

September 2021

DEVELOPING DESIGN GUIDELINES TOWARDS SAFER PARK: THE CASE OF RAMLET EL BAIDA

Valerie Nader Kassem

PhD Candidate, Faculty of Architecture - Design & Built Environment, Beirut Arab University, Lebanon,
valeriekassem@gmail.com

Ayman Afify

Professor, Faculty of Architecture - Design & Built Environment, Beirut Arab University, Lebanon, a.afifi@bau.edu.lb

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.bau.edu.lb/apj>



Part of the [Urban, Community and Regional Planning Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kassem, Valerie Nader and Afify, Ayman (2021) "DEVELOPING DESIGN GUIDELINES TOWARDS SAFER PARK: THE CASE OF RAMLET EL BAIDA," *Architecture and Planning Journal (APJ)*: Vol. 27: Iss. 2, Article 8. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.54729/2789-8547.1144>

DEVELOPING DESIGN GUIDELINES TOWARDS SAFER PARK: THE CASE OF RAMLET EL BAIDA

Abstract

Public urban park is a very important feature in the city, it is responsible for the behavior of the cities and gives an identity of the city besides country to portray it in front of the people. Well maintained park leads to healthy life and well-being. Also, it holds social value and attachment of people to it. Despite wide consensus on the importance of public parks for city dwellers' social lives as well as their physical and mental health, popular discourses and journalist reports reflect a growing demonetization of public space in many cities around the world. This is because fear is increasingly associated with representations of the 'public' in many cities across the world. Threats from diseases spread (e.g., COVID-19), crime, or threats posed by "other" social groups incivility led to violence. This research is conducted in three phases: the first phase focuses on literature review that helps to define the different types of threats as well as their impact. The second phase highlights the factors and characteristics of good public parks and provides tools to evaluate and activate with the physical and social elements. The third one analyses the Ramlet El- Baida case and proposes guidelines.

Keywords

Public Open Space, Community, Threats of Public Spaces, Ramlet El-Baida, Revitalization of Public Spaces, Green Corridor, Equity

1. INTRODUCTION

Over the past decades, public spaces have been explored through multi-disciplines such as urban design planning, philosophy, geography, and sociology. The extent of the researcher diversity has rendered them so vast to the point that it is almost impossible to determine one common definition. One attempt at a definition is that of the urban planners who typically approach public spaces from a physical/ spatial perspective and focus on its importance to the city. "What defines the character of a city is its public space, not its private space" - UN-Habitat executive director Joan Clos. Public spaces play a great role in the prosperity of the city in general, considering its economic, social, and cultural importance. When public places are absent, poorly designed, or privatized, the city becomes increasingly isolated. So as a result, they are an important ingredient of successful cities (UNHABITAT, 2012, p. 1).

Multiple urban planners have further emphasized on the role of public spaces in the city. For instance, (Madanipour, 1999), defines public spaces as "multipurpose spaces distinguishable from and mediating between the demarcated territories of households" (Madanipour, p. 882). Similarly, (Carmona, 2008) considers that, "public spaces (narrowly defined) relate to all those parts of the built and natural environment where the public has free access. It encompasses: all streets, squares and other rights or way... the open spaces and parks: and the 'public/private' spaces where public access is unrestricted." (Carmona, p.4).

Access to adequate public spaces and basic services is an essential human right and ensuring the availability of these resources in developing and newly urbanizing countries where they are lacking is of paramount importance: setting aside and protecting public spaces, as NYU's Paul Romer has argued, should be the "number one priority" for city leaders to make life better for its residents. Where open public spaces already exist, however, their thoughtful design and maintenance is vital for the health, cultural, social, economic, and physical, of any city.

Therefore, the physical situation of public spaces in Lebanon generally, and Beirut specifically are scarce and suffers from privatization, negligence from the local government, lack of maintenance and dwellers interest. Thus, the aim is to define threats of public spaces and outline the characteristics of successful park through literature and case studies.

2. METHODOLOGY

This study is based on qualitative and quantitative studies also literature review. Similarly, international case studies from USA and Europe were collected and compared and overlapped with the collected literature to support final findings and guidelines.

Literature review on threats of public spaces and assessment tools to evaluate the successfulness of public spaces and define the criteria of successful these spaces are associated with public spaces. In addition, definitions types and key elements of public spaces are stated.

As the study inquires the phenomenon of threats of open public spaces, using the theoretical framework and reviewing existing knowledge to collect data required to understand the causes that leads to neglect these spaces, and to identify elements affecting on the transformation of public spaces.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature about threat of public space and multiple narratives were gathered to understand the diver types of fear, their sources and finally the impact on the city and a public space. In addition to the physical impact, the literature expands beyond this and studied the social spatial practices and on urban life. This literature is divided into 2 sections; the first studies the historical threats and their impact on the public spaces, this includes: (1) Social, gender and ethnic segregation, (2) inaccessibility (3) privatization (4) social spatial practices (5) incivility, these threats were generated in the past and extended till today, however by the spread of Covid-19 new threats were generated such as (1) spread of disease (2) over-crowdedness.

3.1 Historical Threats

Several threats including social, cultural, physical, and management have layers have impacted negatively the use of public spaces which sometimes lead to crime. This situation prevents the desire to visit public spaces.

Table 1: Historical Threats of public spaces through literature review
Source: The author

Social, gender and ethnic segregation:	It leads to uneven distribution of ethnic groups over neighborhoods in a city as well as in the public park
Inaccessibility:	Urban security mechanisms are mostly translated into constraints on mobility and ease of movement as well as on our daily practices.
Privatization:	It creates conditions for public space to be controlled for personal interests.
Controlled Social Spatial Practices:	It excludes lower income and control the social practices in the public space
Incivility:	It reduces visiting the park, especially during evening, then this will lead into empty space and therefore into physical deterioration.

3.2 Nowadays Threats

Parks and other public spaces are spots where people can practice physical activities, while they benefit from break, well-being and health. During the last year and due to the viral spread of Covid-19, some governments took decision to close parks, especially during the weekend, when it becomes overloaded and crowded.

Spread of Disease:

- To respond on the right to have local spots where they can walk and exercise.
- To make adjustment to meet locals need and circumstances.
- To provide enough safety, be practical and acceptable to needs of community.

