

Facilities in City Parks Can Increase the number of Visits

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Abstract

City parks provide recreational space and social interaction in urban areas. One park that has great potential is Bulak Teko Indah Park in West Jakarta, which offers various facilities for visitors, especially families with children. This study aims to explore how improving facilities in this park can affect visitor visits. The method used is a qualitative descriptive approach with in-depth interviews, participant observation, and documentation. Data were collected from 15 visitors and three park managers. The results showed that better facilities, such as safe play equipment, sports space, and comfortable seating, played a significant role in increasing comfort and extending the duration of visits. Safety was the main factor for families with children, while the diversity of facilities met the needs of various groups. However, there was input to increase the number of seats and improve the cleanliness of the park. Based on these findings, park managers are advised to add educational facilities, improve cleanliness, and improve accessibility for visitors with special needs. Thus, Bulak Teko Indah Park can become a more attractive and beneficial recreational destination for the community and support the development of a more inclusive and sustainable city park.

Keywords: city parks, facilities, visits

Introduction

A city park is an open area located in or around an urban area designed to provide recreation, entertainment, and social interaction for the community (Zhao et al., 2024). A city park is generally equipped with various facilities such as seating, pedestrian paths, flower gardens, and sports facilities that can be used by visitors of all ages (Abdelhamid & Elfakharany, 2020). The primary purpose of a city park is to provide a refreshing space, improve the quality of the urban environment, and be a place for people to relax, exercise, or do social activities (Cui et al., 2024). In addition to recreational and social functions, city parks also have an essential role in maintaining the balance of the urban ecosystem by providing

green open spaces that can reduce air pollution, improve air quality, and provide a place for flora and fauna (Bahriny & Bell, 2020).

City parks are one of the important elements in sustainable development efforts in big cities (Selanon & Chuangchai, 2024) by balancing infrastructure development with the community's need for healthy, green open spaces (Hidayat & Husaini, 2022). One of the factors that can increase visits to city parks is good facilities that can be the main attraction, especially for families with children (Zhang & Zhou, 2018). Families often look for a safe and fun place for their children, and adequate facilities can be an ideal choice for that (Zhan et al., 2021). With good facilities, this park has the potential to become a favourite destination for families who want a fun and valuable recreational experience (Cohen et al., 2020).

Bulak Teko Indah Park is one of the public spaces in Kalideres District, West Jakarta, Indonesia. This park has great potential to become a recreational destination for various groups with facilities that visitors can enjoy, including various outdoor fitness equipment, multipurpose fields, prayer rooms, and seating. Visitors who bring their families and friends can enjoy time together with various activities in the park, indirectly increasing their visit duration. Longer time in the park will give visitors a more in-depth and memorable experience. This park can be used for various activities such as picnics, community events, and educational activities to become a dynamic and inclusive centre for the community.

The importance of improving facilities in city parks is also related to accessibility and safety (Sugiyama et al., 2023). Updated and safe facilities will facilitate access for various groups, including children with special needs or parents with small children. With maintained security and well-maintained facilities, visitors will feel more comfortable and safe while in the park (Lapham et al., 2015). This will undoubtedly increase visitors' comfort and their desire to visit again. This study aims to examine how better city park facilities can increase visits and positively impact park management and visitor experience.

Literature Review

A city park is a green open space in the middle of an urban area. It is designed to provide a place for recreation, relaxation, and social activities for the community, in addition to functioning as an open space that is useful for improving air quality, reducing pollution, and providing space for physical activities such as jogging, cycling, or playing, city parks also act as a balance between urban development and nature (Haq, 2011). City parks are usually equipped with elements such as green plants, trees, flowers, and grass to beautify the park while providing oxygen, public facilities such as footpaths, benches, children's play areas, and sports parks, and space for social and cultural activities such as community events, art performances, or markets (Wilson et al., 2024). In addition, city parks are often designed to be integrated with the surrounding environment, such as pedestrian paths or public transportation access, making them not only comfortable places to rest but also important for creating a balance between nature and urban development and improving the quality of life of its residents (Tanwir et al., 2024).

