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# HANOI'S OPEN SPACE AND GREEN AREAS IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING PROCESS

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## ABSTRACT

Under the policies of market orientation economy and rapid urbanization process in last ten years, the development of Hanoi Capital City has been growing rapidly. Hanoi has become more attractive for investors, contractors, urban developer, and many flows of rural migration year by year. Therefore construction process and city sprawl of Hanoi has also been increasing time by time. This impacts much on urban landscape and environment as well as community benefits. Especially, urban open space and green areas are decreasing time by time. It can say that Hanoi is facing further threatens on Urban environment and landscape due to urban development process. This paper reviews some general problems that related to urban open space and green areas caused by urban development and urbanization process in recent years. Finally the papers will recommend the necessary to take more concerning of urban open space and green areas in to urban planning as well as management towards sustainable environment.

## KEYWORDS

Urbanization, Urban sprawl, Open space, Green area, Sustainable environment

## BACKGROUND

Hanoi is situated in the center of North Vietnam, with its coordinates being 20<sup>0</sup>53'-21<sup>0</sup>53' N latitude and 105<sup>0</sup>44'-106<sup>0</sup>02'E longitude, and borders five provinces: Bac Thai in the North, Vinh Phu and Ha Tay in the West and South-West, Bac Ninh, Hung Yen in the East and South-East. Hanoi has the area of 929.8km<sup>2</sup>, the longest distance from the North to the South of the city is 50 km and from the East to the West is 30 km. Most of the area is located in the Red River delta with altitude from 5m to 20m.

After 10 years of implementing the renovation line, particularly in the recent 5 years, Hanoi's economy has always been at great growth rate. Hanoi is focussing on solving the weakness of the infrastructure, strong development for modern telecommunication network, reform of complicated administrative procedures, supplement of new policies to perfect the legal corridor and to attract foreign investors. Whole Hanoi is a large construction site. Factories, enterprises especially magnificent new urban areas are changing day to day.

Besides the advantage contribution, urban development and urbanization process is speed-up more rapidly. Enlarging urbanization process has impacted strongly in the quality of environment, socio-economic condition of the city. Especially open space and green areas are decreasing time by time. It decreasing urban identity value as well as community benefits.

## URBAN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

According to Hanoi master planning, the major context has proposed by the following:

The city's population by 2020: 5 millions (include inner city: 1.5 millions).

Study area is about 25.000 ha (include the constructed land is 7000 ha; New urban land is 188.000 ha).

Orientation of city development is follow by the North band of Red river. Red river is main axis development and plays the main role in setting up major open space and water surface of the city in future.

Inner city: decreasing density of buildings, increasing areas of green, water surface.

The Government council also proposes development of small city system around Hanoi city with radius from 30 to 45 km such as: Mieu Mon, Xuan Mai, Hoa Lac, Soc Son, and Xuan Hoa.

Apart from above cities, the plan also concerns to development of satellite cities with main industrial zone such as: Bac Ninh, Thuong Tin, and Pho Noi.

According to Hanh's assessments, after the approval of Hanoi Master Plan made by Decision No. 132/CT dated 18 Apr. 1992 of the Chairman of Council of Ministers, the Office of Architect in chief was established in order to help the city's People committee in implementation of planning and architecture management tasks. From then, about 200 detailed and limited special plans were developed, of which 85 detailed plans were approved. The role and effect of construction planning of the city has deeply changed: Planning is a goal while serving as a control too of development and construction process. Hanh comments that, in spite of the achievements in the recent years, the urban planning and management of Hanoi is still weakly.

Hanoi has about 0.4 millions inhabitants in 1954 with backward infrastructure system by France. The city has over 2 millions inhabitants (2001) while infrastructure system still is not meet demand of city development. It can say that, Hanoi have facing overweigh problems. These problems caused by some main causes such as:

- Two reasons of less effective using land are (1) the increasing rapidly of urban land quality and (2) poor urban construction management. There are lack of open spaces, recreational areas... for the old and the young people.

- The big flows of rural migration shifting to urban area is more and more crowded, mixed social sectors cause to the bad impact on urban safety and social problems.

- City development is unstable. The urbanization trend recently is showing that urban investment mainly focused on new urban land use expanded but has not yet focused on renovation of the rural areas surrounding of the city. It has created the gap between inner city and rural areas.

- The condition of economy is limited.

- Volume of city road systems is weakly and lack of parking car sites, etc.

In planning perspective, we are getting used with planning and designing for new urban area rather than for rural area.