Over crowdedness:

- Cause: It had the potential to violate personal space by actions of overcrowding which intrigues loss of control over the space.
- Solution: to keep the center and old fabric of the city clean, tied, and excluded from new commers, planners decentralized the cites and created new overcrowded zones at the peripheries

3.3 Factors of Good Public Spaces

Many studies revealed that there is a direct relationship between crime and t public space use. When space is known as a spot for criminal actions, it becomes deserted and neglected; therefore, users avoid visiting and passing through it. (McCormick, 2015). Given the failure of securitized approaches, environmental design has gained new attention as an approach to crime prevention. Multiple approaches are gathered and studied in order to understand and extract the key elements of a successful public park.

Factors and characteristics of successful urban public space are retrieved from five international sources. These sources are helpful in translating from theoretical/ analytical frameworks into practical frameworks.

The collected factors are classified into 5 Urban Themes which are as follow: (i) Mobility and accessibility, (ii)Urban furniture and amenities, (iii)Programming, (iv)Urban context and (v) Governance. After defining the key elements, they are analyzed, compared, and summarized in a table.

Table 2: Evaluation Framework

Source: The author

		Literature review	Principles and Evaluation				
		Different types of threats	Crime prevention through environmental Design (CPTED)	Project for public spaces, place diagram and placemaking	The 7 principles of William whyte	Jan Gehl's 12 step framework to great public space	From space to place
Urban Themes	Mobility and accessibility	Inaccessible and boundaries	Natural access Control	Access and linkage	Street		Accessibility
	Urban furniture and amenities	Over crowdedness	Territoriality	Comfort and image	Suitable spaces Trees Water	delight	Lush landscape
	Programming			Activities and usage	Triangulation	Invitation	People and programming
	Urban context	Social gender and ethnic segregation. Social spatial Practices	Natural Observation	Sociability	Food sun		Excellence in design and eye for detail
	Governance	Privatization Spread of disease	Maintenance			Protection	

4. APPLIED STUDY

4.1 Methodology

This study focuses on a case study research methodology containing mixed-method research of both quantitative and qualitative data. It is based on research conducted 2 years ago by urban designer Abir Cheaitli. This study is based on her previous work, whereas I conducted the evaluation and design guidelines. First, it is important to identify and highlight Ramlet El Baida neighborhood and park's major problematic to elaborate recommendations and guidelines targeting those problematic. The study includes the following:

- Quantifying Ramlet el Baida Case: In order to assess the park, the research relied on two tools, the first is the SAFE Assessment and the second is the star model of Varna.
- Urban Data Collection and Analysis: The analysis of Ramlet El-Baida Park focuses on (i) the physical morphology as neighborhood scale and (ii) Socio-Spatial Practices as plot scale.

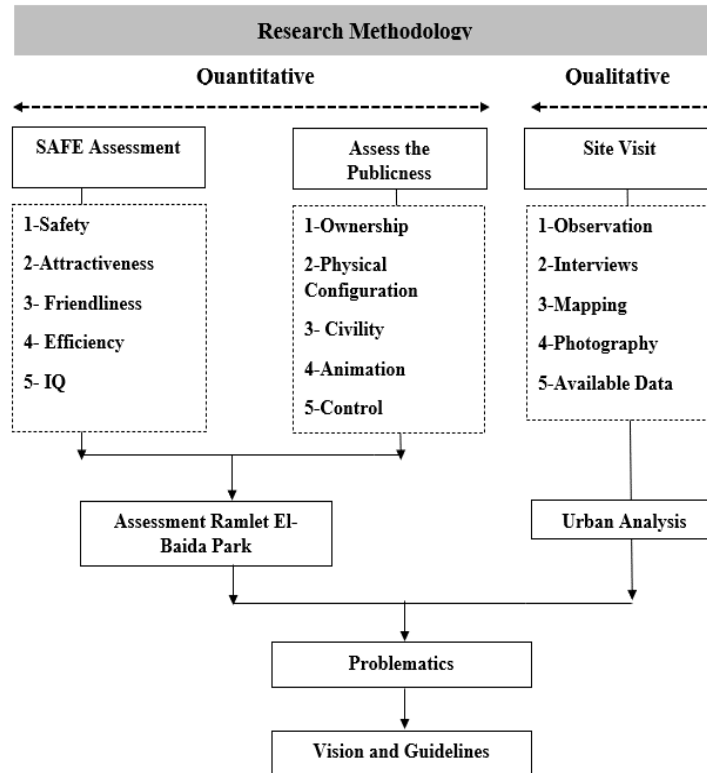


Diagram 1: Case Study methodology
Source: The author

4.2 Case Profile: The neighborhood Analysis

The physical implementation of the infrastructure creates diverse edges in the neighborhood. One of the major roads is the Rafic el Hariri highway that links the studied area with the rest of the city along the coastline. Although this collector plays a major role by connecting the neighborhood with the city, it divides Ramlet El-Baida transversally as shown in the figure below (Fig.1).

A hierarchical analysis of the road showed that Ramlet- El baida is well connected and accessible by vehicular circulation as seen in fig. 2. The Northern part is accessible through Saeb Salam road, the Eastern side through Cheikh Sabah el Salem, and finally the Western side through Rafic El-Hariri road. To conclude even though Ramlet EL-Baida is well connected to the city, it has a negative impact on the neighborhood itself in general and its internal circulation precisely. In addition to the fragmentation, these roads are not equipped with appropriate urban furniture, safety measures and signs.

