SUMMARY

The limited resources and space affect governments' ability to provide amenities equally to citizens, there are therefore variations in availability and location of different social services among which are the urban parks. Due to the unequal distribution some residential areas are far from the parks while others closer. This research is about life satisfaction levels of residents in relation to their proximity to urban parks, and the diversity, that is, urban park's location with a mixture of non-residential and residential uses.

The main objective of the research is to find out whether proximity to urban parks has an effect of residents' satisfaction and whether the location of urban parks in mixed-use areas affects residents' satisfaction. To meet this objective, three different distance rings (*closest: 0 - 400 metre, closer: 400 - 800 metre and further: 800 metre - 1.6 km*) were assessed from residents' responses on the evaluation of the different locations. With the satisfaction related to diversity of mixed-use location, two categories were evaluated; an urban park within a residential and commercial area, and an urban park within a residential and cultural area, to determine which of these settings brings more satisfaction. To explain the significance/ insignificance of distance between urban parks and residential areas to residents' satisfaction, three neighbourhood indicators were used, these are the social, economic and physical features.

The study was conducted in Payakumbuh city, in Indonesia. This was an explanatory research which used quantitative approaches for data collection. The research strategy used was survey; 300 questionnaires were distributed and a response rate of 99.67% achieved. Respondents were selected through stratified random sampling. Questions were related to residents' perception of their satisfaction with the distance to urban parks from their residences, their opinion about the parks' location in the different mixed-use areas, and perception about neighbourhood features related to the presence of an urban park in their residential area. All this was done taking into consideration the demographic characteristics and personal background. Data obtained was analysed with use of Stata, statistics application programs.

The findings reveal that distance does not influence satisfaction, but parks' location with other uses have a significant correlation to neighbourhood satisfaction. The mixed-use patterns increase satisfaction in less busy areas (cultural), but not in the busy areas (commercial). People living close to the parks achieve satisfaction through access to services, sanitation, street lighting, traffic system and better development in the neighbourhood, while those who live further obtain their satisfaction by enhancing neighbourhood interaction, and environmental quality as their neighbourhoods are less crowded and noisy. In the conclusions it is pointed out that people who live closer to urban parks find they are satisfied with physical aspects and those further find their satisfaction in social and environmental aspects. In addition, although an urban park is not a compulsory amenity in a neighbourhood, it is a growth tool, urban parks accelerate the development of an area and its surroundings. Urban Parks will bring happiness and satisfaction for citizens as long as they are accessible and operate properly. The dysfunctionalities related to urban parks not only affect the city's appearance, but also reduce the level of residents' satisfaction. As a recommendation, it would be better if local governments in Payakumbuh use urban parks as development tools than as amenities because it will stimulate development in those areas. Combining the parks with other residential and non-residential use in the less busy area will increase residents' satisfaction with their neighbourhood. For future research, it will be interesting to conduct a study on the impact of the urban parks on the accessibility of the neighbourhoods through the years.

Keywords: *Urban Park, Neighbourhood Satisfaction, Proximity, Mixed-use, Neighbourhood Feature*

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Assessing the impacts of Proximity and Mixed-use location, A case study in Payakumbuh, Indonesia

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