



## PROVIDING A THEORETICAL MODEL FOR EVALUATING URBAN MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE IN GREEN SPACES AND URBAN PARKS DEVELOPMENT - CASE STUDY: BEHBAHAN, IRAN

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### **Abstract:**

Urban green space is part of an open urban landscape covered by trees, lawns and other plants that are constructed based on human monitoring and management, taking into account the rules and regulations related to improving the living conditions, habitat and welfare of citizens. The city's green space is divided into public green spaces, semi-public green space, and street green space. Parks are classified according to their identity, importance, scale, and sphere of influence and function. In the review of thoughts and ideas about green spaces in new urbanization, three patterns and views were emerging in new ideas. The perspective of the progressive urbanists, the viewpoint of the urbanist planners, and the view of the nature-oriented urbanists, with differences in attitudes towards urban green spaces over the past 100 years result in formation and creation of specific species of parks and green spaces in cities. In this research, we tried to provide a theoretical model for evaluating urban management performance in green spaces and urban parks development of Behbahan city by review the existing literature.

**Keywords:** urban management, green spaces, urban parks, Behbahan

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## 1. Introduction

After the industrial revolution, and with the transformation of livelihood, the agricultural community was transformed into an industrial society, followed by large-scale migration from village to city, the population of cities was increased, and consequently the ecological balance of the cities was transformed by the excessive growth of urbanization and the economic and social needs of urban populations (Sozanchi, 2006:5). In fact, the increasing expansion of cities in all countries of the world, including in Iran, is an inevitable consequence of the age of knowledge and technology. Today, the expansion of cities, especially large cities in the Third World, has exacerbated the negative effects of urban development, which is the most intensive environmental pollution exacerbation.

The growing urbanization and urban development have a direct relationship with the expansion of the city. The physical development of cities is a distant nature and disconnects human relationships with the natural environment. Urban inclement and unsustainable development leads to increased marginalization, degradation of urban green areas and rising demand for urban land those grounds for the destruction of inland urban green spaces and land use change (Kamalifard, 2011:4).

In addition, urban population growth has, in turn, led to issues such as traffic jams, airborne lead production, industrial workshops, and urban disturbance, as well as pollution, increased volumes of waste, and the creation of various diseases and germs; in a way, these dilemmas have led scholars and planners to make a difference. One of the solutions to solving environmental problems and making the urban environment more accessible for citizens is to create a green urban environment (Naghizadeh, 2004:29). Considering the importance of parks in urban space, the ability to create urban parks, having a budget and adequate opportunity to service, distribute and locate suitable uses, proper use of spaces, adherence to neighborhoods, and perceptions and standards should be considered. The suitability of the green space in quantitative and qualitative terms with the physical size of the city (buildings, streets and roads) and the needs of the community (psychologically, leisure and health needs) with regard to the city's ecological conditions and its future development process should be noted (Majnoniyan, 1995:45). The incorrect location of urban green spaces has ultimately led to abnormalities such as the low use of green space by users, the limitation of the choice of appropriate plant layout, urban disturbance, irrigation and soil improvement problems, proper social imbalances, problems management and maintenance, reducing mental and social security, and so on (Adibi, 2005: 74). Urban green space is a kind of urban land use level with human vegetation that has social and ecological productivity (Saeedniya, 2000:29). Considering the importance of green space and its impact on improving the quality of urban spaces, improving the environmental aspects and urban life, and increasing the urban health and well-being, studying the status of urban green spaces with a revision of methods, standards and per capita in recent years. Attention has been given to urban planners, geographers and environmental experts. The green

space issue is a requirement for urban living, as it has a direct impact on the environment, such as stretching the air and adjusting the temperature to anesthetize the city and to maintain the peace and happiness of the citizens (Hataminezhad, Emranzadeh, 2010: 72).

Green spaces are considered respiratory lungs of the city. The most important way to modify environmental degradation is to develop green space. Green space, due to its various functions, plays an important role in the city's beauty and aesthetics, cleanliness and airbrushing, reducing the effects of pollution, preventing the inadequate development of construction and recreation and rest. Several statistics are presented globally, reflecting the fact that the existence of green space, especially in densely populated urban areas, in addition to physical health, leads to more relaxed, more productive work and quality. Having green and per capita space as one of the development indicators in the countries is considered. The UN-designated per capita index is 20 to 25 m<sup>2</sup> per person (Tavahen, 2004).

