I CANNOT agree more with the letter "Invest in public parks as living assets we all share" published in StarMetro on Jan 22, 2024.

Allow me to introduce a living testament to the transformative power of green spaces – Datin Teo Poo Choo, a vibrant 95-yearold who has been a regular at Taman Persekutan Bukit Kiara for the past 40 years.

Her daily ritual of exercise and social interaction at the park has not only contributed to her longevity but has also enriched the tapestry of her life.

She is a living example of the profound impact green spaces can have on our well-being and overall health.

Green spaces are not merely patches of grass and trees. Instead, they are lifelines that weave vitality into the fabric of our communities.

Areas like Taman Persekutuan Bukit Kiara, offer a refuge for outdoor activities, exercise and moments of respite from the stresses of daily life.

Studies have shown that access to green spaces can improve mental health, reduce the risk of chronic diseases, and even increase life expectancy as in the case of Teo.

The benefits of green spaces extend beyond personal well-being.

They play a vital role in mitigating the impacts of climate change, absorbing carbon dioxide, releasing oxygen and providing habitats for diverse flora and fauna.

The environmental, economic and health advantages are interwoven, creating a harmonious synergy that contributes to the overall quality of life for residents.

Cherish green spaces for community's well-being

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Teo with her great grandchild, her son Danny (right) and caregiver. Courtesy photo

Some of these benefits are intangible and cannot be scientifically measured.

Residential property located beside a park always fetches a higher price.

The landmark court case of Taman Rimba Kiara in Taman Tun Dr Ismail (TTDI) exemplifies the relentless pursuit of profit at the expense of community well-being.

Despite strong objections from residents. Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) approved the

Invest in public parks as mma as to e in managir h are living living assets we all share

Drone surveillance using infrared technology could also be applied to oversee

ate-night activities in public parks.

Landscape Information
Modelling (LIM) in park design
and recreation could also be
explored by authorities.

Green spaces and public

green spaces and public parks are a long-term investment, not a cost.

They are not just a planning requirement of a township or development but rather a reflection of sentient beings'

longing for attachment with

public parks must require tech-nical competencies in dealing with planning, design, con-structing and maintaining the

Facilities need to be appreciated more for their intangible value

value of pub-ir indirect con

cantly contrib Level 3A, Menara Star, 15, Jalan 16/11, Section 16, 46350 Petaling Jaya. t aspect, ded as contribnumber and signature. A pseudonym may be included. Letters may be edited for clarity, brevity and other requirements.

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services to the ogical habitat stormwater er natural areas. townships, to

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tion Through ign (CPTED)

Another concern is natural asset management including things such as trees falling, landslides, water quality, inva-sive species management and human-wildlife conflict in larg-

These concerns need to be lved using an ecological per spective.

There are innovations that

A paradigm shift is also needed on how civil society values parks in an era of cli-mate resiliency. These will influence our will-ingness to invest in the living assets we share. could be considered in making public parks much safer and DR MOHD SALLEHUDIN ologically sound. CPTED needs to be enhanced with technologies such as nten at of Things (IoT) for

MAT NOOR Landscape Architecture Design and Architecture Faculty reiti Putra Malaveia



Crime prevention through environmental design will help keep Taman Aman, a public park in Petaling Jaya, safer.



The community must remain engaged and proactive in ensuring that local governments are held accountable and that the values of green spaces are upheld.

EMAIL metro@thestar.com.mv

Letters must carry the sender's

number and signature. A pseu-

donym may be included. Letters

may be edited for clarity, brevity

Equally important is the role

of the community in this ongo-

The victory in the Taman

possible by the collective effort

Rimba Kiara case was made

of TTDI residents who stood

united and solidly against the

encroachment on their green

full name, address, telephone

MAIL The Editor, Metro Mail.

Level 3A. Menara Star. 15.

Jalan 16/11. Section 16.

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haven.

46350 Petaling Jaya.

Teo's story is a living reminder of the significance these areas have on individual lives.

Our urban oases are not just plots of land; they are repositories of health, happiness and community harmony.

Let us ensure that the legacy of Taman Persekutan Bukit Kiara and similar green spaces continue to flourish for generations to come.

POLA SINGH Kuala Lumpur

development, leading residents to pursue legal recourse and ultimately securing a victory in the Federal Court.

This victory underscores the urgent need to protect our green spaces from the insatiable appetite for development.

The community must remain vigilant.

Local councils must recognise the bigger picture – prioritising the long-term well-being of communities over short-term gains for developers.

In the long-term, it is crucial for local councils to uphold the spirit of the court ruling and resist any temptation to change the laws at the expense of green spaces.

Green spaces are integral to our physical and mental health, community harmony, and environmental sustainability.

Policies must be aligned with these principles, ensuring that green spaces continue to thrive as vital components of our urban landscapes.



StarMetro's report on Jan 22.