

Community Participation in Preservation of City Park

The Case of Binjai City, Indonesia

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Abstract. City park is a form of action in improving quality of the urban environment. The purpose of this study is to measure community participation in the environmental sustainability of city parks in Binjai City. To get the data needed in this study, researchers used data collection techniques by surveying. The researcher distributed questionnaires to visitors to the city park. The results of this study indicate that community participation is at the lowest level. In decision making, community participation is very low for everything related to the preservation of city parks, communities are still not directly involved. Community participation in the implementation of city park conservation is very low, in this case the community has not been involved. Community participation in taking benefits is rather high, city parks provide an opportunity for the community to trade around them so that they get financial benefits from the visitors of the city park. Community participation in evaluations is very low, in this case the community has not been involved. The form of community participation is still only in the form of energy and acceptance of benefits.

Keywords: Community Participation, Preservation, City Parks

I. INTRODUCTION

Urban communities currently have quite high ecological needs. The higher the level of urbanization that occurs, the higher the level of ecological needs of the urban community, which is to be able to relax in green open spaces that are considered healthy and can reduce the stress burden of their daily work. The urban community life will get better quality, healthier, more moral, more socially sound, wiser, and smarter when faced with good environmental quality. One of them that is associated with meeting these ecological needs is none other than city parks [1]. City park is a form of action in improving the quality of the urban environment. The function of city parks, besides being an aesthetic element of urban space, also functions as an ecological element of the city [2].

As an ecological element of the city, the city park functions as a guardian and regulator of microclimate, namely as a producer of oxygen, silencers, and functions as a view control that is as a barrier to sunlight or reflected light. Community involvement or participation is very important in preserving urban parks.

Binjai City has four city parks. The core city park is located in the city center, namely Merdeka Park, Remaja Park, and Balita Park located very close to one another and not far from several schools, offices and shops. While the PGRI Park is on the outskirts of the city, it is located some distance from the school, but close to shops and residents' housing. The Binjai City Environment Department has tried to make a good arrangement and complete public infrastructure for the convenience of visitors to the city park.

Merdeka Park is equipped with free wifi, a collection of various types of plants, sports facilities, and there is a stage for performances of various activities. In the Balita Park and PGRI Park provided play facilities for children. Remaja Park has a collection of types of plants that can be used as a source of learning, and it needs a fountain in the middle of the park.

Crowds of people visit the city park every day to relax and exercise. Unfortunately, the compilation of researchers observing city parks shows that visitors to the city parks have not yet approved the city parks well. There are graffiti on city park infrastructure, visitors do not like the cleanliness of city parks, they still like littering. Even though trash bins are available, the lights in the park are broken, such as throwing, the cleanliness of city park bathrooms, there are no visitors to the city park. who defecated under trees and on the walls of buildings in city parks, smoked in park areas and littered cigarette butts.

Lack of environmental sustainability because the city government does not involve the role of the community [3]. People around the park were less active in maintaining city parks [4]. Therefore, this research needs to be done with the aim of measuring community participation in preserving city parks.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

Geographic location of Binjai is $03^{\circ} 03'40'' - 03^{\circ} 40'02''$ LU and $98^{\circ} 27'03'' - 98^{\circ} 39'32''$ East. The area of Binjai City is 90.23 km², located 28 m above sea level and surrounded by Kab. Deli Serdang, the area boundary to the north is District 22 of Binjai, Langkat Regency and Hamparan Perak District. Deli Serdang, in the east bordering Sunggal District, Kab. Deli

and not wanting to make changes at the level of community members [6].

a.3 Participation in Benefit Taking

Table 1 shows the participation of the community in medium categorized benefit taking. Promotional activities promoting city parks by the community can provide financial benefits. Visitors who come to city parks indirectly provide financial benefits to people who sell around city parks. Therefore, the community will definitely benefit when the community is involved in all activities in the city park.

a.4 Community Participation in Evaluations

Based on Table 1, community participation in evaluation is very low. Most of the community in evaluating the preservation of city parks in the City of Binjai were not involved by the Department of Parks who conducted an evaluation of the preservation of city parks.

b. Forms of Participation

The forms of participation consists of participation in the form of ideas / ideas only, participation in the form of energy alone, participation in the form of thoughts and energy, and participation in the form of expertise [7].

b.1 Participation in the form of ideas / ideas only

Table 1 shows that participation in the form of ideas was very low. Almost all people have not participated in the form of ideas. That is because the space and time of the community to provide ideas are still not available. The community also thinks that their ideas may not be accepted by the Parks Department.

b.2 Participation in the form of personel only

Based on Table 1, community participation in the form of labor alone is quite high. The community participates in the activity of preserving city parks in the City of Binjai in the form of this power when the community wants to join in directly helping the Parks Department do community service to clean up the city park area.

b.3 Participation in the form of thought and energy

The level of community participation in the form of thought and energy in preserving urban parks in Binjai City is still lacking / very low. This happens because the community is only limited to participating in the form of energy and the community considers that the ideas, suggestions and criticisms that they will convey will not be heard by the Parks Department.

b.4 Participation in the form of expertise

Community participation in the form of expertise still does not exist / is still very low. Community participation in the preservation of urban parks in the City of Binjai is still at the first level, namely passive / manipulative [8].

IV. CONCLUSION

Community participation in the preservation of city parks is only in the implementation and acceptance of benefits and has participation in the form of energy and ideas. Community participation in the City of Binjai in the preservation of urban parks is at the lowest level.

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