The importance of urban green space in its life and its physical and natural and social impacts in the urban system is undeniable, therefore, the use of green space in cities, its proportional distribution and the per capita allocated to it based on the population's needs of one essential topic are considered in urban planning and management (Ahmadi et al., 2011:2).

The notable issue of Behbahan city is the uneven distribution of green space in different parts of the city. Investigating the spatial conditions, distribution of water resources, soil and other factors of the development of green space and their changes in the assessment of the process of municipalities is important. In Behbahan city, the recreational spaces and the green space and the relative per capita of parks have not been paid much attention and the psychological and psychological well-being of the inhabitants of the population has shaken. Therefore, knowing the quantity and quality of these spaces in Behbahan can play an effective role in urban planning. Considering the issues stated in the present research, we have tried to provide a theoretical model for evaluating urban management performance in green spaces and urban parks development of Behbahan city by review the existing literature.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Space and its types

**Urban green space:** urban green spaces include all natural or artificial environments covered by plants, where the productivity of their natural gifts is considered by humans (the Office of Management and Planning of the Ministry of Iran, 2001).

**Public green spaces:** urban green spaces that are socially viable, from these green spaces are commonly referred to as parks.

**Semi-public green spaces:** green spaces that have ecological efficiency, but their users are more restricted than public spaces. Open areas of hospitals, barracks and government offices, etc. are in this category.

**Street green spaces:** street green spaces are a kind of urban green space that typically forms a narrow margin of margin between the sidewalks and sidewalks, or concentrated centrally in relatively small spaces or on landscapes around highways and streets (Saeedniya, 2004: 24).

## 2.2 Parks and its types

The park is a public green space designed to be part of urban spaces.

### 2.2.1 Parks classification based on identity

Parks are divided according to their identity into park parks and urban parks.

**Forest Park:** is a park with trees that plays a larger and more important role than other elements used in its design. And for the construction of these parks, the principles of forestry are followed and their overall identity is normal.

**Man-made park:** A park built using human engineering methods and methods to create specimens of nature within cities.

**Parks classification based on the importance, scale, and sphere of influence:** For parks, another classification is presented based on the importance of their scale and their sphere of influence. Accordingly, parks are divided into international parks, national parks, and urban parks, which are defined as follows:

**International Park:** These parks have special internal elements that protect them from the importance and value of the international so that it goes beyond the boundaries of a country.

**National Park:** These parks are part of the national territory, which is rich in natural elements and landscapes, is important in the country and its maintenance and protection from different aspects of zoology, botanical, historic and important reminders require a large amount of attention. Also, these parks are of interest to people throughout the country. National parks themselves have a variety of types as follows:

**Memorial National Parks** - These parks are created and named to commemorate a person or a historical event.

**Historic Works National Parks** - These parks are constructed and maintained for the preservation and exploitation of historical works and the use of visitors. These works may be made by human hands or from natural history products.

**Military National Parks** - These parks relate to training and military training fields, maneuvers and stockpiles of weapons, which, even if not used, are required to continue their duties as a national park.

**Reserves National Parks** - These parks are established in order to preserve genetic resources, ecosystems and rare and most important species of life, and under the pretext of never being confined within its boundaries, such as Golestan National Park.

**Urban Park:** Parks in the area of a city which are called urban parks. Urban parks are divided into a neighborhood park, district area park, regional park, and ultracity park based on scale and area of influence.

**Neighborhood Park:** is a park with an area of fewer than 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> and a radius of penetration of 100 meters. Its users are often the age group of children and adolescents; hence, sometimes called the children's park. Access to this park should be possible by foot so that a 9-year-old child can go the longest path to the park's point of influence. Also, it is necessary for the child to not cross the hardline road while walking.

**District Park:** The area of the neighborhood park varies from 5000 m<sup>2</sup> to 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> and the radius of the sphere of influence is estimated at 1000 meters. Access to the park is also possible with a pedestrian walkway so that a 9-year-old child can go the most distant point in the neighborhood to the park. On this route, he can cross the runaway street, but he must not cross very radical routes.

**Area Park:** The area of the park is 2 to 4 times the size of the neighborhood park (from 50,000 to 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>). The radius of its sphere of influence is estimated to be 2000 m, and visitors can reach the farthest center of the area by foot and within a few minutes to the park. They may go through different paths along the way.

**Regional Park** - The area of the regional park is from 100,000 m<sup>2</sup> to 200,000 m<sup>2</sup>, twice the area of the park and its radius of influence is estimated at 4,000 meters. Access to the park is possible with the use of vehicles so that from the outermost point of the area to the park can be reached in 15 minutes or more.

