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REJUVENATING COMMUNITY PARK IN TAMAN LEMBAH BUKIT SUK, SHAH ALAM AND TAMAN PENGKALAN BATU, KLANG

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Abstract

Using a placemaking approach, the paper explores the revitalisation of two (2) Malaysian community parks – Taman Pengkalan Batu (TPBK) in Klang and Taman Lembah Bukit SUK (TLBS) in Shah Alam. Placemaking, a strategy to enhance public spaces, fosters community engagement and collaboration in creating vibrant, functional environments. TPBK suffers from poor maintenance, low community use, and safety issues. The paper aimed to address these by redesigning the park, increasing greenery, and restoring its identity to attract more visitors. Observations and surveys found that the community was dissatisfied with current conditions but supports placemaking improvements. Similarly, TLBS in Shah Alam is well-maintained but lacks appeal compared to other recreational areas. This study identified high visitor satisfaction with the lake and pathways but highlighted the need for better parking facilities and signage. Recommendations include enhancing lake aesthetics, improving pathway accessibility, and upgrading parking and landscaping. Both studies underscore the importance of community involvement in placemaking and call for further research on economic impacts and sustainability. This research gap is crucial, as it can guide future studies and ensure the long-term success of these projects. Further studies could also be carried out through comparison with successful parks to learn from best practices. Implementing these recommendations can transform both parks into vibrant, inclusive spaces that enhance community well-being.

Keywords: Placemaking, Rejuvenation, Community Park, Community Well-being

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INTRODUCTION

Public spaces or parks are crucial to urban social life in meeting human needs and contributing to human satisfaction, encompassing streets, courtyards, and open areas where people can socialise and interact. These spaces enhance the city's liveliness and quality of life, contributing to well-being, political engagement, and crime prevention. They offer physical and emotional health benefits by encouraging activity and fostering a vibrant community. Additionally, placemaking, an ancient practice evolving through the practice of creating culturally rich spaces, is now a modern design strategy to inspire and connect people with nature (Azenan et al., 2021). Effective urban design and creative placemaking strategies improve community engagement and attract visitors, demonstrating the importance of beautiful and functional public spaces in enhancing social interactions and overall well-being.

Research gaps in placemaking and community park rejuvenation often centre around effectiveness, inclusivity, and sustainability, with a limited understanding of effective methods for involving local communities in the placemaking process. The gap also found a lack of comparative studies between different placemaking and park rejuvenation strategies across various contexts. A comparison study helps refine and enhance the effectiveness of rejuvenation efforts. Addressing these research gaps can contribute to more effective, inclusive, and sustainable placemaking and park rejuvenation efforts, ultimately improving the benefits of public spaces for communities.

Therefore, as the paper aims to evaluate community satisfaction in enhancing public spaces' rejuvenation and fostering a more vibrant community, two objectives are outlined: (i) (i) to assess respondents' satisfaction with the community's or visitors' views on the surrounding area and (ii) to make suggestions for improvement using a placemaking approach. The study highlighted the master plans for both community park proposals as a vital outcome of the study. These master plans synthesise the findings from the community satisfaction assessment and placemaking proposals. This helps guide the transformation process and ensures that improvements are well planned and aligned with the community's needs.

LITERATURE REVIEW

What Placemaking is all about

Placemaking focuses on creating vibrant, liveable public spaces that foster community engagement and enhance social connections. Adedayo et al. (2023) define it as actively shaping public spaces to highlight local assets, drive rejuvenation, and address common needs. One significant benefit of placemaking is its ability to foster a sense of community. Ghavampour and Vale (2019) note that placemaking can build identity, encourage social interactions, and strengthen

community ties. Courage and McKeown (2019) supported the findings that active, engaging public spaces often feel safer and more secure. Additionally, placemaking can benefit communities economically; successful spaces attract businesses and visitors, boosting local property values and economic activities. There are different approaches to placemaking. The ‘bottom-up’ approach involves community members designing and developing the space, often leading to more sustainable and successful outcomes. In contrast, the ‘top-down’ approach relies on professional planners and designers, who can create high-quality spaces but might lack community engagement (Helmy, 2023). By emphasising community engagement, placemaking helps solve social problems, improve well-being, and prevent neglect and safety issues in public spaces. Ultimately, placemaking is a concept and technique that enhances public spaces through active community involvement and thoughtful design.

