
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CITY SQUARE DEVELOPMENT AS AN OPEN GREEN SPACE POLICY INSTRUMENT IN DEPOK CITY

Friska Arifiani¹, Irfan Ridwan Maksum²

Fakultas Ilmu Administrasi, Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia

friska.arifiani11@ui.ac.id

ABSTRACT

Green open space is one of the important elements that must exist in every urban area. The City Government of Depok, as one of the areas that is considered to need improvement in the provision of green open spaces, has made a policy strategy by building town squares and parks in every village. This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of the development of the town square as an instrument of green open space policy in Depok City. The research uses a post-positivist method where data is collected through interviews and observations, which are then processed into descriptive narratives. The results of the study show that there are still two indicators that need to be improved, where the level of interest of the target group and the use of space are obstacles in the implementation of green open space policies in city squares. Some of the factors that make these indicators ineffective include lack of community participation, lack of resources, and discrepancies between the initial concept and the results. Then it influences the indicators of clarity of agreement on policy objectives and control of spatial use. Therefore, the development of the Alun-Alun as an instrument of green open space policy is still not effective so it is necessary to add space or Alun-Alun to meet the needs of green open spaces in Depok City.

Keywords: effectiveness, public policy, green open space.

Corresponding Author: Friska Arifiani

E-mail: friska.arifiani11@ui.ac.id



INTRODUCTION

In 2021 based on data published by Dukcapil from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Indonesia has a total population of 273,523,615 people and ranks fourth in the country with the most population in the world. With the population density in Indonesia, it demands the government to provide and provide facilities, infrastructure, facilities and services that can meet the needs of people's lives (Suharyati & Sofyan, 2019). Aspects that can support people's lives are not only by carrying out development, but the government must also provide a livable environment. One good environment for people to live in is an area with land for green open spaces (Sidauruk, 2012).

Following Law no. 26 of 2007 concerning spatial planning, "Provision of areas for green open spaces and public open spaces in a city area, at least 40% of the total area of the city, with a proportion of 30% for green open space areas and 10% for open space areas public" (Ischak & Burhannudinur, 2020). Based on data owned by the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing (PUPR), by the end of 2019, only 13 out of 174 cities in Indonesia had participated in the Green City Program and had a green open space portion of 30 per cent or more (Rahadian, 2019). Depok is one of the cities that is implementing a green open space policy through the expansion of city parks and the construction of a public square. The dense population of Depok City has forced the government

to find ways to ensure that the available land is not used up for development. The following presents a map of land use in 2019 as an illustration of dense population and development:

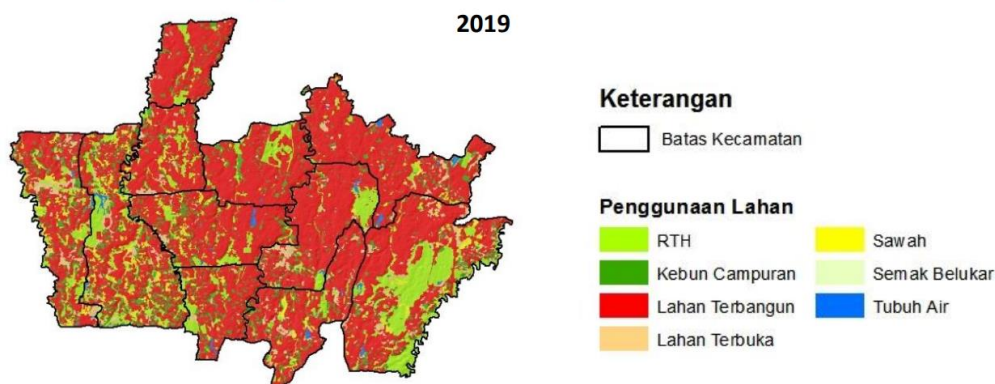


Figure 1. Use of Depok City Land in 2019

Source: Gunarso, Muhammad, and Andi (2020)

Based on the picture above, the use of built-up land in 2019 dominates in the Depok City area. According to research results (Aji et al., 2020) use of built-up land in Depok City in 2019 has a percentage of 66.04%, while undeveloped land is in the form of developing green open spaces, mixed gardens, open land, rice fields, shrubs, and water bodies continued to decrease from previous years to 33.96% in 2019. Thus, through the Depok City regional regulation No. 1 of 2015 concerning the spatial planning of the Depok City area for 2012 – 2032, the Depok City government is committed to carrying out a protected area development policy, one of which is by increasing and providing proportional green open space throughout the city area.

