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**CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE STANDARDS OF PUBLIC  
OPEN SPACES FOR RECREATION IN URBAN AREAS OF  
SRI LANKA IN THE LIGHT OF PUBLIC PERCEPTION**

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**MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING**  
**2007/2008 PROGRAMME**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA**

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OPEN SPACES FOR RECREATION IN URBAN AREAS OF  
SRI LANKA IN THE LIGHT OF PUBLIC PERCEPTION**

**W.L.R.AMARATHUNGE**

Dissertation

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the  
Master of Science Degree in Town and Country Planning

**DEPARTMENT OF TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING  
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA**

**May 2010**

## DECLARATION

I declare that this Research Project Report represents my own work, except where due acknowledgement has been made and that it has not been previously included in a thesis, dissertation or report, submitted to the University of Moratuwa or to any other institution for a degree, diploma or other qualification. I also wish to declare that the total number of words in the body of this report (excluding the Appendices & the Bibliography) is 12860.

***UOM Verified Signature***

Signed :  
Name of Student : W.L.R. Amarathunge  
Group : 2007/2008  
Registration No. : 07/9601  
Date : 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that W.L.R.Amarathunge, Registration No. 07/9601 of the 2007/2008 Group, has prepared this Research Project under my supervision.

***UOM Verified Signature***

Signature of Principal Supervisor

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Dr.J.N. Munasinghe

Date : 28/12/00

Date : 28/12/00



## ABSTRACT

Public open space is a vital component of the urban environment which is under increasing pressure due to urban development. It is an essential part of the urban heritage and infrastructure. It not only provides a pleasant and natural environment but also improves the quality of life in urban areas by performing essential environmental functions. Potential economic benefits also accrue by increasing the attractiveness of a place to live and work.

In 1990 Urban Development Authority formulated a standard of "1 ha of public open space per 1000 people" to provide adequate amount of public open space in urban areas. This standard has been introduced mainly focusing on the urban development pattern of Colombo City. Although the prepared development plans for Colombo City had envisaged to provide sufficient amount of public open spaces, it was still not become a fruitful effort due to various reasons. It can be seen that people use the available public open spaces without seeking more spaces.

Although the standard cannot reach the extent of public open space which the urban area actually needs, a direct demand for more spaces of urban people is not visible. Therefore, it appears that the lack of public open spaces has not been felt considering the life pattern of the urban dwellers. But the perception of urban people on public open spaces differs from what can be seen on the surface. Because of that, the objective of this study is to review the existing situation in regard to public open spaces in urban areas according to the standard. The study is mainly based on the public perception of the urban people. Although there are several studies on public open spaces relating to urban designing and urban planning aspects, there have been no studies done on urban public open space standards. Therefore this study will add new knowledge to the field of urban designing and urban planning.

The evaluation of this study enables to identify the existing situation of the public open spaces in urban areas in terms of the current standard light of public perception and it was help to review the current urban public open spaces standard of "1 ha of land per 1000 people". The standard is reviewed through its application upon Mattakkuliya Ward of the Colombo Municipal Council area, which is the selected urban development area for the purpose.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to have this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Jagath Munasinghe, Head, Department of Town and Country Planning for the excellent supervision, guidance and encouragement which have significantly contributed towards the successful completion of this research.

I wish to record my sincere thanks to Prof. P.K.S.Mahanama, the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and all the academic staff for their advice and guidance. I would also like to thank all the other members of the staff of Department of Town and Country Planning for their valuable help extended to me in various ways.

I wish to offer my sincere gratitude to Mrs. Hestor Basnayake, former Director, Environment and Landscaping Division of Urban Development Authority and Mrs. Padma Wijesinghe, Planning Officer (Environment) of the same division for sharing their knowledge and for providing necessary data and information to carry out this research.

I would like to record my sincere thanks to Mrs. Samankanthi Bandara (Director, Regional Planning of the National Physical Planning Department), Mrs. Champa Amarasinghe (Director, Local Planning of NPPD), Mr.K.A.Mohan Alwis (formally of National Building Research Organization), Mr Wijewardane (formerly of the Sri Lanka Planning Service), Mr. Steve Dunn (Urban Planner of Australia) and his wife Ellan Dunn for their help and encouragement.

I would also like to thank all who responded to my questionnaire, whose information was vital in realizing the project objective. Finally I wish to thank my parents, my brother, and Nawodya Nawaratne for their encouragements and for being beside me through out the project.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

UDA	Urban Development Authority
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United State of America
NRPA	National Recreation and Park Association
ha	hectares
km	kilometers
m	meters