includes accessible paths and facilities, ensures that it is welcoming to all visitors, including those with mobility challenges.

Many users also express appreciation for the park's commitment to environmental sustainability and ecological conservation. The diverse plant life, including native trees, shrubs, and flowers, supports local biodiversity and provides habitat for various wildlife species. The ecological forest and wetlands areas are particularly valued for their role in preserving natural habitats and promoting environmental education. Visitors often commend the park's efforts in maintaining these natural areas and providing opportunities for nature study and observation. The park's educational programs and interactive exhibits further enhance visitors' understanding of ecological principles and the importance of environmental stewardship. This focus on sustainability resonates with environmentally conscious visitors and enhances the park's reputation as a model of urban ecological design.

3.2 Comparative Analysis

Seoul Forest Park and KLCC Park are two prominent urban parks situated in highly urbanized areas—Seoul, South Korea, and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, respectively. Both parks serve as crucial green spaces in their cities, providing recreational opportunities, enhancing urban biodiversity, and contributing to the well-being of city residents. This comparative analysis explores the design, functionality, user engagement, and ecological impact of these parks to identify similarities, differences, and areas of improvement.

Table 1 Comparative Analysis between Seoul Forest Park and KLCC Park

Aspect	Seoul Forest Park	KLCC Park	Comparative Insights
Design and Layout			
Size and Zones	Seoul Forest Park covers approximately 1.16 million square meters and is divided into five main zones: the Cultural Art Park, Ecological Forest, Nature Experiencing Study Field, Wetlands Ecological Field, and Hangang Riverside Park.	KLCC Park spans 50 acres (approximately 202,000 square meters) and is primarily designed around the iconic Petronas Twin Towers. Key features include a man-made lake (Lake Symphony), walking paths, a children's playground, and a jogging track.	Both parks excel in creating accessible and inviting urban green spaces. Seoul Forest Park's larger size allows for more diverse zones and activities, while KLCC Park's design around a central landmark enhances its accessibility and aesthetic appeal.
Design Philosophy	The design emphasizes a balance between natural and built environments, integrating ecological conservation with recreational facilities. The park features themed gardens, ecological fields, boardwalks, and cultural venues.	Designed by Brazilian landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx, KLCC Park focuses on creating a lush tropical garden in the heart of the city. The park integrates water features, sculptures, and a variety of tropical flora to create a serene urban oasis.	
Accessibility	The park is well-connected to public transportation, with multiple access points and pathways that facilitate movement across different zones.	KLCC Park is easily accessible from the surrounding commercial and residential areas, with pathways and pedestrian bridges connecting it to adjacent shopping malls and public transportation hubs.	
Functionality and User Engagement			
Recreational Facilities	Offers a wide range of recreational activities, including jogging, cycling, picnicking, and cultural events. The park hosts art exhibitions, concerts, and educational programs that attract diverse user groups.	Features a two-acre children's playground, a 1.3-kilometer jogging track, and the Lake Symphony with its daily water fountain shows. The park also provides open spaces for relaxation and picnicking.	Seoul Forest Park has a more extensive range of community engagement programs and recreational facilities, making it a dynamic space for cultural and social activities. KLCC Park, while offering fewer structured programs, benefits from its prime location and serves as a key recreational area for both locals and tourists.
Community Engagement	Actively involves the community through volunteer programs, environmental education initiatives, and cultural festivals. The park is a popular venue for social gatherings and outdoor events.	While KLCC Park offers fewer structured community programs compared to Seoul Forest Park, it is a central gathering spot for locals and tourists alike. Events and performances at the adjacent Petronas Towers often spill over into the park.	

User Amenities	Well-equipped with amenities such as restrooms, cafes, information centers, and rental facilities for bicycles and sports equipment.	Includes amenities such as restrooms, a visitors' center, benches, and drinking fountains. The park's design prioritizes accessibility and comfort for all visitors.
Ecological Impact		
Biodiversity	The park is home to diverse plant and animal species, particularly in the Ecological Forest and Wetlands Ecological Field. Efforts to restore and preserve native habitats are evident in the park's design and management.	Hosts a variety of tropical plants and trees, creating a green lung in the city center. The park's landscape design enhances urban biodiversity by providing habitats for birds and insects.
Environmental Education	Promotes environmental awareness through educational programs, guided tours, and interactive exhibits. The park serves as a living laboratory for schools and universities.	Limited educational programs compared to Seoul Forest Park. However, interpretive signage throughout the park educates visitors about the flora and the importance of urban green spaces.
Sustainability	Emphasizes sustainable practices such as water conservation, waste management, and the use of renewable energy sources in some park facilities.	Both parks incorporate sustainable practices, but Seoul Forest Park's approach is more holistic, integrating environmental conservation efforts into its design and management. KLCC Park focuses on sustainable landscaping and water management, enhancing its role as a green lung in the city.

