Geospatial Distribution's Pattern and People's Perception of Green Spaces in Bauchi, Nigeria

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SUMMARY

Provisions of green spaces are integral parts of urban environmental planning and are related to the quality of city's image, its environment and livability status. Knowledge about the distribution, pattern and the perceptions of urban dwellers in respect of these urban green infrastructures (G.I) in urban centers of both developed and the developing world cities is important. Despite the numerous benefits of urban green space to cities, studies have shown that these spaces are declining in several cities of the world. Absence of geospatial data of these infrastructure in a usable forms are challenges facing urban planners and managers particularly in Nigeria. This paper investigated the geospatial distributions, trends and peoples' perception of green spaces on the image of Bauchi city to provide the require geospatial information for policy and informed decision making. Descriptive analysis was used in assessing the obtained data and its presentations in forms maps and charts. The results shows a respective progressive green spaces decline from 24% in 1976 to 14% in 2018 of the total area of the city This erode the scenic image as well as aesthetic, and quality status of the city. There is absence of green space plan and lack of distinct policy for green Infrastructure development. There was limited or absence of awareness of the long-term benefits of green space planning and development among the city dwellers. These create gaps between Statutory Planning and Urban Greening Practice. Recommendations include the setting up and development of Bauchi city Green System Plan through collaboration between the statutory departments for urban planning and other relevant stakeholders, and the promotion of green space development through restoration of green areas with a view to improve the city's image.

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