

Analysis of Menteng City Park as a city identity in DKI Jakarta

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Abstract

Every element of a city park will give meaning and function to a place, so that in turn it will form the identity of a city. As a city's identity, its original identity will be polished and eroded due to the proliferation of instant designs, so that there are similarities between one city and another, as a result it is often difficult to recognize its surroundings. The absence of laws or legal provisions protecting urban parks, which should be city assets, makes it difficult to identify the values of urban parks that are related to the history of urban development, so that their role as a city identity is increasingly lost. This study aims to explore the opportunities and challenges in providing legal protection for the Menteng city park, as befits a building that has historical value or as a city identity, already has provisions to be legally protected. The benefit of this research is to produce a profile of the Menteng city park, which has the potential to become a city identity. The research was conducted in the Menteng Park area of DKI Jakarta as a general overview and specifically in the Central Jakarta area. The methods used in data collection are survey methods (interviews, questionnaires and mapping) and archival methods. Data analysis used the assessment method by carrying out several stages, namely compiling a normative framework, compiling weights and scores to determine the level of significance between the variables. The research was conducted in the Menteng Park area of DKI Jakarta as a general overview and specifically in the Central Jakarta area. The methods used in data collection are survey methods (interviews, questionnaires and mapping) and archival methods. Data analysis used the assessment method by carrying out several stages, namely compiling a normative framework, compiling weights and scores to determine the level of significance between the variables. The research was conducted in the Menteng Park area of DKI Jakarta as a general overview and specifically in the Central Jakarta area. The methods used in data collection are survey methods (interviews, questionnaires and mapping) and archival methods. Data analysis used the assessment method by carrying out several stages, namely compiling a normative framework, compiling weights and scores to determine the level of significance between the variables.

Keywords

Identity; opportunity; challenge, historical value; city park



I. Introduction

The identity of a city is not developed in a short time, but in a long process, perhaps even as old as the city itself. One of the urban landscape architectural elements that can become an identity is a city park. City parks have multiple functions, both social functions and political functions. Every element of a city park will give meaning and function to a place, and is a system of urban green open space. As a city park system, it should be able to act as a structural framework for the development and growth of a city. Based on data

from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) for DKI Jakarta Province until 2013, the number of urban parks spread across the Capital City totaled 2,166. South Jakarta is the area with the most urban parks, namely 597 parks, followed by Central Jakarta and East Jakarta with 446 and 426 parks. In 2022, the number of parks in DKI has reached 3908 and the North Jakarta and West Jakarta areas have as many as 336 and 331 city parks. The latest data shows that in 2021 DKI has around 2,556 parks spread across its five regions, and as many as 800 of them are park city (<http://lipsus.kompas.com>;

<http://www.pu.go.id>; <https://news.detik.com/berita/d-5880623/jakarta-punya-2556-rth>

In its development around Menteng Park, it is not only the center and axis of the development of the city of Menteng, but has become one of the identities of the Central Jakarta region (Budiyanti, 2014). As a public space, a city park must be able to generate vitality and generator the life of a city. On the other hand, as part of the urban landscape, urban parks can be interpreted as green infrastructure, as artifacts, as places, as systems, as ideologies that not only build various experiences for the wearer, but can also create beauty that focuses on artistic principles such as line, shape, color, rhythm, proportion, balance, symmetry, harmony and unity (Motloch, 1991).

City parks that are formed from a variety of physical (teraga) and non-physical (intangibile) elements will display a variety of characteristics, both of which will influence each other, thus distinguishing one park from another, which will ultimately embody identity at various levels (levels). McWilliam, 2001; Budiyanti, 2014). Currently it is difficult to identify city parks that have value and meaning from the history of the city. Its original identity is polished and eroded, due to the increasing proliferation of instant garden designs, the addition of various attributes increasingly eliminates identity and creates similarities between one park and another. Child-Friendly Open Public Space (RPTRA) is one example of parks that embody the singleness of the environment, not to mention the reduced ecological value of the park due to, reduction of green space converted into built space. There is quite a lot of research on urban parks, but not much has been done that raises the issue of urban parks as a city identity. Departing from this, this study intends to examine the importance of the Menteng city park as a city identity, with the hope that there will be no further transformation of the city park which was originally a city identity, into an element of urban decoration or just greening the city. In addition, he also proposes legal protection for the Menteng city park which has historical value, so that in turn it can become the city's identity and link to the city's history. not much has been done. Departing from this, this study intends to examine the importance of the Menteng city park as a city identity, with the hope that there will be no further transformation of the city park which was originally a city identity, into an element of urban decoration or just greening the city. In addition, he also proposes legal protection for the Menteng city park which has historical value, so that in turn it can become the city's identity and link to the city's history. Not much has been done. Departing from this, this study intends to examine the importance of the Menteng city park as a city identity, with the hope that there will be no further transformation of the city park which was originally a city identity, into an element of urban decoration or just greening the city. In addition, he also proposes legal protection for the Menteng city park which has historical value, so that in turn it can become the city's identity and link to the city's history.