Placemaking Elements Which Contribute to Community Development and Well-being

The Project for Public Spaces (2021) highlights four (4) critical attributes for successful placemaking. Great locations, whether large city plazas or small parks, share these traits: they are easily accessible and well-integrated with other essential sites, enhance the city’s image, encourage community engagement through various programmes, and serve as inviting spaces where people want to meet and return. These elements are interconnected.

Access and Linkages

Highly accessible public spaces attract diverse users and activities, with walkability being key. According to Ortega et al. (2021), four (4) crucial aspects of walkability are desirability, ease, safety, and mobility. Their study highlights how accessible ramps and unobstructed sidewalks affect walking distances and travel times. Hamdan et al. (2017) found that streets with better access to parks and urban amenities are preferred based on their assessment of public space value through pedestrian routes. Meanwhile, Veitch et al. (2021) stress the importance of convenience and connectivity for public spaces. Effective functionality depends on both the presence and accessibility of parks, ensuring all transportation modes can easily reach them. Proximity, connectivity, walkability, and convenience are key to attracting and accommodating the community.

Sense of Place

A place that feels inviting and comfortable is more likely to thrive. Emotional safety, cleanliness, and accessibility are crucial in creating this comfort. Surprisingly, many potentially excellent locations fail due to a lack of comfort. People prefer spaces with various seating options, allowing them to choose sun

or shade depending on the time of day or year. A sense of place encompasses comfort, safety, well-being, and socio-psychological and biophysical characteristics, including sanitation, building conditions, and crime statistics (Mansor et al., 2019 & Chen et al., 2024). Clean, well-organised public areas foster higher engagement, while poorly managed spaces deter community use. Research, including Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), links physical environmental factors to crime rates, and increased vegetation has been shown to reduce crime (Kimpton et al., 2017). Additionally, maintaining heritage buildings' historical and cultural value is essential for preserving their significance while appealing to contemporary audiences (Rossetti et al., 2019).

Uses and Activities

A great public space is built on a foundation of diverse activities, which draw people in and encourage repeat visits. A place will likely be addressed with engaging activities, indicating underlying issues. A well-chosen mix of activities can attract a broad spectrum of the community—children to playgrounds, teenagers to sports courts, and everyone to the evening carnival. The environment heavily influences the quality of social interaction in public spaces. Mao et al. (2020) highlight that the boundary elements of building façades and public spaces significantly affect outdoor engagement. Durante et al. (2018) studied how heritage building facades in smaller public areas influence community activities, noting that many studies focus on materials and structures rather than their social impact. Public spaces like parks and playgrounds are crucial for supporting physical activity and community engagement. Research by Gfeliges (2022) emphasises the economic benefits of enhancing sales kiosks or other business activities to boost the local economy in public spaces. Additionally, active recreation spaces like walking paths and sports courts positively impact public space use, with studies showing varying activity preferences among different age and gender groups (Zhang et al., 2023).

Sociability

Placemaking significantly influences sociability, enhancing how individuals engage socially and form relationships. Research indicates that well-designed and maintained public spaces facilitate interactions and social connections. For instance, such spaces in high-density cities like Hong Kong can support active ageing, social inclusion, and overall well-being (Hee et al., 2021). Public areas with pleasant environments and social opportunities help people unwind, ease stress, and build resilience. Elands et al. (2018) and Mohammad Sabri & Ponrahono (2024) note that parks encourage social cohesiveness by motivating outdoor activity, interactions, and public space use. Placemaking creates appealing, functional, and accessible spaces, fostering community building and a

stronger sense of belonging, leading to a more connected community (Azubuine & Umunnakwe, 2021).

Concept of Rejuvenation

Revitalising or rejuvenating public spaces that no longer connect the community can significantly impact social cohesion and city development. According to Xing and Mohamad (2023), well-designed public spaces enhance movement and foster social interaction, enriching the community and urban environment. Public spaces are crucial for social life, offering venues for diverse groups to gather and engage, making their rejuvenation vital for community well-being. Azubuine and Umunnakwe (2021) emphasise that revitalisation strategies aim to unite intercultural communities.

