Neighborhood Parks and Precinct Spaces in HDB Housing Estates

by

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ABSTRACT:

Neighborhood parks and precinct spaces are two important public spaces in HDB neighborhood. They are not just open green spaces or spaces for the residents to have some outdoor activities, but also places for people to meet with each other, to have their communal lives in the neighborhood. Neighborhood parks and precinct spaces play significant roles in the environment of HDB neighborhood, in resident's recreation and social interaction.

However, for certain neighborhood parks and precinct spaces, the patronage by the residents are very low. As arenas for residents' outdoor activities, they fail in part of their functions. There are various possible reasons for these spaces for being under utilized. Among those factors which affect the usage of these spaces, the design factor is almost the most critical one. Some well-planned and designed neighborhood parks and precinct spaces are obviously more welcomed by the residents. Then, what are the main planning and design factors which affect the usage of a neighborhood park and a precinct space? What makes them successful or unsuccessful? Both are outdoor open spaces in HDB estates, how can neighborhood park and precinct space be integrated with each other?

This dissertation seeks to identify planning and design factors which affect the patronage of neighborhood park and precinct space. It also seeks to recommend ways of improving existing neighborhood parks and precinct spaces as well as to establish certain guidelines which may be useful for future developments.

As there is limited time given for the dissertation, any exhaustive survey and analysis of all neighborhood parks and precinct spaces is not possible. Hence, this dissertation will draw its observations, analysis, discussions and recommendations based on site visits, site analysis, and consultations as well as authoritative materials and studies written by professionals and academics. The methodology for the discussion is to identify the typology of neighborhood parks and precinct space through the case studies and to analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the different type. Finally, recommendations of the ideal types or ideal situations for neighborhood parks and precinct spaces are made.

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