1.1 Formulation of the problem

The absence of standard criteria regarding the protection of city parks that are unique, and historical value has made the fate of the Menteng city park easy to change and change, so that the historical value and uniqueness of the park related to the growth and development of the city are increasingly difficult to find as a place identity, which will become identity of the environment or region and even the city. Taman Manteng, Central Jakarta, for example, historically was a sports field for athletics and football, but there were no traces, characteristics or signs of being a sports field, so Menteng Park was not recognized as a city identity.

1.2 Research purposes

1. Mapping the characteristics of city parks, to find out what characteristics can be indicators in realizing the park as a city identity,
2. Give the meaning of each indicator, to find out what characteristics can significantly form the identity of a park.

1.3 Research Limitations

The research was conducted in the DKI Jakarta area, excluding the Thousand Islands. The research was conducted on the active Menteng city park which is managed and owned by the Provincial Government and the Regional Government of DKI Jakarta. This research was conducted starting from carrying out an inventory, with substance limitations in the form of urban parks that have value and/or relevance to the history of urban development, then mapping and describing. The results of the research are in the form of profiles of Menteng city parks which can become the identity of the city or region. The research location is limited to the Central Jakarta area, specifically the Menteng sub-district.

II. Research Method

2.1 Time and Place of Research

The research time starts from the odd semester to the even semester of the 2022/2023 academic year and the research location is the DKI Jakarta city park.

2.2 Research methods

a. Research sites

The research was conducted in the DKI Jakarta area with case studies in the Central Jakarta area, in the Menteng sub-district, namely Menteng Park and Suropati Park. This is because the two parks have very strong historical value with the development of their area and these parks are quite well known by the public.

b. Research design

It is a qualitative research with a case study approach, so that various methods can be used to collect data (Kusuma, 2019).

c. Population and research sample

The population in this study are all urban parks in the Central Jakarta area, while the sample in this research are parks that have a connection with the history of urban development, while the unit of analysis is the characteristics of parks that have an identity so that they can become an identity for the city.

d. Method of collecting data

The methods used in data collection are survey methods and archival methods. The data collected is both tangible and intangible data.

2.3 Analysis Method

Data analysis using descriptive method through several stages, namely:

a. Building a framework inventory

The inventory framework contains variables compiled based on theoretical studies and best practices to be used in conducting surveys. The inventory framework contains variables, sub variables and indicators. An indicator is a measuring tool, which contains a set of information and is used as a basis for measuring or assessing changes or the level of significance of a variable (Tomm, 2006). The result of the inventory framework is a mapping of park characteristics that can be used to find out whether the park can become the identity of a city.

b. Build a profile

Profile preparation is done by giving meaning to each indicator to obtain an overview of each characteristic of the park in forming identities in various contexts, namely cities/regions/areas/places.

2.4 Research Achievement Indicators

The results of this research are a description of the case study profile, which contains:

1. Inventory of the characteristics of city parks, so that it can be known what characteristics can be indicators in realizing the park as a city identity,
2. Giving meaning to each indicator, so that the characteristics that can significantly shape the park as a city identity can be identified,
3. Opportunities and challenges for each indicator of the characteristics of the park, so that it can be maintained as an identity in various contexts (city/region/region/area/place).

The inventory framework is shown in the table below

Table 1. Physical Characteristics of natural elements

| Variable | sub variable | Indicator |
|------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Location | location | Corner/center/side |
| | | Between residential/commercial/service |
| Footprint | Form | Original / underwent changes |
| | Contour | Contoured/flat |
| | Green area | More / less than 50% |
| Vegetation | Plant age | Over 50 years |
| | Diversity of plant species | More than 100 trees |
| | Number of rare trees | More than 100 trees |
| | Plant morphology | Monotonous/dynamic |
| Fauna | Rare species of fauna | More than 10 types |
| | Diversity of fauna species | More than 10 types |
| Natural resource | Type | Springs, waterfalls, |
| | Amount | More than 5 sources |

