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| Thesis Title   | NECESSITY AND GUIDELINES FOR INCREASING<br>GREEN AREA IN URBAN RESIDENTIAL<br>COMMUNITYIES: A CASE OF BAN KRUE NOAR<br>COMMUNITY AND WAT SUVANNARAM COMMUNITY |
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## ABSTRACT

The present green-open-space policy in Bangkok has yet taken into consideration the crucial conditions and constraints of the community, such as the communal physical characteristics, socio-economic conditions and local needs. The policy, which assumes the responsibility to enhance the quality of life in the city, could hardly provide adequate and proper green space to meet the needs of the communities. This research thus aims to examine the physical and socio-economic conditions of the communities, which policy determines the needs and extent of utilization of the green areas among the urban residents. It also compares contextual factors between the Ban Krue Noar and the Wat Suvannaram community on the extent of demand and preferences for green areas and the feasibility to increase green open spaces. Taking the global-local environmental integration approach, the research examines a number of distinctive dimensions, namely, needs for green open space, environmental management, and public participation, from which the research identifies linkages among parameters, and establishes the research framework.

Questionnaire and field observation are utilized in the Ban Krue Noar- and Wat Suvannaram-community during the months of February and March 2006. Two hundred sample respondents from each community were interviewed. The study finds that the physical and socio-economic conditions significantly affect the level of local needs for

the green areas, and the possibility to establish the green open space within the community. In terms of local needs, density is one of the crucial physical factors determining the demand for the green areas. Respondents in the relatively higher density settlement expressed a higher demand for green open spaces. Expectation on types and forms of green areas and their structure of management depended much upon each dweller's familial socio-economic, (i.e., income, family size, land tenure, and domicile), community structure in which he/she lives, and his/her experience towards green open space and other environmental issues.

The unavailability of vacant land is the crucial constraint against the possibility to establish a green open space. Community with higher living density, usually having a greater demand for green areas, has very limited space available for support recreational activities. Communities with lower-density, on the contrary, have a greater potentiality to establish their own open space, depending upon their particular land use characteristics. The availability of vacant plots or plots owned by public/religious organizations could possibly be functioned as green open space. The existing green areas in the communities, however, is found not having sufficient space to accommodate the needed activities, under which circumstance, additional spaces either within or outside the communities might be needed to substitute.

A successful green area policy could be made possible by taking into account the specific residential needs, the local physical conditions, and the extent of land availability. The study finally proposes two aspects of guidelines for increasing the green areas—the management of existing green areas and the spatial arrangements of the community. The authority should establish and take action to enforce living density control, especially within high density areas. Under proper measures, authorities, in cooperated with other non-governmental agencies, should authorize communities to utilize available public open spaces in conjunction with community's needs. Connecting routes leading to alternative open green areas could be established to facilitate usages. The public sector should, likewise, play a crucial role to facilitate the local residence to participate in the planning and monitoring process of their green areas.