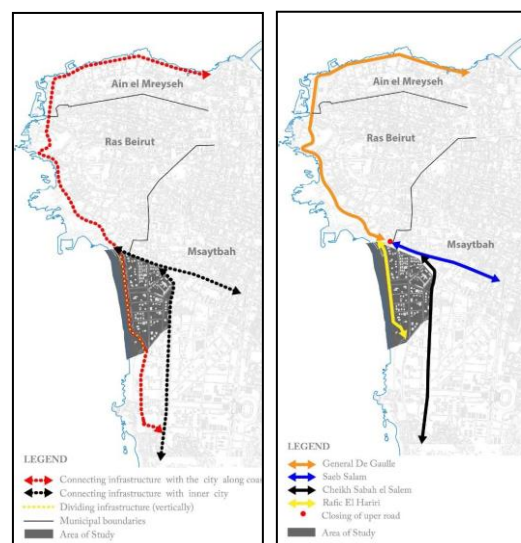


Fig. 1: Location of Rmalet El-Baida
Source: Abir Cheaitli, 2018

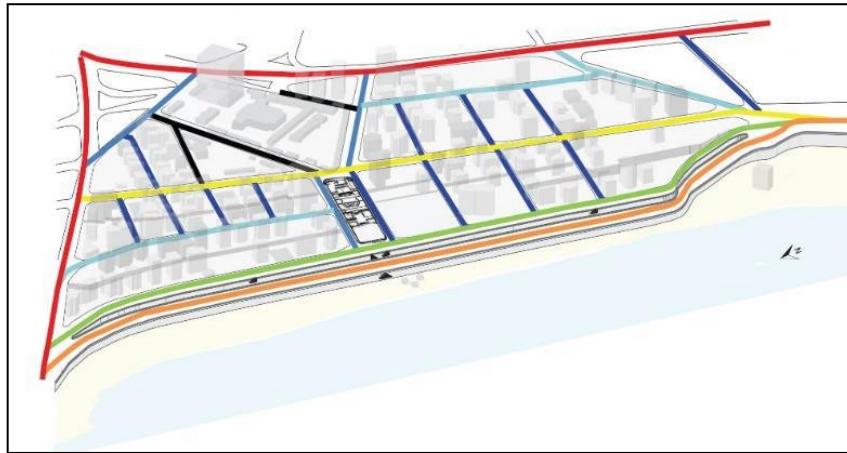


Fig. 2: Road hierarchy of Rmalet El-Baida. Source: Abir Cheaitli, 2018

The stretched Rafic El-Hariri road creates a longitudinal break between the upper part of the neighborhood where the park is located and the lower part where the corniche and public beach are located. Although the road traffic speed is 70km/h, it seems it is not that speedy and this highway lacks safety measures for pedestrians, creating challenges when crossing it. In order to connect the upper and the lower part of the Ramlet Baida three staircases exist which promotes the accessibility for pedestrians to circulate between the two levels. One of them is directly in front of the Ramlet el-Baida park.

4.3 Zoning and Regulations

The neighborhood is split into different zoning regulations. As seen in the figure below, we can notice that it is mainly categorized as “SP”, which means “Special Zone”. This area is zoned 10n years than the rest of Beirut, it was a deal between the municipal authorities and real estate developers. The analysis of the zoning table shows that the coefficient of exploitation is 2, a 30% of lot minimum building area, a 60% minimum building projection of façade, and no restrictions on maximum building heights or the number of floors. These guidelines included lateral setbacks and aligned with the 1960s modern standards, conceptualized of buildings as self-standing objects.

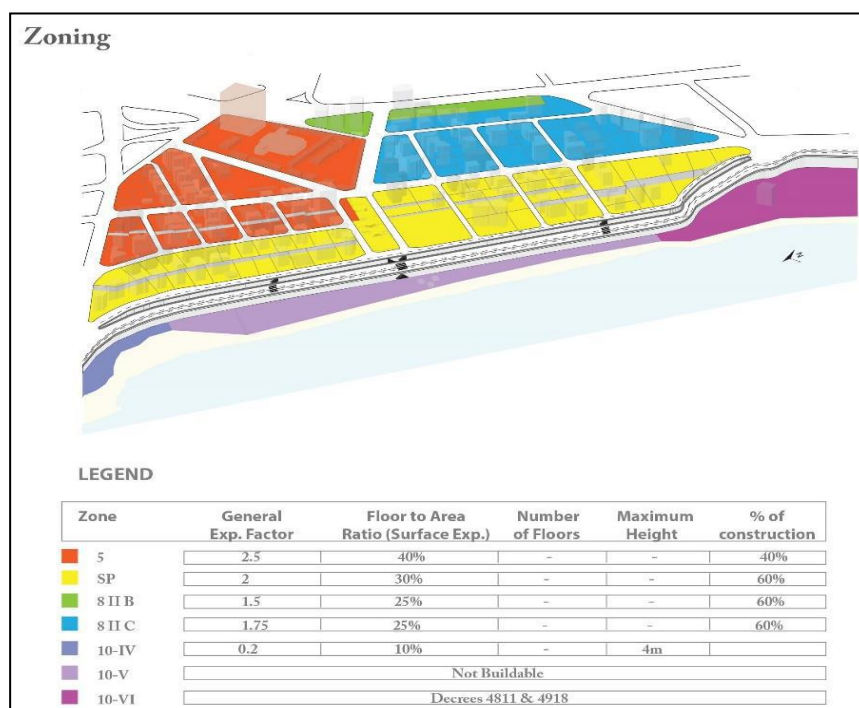


Fig. 3 : Landuse Map. Source: Abir Cheaitli, 2018

4.4 Land-use

The land-use Analysis of Ramlet El-Baida shows that this neighbourhood is mainly residential with poor commercial activities. The commercial land-use is located on the ground floor; it includes hairdresser salons, car selling, one supermarket, few shopping stores, and coffee shops, while the rest of the floors are residential. The area has institutional buildings such as the Kuwait Embassy, adjacent to the northern part of park and military base to the Eastern part of the park. In addition to the built area, there are vacant lands as well. (Fig.4).

