

**PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF CITY PARKS  
RECREATIONAL BENEFITS AND USAGE IN KOTA  
KINABALU GREEN SPACE**



**KAEDE CHAN LIP CHUNG**

**UMS**  
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH

**FACULTY OF TROPICAL FORESTRY  
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH  
2023**

**PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF CITY PARKS  
RECREATIONAL BENEFITS AND USAGE IN KOTA  
KINABALU GREEN SPACE**

**KAEDE CHAN LIP CHUNG**



**UMS**

**THE THESIS SUBMITTED IN FULFILMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF SCIENCE**

**FACULTY OF TROPICAL FORESTRY  
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH  
2023**

## ABSTRACT

Humans need recreation to interact with nature and promote physical and mental well-being. Recreational use of a green area is an intangible good that is hard to quantify using a standardized framework because individual personal preferences vary. This study intended to assess the urban residents' opinions on the recreational advantages and usage in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Specifically, this research aimed to 1) Determine the association between the demographics and recreational benefits and usage among the urban inhabitants; 2) Investigate the 8-dimension environmental factors that influenced the recreational benefits and usage among the city dwellers, and 3) Evaluate the differences in recreational benefits and usage before and after the COVID-19 Pandemic among the city dwellers. A total of 247 respondents were gathered through the snowball sampling method, and then data was collected using a questionnaire survey in this study. Twenty indicators were selected and adapted to the Kota Kinabalu green space scenario based on the findings of relevant past works of literature. Regarding the first objective, the religion variable was correlated to 10 recreational benefits and usage. Then the race variable was correlated only to two recreational benefits and usage. At the same time, the occupation variable was correlated to nine recreational benefits, where the given correlation coefficients were validated to be significant ( $\Phi=0.40-0.69$ ). For the second objective, among the 8-dimension of environmental factors, the fundamental of reality, transformative factors, and the constituency was found to affect the recreational benefits and usage significantly, where the descriptive analysis percentages were more than 80%. This study verified that respondents' motivations and recreational usage depended on the constituency's culture and situation. As for the third objective, the visitation desires of the respondents to urban green space after the COVID-19 pandemic were higher than before the COVID-19 pandemic. Henceforth, this study determined that secure and hygienic recreational protection could be a new recreational and urban park management factor. The green space stakeholder should consider the religion, race, occupation, and the transformative values of nature and recreational hygiene for future recreational experience preference in park management.

## **ABSTRAK**

### **PERSEPSI AWAM TERHADAP FAEDAH DAN PENGGUNAAN REKREASI TAMAN BANDARAYA DI KOTA KINABALU**

*Manusia memerlukan rekreasi untuk berinteraksi dengan alam semula jadi dan menggalakkan kesejahteraan fizikal dan mental. Penggunaan rekreasi kawasan hijau ialah barang tidak ketara yang sukar untuk diukur menggunakan rangka kerja piawai kerana pilihan peribadi individu berbeza-beza. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk menilai pendapat penduduk bandar tentang kelebihan dan penggunaan rekreasi di Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Secara khusus, penyelidikan ini bertujuan untuk 1) Menentukan perkaitan antara demografi dan faedah rekreasi dan penggunaan di kalangan penduduk bandar; 2) Menyiasat faktor persekitaran 8 dimensi yang mempengaruhi faedah dan penggunaan rekreasi di kalangan penduduk bandar, dan; 3) Nilaikan perbezaan faedah dan penggunaan rekreasi sebelum dan selepas Pandemik COVID-19 di kalangan warga kota. Seramai 247 orang responden telah dikumpul melalui kaedah persampelan bola salji, dan seterusnya data dikumpul menggunakan tinjauan soal selidik dalam kajian ini. Dua puluh indikator telah dipilih dan disesuaikan dengan senario kawasan hijau Kota Kinabalu berdasarkan penemuan karya sastera lepas yang berkaitan. Mengenai objektif pertama, pembolehubah agama dikaitkan dengan 10 faedah dan penggunaan rekreasi. Kemudian pembolehubah perlumbaan dikaitkan hanya dengan dua faedah dan penggunaan rekreasi. Pada masa yang sama, pembolehubah pekerjaan dikaitkan dengan sembilan faedah rekreasi, di mana pekali korelasi yang diberikan telah disahkan sebagai signifikan ( $\Phi=0.40-0.69$ ). Bagi objektif kedua, antara 8-dimensi faktor persekitaran, asas realiti, faktor transformatif, dan kawasan pilihan raya didapati memberi kesan kepada faedah dan penggunaan rekreasi dengan ketara, di mana peratusan analisis deskriptif adalah lebih daripada 80%. Kajian ini mengesahkan bahawa motivasi dan penggunaan rekreasi responden bergantung kepada budaya dan situasi kawasan pilihan raya. Bagi objektif ketiga pula, hasrat lawatan responden ke kawasan hijau bandar selepas wabak COVID-19 adalah lebih tinggi berbanding sebelum wabak COVID-19. Seterusnya, kajian ini menentukan bahawa perlindungan rekreasi yang selamat dan bersih boleh menjadi faktor pengurusan taman rekreasi dan bandar yang baharu. Pihak berkepentingan kawasan hijau harus*