**Ultracity Park:** (or huge parks) these parks have an area of more than 20 hectares and their sphere of influence can be part of the city or all of it. These parks are used to get people out of the air pollution and crowds of the city. Access to these parks is possible with the use of vehicles. Parts of these parks can also access the road, if needed, to people displaced. In general, one of these parks is needed for every 50,000 people.

**Parks classification based on performance:** Based on the main function of the park, parks can be classified, which are referred to below:

**Recreational Park:** A park where recreation and recreation are the main targets of visitors. In these parks, there are places and places to meet the people's recreational needs, such as playground, recreation pool and...

**Commercial Park:** is a park whose interior space is mainly composed of commercial premises, and the main purpose of the visitors is the establishment of commercial communications, such as International Exhibition.

**Industrial Park:** These parks are being built in industrial plants and factories, and they are not recreational for the general public, because the main purpose of their construction is to reduce the air pollution caused by industrial activities.

**Sports Park:** A park designed to enhance sporting abilities, as well as landscaping landscapes and sports grounds such as Sports Complex.

**Science Park:** A park designed to create and increase scientific capabilities, gathering and scientific thought in a city. The purpose of the construction of these parks is to establish links between different scientific collections, such as Science and Technology Park.

**Educational Park:** The main purpose of the construction or use of these parks is learning. This training can be in the field of science (Botanical gardens or eco-parks),

cultural (book garden) and social (traffic park) (Urban green spaces design criteria, 2010:11).

### **2.3 Green space functions**

The quality of green space is the basis of the functioning of the ecosystem of the city. Public parks and private gardens play a decisive role in supporting biodiversity and an important supplier of ecosystem services in urban areas. Apart from the importance of ecological assistance in air and water refinement, wind and sound purifiers, or weather stabilizers, the areas also provide social assistance and psychology in cities. Which shows the importance of creating and benefiting from urban green space.

Oskerder (1991) showed that the natural environment induces relaxation of the vegetation and water, and less disturbance in viewers than the urban landscape without plant life. This ability of natural elements to act as "natural habitats" is an advantage in urban areas. In addition to the health, mental and beauty benefits, the city's natural landscape can also have social benefits. The use of outer space will strengthen the social and mutual relations between neighbors. Green space in addition to the above can have economic effects for the city, for example, air pollution by trees will reduce the cost of pollution and the degree of prevention. In addition, the beauty, historical and recreational value of urban parks increases the attractiveness of the city and serves as a tourist destination.

#### **2.3.1 The mental and inner effects of urban green spaces**

The existence of green spaces has a great impact on the level of life satisfaction, living conditions, health, happiness, and inner well-being, and plays an important role in improving the quality of life. Green spaces have a great influence on the senses of smell, vision, hearing, touch, and taste, and have a very strong connection with humans, and it is very beneficial in the sense of belonging and understanding of the environment. Olmsted in designing urban parks, confirms that humans need to be in close contact with nature. Various researches on the impact of this theory have shown that, if people share most of the time in close connection with a soft and quality perspective, during several generations, their benefits to their social behavior emerge. The natural environment for the human soul is the most relaxing one, which is not a replacement for it (Sirous, 2003:35). In addition to the need for quiet and quiet camps to satisfy many of the basic and physiological needs of a person, he alone relaxes and relaxes, and if this need is not met, he will feel tense and confronted. Creating green space makes the environment more transformative, creates better conditions for the development of individual abilities, the health of creativity and activity and the individual and social construct more than it will help to create a vibrant, creative community (Parks and Green Space Organization of Tehran, 2009: 3)

## **2.4 Exterior Impact of Urban Green Space**

Green space at an environmental and ecological level performs a wide range of applications, such as improving water quality, air, and soil, reducing sound levels, reducing the range of heat fluctuations, protecting against wind, reducing the transmission process, managing waste, improving sewage treatment. Surface, reducing flood risks and promoting biodiversity, etc. At the social level, high-capacity spaces for recreation and recreation will increase the physical and mental well-being of city residents, as well as spaces for activities, health, apprenticeships, socializing and sense of awareness. Moreover, they enhance the city's image, help define identity and prominent urban characteristics, and make cities more attractive and sustainable places to live and invest (Nahibi and Hasandokht, 2014:55).