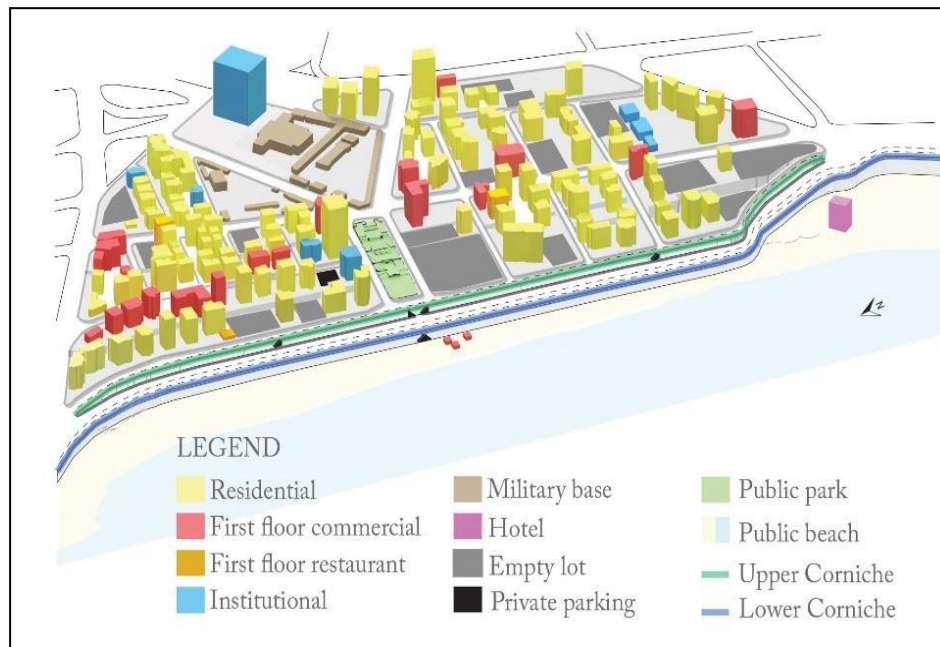


Fig. 4 :LandUse Map. Source: Abir Cheaitli, 2018

4.5 Security and Social Practices

Many of buildings are gated with high security mechanisms and opaque fences, this separates and isolates the building from the street life. While walking you can come across with CCTV and private security guards which create a discomfort as if someone is following you. Most of the residents do not have an interest to interact with the neighbors beyond their gates, this explains poor social interaction. (Caldeira, 2000). Gated community and buildings give a sense of safety, comfortability, security, and exclusion, this has been witnessed in Ramlat El-Baida neighborhood. Site analysis revealed not only physical marginalization, but also social segregation. This explains the emptiness of sidewalks, public spaces. As we interviewed the shop owner near the park, he claimed that the residents are different in this area, they rarely shop here, they usually send their chauffeur or their household cleaner to get their order.

Sidewalks and direct frontage of the building with fences and wide setbacks had led to detaching residents from public spaces and limiting social interactions. It has also enhanced the abandonment and deterioration of public areas due to the lack of interest exhibited by the residents in what is behind the building's gates.

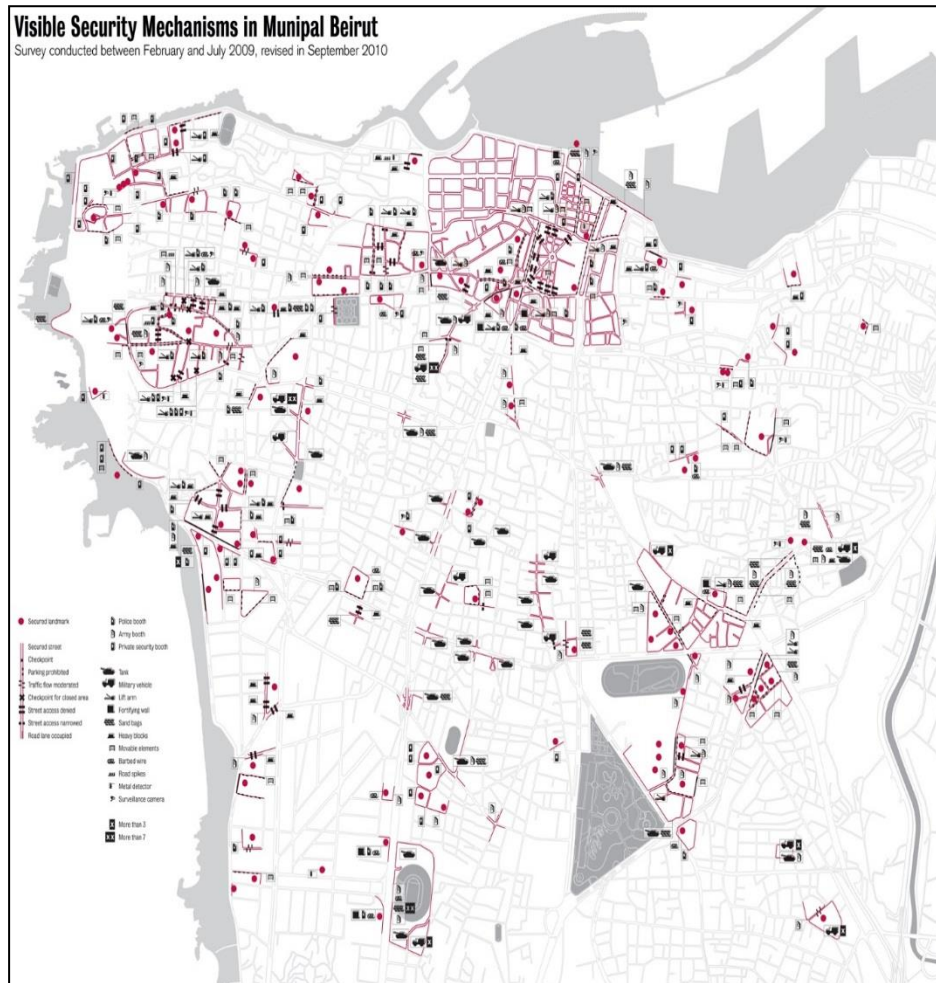


Fig. 5: Beirut Security Mechanisms. Source: Fawaz 2010

4.6 Case Profile: The Park Analysis

Ramlet El-Baida Park is one of the remaining parks in Beirut. It represents a small portion of the residual park. Nonetheless, any small spot should be considered important due to the rapid urbanization and poor availability of green spaces in the city (Cheaitli, 2018) (Fig 6).

The park is currently abandoned, and is deteriorating by time, the space is threatened by fear of insecurity, expecting peace, calm and tranquility. As mentioned above, the physical configuration of the area has not only affected the building configuration but also the park; one is tempted to highlight that the latter is disconnected from its surroundings. This is not the only problem according to the site analysis and field visit which was done by my classmates.