The Depok City Government is carrying out spatial planning by targeting the creation of city parks in each sub-district and building an Alun-Alun, which has quite complete facilities over a large area. The development of Depok City Square is one of the projects to expand the green open space area, which is quite time-consuming, costly, and labour-intensive. The purpose of developing the Alun-Alun is to provide green open space with child-friendly public open space facilities, supporting a healthy and creative spirit and infrastructure development with a low-carbon and green approach (Astuti et al., 2020). However, the initial goal of expanding the green open space area with the development of the Alun-Alun still needs to be maximized because more land is used to build facilities than to create green spaces. Some critics stated that "The square that has been built is not worthy of being called a green open space because land development uses more concrete than green land. The building's basic coefficient of green space is 20:80" (Wibowo, 2020).

Explained that there were negative influences from the development of the Depok City Square, including the first, the enthusiasm of the people who were so great was not matched by the provision of public transportation around the square area, causing congestion due to a surge in vehicle volume (Sofiani, and Octariana, 2021). Second, the Depok City square has a public space whose function is not following the comfort and safety of social activities, so the development has not led to sustainable principles. Third, Depok City Square still needs to be called a green open space area because there is still a lot of organic, inorganic, and motor vehicle waste. From the brief explanation above, in the development of the Town Square, it is necessarily seen the effectiveness of the implementation of policies that the government has carried out. So, the purpose of this study

was to analyze the effectiveness of the development of the town square as an instrument of green open space policy in the city of Depok.

METHODS

The approach in this study is post-positivist with a qualitative descriptive method. This approach produces descriptive data in spoken and written words through interviews with informants. In addition, observations are made through observation of the research location, namely Depok City Square. The relationship between researchers and reality must be interactive; for this it is necessary to use the principle of triangulation, namely the use of various methods, data sources, data, and so on. The data collection technique used interviews to obtain direct information from the people involved in the research, and observations were made directly to Depok City Square to observe the green open space facilities. The purpose of this observation is to add to the views and description of the researcher on the research object under study. In this study, the researcher is included in the complete observer type because, in observation, the researcher acts as a full observer. The researcher is near the scene, sees, observes, and records the things needed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. The clarity in Agreement on Policy Objectives

The initial idea that there would be a square was based on the 2016-2021 RPJMD as one of the mainstay campaign programs of the Mayor of Depok, namely Mohammad Idris. The campaign promised to provide green open space, which is still a problem in Depok City. The efforts that the Mayor will carry out are to build parks in each sub-district and Alun-Alun as a means of support for the community. Not only a political promise, Mohammad Idris, as the elected Mayor, carried out the implementation following what had been said in each campaign. When carrying out various programs to fulfil green open spaces in Depok City, the Mayor is assisted by several agencies to carry out a plan. Before planning, the policy's objectives are determined in advance as to what is actually to be achieved. In this case, the Mayor is assisted by the housing and settlement service, the environmental and sanitation service, and the Public Works and Spatial Planning Office in discussions to make a decision based on a mutual agreement.

The agreement on the objectives of the green open space policy that has been decided by the Mayor and several of these agencies is as follows: (1) Inventory of green open space that has become an asset of the Regional Government; (2) Rehabilitation of green open spaces that have experienced a decline in function; (3) Monitoring and evaluating the provision of green open space; (4) Utilization of government-owned land that is not being used as public green open space; (5) Provision of gardens in every PPK and SPPK; (6) Provision of town squares; (7) Creating rainwater retention in educational facilities, health facilities, religious facilities; (8) Planting tree stands around road infrastructure and sidewalks, courtyards of buildings and other built areas; (9) Making bioretention in educational facilities, parking lots and other public facilities; (10) Construction of small urban parks (planter boxes) on the sidewalks; (11) Construction of vegetated canals (bioswales) along roads and parking lots in built areas; (12) Procurement of land for public open space; (13) Provision of green open space for residential yards in housing with

endemic plants; (14) Making bioretention in residential yards; (15) Construction of rainwater retention in every residential house; and (16) Development of roof gardens and vertical gardens in residential houses, buildings and other built areas.

Furthermore, according to (Ardian, 2016), the objectives of developing the town square area are as follows: (1) Provision of green spaces for water absorption and microclimate control; (2) Development of public space facilities that support a healthy and creative spirit (bicycle paths, pedestrians, sports facilities, creative hubs); (3) Development of child-friendly and vulnerable group-friendly public spaces; (4) Development of supporting infrastructure using a green and low carbon infrastructure approach; and (5) Regional integration of public transportation systems and modes. The development of the Alun-Alun is intended to fulfil green open space, whose percentage is still significantly less than it should be at 30% of the total area.