Effective public space rejuvenation requires attention to various factors. Physical attributes can influence space quality and usage patterns (Mansor et al., 2019). Invaluable locations like royal cities and state capitals, maintaining and improving the landscape is essential for human comfort (Muhamad Farhan et al., 2021). Revitalisation often involves transforming underused areas into functional, accessible, attractive spaces through physical upgrades, programming and community involvement. Studies show that such efforts can enhance space usage and satisfaction (Carmona et al., 2017), and community engagement is vital to addressing local needs (Ingles, 2022). Natural elements can benefit physical and mental health (Southon et al., 2018), while amenities like seating and lighting affect user perceptions (Zhang et al., 2023). Equity and inclusivity are crucial for fair access and benefit (Bekker et al., 2021).

In short, revitalising underused public spaces enhances social cohesion and urban development. Well-designed, accessible spaces encourage interaction, community well-being, and inclusivity. Transforming these areas through upgrades, natural elements, and amenities like seating and lighting increases usage and satisfaction, ensuring fair access and benefits for all community members.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data Collection and Research Design

This study uses a mixed-method approach, in which site observation and questionnaire surveys were applied to the selected case studies. The site observation method was carried out to assess the condition of existing facilities, accessibility, surroundings, usability, and the quality of each design element in both parks. Additionally, a quantitative approach using a questionnaire survey was employed to gain insights into the community's preferences and perspectives related to this study. These methods allow for a balanced data collection approach, contribute to achieving the study's objectives and offer insights

essential for a good assessment. Convenience sampling was used, focusing on Klang residents (for TPBK), Shah Alam residents (for TLBS) and visitors of each community park, as they were the primary target respondents. The targeted sample size was 99 respondents for TPBK and 379 respondents for TLBS. The difference in the sample size between these two areas was primarily due to contextual factors such as the population size and demographics in each area. TPBK is less densely populated than TLBS, with a higher density of residents and park users.

Due to limitations, the study was able to collect responses from only 271 respondents out of the targeted 379 participants, whereas a 100 per cent response rate was achieved for TPBK. The use of convenience sampling and unequal response rates between the two study areas may limit the representativeness of participants. These factors could affect the balance of comparison and reduce the generalisability of the findings to other urban park contexts. The analysis is expected to reveal respondents' satisfaction levels and gauge the communities' perspectives of the surrounding study area through their suggestions (using a placemaking approach).

A Likert scale of 5 (5: Strongly Agree to 1: Strongly Disagree) was used to assess the responses to the questionnaire survey. Through the observation approach and findings from the questionnaire, master plans for both community park proposals were produced as an outcome of the study. Additionally, for the data analysis, the results of each variable from Section B (satisfaction with community park criteria) and Section C (suggestions for improvement using the placemaking approach) were presented as mean and rank scores.

Study Area

Two (2) community parks were selected for the study. *Taman Pengkalan Batu* (TPBK) was chosen as its location along the Klang River is optimal for serving as a desirable public space for the community. This public space provides a range of amenities and facilities, including fishing platforms, gazebos, playgrounds for children, scenic viewing areas, plazas, walkways and parking areas. TPBK covers approximately 5 acres and is situated in the heart of Klang Royal Town, straddling the boundary between North Klang and South Klang. It provides an ideal setting for recreational activities in line with the Selangor Maritime Gate Development Project.

Meanwhile, *Taman Lembah Bukit SUK* (TLBS), Shah Alam, was selected primarily due to its connectivity to Taman Tasik Shah Alam, its strategic location to the nearest government buildings, and the accessibility of public transportation. Developed as a self-contained neighbourhood, TLBS was established by the State of Selangor in 1978, following Shah Alam's designation as the new state capital. The park is accessible via *Jalan Pegawai* and near key

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government institutions, including MAIS, the *Kompleks Mahkamah*, the *Bangunan Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah*, royal tombs, and the State Monument. TLBS spans 72 acres and was designed to meet the recreational needs of residents from nearby Sections 5, 6, 9, and 11 while also serving as a valuable community gathering space beyond merely fulfilling housing scheme development requirements (Figure 1).