The park has a strategic location and unique character due to the sloped configuration of the land and the overlooking view to the beach as seen in the figure 20. As close-up, it holds wrecked platforms with scattered trees. It has a seasonal spirit, for instance, during spring and summer seasons the park has a wrecked ground and is covered with bushes, while in autumn and winter, the only greenery found are palm trees (figure 21). In addition to the poorness of green spots, the park suffers from uncivility and undesirable activities which are as follow: littering, drinking alcohol and open air-toilet. This is due to the lack of municipal management and dis-attachment of locals to the park.

Different spots were selected to translate the current situation (Fig.7). Some images were taken from a roof top of the surrounded building. This picture shows that the park is acting as an isolated entity and surrounded with roads with no safety measurements for pedestrians to cross over, or actual design considerations for its accessibility from nearby zones.

Although the park is surrounded by four roads, there are 3 main entrances, one is at the upper part of the park, and its inaccessible because of cumulated sand, traches, and high bushes. The other two entrances are located in the middle of the park, but they are partially blocked by concrete blocks installed by the Lebanese army to restrict the cars' entrance to the park as they used to park inside and drivers would gather at night to drink, have intimate evenings, or other "immoral" behaviors.

In addition to the miss-behavior, the park is used by non-Lebanese household cleaner who walks the dogs of the residents living in the surrounding buildings. Also, a homeless man is lading down under a tree, and using this park as a shelter as he does not have a place to settle, eat, sleep, or hangout with his friends. Through a small chat, he also mentioned that although the residents have complained about him being there, he refuses to leave responding that it is a public space, and they have no right to force him to leave. The Park is full of garbage disposable, it has wrecked stairs and unsafe playground and lacks greenery to create shades for users to stay (Fig.8).



Fig.6: Location of Ramlet El-Baida Park.
Source: Cheaitli 2018



Fig7: Current situation n of Ramlet El-Baida Park.
Source: Cheaitli 2018

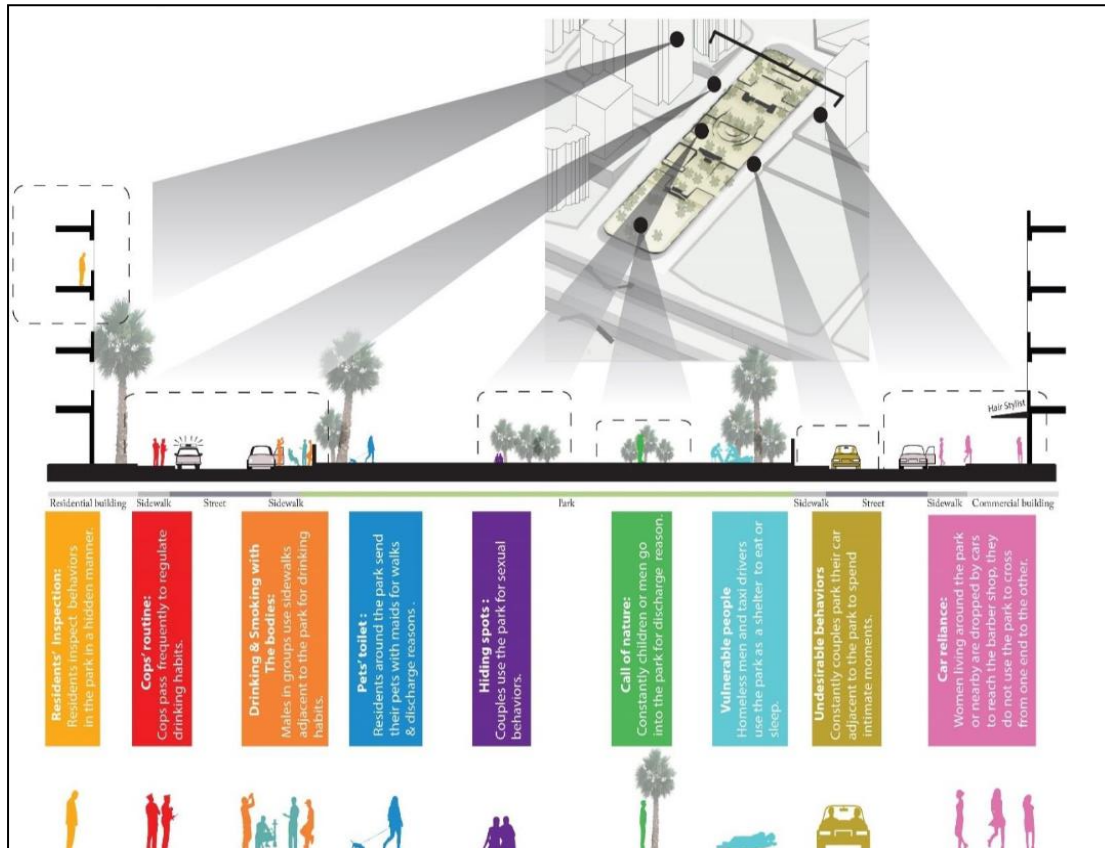


Fig.8: Practices in Ramlet El-Baida Park. Source: Cheaitli 2018

4.7 Assessing Ramlet El-Baida

In order to assess the park, the research relied on two tools, the first one is the SAFE Assessment and the second is the star model of Varna.

Applying SAFE to Ramlet El-Baida neighborhood

The neighborhood's physical features were assessed on site as part of the data collection using the SAFE assessment sheet in order to determine the neighborhood's IQ. The findings showed that the Ramlet El-Baida neighborhood has a remarkably lower IQ than the current index for SAFE. This reveals that the studied streets rarely provide the minimum demand quality of neighborhood physical features necessary to accommodate the activities of the general population. In addition, data analysis findings revealed that while safety, attractiveness, friendliness, and efficiency have significant correlation with the IQ, Friendliness and attractiveness has a higher IQ.

Findings from spatial analysis

The main measures of SAFE are (Safety, Attractiveness, friendliness, and efficiency) of the neighborhood IQ were determined using the SAFE assessment tool in the neighborhood which contains 7 roads (fig 9). As such, the IQ for each street, being total of the four main measures, was determined as illustrated in figure 10.

