

**A Social-Ecological Study on Urban Wetland Parks with Special Reference to Nugegoda Urban Wetland Park**

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With the rapid urbanisation, the human ability to access the natural environment has been curtailed. When it comes to modern urban designing, special attentiveness is given to green covers as the inseparable link between humans and the environment. At present, urban parks are being developed in several areas of Sri Lanka in line with urban development. The Nugegoda Wetland Park is designed with the aim of building a pleasant environment, as well as a stress-free and healthy nation. Therefore, the main objective of this study was to explore the social and ecological benefits of the Nugegoda Wetland Park and its trends. As the methodology, 20 visitors to the Nugegoda Wetland Park were selected by using purposive sampling for primary data collection respectively. Both secondary and primary data were gathered. Data was collected through interview schedules, in-depth interviews, and observations. The results revealed that there were benefits of urban Wetland Parks in environmental, social, physical, and spiritual aspects which include pollution control, nature conservation, reducing criminal activities, flood mitigation, and developing social interactions, energy savings, water management, and environmental sustainability, increasing physical and spiritual well-being of individuals and reducing stress. The socio-economic profile shows that 60% of respondents were male, belonging to the upper-middle class, having higher education qualifications and a high-income level. In urban development, the establishment of green-covered urban parks provides an opportunity to build a direct relationship between human beings and the environment. This also provides beneficial functions. Suggestions include building an outdoor gym in the Nugegoda Urban Wetland Park, creating a cycling track, and establishing a green zone to provide a habitat for non-harmful species such as deer and geese in the park.

**Keywords:** Urbanisation, Urban wetland park, Environment, Environmental sustainability, Green zone