All decisions have been stated in the Depok City regional regulation Number 9 of 2022 concerning the spatial plan for the Depok City area for 2022 – 2042 so that it can be seen that there is clarity in the objectives of the policy. In addition, there is an understanding and vision and mission between the agencies involved to facilitate the implementation of the development of the Alun-Alun as part of the green open space policy in Depok City. The Mayor also gives duties and authorities as clearly as possible to avoid misleading.

The Office of Public Works and Spatial Planning was appointed as the party that determined the area and resolved various problems before the Alun-Alun was built. The development of the Alun-Alun in the residential area of Grand Depok City has gone through various considerations in terms of location, access, and land feasibility. The zoning in this area is due to the first Grand Depok City being one of the government areas in which there are several government offices such as the immigration office, DPRD, religious court and so on. Second, the available land is quite large and strategic in community outreach. Third, the price of land offered is still included in the government spending budget.

Furthermore, the Housing and Settlements Office was chosen as the party seeking the physical design and building of the Alun-Alun area. The description of the area and the layout of the facilities in the Alun-Alun was chosen based on a competition conducted by the Disrumkim. The competition is held open so that anyone can submit designs and layouts. When they found the right one, the drumkit immediately executed the construction, divided into two stages from late 2018 to early 2020.

Finally, the Environment and Sanitation Service are in charge of managing the Alun-Alun area. In 2019 the Environment and Sanitation Service formed a new work unit, the Grand Forest Park Technical Management Unit, as the party that will focus on the maintenance and development of squares and parks in each village. The functions and objectives of the UPTD Tahura are explained in Mayor Regulation Number 33 of 2019 (Barik et al., 2022). There is clarity in the agreement on objectives that have been discussed by the Mayor and several agencies in implementing green open space policies, especially in the development of the Alun-Alun area. Therefore, the clarity indicator in the Agreement on Policy Objectives has been effective because it has been determined maturely, clearly, and patented in the Depok City government regulations.

2. Level of Interest of the Target Group

The development of the Alun-Alun is aimed at the community whose benefits are as a means for recreation, exercise, and socializing (Santri & Hidayat, 2020). The most felt interest is that there is awareness from the community as the target group of the policy to participate in keeping the Alun-Alun clean, well-maintained, and still having a good function. The community's support for the Alun-Alun's development is also expected to make the Alun-Alun an even better open space (Anzani, 2021).

The head of UPTD Tahura, Ibu Lintang, said that the community or visitors have been wise enough to use the facilities at the Alun-Alun. The average visitor is orderly and understands not to damage and maintain all existing facilities and infrastructure. Even in the past, when there was a surge in visitors, many facilities were destroyed due to excessive use, and the amount of scattered trash made the area slum.

Many impacts will arise if the target group, such as the public or visitors to the Alun-Alun, are less concerned about existing facilities. First, all facilities, infrastructure, and facilities will only have a short life if adequately cared for. Second, the absence of support from the community will make it difficult for the government to carry out programs related to the Alun-Alun. Third, the government needs criticism and suggestions from the public as material for evaluation and improvement. It can be seen that interest groups are very influential in the policy implementation process (Sulistiowati, 2022).

In terms of the Interest Level indicator of the Target Group, it can be said that it has not been effective because the government, especially from the UPTD Tahura as the manager of the Alun-Alun, has not taken a specific approach to enable the public or visitors to actively participate in the development of the Alun-Alun. The execution by UPTD Tahura was only limited to notification of the regulations that must be obeyed by visitors. Meanwhile, far from that, the community or visitors can assist the government in developing the Alun-Alun such as material assistance.

