

The Effective Management of Recreational Facilities in Onitsha, Anambra State, Nigeria: it's Implication on the Built Environment

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Abstract: The effective management of recreational park at Onitsha in Anambra State, Nigeria was studied. The various human activities created in the bid to achieve a developed and functional built environment, has led to the misuse of the available recreational facility in the area. The natural area is constantly being destroyed by man's activities like the excessive development of commercial and residential buildings, refuse dumping among other uses. Considering the dangers of allocating little spaces for recreation and open spaces which provide beauty and landscape in the area, the few available ones in the area are being neglected. The improper management of these recreational centres within the city has resulted in poor and dysfunctional state of these facilities and unpleasant quality of the environment. Recreational facilities are quite complex in size and nature as they are rare subject matter in real estate property management. A lot of human and material resources are invested in providing these facilities, as such; it requires an effective and efficient management system approach in order to meet the short and long term objectives in terms of functionality and viability at any point in time. The method of design employed in the study is the survey design. The use of primary and secondary source of data gathering, questionnaires, direct observations and interviews were used to analyze the management operations, approach and needs, in order to identify the lapses in the park management and its resultant effect on human well-being and the built environment. The study revealed the need for a well-defined and coordinated maintenance plan for many of its facilities, lack of professionalism and the need for effective collaborative efforts between stakeholders in the building industry, the residents and government agencies. The study recommended a landscape planning and proper facility management of the park.

Keyword: *Recreational facility, Management, Open spaces, Built environment and Real estate.*

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