The community parks were chosen based on their context and relevance to urban development. Both are located within Klang Valley, one of Malaysia's most urbanised and rapidly developing regions. These areas are undergoing significant socio-economic and infrastructural changes, which makes them ideal for the study.

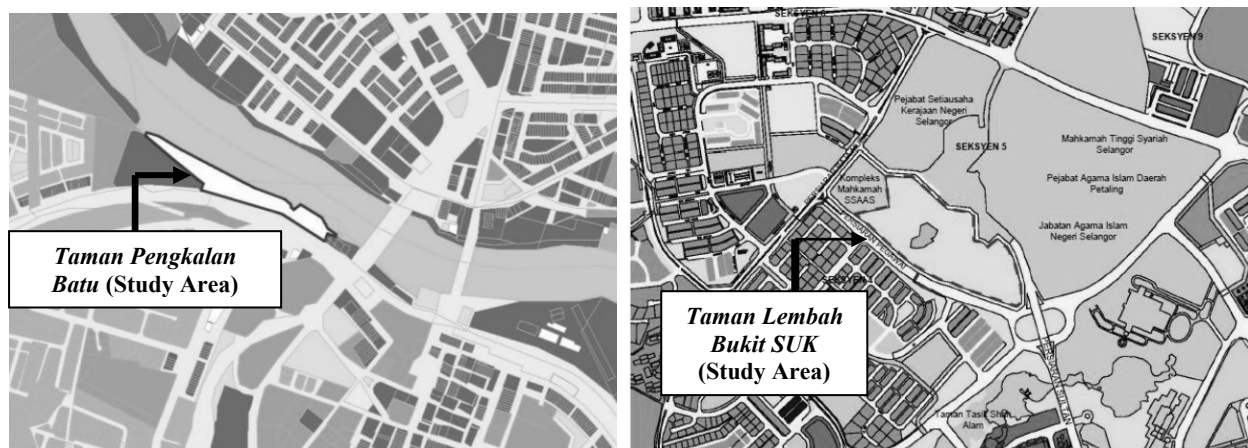


Figure 1: Study Area of Taman Pengkalan Batu, Klang (TPBK), and Taman Lembah Bukit SUK, Shah Alam (TLBS)
Source: ArcGIS (2021, 2023)

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

To foster community engagement, the study surveyed the targeted respondents to gather their suggestions and feedback on improving the parks. Table 1 shows the survey results from Section B, highlighting the respondents' satisfaction with community park criteria in both areas. From Table 1, the analysis highlights TLBS as possessing more comprehensive facilities, superior urban design, and more vibrant social activities. In contrast, TPBK has strengths in specific areas, such as supporting facilities and nearby attractions. Concerning recreational facilities (R), TLBS scores higher (with a mean of 3.81) but ranks lower (rank 4) compared to TPBK for item R1. This indicates that TPBK is perceived as having better supporting facilities, even though TLBS scores higher on average. Other items, such as R2 and R3, were ranked 5, 6 and 9. Regarding R2, both locations are ranked equally, suggesting that neither TLBS nor TPBK stands out regarding

safety, comfort, or maintenance of facilities. Meanwhile, for item R3, TLBS scores higher, with a mean of 3.68 in parking lot facilities, but TPBK ranks better. This suggests that TLBS has better facilities, but TPBK is perceived as providing better parking access or a better location.

Concerning Urban Design and Landscape Elements (UD), the respondents in TPBK ranked items UD1 and UD5 as the second most essential items in the area, with a mean of 2.95. This suggested that TPBK has better designed or more accessible pathways than TLBS. As for UD5, it was suggested that TPBK's park design has a better impact on the city's image and identity than TLBS's. Regarding UD2, TLBS excels in maintaining water features or lakes (with a mean of 3.90) compared to Sungai Klang near TPBK (with a mean of 2.77), indicating better upkeep and management of natural elements. Regarding UD4, TLBS has a higher mean score but ranks lower (ranked 9), suggesting that TPBK's landscape condition is better perceived despite a lower score. Also, TPBK is perceived to offer better street furniture provision, though TLBS scores better overall.

