

ASSESSMENT ON THE URBAN GREEN SPACE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF ARROCEROS FOREST PARK: BASIS FOR SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

ABSTRACT

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This study aimed to evaluate the contribution of urban green spaces to environmental management, using Arroceros Forest Park—one of the last remaining green lungs in the heart of Manila, Philippines—as a case study. The research focuses on three key aspects: community engagement, environmental awareness, and biodiversity preservation. Additionally, it explores the park's ecological, recreational, and educational value to visitors, highlighting its significance in promoting urban sustainability and enhancing quality of life in a densely populated city. This study adopted a descriptive research design and gathered data from fifty (50) visitors using a convenience sampling method. Structured survey questionnaires served as the primary instrument for collecting relevant information on participants' perceptions and experiences. The results of the study highlight important insights into the value of urban green spaces. Respondents strongly agreed (mean rating of 3.67) that Arroceros Forest Park significantly contributes to community engagement, environmental awareness, and biodiversity preservation. However, the findings also reveal that various human activities—such as inadequate waste management, resource extraction, and recreational overuse—negatively affect the park's biodiversity. In response, the study recommends that local government units intensify their support for the protection and promotion of Arroceros Forest Park. Strengthening environmental policies is essential to ensure that all stakeholders—including visitors, staff, and the surrounding community—adhere to sustainable practices. These efforts will help safeguard the park's ecological integrity and ensure its continued role in promoting urban sustainability. The findings underscore the critical importance of fostering active community involvement in the conservation of Arroceros Forest Park. Empowering residents through education on the park's ecological value helps cultivate a deeper appreciation and commitment to preserving urban green spaces. The findings also highlight the need for responsible visitor behavior, particularly in managing waste, minimizing resource extraction, and engaging in sustainable tourism. By promoting environmental stewardship and implementing clear policies that encourage sustainability, Arroceros Forest Park can continue to serve as a vital ecological, recreational, and educational sanctuary in the heart of Manila—benefiting both the environment and future generations.

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