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City park facilities Refer to various elements or facilities in a city park to support the recreational, social, and physical activities of its visitors; these facilities are designed to improve the comfort, safety, and involvement of the community in various activities in the green open space (Wiranata et al., 2020). Some public facilities in city parks include pedestrian paths, benches or seats, children's play areas, sports parks, parking lots, public toilets, and facilities for people with disabilities (Sugiyama et al., 2023). City parks are also often equipped with aesthetic elements such as statues, fountains, or flower gardens and facilities for community activities such as open stages, art performance areas, or open spaces for markets or festivals (Selanon & Chuangchai, 2023). These facilities aim to create a comfortable and attractive atmosphere for the community, encourage social interaction, and improve a healthy lifestyle in urban environments (Aristyowati et al., 2024).

Research Method

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach to understand how improving facilities at Taman Bulak Teko Indah can affect visitor visits, especially families with children. Using qualitative methods, the researcher seeks to explore visitors' perceptions and experiences related to existing facilities and their impact on their decision to visit the park. This approach will focus on an in-depth understanding of how existing facilities affect visitors' comfort and satisfaction and their contribution to their recreational experience.

This study will use several techniques to collect data, such as in-depth interviews with visitors and park managers. In-depth interviews allow researchers to explore the personal views and expectations of visitors regarding park facilities. In addition, participant observation will be conducted in the park to see firsthand how visitors interact with existing facilities and observe the duration of visits and activities carried out in the park. This technique provides an understanding of the daily use of facilities and provides insight into aspects of comfort and safety visitors feel.

By combining interviews, observations, and documentation, researchers can obtain more holistic data on the impact of facility improvements on visitor visits and experiences at Taman Bulak Teko Indah. The collected data will be analyzed using thematic analysis, where researchers will identify key themes that emerge from the data obtained. The data coding process will be carried out to group information based on relevant themes, such as safety, comfort, and the social impact of facilities. These findings will provide a further understanding of the factors that influence visitor visits and how better facilities can improve their experience at the park.

Result and Discussion

This study aims to explore how improving facilities at Bulak Teko Indah Park can affect visitor visits, especially families with children. Based on in-depth interviews conducted with 15 visitors and 3 park managers and on-site participant observation, this study successfully identified several findings that illustrate how existing facilities affect visitor comfort,

satisfaction, and duration of visit. The study results indicate that better facilities, especially those that focus on safety and comfort, play a significant role in attracting visitor interest and extending the duration of their visit to the park.

From the interview results, most of the visitors who were met said that they were very satisfied with the facilities in Bulak Teko Indah Park. Safety is a significant factor in choosing a recreation area for families with children. Facilities such as spiral slides, swings, and other interactive play equipment are considered safe and fun. Some parents said that they felt calmer letting their children play in the park area because the facilities were well-maintained and minimized the risk of injury. These safe facilities make parents feel more comfortable in the park because they can connect with their children more easily without worrying about their safety.

In addition to security, the variety of facilities is also an important factor that makes visitors stay longer. Based on interviews, many visitors stated that they spent more time in the park because of the facilities that all family members can enjoy. The children's play area is the centre of attention. However, the park also has outdoor fitness equipment, a multipurpose field, and comfortable seating for parents who want to relax while watching their children. With more diverse facilities, the park is able to meet the recreational needs of various groups, from children to adults, in terms of the length of their visit.

The results of participant observation showed that visitors tend to spend more time in the parking area, with children actively playing in the various facilities available. Several families were seen bringing food and drinks from home, enjoying time together while their children played. In addition, several visitors were also seen interacting with other visitors, showing that Taman Bulak Teko Indah has developed into more than just a playground. This park has also become a place for the community to gather, interact, and enjoy time with family. The researcher noted that most visitors on weekends and holidays tend to spend more time in the park because of the more complete facilities and the supportive atmosphere for relaxing with family.