Table 1: Satisfaction with the Community Park Criteria

Recreational Facilities (R)				
Items	TLBS		TPBK	
	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank
R1: Well-functioning supporting facilities provided	3.81	4	2.96	1
R2: Safe, comfortable and well-maintained facilities provided	3.78	5	2.82	5
R3: Parking lot facilities were provided.	3.68	9	2.77	6
Urban Design and Landscape Elements (UD)				
UD1: Good accessibility of pathways	3.77	6	2.95	2
UD2: The lake/river was well-maintained.	3.90	2	2.77	6
UD3: Street furniture was well-provided.	3.75	7	2.82	5
UD4: Good and well-maintained landscape condition	3.68	9	2.86	4
UD5: A good park design contributes to a better image and identity of a city.	3.74	8	2.95	2
Location (L)				
L1: Good accessibility to the park	3.85	3	2.88	3
L2: Visibility of the park from a distance	3.77	6	2.82	5
L3: Attraction places nearby, i.e., Masjid, Monument, River, Fountain	3.65	10	2.88	3
Social Activities (SA)				
SA1: High probability of forming social interaction	3.92	1	2.86	4
SA2: Public space full of activities	3.58	11	2.77	6
	N=271		N=99	

Note: Mean: 5.00 – 4.00 (Strongly Agreed), 3.99 – 3.00 (Agreed), 2.99 – 2.00 (Moderate), 1.99 – 1.00 (Disagreed), 0.99 – 0 (Strongly Disagree)

Regarding location (L), the respondents for TPBK ranked L1 and L3 as the third most satisfactory elements, with a mean score of 2.88. Similarly, both locations score well for accessibility (L1), implying they are easier to reach. As for item L3, TPBK ranks higher for attractive places nearby, indicating a more appealing or exciting surrounding area than TLBS. Meanwhile, for item L2, TPBK has better visibility compared to TLBS, suggesting it is easier to see or locate from afar. Meanwhile, for Social Activities (SA), respondents for TLBS ranked item SA1 as the highest rank, with a mean score of 3.92. The area is seen as much better at facilitating social interactions, whereas TPBK lags significantly behind with a mean score of 2.86, ranking 4. As for item SA2, TLBS scores higher in activity levels in public spaces, indicating more vibrant or engaging public areas than TPBK.

To summarise, TLBS generally scores higher in most categories, particularly in maintaining recreational facilities, urban design and social activities. Meanwhile, TPBK excels in specific areas like the provision of supporting facilities and the presence of nearby attractions but generally scores lower in aspects related to facility maintenance and social interaction. Table 2 shows the recommendations for enhancing public places in TLBS and TPBK. The result shows three (3) elements of the placemaking approach: 1) Access and Linkages (A), 2) Sense of Place (S), and 3) Uses, Activity and Sociability (U).

Table 2: Recommendations for Enhancing Public Places through the Placemaking Approach

Access and Linkages (A)				
Items	TLBS		TPBK	
	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank
A1: Encourage pedestrian- and bike-friendly facilities.	3.75	2	4.64	1
A2: Safe path and routes	3.77	1	4.64	1
A3: Increase lighting on pedestrian and bicycle lanes.	3.74	3	4.62	2
A4: Easy access, reasonable distance, clear signage	3.77	1	4.60	3
Sense of Place (S)				
S1: Combination of royal town concept and modern concept (*applicable for TPBK)	-	-	4.69	1
S1: Combination of the administrative and modern concept (*applicable for TLBS)	3.90	1	-	-
S2: Planting trees and shrubs to lower temperature and appreciate nature	3.69	5	4.61	2
S3: Additional new activities	3.85	2	4.59	3
S4: Increase monitoring/maintenance	3.77	3	4.55	4
S5: Setting the speed limit for motorised vehicles	3.75	4	4.53	5
Uses, Activity and Sociability (U)				
U1: Provide covered spaces to enjoy community activities.	3.79	1	4.69	1