3. Spatial Utilization

Depok City Square is located on an area of 3.9 ha with a proportion between the built-up area of the facility and the open space area of 70:30. Most of the land is used to build several facilities using cement and concrete. A number of these facilities include a greenhouse, retention pool, sitting area (Amphitheater), sculpture, tower padang, children's playground, seniors park, Co-Working Space, arboretum & forest zone, outdoor gym, basketball court, futsal court, track BMX bikes, skateboard arena, and wall climbing area. The following is a floor plan of the Depok City Square which has several facilities that are pretty complete to meet the needs of the community:



Figure 2. Plan of Depok City Square

Source: Amalia Ekasanti (2021)

Based on the regional regulation of the City of Depok Number 9 of 2022 concerning spatial planning for the City of Depok for 2022 – 2042, the purpose of developing the Alun-Alun is to a provider of green open space with public open space facilities that are child-friendly, support a healthy and creative spirit, as well as development infrastructure with a low-carbon and green approach (Surbakti, 2021). However, in its implementation, the development of Depok City Square did not focus on using spatial planning to increase green open space. The following is an overview of the appearance of Depok City Square when viewed as a whole:

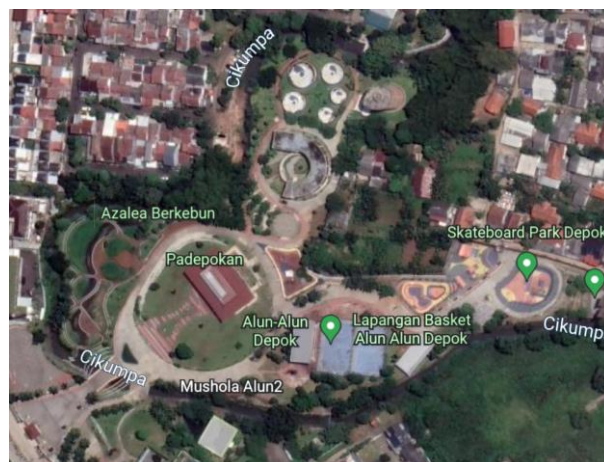


Figure 3. View of Depok City Square

Source: Google Earth (2022)

From the description above, there are green areas such as urban forests. However, some of these areas are not part of the Alun-Alun but are outer areas with a plot of vacant land. The Alun-Alun area is mapped on the attached plan in Figure 1 so that if it is matched with the appearance, it can be seen that the proportion of building facilities dominates compared to the provision of green areas. Many areas still need to be utilized for greening facilities. This is because the initial goal of developing the Alun-Alun was to provide green open space. However, in its implementation, it has yet to be seen that the goal has been achieved (Reviandani et al., 2019). From the explanation above, the spatial utilization indicator is still not practical because most areas are not developed as green open spaces.

4. Spatial Utilization Control

UPTD Tahura as the manager of the Alun-Alun, carries out various strategies in controlling spatial use by maintaining security, order and cleanliness inside and outside the Alun-Alun area. In providing security, as many as 150 CCTVs were installed, which were distributed at the main points of the Alun-Alun—installing CCTV helps monitor visitor activity which can provide a sense of security from potential crime in public spaces and as a digital footprint for the government to control visitors and see if there is damage to facilities (Ramadan, 2020). The results of visitor activities recorded on CCTV can also be used as evaluation material for managers to manage and develop Depok City Square better.

In carrying out the control, the UPTD Tahura announces a board that can be seen clearly by all visitors. In addition, notifications through speakers can also assist managers in conveying various regulations that must be obeyed. That way, an orderly and disciplined attitude will be formed from visitors in using existing facilities. Maintenance of the Alun-Alun is carried out by five civil servants and 40 non-civil servants, with 19 security people and 19 park managers. The Head of UPTD Tahura said that in terms of human resources, there needed to be more people to manage the Alun-Alun which had large land and many facilities. However, maintenance continues to be carried out by closing the Alun-Alun on Mondays specifically to fix and clean the area after Saturdays and Sundays are often crowded with visitors.

The spatial use control indicators have been effective from the information described above. However, there still needs to be more human resources. There needs to be a re-evaluation of the problem of the resources needed. Apart from that, UPTD Tahura has several strategies that are deemed successful enough to meet visitors' needs.

CONCLUSION

On the four indicators used as a reference and material for analysis to measure the effectiveness of the development of the Alun-Alun as an instrument of green open space policy in Depok City, it was found that only two indicators could be said to have been effective in their implementation. The indicator is clarity in the agreement on policy objectives and control over spatial use. The results could have been more effective for indicators of the target group's level of interest and spatial use. This is based on several factors that lead to the ineffectiveness of these indicators, including the involvement or participation of the community as the target group, resources, and the incompatibility of the spatial concept with goals. The development of the Alun-Alun as an open space policy instrument is still ineffective, so there is a need for additional space or Alun-Alun to meet the needs of green open space in Depok City. From the study results, the initial goals and implementation are not always in line. Hence, there is a need for periodic evaluations to correct deviations from goals towards policy implementation.

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