Table 2. Physical Characteristics of artificial elements

| Variable | Sub Variable | Indicator |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Location | location | 1. Corner/center/side |
| | | 2. Between residential/commercial/services |
| Building | Number of buildings | 3. More than 3 buildings |
| | Building properties | 4. Permanent |
| Facility | Entrance gate | 5. Yes / no |
| | Type of furniture | 6. <i>Sculpture</i> |
| | | 7. Park bench |
| | | 8. Plaza |
| | | 9. Pergolas |
| | Special facilities for recreation | 10. Children's play area |
| | | 11. Picnic area |
| | | 12. Fishing pond |
| | Special facilities for cultural arts | 13. Wipe. Volleyball/basketball/badminton/futsal/rolling shoes/jogging/bike track |
| | | 14. Open stage |
| | 15. <i>Amphitheater</i> | |
| Number of public facilities | 16. Places of worship, toilets | |
| Lighting | 17. Good /adequate /poor | |

Table 3. Non-physical characters

| Variable | sub variable | Indicator |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Important score | History | 1. Historical figure |
| | | 2. Have older buildings/elements/landscapes formed by humans/artifacts from 50 years |
| | | 3. Major events / store information on the past |
| | | 4. It is related to the historical development of the city |
| | | 5. Local uniqueness value |
| Meaning | Associated with spatial values | 6. Have a pattern showing the function of space in the past, at least 50 years old |
| | Special meaning for history | 7. Ornaments/art work/sulptures |
| | Regional vitality | 8. Historical place for residents |
| | Environment generator | 9. Social cohesion |
| | | 10. Contribution with surroundings |

III. Result and Discussion

3.1 Mapping the characteristics of the Menteng park

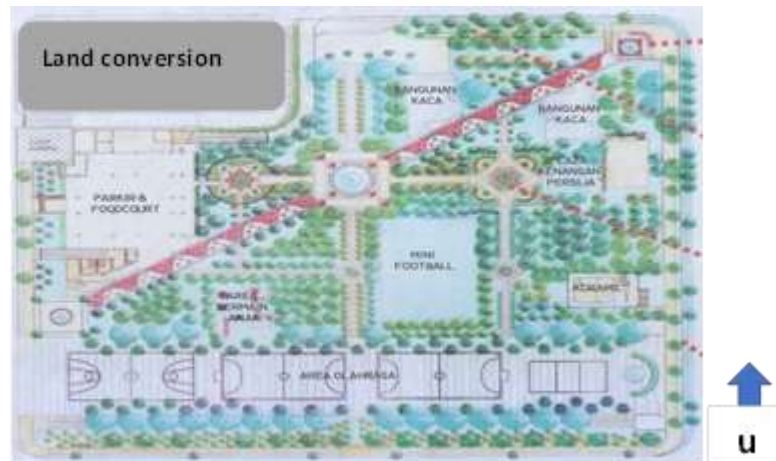
The design of the Menteng Park was the result of a competition held by the DKI Provincial Parks Service in 2004. It took 3 years to build and was inaugurated by Governor Sutiyoso on April 28, 2007. Formerly a Dutch football field, it later became Persidja's soccer field. Menteng Park can be easily reached by public transportation.

3.2 Physical character (teraga)

a. Natural elements

1. Footprint

The Menteng Park site was formerly a football and athletics field with an area of 3.4 ha, after becoming a park it became an area of 2.4 ha (there was a land conversion of 1 ha to be used as a hotel). The surface configuration is relatively flat and the Menteng Park concept was captured through a competition won by LM Soebchardi Rahim with the theme "Dual Memory". Figure 1 shows the Menteng Park concept and land conversion of 1 ha.



*Figure 1. The Menteng Park site plan with the Dual Memory concept
Source: Provincial Park Service. DKI Jaya*

2. Vegetation

Of the total area, 55% (15,984 m²) is green space for grass, tree planting, shrubs, shrubs and ground cover (DKI Jaya Province Parks and Cemeteries Office, 2009). The types of plants found in the Menteng Park area are quite diverse, from trees to ground cover. Menteng Park has 502 trees consisting of 10 families and 41 species, with a density of 100 m² between 20-25 trees. Figure 3 shows the types of plants that are not different from the types of plants in parks in DKI. From the vegetation elements, it gives the impression that Menteng Park does not have uniqueness and identity, so that visually it does not differ between the vegetation in Menteng Park and its surroundings, nor are there any rare plants. An overview of Menteng Park vegetation can be seen in Figure 2.