Access and Linkages (A)				
Items	TLBS		TPBK	
	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank
U2: Provide space and facilities for recreational activities (jogging, cycling, active sports).	3.75	2	4.67	2
U3: Prepare monthly carnival	3.60	3	4.65	3
U4: Improve or provide kiosks	3.57	4	4.57	4
	N = 271		N=99	
Note: Mean: 5.00 – 4.00 (Strongly Agreed), 3.99 – 3.00 (Agreed), 2.99 – 2.00 (Moderate), 1.99 – 1.00 (Disagreed), 0.99 – 0 (Strongly Disagree)				

Regarding Access and Linkages (A), the results show that item A2 ranked 1 for both study areas (TLBS with a mean of 3.77 and TPBK with 4.64). Both locations place equal importance on safety, with TPBK slightly outperforming TLBS. This suggests that both locations prioritise safety equally, but TPBK may have implemented more effective measures. In addition, item A4 was ranked 1 for TLBS with a mean score of 3.77, suggesting better overall accessibility than TPBK.

Meanwhile, TPBK ranks highest in item A1, indicating a stronger emphasis or better implementation of pedestrian and bike-friendly infrastructure than TLBS. Regarding item A3, TPBK, with a mean of 4.62, has a higher rating, indicating better lighting for pedestrian and bicycle lanes than TLBS. Concerning Sense of Place (S), item S1 ranked the highest in both study areas, with a mean score of 3.90 for TLBS and 4.69 for TPBK. TPBK rates higher in integrating royal and modern concepts, while TLBS excels in combining administrative and modern concepts, indicating a strong sense of place tailored to each location's identity. Meanwhile, for item S3, both locations value new activities, but TPBK, with a mean score of 4.59, ranks slightly lower, indicating a minor difference in how each location addresses this aspect. TPBK ranked 2 for item S2, suggesting better greening and environmental enhancement efforts than TLBS. Also, TPBK has a higher mean (4.55 with a total ranking score of 4) for monitoring and maintenance, suggesting more effective or frequent maintenance than TLBS.

Regarding Uses, Activity, and Sociability (U), both locations had item U1 ranked first, 2 for item U2, 3 for item U3, and 4 for item U4. Specifically, for U1, both locations ranked highest (TPBK with a mean of 4.69 and TLBS with a mean of 3.79) in providing covered spaces for community activities, indicating that both place significant importance on creating sheltered areas for social and community events. Meanwhile, both locations also prioritise providing space and facilities for various recreational activities, though TPBK slightly outperforms TLBS with a mean of 4.67 and 3.75, respectively. This suggests that TPBK might have better or more diverse recreational facilities. Also, both locations have similar rankings for preparing monthly carnivals, with TPBK again scoring

higher (a mean of 4.65). This indicates that TPBK may have more frequent or better-organised community events that create social interaction.

In summary, TPBK generally scores higher in most aspects of pedestrian and bike-friendly infrastructure, lighting, planting, and overall sense of place. Meanwhile, TLBS performs better in access, new activities, and speed limit settings. Both locations exhibit strengths and areas for improvement, with TPBK excelling in design and environmental enhancements, while TLBS shows more robust performance in accessibility and speed regulations. Also, TPBK consistently scores higher across all categories related to uses, activities and sociability, which indicates the area offers better facilities and organisation for community activities, recreational use and events. However, both locations show a commitment to enhancing community-orientated features.

As the outcome of the study, Figures 2 and 3 show the master plan of the proposals for TLBS and TPBK. Based on Figure 2, the TLBS master plan comprises four (4) strategic proposals aimed at preserving and enhancing the area's existing features. Firstly, maintain the lake's aesthetic appeal (**P1**). This proposal focuses on preserving and enhancing the visual attractiveness of the lake. It may include improving the water quality, shoreline beautification, and landscaping maintenance to ensure the lake remains a focal point of natural beauty. Secondly, pathway accessibility should be enhanced (**P2**). To improve connectivity and ease of movement, this proposal aims to enhance the accessibility of pathways around the area. This might involve upgrading existing pathways, ensuring they are well-maintained and accessible to people of all abilities. Also, maintaining and enhancing existing surroundings and greenery (**P3**) is focused on preserving and improving the existing green spaces and natural surroundings. Lastly, parking facilities should be enhanced (**P4**). This proposal aims to upgrade existing parking facilities by expanding the areas and improving signage and overall usability to better accommodate visitors.

