

## **ABSTRACT**

Open spaces are an essential component in any urban settlement. Urban public parks are therefore quite important in enhancing the quality of life and urban environment while offering social, health, environmental and economic benefits to a city and its residents. The objectives of this study is to examine the features, current uses and level of utilization of Uhuru Gardens Memorial Park, the promoters and limitations to sustainable utilization of the park and the planning interventions and recommendations that would promote sustainable utilization of the park.

The study employed a scientific methodology to ensure data required was collected effectively. Literature review was used to collect secondary data that was designed to complement objectives of the research. Primary data was collected during site visits where observations, questionnaires, interviews, mapping and photography methods were applied. The data collected was analyzed and presented in a booklet form.

It was established that Uhuru Gardens park users include mostly the residents of Lang'ata area mainly middle aged parents with their kids and youths who visit for relaxation, meeting, socializing, playing games, picnicking, for concerts and events and engaging with natural environment. Comfort, good state, affordability, accessibility and security are among the factors that attracted visitors in the park. The park suffers a number of constrains such as inadequate facilities, decay of some facilities, littering, misuse of the park by visitors, insecurity, poor management and poor maintenance/improvement activities. Intervention such as reclaiming the neglected land in the park, improving access and circulation in the park, provision of facilities and equipment and increased community participation in the development of Uhuru Garden were recommended to guarantee a sustainably utilized Public Park.