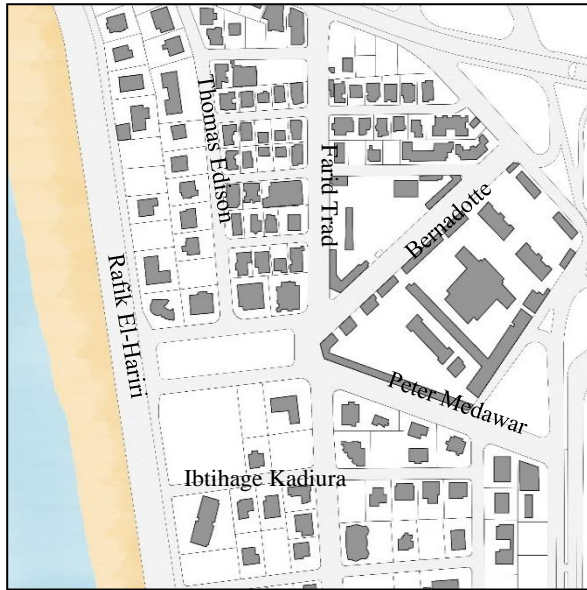


Fig.9: Roads in Ramlet El-Baida. Source: Author 2020

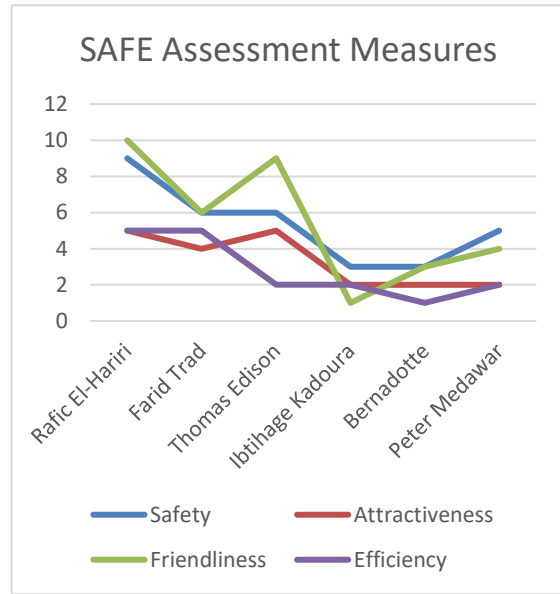


Fig.10: Streets" Invitation Qualities and the Assessment measures's. Source: Author 2020

The average IQ of all streets (Table 3) is in the low rating of the neighborhood quality index. However, Rafic El-Hariri street has score 29/63, and this is the closet average score category of the neighborhood quality index (rating score between 40 and 50), when compared to “Farid Trade” and “Thomas Edison” streets which had an average score of 21 and 22. As per the means (M) and standards variances (SD) of the invitation qualities of all six streets surveyed streets, “Farid Trade” and “Thomas Edison” could be categorized very close to the moderate-rating neighborhood quality index. The remaining streets were in low-rating category of the neighborhood quality index.

Table 3 Streets" Invitation Qualities and the Assessment measures's. Source: Author 2020

Name of Roads	Measures																Total									
	Safety				Attractiveness				Friendliness				Efficiency													
	Level of Passive Surveillance (From surrounding land use)	Level of Passive Surveillance (From vehicle traffic speed)	Level of active Surveillance (Police, Security, Personnel, Security)	Adequacy of sidewalks and curb cuts	Adequacy of urban furniture	Adequacy of landscape	Adequacy of landscape provides buffer between pedestrians and passing vehicle traffic	Safety Total	Social Activities	Design	Address to all group	Cleanliness	Range of inviting landscape around neighbourhood	Attractiveness Total	Adequacy of Sidewalk path to all groups	Sidewalk clearance	Adequacy of sidewalk slope	Active outdoor activities	Range of comfortable outdoor sitting	Friendliness Total	The pedestrian routes are easy to navigate	There are adequate designated pedestrian crossing	Time to access to the park	There are near public transportation	Efficiency Total	
Rafic Hariri	0	2	2	2	1	1	1	9	2	1	1	1	0	5	2	1	3	3	1	10	3	0	0	2	5	29
Farid Trad	2	1	0	1	0	2	0	6	0	1	1	2	0	4	1	2	2	1	0	6	2	1	2	0	5	21
Thomas Edison	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	6	1	1	1	2	0	5	2	2	2	3	0	9	0	0	2	0	2	22
Ibtihage Kadoura	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	8
Bernadotte	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	9
Peter Medawar	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	1	1	0	4	1	0	1	0	2	13

Applying VARNA to Ramlet El-Baida PARK

The site was visited several times to gather the required data, as mentioned before the site was analysed in both micro and macro scale. Sometimes the dimension is not valid at the macroscale, so the assessment relied at the micro scale and vice versa.

Overall calculation of the five parameters gives an average of 3.08 (figure11). According to Varna, this value defines that the rate of publicness of the public park is “fair”.

It is important to highlight that this park is public, which means it is easier to revitalize and improve its uses.