*Figure 2. Vegetation, Menteng Park is not different from its surroundings.
<https://www.google.com/search?q=jalan+HOS+Cokroaminoto+Jakarta+Pusat&tbm>*

3. Fauna and natural resources

No rare fauna found. The most common types of aves are turtledoves, sparrows and finches in the morning and evening. There are no natural resources found in Menteng Park.

b. Artificial elements

1. Location

The location of Menteng Park is quite strategic because it is at the intersection of the HOS roads, Cokroaminoto and Jalan Prof. Moh. Yamin SH. The surrounding areas are residential, commercial (hotels, restaurants, malls) and Taman Frog (environmental park). The location of Menteng Park is on the main HOS Cokroaminoto road so that it is easily visible and easy to reach, as shown in Figure 3.

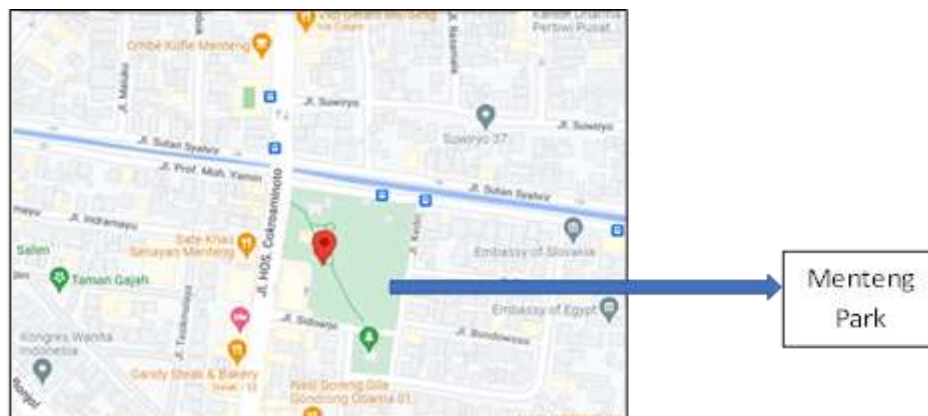


Figure 3. Location of Menteng Park

Source :<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Menteng+Park/>

2. Building

The buildings that stand out in Menteng Park are 2 (two) greenhouses which are often used for various activities, both formal (marriage) and informal (exhibition), as shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4. Two greenhouses which are the icon of Menteng Park

Source: Researcher documentation. 2022

3. Facility

There are quite a lot of facilities available at Menteng Park, namely a children's play area, sports area, picnic area, parking building, place of worship and toilets. Figure 5 shows some of the facilities owned by Menteng Park. At night not all areas of Menteng Park are illuminated by light, so it seems dim (picture 6)



Figure 5. Facilities available at Taman Menteng
 Source: Researcher documentation. 2022



Figure 6. Uneven lighting in all areas of the park
 Source: Researcher documentation 2022 and
https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1CHBF_enID963ID963&q=taman+menteng+kalau+malam+hari&tbm

c. Non-physical character (unreal)

1. Important score

The historical journey of Menteng Park is quite long, and has a connection with the development of the park. Several figures who influenced the development of Menteng Park are

- PAJMoojen, a Dutch architect who planned the Menteng area as the first garden city in Indonesia. Moojen prepared one of the open spaces in the form of a sports field known as the Voetbalbond Indische Omstreken Sport (VIOS), area of 3.4 ha. The Vios field was constructed in 1920 (figure 7).

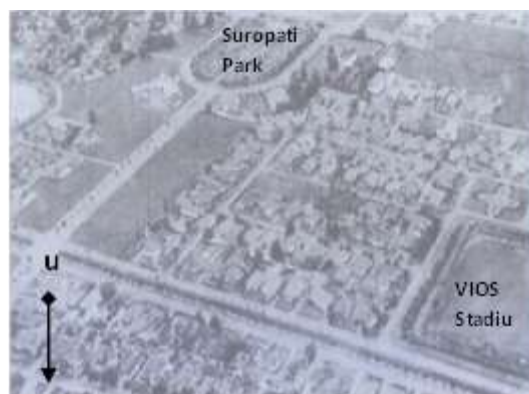


Figure 7. VIOS Stadium which is located adjacent to Suropati Park in the West (Source: Adolf Heuken et al, 2001)

- President Soekarno, Ali Sadikin, Surjadi Soedirdja and Sutiyoso
In 1960 the Vios field was handed over to the Indonesian government, and in 1961 President Soekarno inaugurated it as a football field which was named Persidja Football Field or Menteng Stadium. In 1975 the Governor of Jakarta, Ali Sadikin, issued a Decree establishing the Menteng Stadium as a cultural heritage area that must be protected. In 1992-1997 Governor Suryadi Soedirdja planned to change the function of the Persidja football field into a city park and parking building. September 2004, Governor DKI Sutiyoso through the DKI Jakarta Parks Service, opened a competition to change the function of the Menteng Stadium into a multi-functional public open space. Figure 8 shows Persidja Field and figure 9 of the Menteng Park concept by Soebhardi Rahim.

