

## **ABSTRACT**

Public open spaces are crucial elements in the built environment and they not only play enormous roles in the beauty, aesthetics of the urban landscape, they also play key roles in the general levels of public health and mental conditions of the users.

Being one of the areas that have been neglected by the professionals in the built environment since independent, it is time that they receive attention with the aim of addressing those historical gaps in the planning and management of open spaces

Of great concern, yet rarely addressed is the perceptions that the users have about the existing open spaces in their neighborhoods. This neglect has led to misuse of the open spaces as well as existence of the spaces by 'chance'. There is, generally lack of an integrated approach to the planning of the open spaces as well as no definitive hierarchies of the open spaces.

From the research findings, the perceptions of use of open spaces are determined by the needs they have and how the open spaces can be used to meet those needs. This has been made worse by the current condition of the existing open spaces in Kangemi. Unplanned open spaces lead to poorly designed open spaces that doesn't cater for the needs of different categories of the users. It has also led to poor management of the open spaces and in return, the number, condition and well as the security at the open spaces has greatly reduced.

Having an integrated plan for the public open spaces in Kangemi will help in solving the issues that have remained unaddressed for some time now. This plan, therefore, would be very crucial in ensuring that the open spaces are redesigned to meet most of the needs of the users without affecting the other users as well as ensuring that the negative impacts from use of the public spaces are minimized. An integrated plan for the open spaces will ensure all the aspects related to public open spaces are addressed.