## **2.5 Urban management**

The concept of urban management has a broad concept, but in the general summing up of the definitions of urban management, we can say that the urban management system is an extensive organization consisting of a system of formal and informal elements and components that are relevant and effective in various social domains, Economic and physical life of the city with the aim of managing, directing and controlling the city's comprehensive and sustainable development (Javadi, 2002:47). Today, the system faces many challenges, but despite the challenges facing urban management, citizens are now calling for the promotion of quality of life in all its dimensions. An inclusive society with a dynamic economy, respect for social justice, a solid, yet diverse culture, sustainable development and a secure urban environment for all of the public's demands of citizens. In fact, they want a more open, more comprehensive, and more efficient urban management system. Therefore, it must go hand in hand with the creation of a balance between traditional practices and new approaches to confronting challenges. By entering and passing through traditional practices, urban management in the world is now undergoing a major transformation, and cities are being managed so that they can provide the prosperity and comfort of their inhabitants. Today, the urban management of the world has a wide organization and plays the most important role in the success of various types of urban development programs and projects (Shi'e, 2001: 24).

## **2.6 Theories of green spaces in urban environments**

In the review of thoughts and ideas about green spaces in the new urban environment, there are three patterns and perspectives on new ideas that can be summarized as follows:

### **2.6.1 Green spaces from the perspective of "progressive urbanists"**

From the perspective of Toni Garnei in the design of the industrial city (1904), City Builders are required to provide lighting, ventilation and green space to citizens. Toni Garnei describes the city as a large national garden in this regard: At least half of the

land in the residential sector should be allocated to the green space (Ostrófski, 49, 1992). Le Corbusier believes that nine of the ten units needed to be inhabited should be nine units of green space because the green space in the cities is not only physiologically but also psychologically indisputable (Ghorbani et al., 2010). From the point of view and attitudes of the "Charter of Athens" and "Le Corbusier", the use of green space as one of the pillars of urbanization is defined and the responsibility of urban managers to maximize its attention and create an appropriate relationship between the volume and the green and free space, As the only formula that can solve a settlement problem, it is emphasized. The "Charter of Athens" also emphasizes the classification of leisure hours in three classes daily, weekly, and yearly, emphasizing the creation of green space around the house, region, and country, respectively. "Le Corbusier" considers the necessity of creating thousands of opportunities for healthy activities and useful development of the city's residents in an area surrounded by the city (Article 38), in the form of leisure-time spaces in the natural elements of the region, including mountains, rivers and valleys, and Lake, etc., subject to public transportation and the guarantee of safe access, guarantee of access to drinking water and food (articles 39 and 40). The Athenian Charter's emphasis plays the most important role in the development of the green spaces of the world's cities and explicitly predicts suitable environments for recreation in the field of urban planners (Article 89) (Ghorbani et al., 2010).

The "international style of parking" action is born of the ideas of "progressive urban planners."

### **2.6.2 Green spaces from the point of view of "cultural-oriented urbanists"**

In urban-oriented culture, "urban space" is referred to and fluidity of urban space (flexibility). Therefore, the pattern, the street is considered as the spine of the city, in which social encounters are carried out and gardening, along with the avoidance of "International style", the principle of integration and combination of uses in urban environments and creation of multifunctional environments, attention to pedestrian and pedestrian routes, "accessibility for all", city readability and the use of natural signs of The main points of the urbanization model are culture-oriented. Therefore, the ideas related to the greening of urban spheres, including squares and streets, are the result of the ideas of culture-oriented urbanists (Ghorbani et al., 2010).

### **2.6.3 Green spaces from the point of view of "nature-oriented urbanists"**

The ideas of the American antiterrorist movement in the twentieth century are crystallized into a new pattern. A pattern that comes close to the concept of the Chicago School of Nature and returns to urban ecology. Lewis Mumford proposes the concept of organic order in the city with the aim of sanitizing the urban environment (Ghorbani et al., 2010). By expanding the idea of a "balanced city," he develops the intellectual axis and the nature-oriented urban model. From the 1950s onwards, this led to the emergence of "green parties" in Western Europe and the initiation of moves to improve the urban environment. His emphasis on building town gardens and the new idea of



creating a "balanced region" instead of a "balanced city". The balanced region of Mumford, in the sense of a city in the region, is that the organic manifestation of social life in a balanced environment with small and large cities is in a bed of green and open spaces of the city. In the continuation of this pattern of thinking, in the past two decades, "*sustainable urban development has been described as*" green city "*(habitat city), (livable city), (makeshift city) and (environmental city)*" (Shakooi, 2003:268).