Seoul Forest Park and KLCC Park are exemplary models of urban green spaces, each with unique strengths and contributions to their cities. Seoul Forest Park stands out for its comprehensive design, extensive community engagement, and ecological focus, making it a multifunctional urban oasis. KLCC Park, with its strategic location and lush design, provides a tranquil retreat and enhances the urban landscape of Kuala Lumpur. Both parks highlight the importance of integrating nature into urban environments, offering valuable lessons for future urban park developments.

This discussion highlights the transformative impact of Seoul Forest Park on its community, emphasizing its role as a catalyst for urban sustainability and quality of life improvement through thoughtful design and inclusive programming. Seoul Forest Park stands as a testament to effective urban planning and design, integrating natural landscapes with carefully crafted man-made features to create a multifunctional urban space. This discussion explores how the park's design elements, including softscape and hardscape components, contribute to enhancing the quality of life for

residents and visitors alike, while promoting environmental stewardship and community cohesion. Seoul Forest Park is distinguished by its seamless integration of natural elements, such as themed gardens and ecological fields, with hardscape features like pathways, boardwalks, and cultural venues. The park's design emphasizes sustainability and biodiversity conservation, providing habitats for local flora and fauna amidst an urban setting. Themed gardens, ranging from traditional Korean landscapes to modern botanical showcases, offer visitors opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and environmental education. These softscape elements not only beautify the park but also serve as educational platforms, promoting awareness of indigenous plant species and ecological principles.

One of the park's primary impacts on the community is its contribution to physical and mental well-being. Seoul Forest Park provides ample space for outdoor activities such as walking, jogging, cycling, and picnicking, encouraging physical exercise and promoting a healthy lifestyle among residents. The presence of green spaces has been linked to improved mental health outcomes, reducing stress levels and enhancing overall quality of life (Gascon et al., 2016). By offering tranquil settings and recreational facilities amidst natural surroundings, the park serves as a retreat from the hustle and bustle of urban life, fostering relaxation and rejuvenation. Seoul Forest Park plays a pivotal role in fostering community cohesion through its diverse social and cultural offerings. The park serves as a gathering place for residents of all ages and backgrounds, hosting events ranging from outdoor concerts and art exhibitions to educational workshops and community festivals. These cultural venues not only promote local arts and heritage but also strengthen social bonds among community members. The park's inclusive design ensures accessibility for all, providing barrier-free pathways and facilities that accommodate diverse needs and preferences.

Educational initiatives within Seoul Forest Park promote environmental awareness and conservation efforts among visitors. Interpretive signage, guided tours, and interactive exhibits educate the public about the park's ecosystems, wildlife habitats, and sustainable practices. By engaging visitors in hands-on learning experiences, the park cultivates a sense of environmental responsibility and encourages proactive conservation measures within the community. This educational approach not only enriches visitor experiences but also reinforces the park's role as a model of urban sustainability. Seoul Forest Park exemplifies best practices in urban planning and design, offering a harmonious blend of natural landscapes, recreational amenities, and cultural venues that enhance community well-being and environmental stewardship. The park's success lies in its ability to integrate softscape and hardscape elements to create a multifunctional space that meets diverse community needs. By promoting physical and mental well-being through outdoor activities, fostering community cohesion with social and cultural events, and advancing environmental education and conservation efforts, Seoul Forest Park contributes to a greener, healthier, and more sustainable urban environment. As cities worldwide face increasing urbanization pressures, the model set forth by Seoul Forest Park serves as an inspirational example of how green spaces can transform urban landscapes into vibrant and liveable communities.

