

Abstract

Kahawa Wendani Ward has the extraordinary opportunity to create a great and enviable recreational facility for children in the area. This may need to be sooner rather than later because of the noticeably high number of new residential buildings within the ward that is rapidly being constructed to accommodate the surging rise of population. There is urgent need to ensure that the children are well-catered for in terms of place livability and recreation. There are critical decisions that are likely to be made concerning Caleb Centre and its development that will define the open space's future while tapping into its potentials for recreation and economic

development opportunities. Open spaces, walkable neighborhoods and a clean environment are believed to generate social benefits to the residents, environmental benefits to the area and its residents as well as economic benefits to the local governments, home-owners, developers and businesses since they bring about higher property values and significantly higher tax valuations. This is anticipated to accrue immense social, economic and environmental benefits to the local residents of Kahawa Wendani as well as being an attractive facility to other visitors living within and beyond the immediate neighborhood precincts.

The approach for this planning development project is to synthesize reviews on various case studies on children recreational facilities as the basis of drawing from good practices. The project focuses on individual benefits that accrue to nearby property holders and home-owners along with other users of the open space. This recreational space is anticipated to generate benefits such as improved neighborhood beauty and aesthetics, enabling healthy lifestyles, play areas for children, formal play areas for talent development, reducing air pollution and alleviating traffic congestion. This is because the proposed recreational facility will attract pedestrian traffic and at the same time it is anticipated to reduce overreliance on motor vehicles for short commuting distances within the neighborhood.

In this planning development project the open space has been subjected to the tenets of sustainable design models of children's recreational facilities. The open space has been designed to enhance maximum public access to the area, to provide a recreational promenade along the river for pedestrians and to promote healthy environmental benefits that include trees, gardens, flowers and a landscaped greenway.