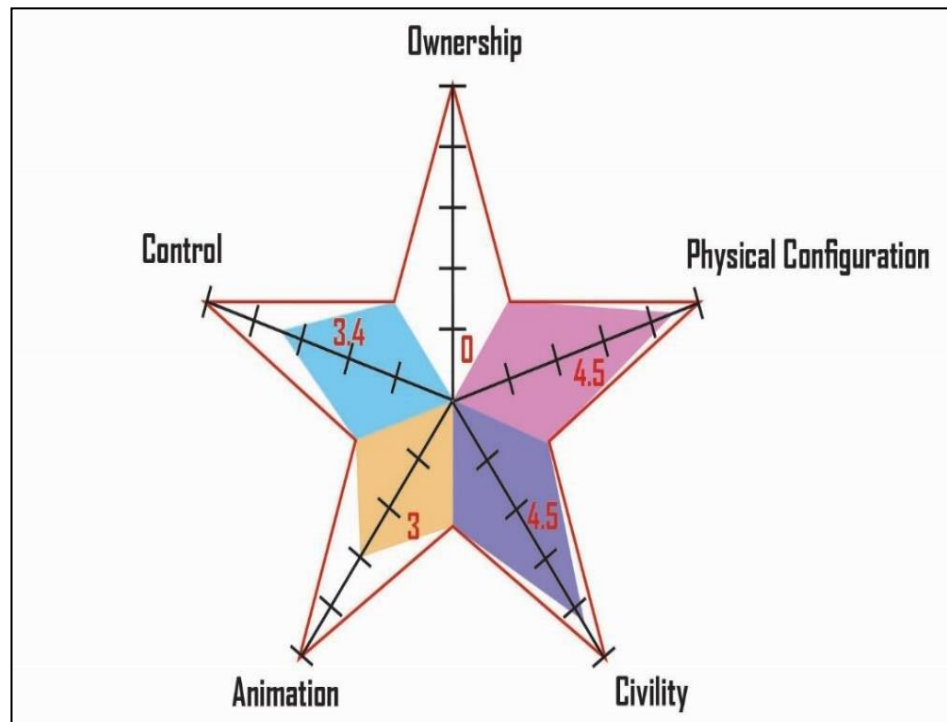


Fig 11: Applying Varna Star to Ramlet El-Baida Park. Source: Cheaitli 2018

Overall, the study findings validate my hypothesis by showing that "Ramlet El-Baida" characteristics have low invitation quality that could discourage dwellers from accessing and performing activities in the outdoor public space. Moreover, the 5 parameters of Varna's assessment shows that the publicness of the park is fair.

Moreover, findings revealed that neighborhood's safety, attractiveness, friendliness, and efficiency measures have significant correlations with the neighborhood IQ. Furthermore, the study determines that the existing outdoor physical features directly affect the SAFE measures in the neighborhood streets.

5. DESIGN STRATEGIES

The design guidelines were developed and aligned with the literature and the case studies. As revealed, the park can be revitalized and turned back to its users by (i) providing flexible spontaneous design, (ii) connecting the park to its surrounding by blurring the edge. Thus, eliminating incivilities, gender inequalities, spread of diseases, rumors and other fearful behavior.

The main vision of this park is to attract and respond to each individual community. This is because the community is the expert and the individuals living within can provide a historical perspective and valuable insights on how the area functions and understanding of the critical issues and what is meaningful to them (PEINHARDT, 2019). By recognizing their needs, the main aim of the vision becomes the reactivation of the underused park and the improvement of its physical conditions.

Accordingly, by implementing this vision, the park will gain an own character as a neighborhood-based area by introducing various programs and activities such as playground, sitting areas, temporary and permanent structures, seasonal markets, that respond immediately to the dwellers' needs. In addition to implementing traffic calming and safe pedestrians' paths, changing street layout and providing promenades. Therefore, the strategies should include physical, landscape and connectivity features.

Based on the analysis of the literature review (threats of public spaces in the past and the present) as well as urban design frameworks (the 5 criteria for successful public spaces) recommendations were generated and further elaborated into guidelines. The analyzed

recommendations are based on (1) Mobility and accessibility, (2) Urban furniture and amenities, (3) Activities and Programming, (4) Urban context, (5) Governance, (6) Identity, and (7) Ecology. The strategies and design guidelines tackle both plot and neighborhood scale. Landscape, accessibility, mobility, programing, amenities are tackled in the table below.

Scale	General strategies	Detailed guidelines
Neighborhood scale	1.Creating Green links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expropriating building set back and merging it with the pedestrian path. • Implementation of storm water runoff filtration as part of the green corridor design. Applying rain gardens enhances the aesthetics and treats water runoff. • The use of the treated water to irrigate the agricultural lands or to be infiltrated directly into the ground.
	2.Creating visual green connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of vertical gardens on the opaque walls beside institutional and private plots. • Growing climbing trees will provide a green continuity and an element of the interconnected green network.
	3.Active Frontage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing the owners to install service tables and seats on the sidewalk, while forbidding on-street parking on one side of the road, in order to widen the sidewalks and install vegetation and urban furniture. • Leaving more than 2 clear meters for pedestrian movements, and thus allowing street cafés to use a space on the pavement where a minimum of 2 meters is left unobstructed for pedestrians. Invalid source specified. • Positioning the café's furniture in way that does not discourage people from using the footway. • Locating the café immediately outside the front of the applicant's premises so that staff and customers will not have to interrupt the normal flow of pedestrians. • Ensuring a clear access to emergency and other authorized vehicles. An unobstructed route of 4 meters wide is required in front of any street café in the pedestrian areas. • Surrounding the café with a removable continuous physical barrier on all open sides to the highway, matching with the surroundings in terms of material, style and color. • Placing an 80 cm minimum height barrier to help people who are visually impaired. It should not be visually dominant with sharp edges, but strong enough for public use. • Keeping the furniture, and outdoor shade structures inside the barriers.
	4.Security Mechanism and Reclaiming of Public Spaces	Reducing the physical accessibility and visual connectivity by removing concrete blocks and opaque walls.
Park scale	1.Promoting accessibility and equity for the entire community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating multiple access/egress points along the perimeter. • Improving visibility through applying signage in front of the park. • Promoting walkable neighborhoods through enhancing pedestrian and cycle paths networks: providing hard surfaced pathways traversing the park and linking its structures.

	2. Providing a safe and user-friendly environment through the design of the public parks and their embellishments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designating a main entry point into the park, which enhances the park's legibility and can assist people with disabilities. • Locating bollards, barriers, and perimeter trees and/or fencing to prevent un-authorized vehicular access into the park. • Maintaining clear sight lines to potential hazards such as water bodies, open drains, car parks and roads • Using low shrubs (500mm) and groundcover planting that do not interrupt sight lines or create possible 'hiding' spots. • Utilizing existing trees or plant new ones to create shade to passive and active activity areas: this will increase comfort levels for users. • Increasing the user's comfort level by utilizing existing trees or planting new ones to create shade to passive and active type areas. • Avoiding user conflicts through the park's plan and design, which increases enjoyment and safety levels.
	3. Parks as relevant public spaces to community needs and expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing parks to be embellished to an appropriate standard according to the park's type and the intended catchment of users. • Planning and designing parks in a way that does not adversely impact the natural and cultural features. • Incorporation of natural, cultural and heritage features in a way that does not present a hazard to visitors. • Creating multifunctional and flexible spaces as well as facilitating and providing opportunities for social interaction.
	4. Attaining socially and environmentally sustainable parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and designing parks and facilities for energy and water conservation, optimized lifecycle, and selection of materials with low embodied energy. • Incorporating Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) into the design of parks. • Building a character or 'sense of place' through the use of local materials and designs that are site specific. • Ensuring that sports-based facilities also provide passive recreation opportunities. • Planning and designing parks while respecting natural, cultural or heritage features and values. • Providing an educational tool for promoting awareness using the environmental and cultural values of the place.
	5. Strengthening the safety and preventing the spread of diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obligation to wear face mask for all users except for children under the age of three or when actively eating or drinking. • Conducting temperature checks upon arrival. • Applying social distancing of at least 6 feet (2 meters) between the travel party and others. • Implementing floor markings. • Using hand sanitizer at selected locations when required: prior to using playgrounds.