4. CONCLUSION

Seoul Forest Park stands as a beacon of urban planning success, significantly enhancing the standard of living for city residents through its multifunctional attributes and community-focused initiatives. Serving as a verdant oasis amidst the bustling cityscape, the park not only provides essential recreational spaces but also integrates cultural, educational, and environmental components that enrich the lives of its visitors. Firstly, Seoul Forest Park contributes to physical and mental well-being by offering ample opportunities for outdoor activities such as walking, jogging, and cycling. These activities promote active lifestyles and contribute to improved public health outcomes, addressing urban challenges related to sedentary lifestyles and stress. Secondly, the park fosters a sense of

community by serving as a social hub where diverse groups converge for leisure and cultural events. Whether through family picnics, community festivals, or educational programs, Seoul Forest Park nurtures social connections and community cohesion, thereby enhancing the quality of life and sense of belonging among residents. Furthermore, Seoul Forest Park plays a pivotal role in environmental education and conservation. Its ecological zones, educational gardens, and wildlife habitats not only educate visitors about local flora and fauna but also instill a sense of environmental stewardship. This promotes sustainable practices and raises awareness about urban ecology, contributing to a greener and more sustainable city environment. In conclusion, Seoul Forest Park exemplifies how urban parks can improve the standard of living in cities by providing spaces that promote physical activity, social interaction, cultural enrichment, and environmental awareness. As a case study in urban park development, its success underscores the importance of integrating nature into urban planning to create vibrant, healthy, and livable cities for current and future generations.

Future research should explore innovative approaches to urban park design, management, and governance in diverse urban contexts. Embracing technology, citizen science, and interdisciplinary collaborations can enhance our understanding of urban nature dynamics and inform evidence-based policies for sustainable urban development (Alberti et al., 2017). Seoul Forest Park exemplifies the transformative potential of urban nature in fostering sustainable cities. By integrating ecological conservation with cultural and recreational amenities, the park enhances urban resilience and quality of life for residents. As cities continue to grow, investing in green spaces like Seoul Forest Park is essential for promoting environmental sustainability, social equity, and human well-being in urban environments.

5. REFERENCES

- Ab Rahman, S. A., Bachok, S., & Mahamod, L. H. 2023. Effects Of Travel Characteristics On Tourism Expenditure: A Case Study Of Malaysia Young Outbound Tourists. *Planning Malaysia*, 21(25). <https://doi.org/10.21837/pm.v21i25.1233>
- Ahmad Shafee, F.A. & Kamaruddin, S.M. 2019. The effective characteristics of an urban park through visitors perception. Case Study KLCC Park. *Built Environment Journal*, 16(2): 1-14
- Alberti, M., 2017. Urbanization and the ecology of wildlife diseases. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*, 32(1): 66-77.
- Alidi, A. & Ismail, N.A., 2019. The relationship between KLCC park characteristics and users feeling. *Pertanika Journal of Social Science and Humanities*, 27(2): 987–992.
- Amir, S., Azizan, A., Zahari, R. K., & Asmawi, M. Z. (2020). Urban Public Space as Social Interaction Space: Case Study in Petaling Street. *Journal of Tourism, Hospitality and Environment Management*, 5 (19), 90-101. DOI: 10.35631/JTHEM.519007
- Amir, S., Mohamed Osman, M., Bachok, S., & Ibrahim, M. 2014. Understanding Of Tourists Preferences Pattern: A Study In Melaka, Malaysia. *Planning Malaysia*, 12(3). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21837/Pm.V12i3.133>
- Azenan, M.F., Rahman, S.A.A. & Mahamod, L.H. 2021. The visitors' satisfaction visiting Kuala Lumpur and Selangor recreational parks. *Journal of Tourism, Hospitality & Culinary Arts*, 13(2): 72-84.
- Benita, F., Bansal, G., Tuncer, B., 2019. Public Spaces And Happiness: Evidence From A Large-Scale Field Experiment. *Health Place*, 56: 9-18.
- Chen, H., Qiu, L., Gao, T., 2019. Application Of The Eight Perceived Sensory Dimensions As A Tool For Urban Green Space Assessment And Planning In China. *Urban For. Urban Green*, 40, 224-235
- Chiesura, A. 2004. The role of urban parks for the sustainable city. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 68(1): 129-138.

- Davies, C., & Laforteza, R. 2020. Urban green infrastructure in Europe: Is greenspace planning and policy forgotten in the face of climate change? *Environmental Research*, 184.
- Gascon, M., 2016. Mental health benefits of long-term exposure to residential green and blue spaces: A systematic review. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 13(4).
- Kabisch, N., 2017. Nature-based solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation in urban areas: Perspectives on indicators, knowledge gaps, barriers, and opportunities for action. *Ecology and Society*, 22(2).
- Liao, J., Kang, J., Hsu, C.H., Shoji, Y., Kubo, T. 2025. Day-night visitor usage of urban parks: Exploring temporal dynamics and driving factors through mobile phone big data. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 107. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2025.128818>.
- Mahamod, L.K., Ab Rahman, S.A. & Ahmad, A.B. 2021, Perspectives on Malaysia's lack of implementation of green back lanes. *Planning Malaysia*, 19(4): 304-315