2. Meaning

a. Associated with spatial values

Implicitly, Menteng Park has a connection with the history of the development of the Central Jakarta area, or rather the Menteng District. Heuken (2001) states that Menteng Park is a series of green open spaces designed by Moojen. For that it should be an artifact of environmental history because it is already more than 50 years old. The name Menteng is taken from the trees that thrive there, namely the Menteng tree (*Baccaure racemosa*). It is said that in the past, this area was like a wilderness because of the many Menteng trees so that residents in Batavia called the area Menteng (<https://beta.pingpoint.co.id/berita/location/menteng/>). Menteng was designed by Belada as the first city in Indonesia, with regular patterns and 23 scattered small-scale gardens. The Menteng area is a series of spatial plans built by the Dutch since the beginning of their presence in Jakarta, starting from the old city of the Netherlands (the old city of Jakarta), a city on the north coast of Jakarta and ending in Menteng (Heuken et al, 2001).. The existence of 2 (two) greenhouse buildings is a local uniqueness for Menteng Park and its area (see figure 4).

b. Special significance for environmental history

Menteng Park is a historical place for Jakarta residents, because it used to be a football and athletics field, so Menteng Park holds major events that give life to this area. According to some urban observers, Soebhardi's design has eliminated artifacts from environmental history that are 92 years old (detik.com.2004).

c. Regional vitality

Menteng Park since it was inaugurated by Governor Soetiyoso on April 28, 2007 has never been empty of visitors. In 1 week, Menteng Park is visited by more than 5,000 visitors and the activities are quite varied for walks, sports, playing and even for various social events, such as exhibitions, music and so on (Budiyanti, 2014). Visitors to Menteng Park are not only Jakarta residents but Jabodetabek. Menteng Park is vitality not only for the area but also for the city of Jakarta, this is shown by the intensity of activities in the park, as an effective means for social interaction of city residents, as well as being a stage for residents' entertainment (figure 10)



Figure 10. Social events held at Taman Menteng

Source: researcher documentation and <https://www.grid.id/tag/taman-menteng>

From the results of observations Menteng Park has a chance as an identity in the context of an environmental framework or medium level or as a place identity. From the physical characteristics it is shown from the existence of artificial elements in the form of 2 (two) greenhouses which are not owned by other parks, a parking building, a prayer room. From the non-physical character, Menteng Park has historical value associated with figures both Dutch and Indonesian, a historical place for residents and is a series of several parks that make up the Menteng sub-district. The emergence of various communities and the many events that take place in Menteng Park shows that Menteng Park is the vitality and generator of the area that is able to liven up the atmosphere of its environment.

3. Challenge

The challenge faced is the development of the park with the addition of garden elements, such as the fountain in Menteng Park. The addition of several ornamental plants that are only concerned with the aesthetic aspect without considering other aspects, as well as the existence of buildings such as the Koramil office and the Police post which do not consider cultural heritage aspects. Even though this adds to the identity of the park, on the other hand it can interfere with the historical value of the park.

IV. Conclusion

This research departs from the view that city parks are not merely green open spaces to add beauty and greenery to the landscape of a city. City parks as a form of urban landscape and part of the city's social infrastructure are a means to improve the quality of social and cultural life of the community as well as the health of the city's environment. From an urban planning point of view, a city park can become an identity which eventually becomes the branding of a city.

The results of the study show that city parks can become city identities at various levels, in the case of Menteng Park as an identity in place and region contests. In the context of the place interpreting the landscape as a place, which is built by the physical characteristics of the park in the form of artificial elements, namely buildings, plazas, and natural elements in the form of vegetation. Meanwhile, in the context of the region interpreting the landscape as history, which is built from figures related to the design of the park, various major events that occurred in the park, the work of Asean artists, and has a close connection with the development of the region.

There are additional elements of the park that pay little attention to aspects of the park's historical values, so that the park which originally had an identity as a historical

park, is feared to be no different from other parks, and in turn can eliminate the role of the park as an identity of place and region. Not all city parks can play a role and function as a city identity, because only city parks with certain standards can play a role and function as a city identity. City parks can become city identities in various contexts, from global contexts to personal contexts. To make a city park as the identity and branding of a city is not an easy thing because it is a complex process.

The impact of the presence of city parks has not been fully felt by the city, city parks exist only as fillers of empty spaces not as an identity that is full of meaning and values from various dimensions. Such conditions make city parks not to be the main visit of newcomers, and as promotion or branding of the city, but only as a place of recreation.

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