6. CONCLUSION

Public spaces are key elements of individual and social well-being, the places of a community's collective life, expressions of the diversity of their common natural and cultural richness and a foundation of their identity. Unfortunately, due to the rapid urbanization, government's negligence and misuse, remaining parks are scarce or suffers from mentioned threats. That is why the design guidelines should not provide fixed and end-products, but rather a combination of systems that are manipulated by the users. The combination of different systems induces stories, settings, and actions beyond the scope of the designer to produce. Guidelines adapt themselves to the changing demands of their users over time. This malleability and flexibility

make the space always an ecological sustainable entity open to planned and unplanned socio-spatial practices, which will offer users potentials to adapt to the green elements according to their needs. Nonetheless, the regenerated landscape will be easily recognizable within the city, while composing the often-picturesque character of the different neighborhoods and placing it across many factors of diversity. It will represent a unity as a whole. In diversifying the spaces and functions along this urban park, the urban design strategy shapes vibrant and attractive green nodes and places that encourage visitors and locals to congregate, share a cultural urban experience, and interact with the green elements' dynamics of the environment. In this sense, urban park will be an outdoor experience that provides sequences of natural elements, builds social bonds, hence the abandoned park will be regenerated. Consequently, the approach which relies on a regeneration of urban park will create a strong backbone for the entire city that will lead to other construction and development patterns in the future.

REFERENCES

- Brantingham, P. J. (1976). *Conceptual Model of Crime Prevention*. Crime and Delinquency.
- Caldeira, T. P. (2000). *City of Walls: Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in Sao Paulo*. University of California Press, Berkeley.
- Carmona, M. C. (2008). *Public Space: The Management Dimension*. Routledge, New York; London.
- Cheaitli, A. (2018). *Adressing Ramlet El-Baida Park*.
- Cogley, B. (2020). *White circles promote social distancing on Domino Park grass in New York City*.
- Derose, K. P. (2015). *Racial-Ethnic Variation in Park Use and Physical Activity in the City of Los Angeles*. J Urban Health.
- Dikeç, M. (2002). *Police, politics, and the right to the city*. Springer.
- Djekic, I. (2018). *Environmental Impact of Meat Industry – Current Status and Future Perspectives*.
- ENRICO, S. (2008). *Design of Public Space in the City of the Elderly*.
- Farthing, S. (2015). *Research Design in Urban Planning*.
- Franck K, P. L. (1989). *Women and urban public space", in Public Places and Spaces. Human Behavior and Environment*. . New York: Plenum Press.
- Garrett, J. T. (2017). *Catalyzing the Power of Parks for Social Connection*. This Land Is Parkland, Wordpress.
- Gehl. (2011). *Life between buildings: using public space*. Island Press.
- Ham, M. v. (2016). *New Perspectives on Ethnic Segregation over Time and Space: A Domains Approach*. Delft University of Technology.
- Harb, M. (2017). *Right to the City in Greater Beirut*. Lebanon.
- Hilti, N. (2020). *Paul Cocksedg designs social-distancing picnic blanket for life after lockdown*.
- Hitti, N. (2020). *Caret Studio installs gridded social-distancing system inside Italian piazza*.
- Jaganmohan. (2015). *Critical review on the cooling effect of urban blue-green space: A threshold-size perspective*.
- Jain, S. (2019). *Public Space*.
- Katz, C. (2006). *Power, space and terror: social reproduction and the public environment*. Routledge, New York
- Ketteridge, A. a. (2008). *Exploring the reasons why adolescents participate in physical activity and identifying strategies that facilitate their involvement in such activity*. Australian Occupational Therapy Journal.
- Lee, S. (2018). *Understanding the context of neighborhood parks: a method for public space classification*.
- Low Setha and Neil Smith. (2006). *The Politics of Public Space*.
- Madanipour. (1999). *Why are the Design and Development of Public Spaces Significant for Cities*.
- Madanipour. (2003). *Public and Private Spaces of the City*. London: Routledge,.

- Mariana Magalhães Costa, R. R. (2016). *The Role of Public Parks in the Creation of an urban identity*.
- McCormick, J. G. (2015). *Strategies in use to Reduce Incivilities, Provide Security and Reduce Crime in Urban Parks*. Security Journal,.
- Mexiaa, T. (2017). *Ecosystem services: Urban parks under a magnifying glass*.
- Mona Fawaz, M. H. (2012). *Living beirut's security zones: An investigation of the modalities and practice of urban security*. City & Society.
- Naoum. (2007). Dissertation research and writing for construction students.
- Nemeth, S. a. (2010). *Space, place and the city: Emerging research on public space design and planning*.
- PEINHARDT, K. (2019). *Eleven Principles for Creating Great Community Places*.
- Raveenscroft, T. (2020). *15 proposals for adapting outdoor spaces for social distancing*.
- Robinson, J. B. (2003). *Multilevel longitudinal impacts of incivilities: Fear of crime, expected safety, and block satisfaction*. urnal of Quantitative Criminology .
- Sarah Blandy (2010). *Law, Boundaries and the Production of Space*.
- SASSI, E. a. (2008). *Design of Public Space in the City of the Elderly*.
- Snyder, B. a. (1997). *Fortress America: gated communities in the United States*.
- Staeheli, L. a. (2016). *The People's Property? Power, Politics, and the Public*. Routledge,.
- Talen. (2005). *Evaluating Good Urban Form in an Inner-City Neighborhood*.
- Veitch, J. J. (2007). *Children's perceptions of the use of public open spaces for active free-play*. Children's geographies.
- Whyte, W. H. (1980). *The social life of small urban spaces*.
- Wilson, E. O. (1999). *The Diversity of Life*.