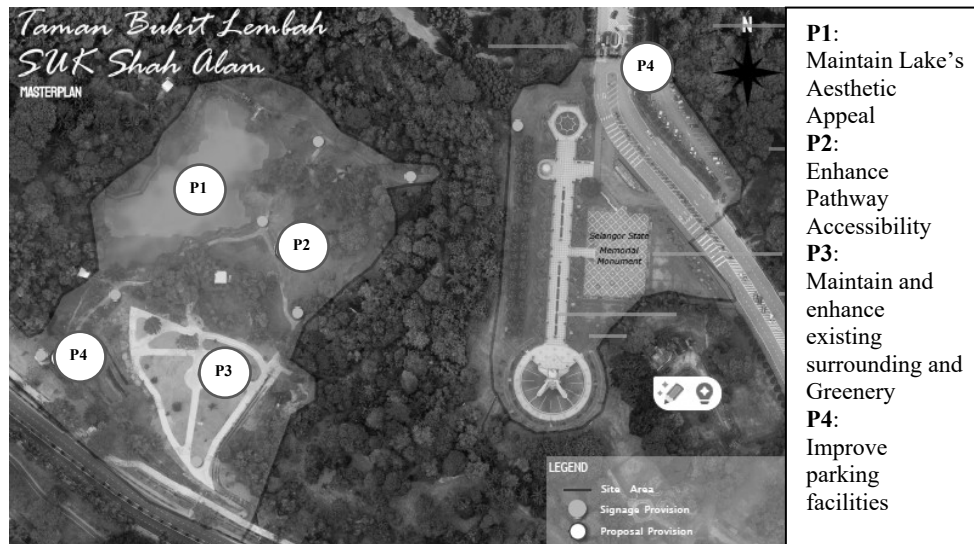


Figure 2: Master Plan for TLBS's Proposal

Meanwhile, the TPBK Master Plan encompasses six (6) proposals designed to enhance the area's functionality, aesthetics, and recreational opportunities. These proposals include new riverfront activities (**P1**), which aim to develop and introduce new activities along the riverfront, enhancing its appeal as a vibrant social and recreational hub. This could include waterfront events, boating, or outdoor performances to attract visitors and foster community engagement. Also, new soft- and hardscape additions (**P2**) could focus on integrating new landscaping elements and durable hardscaping features. This includes new planting, green space (softscape), and enhancement of paving and seating (hardscape). Meanwhile, the beautification of the area (**P3**) aims to enhance its aesthetic appeal, which includes street art and decorative lighting. New commercial activities (**P4**) seek to stimulate local economic growth by introducing new commercial ventures such as cafes and shops. Additionally, pedestrian and bicycle path improvement (**P5**) should focus on upgrading the existing paths for pedestrians and cyclists to ensure safer, more accessible and enjoyable routes. Lastly, new sports and recreational activities (**P6**) are proposed to cater to a broad range of interests, which involve the construction of new sports courts or fitness stations to promote active lifestyles in the community.

