

Rapee Riyaphan 2012: Landscape Design of Wetland Botanical Garden with Community Participation: Eastern Plant Collection Center, Rayong Province. Master of Landscape Architecture, Major Field: Landscape Architecture, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Adviser: Associate Professor Uamporn Veessommai, M.A. 174 pages.

The objective of this study was to design a wetland botanical garden with the participation of the local community. The project area was in Chakpong, Klang, Rayong Province. The participation process included site survey, interviews, questionnaires, and four meetings with community stakeholders. In the first part of the process, the designer gathered desirable land uses, needs and preferences directly from community. The information was then evaluated and analyzed based on the principles of design before being used for formulating the design concept. In the latter part of the process, the community botanical garden was involved in selecting schematic plans and commenting on the design development, such that the design evolved in the direction the community intended.

The product of this study was the master plan for a wetland botanical garden. The plan followed the sustainable design approach requested by the community. Existing local plant materials were intensively used throughout the area to create a sense of locality to the landscape. Natural environments were preserved and rehabilitated. Construction in sensitive areas was strictly avoided. Visual approaches both on the land and from the water throughout the areas were carefully planned. Existing conditions on the island were maintained, but ecological walking trails were added to increase function in the area. The final plan divided the area into five zones: 1) services and recreation zone; 2) education and exhibition zone; 3) administration office zone; 4) research and experimentation zone; and 5) reserves and conservation zone.

The study demonstrated that community participation can be incorporated into the landscape design process. This is an approach that designers should take seriously. As this project has shown, incorporating a participation process into a development proposal not only can help avoid conflict but can also draw the community into moving the project forward to a reality.

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Thesis Advisor's signature