To the fullest, new urban planners, regardless of their different urbanization patterns, have a special place for green spaces in their plans, but unlike the urban planners, in the patterns of new urban planners, the green space is purely for the purpose of reducing the pollution target. The air is not the need of the working-class community, but other social, welfare, aesthetic goals, etc. are also considered. So the size of the parks is smaller, "*the place of the emergence of the green space does not include only parks, but also gardens, private gardens, green margins of cities and even streets and cemeteries.*" (Ghorbani et al., 2010) and moves begin to spread green space at urban levels. So, in summing up, the use of the ideas of contemporary urban planners, with or without regard to the indigenous needs of cities, can be expressed as follows: the physical visualization of the views of each set of contemporary urban planners in cities has led to the emergence of new forms or forms of green spaces, such as proportional parks. With different urban levels in the urban hierarchy, recreational parks and the creation of different levels of urban open spaces, green belts, green arches, green networks, and eco parks led to the creation of diversity in green spaces, ultimately necessitating the definition of categories. A new kind of green space was created.

### **3. Presenting the model**

This research with considering importance and situation of green spaces and its spatial distribution in cities, by means of the descriptive method, the green space is studied in Behbahan city. The first step was to use the library method to collect information related to urban green planning in the city. Considering the per capita comparison of Behbahan city with current standards and per capita, and making maps and diagrams related to the Behbahan green space quantitatively and analyzing them in terms of quality, the green space and how its geographical distribution in the city and the use of comments experts and relevant specialists, variables that affect the status of the parks seems can be categorized in four branches and 31 variables including: hygienic factor with 5 variables (Healthy Drinking Water, WC, Trash, Food Quality, Buffet & Continuous Park Improvement), physical access factor with 9 variables (close parking to the park, children's playground, motorcycle entrance possibility, the appropriate width of the main routes of the park, the possibility of the transfer of relief cars, disabled access, entry status, the absence of unfinished construction operations, the proportion of pedestrian and parking lines), physical safety factor with 12 variables (Existence of public telephone in the park, first aid boxes in the park, fire extinguisher capsules, standard furniture, children's playground, the presence of guide boards, the

lack of inappropriate barriers and the danger of echoing, night lighting system, the absence of dry trees and rotten, lack of disturbing animals (mice, dogs), lack of intruders and addicts at night, continuous monitoring and day-to-day surveillance), and sociocultural factor with 5 variables (Library status, celebrations, amphitheater status, people's cultural situation in the park and arts education).

**Table 1:** Research model

Indicators of green space in Behbahan city			
Safety	Sociocultural	Hygienic	Access
1. Public phone in the park area 2. First aid boxes in the parks 3. Fire extinguisher 4. Standard furniture 5. Children's playground 6. Help boards 7. Inappropriate and hazardous barriers 8. Night lighting system 9. Annoying animals 10. Dead and rotten trees 11. Intruders and addicted people at night 12. Continuous security around the clock	1. Library status 2. Holding ceremonies and celebrations 3. Amphitheater 4. Culture of people 5. Artistic training	1. Healthy drinking water 2. WC 3. Trash Bins 4. Continuous park cleaning 5. Food quality buffets	1. Place the car park in the adjoining park 2. Children's green space 3. The possibility of motorcycle entry 4. Appropriate width of the main park routes 5. Ability to drive vehicles 6. Access for disabled people 7. Input status 8. There is no unfinished construction work 9. Fit the lines of walnut and parking

#### 4. Conclusion

In this research, green space and its types and types of parks are mentioned, as well as the functions of urban green spaces, per capita and urban green space standards, urban green space regulations, and urban green space theory.

Of the three patterns and perspectives on new ideas that relate to green space, the viewpoint of the progressive urbanists is more consistent with Behbahan city for some reasons, including the confirmation of the concept of human species, the emphasis on aesthetics, attention to green space in the field of health, the use of new materials and non-compliance with the form of tradition, etc. In order to study the green space, we have considered the environmental, safety, accessibility, socio-cultural and environmental indicators, and for each of the indicators, we mentioned the relevant variables in order to evaluate the quality, quantity and amount of green space in Behbahan.

In this research, we tried to provide a theoretical model for evaluating urban management performance in green spaces and urban parks development of Behbahan city by review the existing literature. The results showed that effective factors for evaluating the performance of urban management in the development of green spaces and urban parks in Behbahan city can be categorized in four branches and 31 variables:

hygienic factor with 5 variables, physical access factor with 9 variables, physical safety factor with 12 variables, and sociocultural factor with 5 variables.

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