## THE EXISTING PUBLIC PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Hanoi has a lot of natural lakes, swamps and a system of man-made rives and canals for irrigation and water drainage. Within the city, there are many lakes such as Hoan Kiem (Sword Lake), Bay Mau, Thien Quan, Van Chuong, Giang Vo, Ngoc Khanh, Thanh Cong, Hai Ba,... West lake in Tay Ho district is the biggest one, with the area of 500 ha and the circumference of 17 km. It is a sigh of scenic beauty of Hanoi.

Chi Linh park is surrounded by Dinh Tien Hoang, Le Lai, Le Thach and Ngo Quyen streets.

Chi Lang part is entirely surrounded by Tran Phu, Hoang Dieu and Dien Bien Phu roads. Here stands the 5.2 m high bronze statue of V.Lenin, place on a 2.7 m marble pedestal.

Bach Thao park is next to the Presidential Palace. This is a 20 ha park where animals and birds were kept in the past, but now there are only high shade trees.

Lenin park is located in the middle of four streets: Tran Nhan Tong, Le Duan, Dai Co Viet, Nguyen Dinh Chieu. The park has the area of over 50 ha, where there are a large lake, a lot of trees, flower and green islands, which serve as a center for children to entertain and for the old people to relax.

Thu Le park is located in the western part of Hanoi city, on a land lot of about 31 ha. There are a lake, shade trees, animals, birds and place for entertainment. The Thu Le temple is situated in this park.

According to Le Hong Ke (2000), the criteria of urban green area of Hanoi can compare with some oversea countries by the following:

City	Standard of tree per capita
Singapore	54.27 m <sup>2</sup> /person
Auckland	56.97 m <sup>2</sup> /person
Seoul	20.8 m <sup>2</sup> /person
Moscow	20.0 m <sup>2</sup> /person
Shanghai	0.28 m <sup>2</sup> /person
Jakarta	0.22 m <sup>2</sup> /person
Bangkok	0.359 m <sup>2</sup> /person
Tokyo	1.56 m <sup>2</sup> /person
Paris	1.5 m <sup>2</sup> /person
Hanoi	About 1.25 m <sup>2</sup> /person

*Source: Le Hong Ke, Vietnam Architecture Magazine, 2000.*

From above table, it can show that Hanoi needs more tree areas and suitable solutions for increasing of green area in the city.

According to accounting of Hanoi master planning the demand of green area by 2020 needs from 12-15 m<sup>2</sup>/person, and over 20 m<sup>2</sup>/person (include water surface). It is difficult solution to increase the rate of green area in the city by 2020.

At present time, urban open space areas is also limited. Most of them concentrated in city center area such as: Ba Dinh District, Hoan Kiem District. Many small lakes have filled to develop new urban areas or resettlement, especially in rural areas. These areas are facing to environmental pollution as well as other infrastructure and social facilities.

## AGENDA OF TREE AND WATER SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT BY 2020

According to regulations in Hanoi's green areas, the related data presented by the following table:

Proposed standard	Unit	2010	2020
Green area per capita	m <sup>2</sup> /per.	16.6	30
Public green area	m <sup>2</sup> /per.	6.6 (1320 ha)	12 (3000 ha)
Unit green	m <sup>2</sup> /per.	6.0 (1200 ha)	10.0 (2500 ha)
Conservative and Landscaping tree	m <sup>2</sup> /per.	4.0 (800 ha)	8.0 (2000 ha)
Water surface	ha		2000

*Source: Proposed Regulation for green and water surface management of Hanoi, 1996.*

## SOME RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to solve and overcome the problem, Tran Trong Hanh suggests several necessary works what should be concentrated on carrying out of Hanoi in the field of urban planning, scheduling urban development, developing urban investment project and development control systems for urban development in line with laws and approved plans (Tran Trong Hanh, 1997).

So as towards sustainable environment in the Hanoi capital city, Hanoi master planing has concerned some solutions as the following:

- Develop new urban areas surrounding the city.
- Priority development of traffic system. Construct ring road systems that combined with concentrated green areas around the city.
- Promoting education people's knowledge
- Clear building code and regulations in term of building control and traffic implementation.
- Reconstruct over 40 parks and public gardens in inner city.
- Construct new parks: Yen So park, Me Tri park, Nhue River park, Van Tri park, Westlake park, Red River band park, Gia Lam park, and Sai Dong park.
- Recreational center and concentrated green area: Linh Dam, Phu Thuong, and Co Loa.
- Public green areas with center of sport training and competition: My Dinh, Xuan La, Van Tri,...

However, under rapid urbanization process and other urban problems, Hanoi planning at many levels is very complicated. The researchers, decision making and policy maker, still are hard working and needs close cooperation with other stakeholders in the related field. It is very important and necessary to take more concerning of open space and green areas in to development planning project, specially *Limited development area* and *rural areas* of Hanoi capital city towards sustainable development and keeping Hanoi's identities.

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