Many visitors were satisfied with the existing facilities; some also gave constructive feedback. Some visitors expressed that they felt that the seating available around the park area was still limited, especially on weekends or holidays when there were more visitors. They hoped that there would be more comfortable seating for parents who wanted to supervise their children without having to stand. In addition, there were some visitors who wanted to improve cleanliness in several areas of the park, such as around the play facilities and dining area. Although the park is already clean overall, with the increasing number of visitors, park management needs to pay more attention to cleanliness to maintain visitor comfort.

Documentation collected from the park facility YouTube shows significant efforts to improve the quality of the park. In recent years, the park manager has made significant improvements, especially in adding more modern and safe play equipment and supporting facilities such as prayer rooms and more seating. The park's annual report also noted increased monthly visitors, especially on weekends and holidays. This shows that the improvements to

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the facilities made by the park manager have succeeded in attracting more visitors and positively impacting their recreational experience.



Figure 1. Bulak Teko Indah Park

Sumber: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0PdOovcBxQ>

The park is already quite busy, and park management recognizes the importance of long-term planning to ensure that existing facilities can continue to meet visitor needs. Based on interviews with park management, they stated that visitor input is significant for the park's future development. Park management plans to continue improving facilities by adding more green space, improving hygiene facilities, and more interactive and educational facilities for children. They also plan to improve the park's accessibility for visitors with special needs so that all levels of society can enjoy the park.

Based on the thematic analysis, several main themes emerged from the data collected: First, safety and comfort are the main factors influencing visitors' decisions to visit the park. The safety of the facilities greatly influences parents' decisions when choosing the park as a place for family recreation. In addition, social impact is also an important theme, where visitors feel more connected to each other through the interactions that occur in the park. This park is not only a place to play but also a place to gather and socialize with the local community. Finally, accessibility and cleanliness are factors that need to be considered, although this park is quite good in terms of cleanliness, with the increasing number of visitors, managers need to continue to maintain the facilities so that they remain clean and comfortable.

This study shows that improving facilities has positively impacted visitor visits, especially families with children. More modern, safe, and complete facilities not only increase visitor comfort but also extend the duration of their visit. This makes Taman Bulak Teko Indah an attractive recreation choice for families. However, to continue to maintain and increase the number of visits, park managers need to pay attention to suggestions and input from visitors regarding cleanliness and comfort facilities, and continue to innovate by introducing new facilities that are more interesting and educational.

Previous research on city park facilities and their influence on visits shows that various types of facilities play an important role in attracting visitors. Stewart et al. (2018) found that a variety of physical facilities, such as pedestrian paths, seating, and sports areas, can increase the frequency of visits, especially for families and young groups. Kim and Bachman (2021) also emphasized the importance of facilities that support comfort, such as shaded seating and clean toilets, which increase visitor satisfaction levels and affect visit frequency. McCormack et al. (2023) showed that city parks with facilities for all age groups, such as sports areas and children's playgrounds, can increase community participation in physical and social activities. Kabisch & Kraemer (2020) stated that environmental factors, such as cleanliness and quality of facilities, greatly influence visitors' decisions to return, while Yuniastuti & Hasibuan (2019), in a case study in Jakarta, revealed that city parks with family-friendly facilities and easy access showed high levels of visits.

Conclusion

This study shows that improving facilities at Taman Bulak Teko Indah has succeeded in attracting more visitors, especially families with children. Safer, more modern, and more diverse facilities, such as play equipment and sports rooms, increase visitor comfort and satisfaction. The primary safety factor for parents in choosing a recreation area is that diverse facilities allow visitors of all ages to enjoy a longer time in the park. However, some suggestions from visitors regarding the addition of seating and improving cleanliness need to be considered to maintain comfort.

Park management is advised to add more comfortable seating, improve certain areas' cleanliness, and provide educational and interactive facilities for children. In addition, increasing accessibility for visitors with special needs and long-term planning for sustainable park development is essential. By considering these inputs, Bulak Teko Indah Park can become more inclusive and attractive so that it continues to be a favourite recreation choice for the community.

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