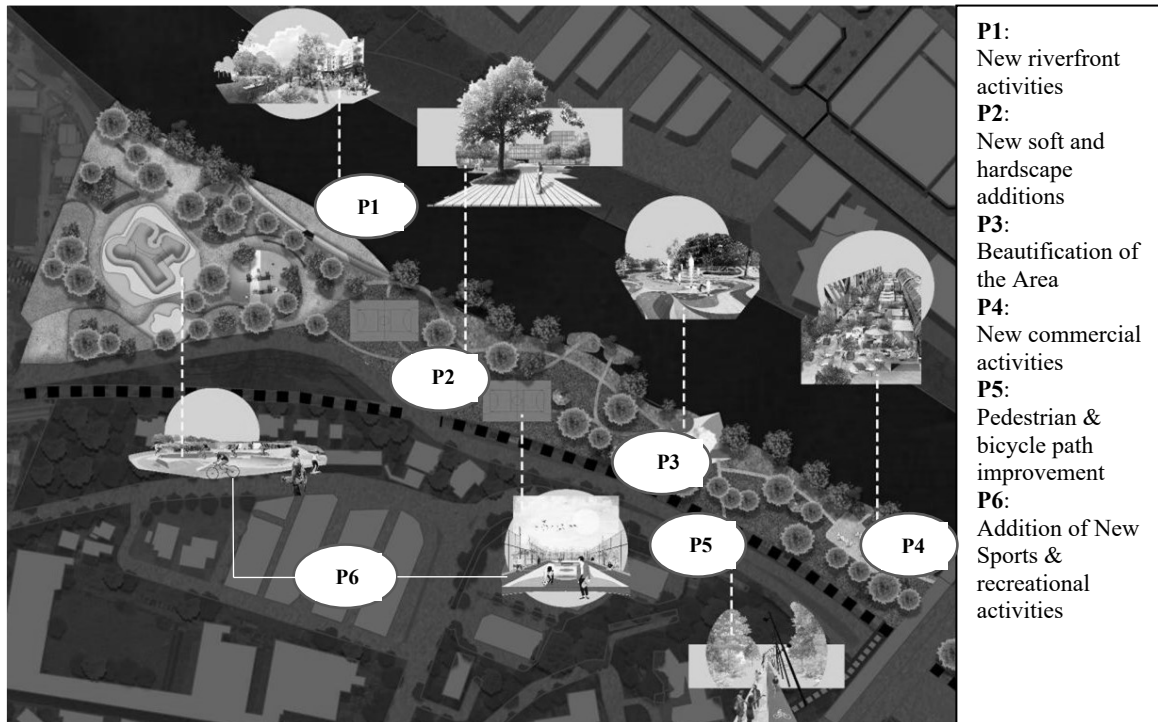


Figure 3: Master Plan for TPBK's Proposal

CONCLUSION

This study was able to compare and highlight the different strengths of TLBS and TPBK and can guide targeted improvements based on each location's specific needs and goals. The TPBK proposal is characterised by a broad range of new initiatives, focusing on enhancing various aspects of the area, from recreational activities to commercial ventures. Its approach is to rejuvenate and diversify the area to attract more visitors and to improve community interaction. In contrast, the TLBS plan emphasises maintaining and enhancing existing features, preserving the lake's appeal and improving accessibility and functionality.

Based on the study's aims and findings, it can be concluded that the suggestions, recommendations, and proposals reflect the different priorities of the study areas. TPBK aims at dynamic growth and modernisation, while TLBS focuses on conservation and incremental improvements. Each approach is tailored to the unique needs and characteristics of the respective study areas. The analysis concludes that modifying public spaces' design and improving the availability of supporting facilities could be crucial in enhancing how communities use their leisure time. By implementing thoughtful changes in these areas, the community in both study areas could experience more fulfilling and

enjoyable recreational activities. The adjustments in the design of these public spaces may serve as a key factor in fostering greater community engagement and satisfaction.

Placemaking and rejuvenating public spaces or community parks are significant and expanding research areas with numerous opportunities for further study. Several promising directions for future research exist in this field. Firstly, it is essential to assess the economic impacts of placemaking; secondly, future studies should investigate the long-term sustainability of placemaking projects, focusing on maintenance, community involvement, and the potential for replicating successful initiatives in other areas. Future studies should explore practical methods for incorporating placemaking into urban planning to ensure that public spaces and community parks meet the community's needs and are managed sustainably. The rejuvenation of community parks highlights Malaysia's placemaking approach by combining government-led initiatives, community engagement, and multicultural inclusivity. It localises global placemaking ideas by showing how revitalised urban spaces can strengthen social connection, identity and well-being within Malaysia's diverse and policy-driven urban context.

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The study complied with all relevant ethical research guidelines involving human survey respondents. Each participant provided their informed consent, and participation was voluntary. The respondents were kept anonymous, ethical procedures were adhered to, and UiTM REC was followed.

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