

## **ABSTRACT**

Public parks are placed high on the research agenda, with many studies addressing their social, economic, climatic, ecological, and transportation influences in different countries around the world. They have been recognised as contributors to the physical quality of urban environments. More recently, a broader view of public parks has emerged. This view goes well beyond the traditional value of parks as places for mere recreation and visual delight, to depict them as valuable contributors to broader strategic objectives, such as property values, place attractiveness, job opportunities, social belonging, public health, tourist development, and improving the overall quality of life for individuals and societies.

In order to help policymakers, practitioners, researchers and the public make use of public parks, the present research aims to examine the role of public parks in enhancing the quality of human life in Egyptian urban environments. It measures 'quality of life' in terms of 'human needs' and 'subjective well-being'. Relevant literature is reviewed and a theoretical framework is set accordingly. Hence, the study explores the impact of elements of parks upon subsistence, reproduction, security, affection, understanding, participation, leisure, spirituality, creativity, identity and freedom; set by the adopted model for 'human needs'. Then, it investigates the impact of public parks upon happiness, utility and welfare; identified by the undertaken framework of 'subjective well-being'.

Finally, the study concludes to a sound understanding of the impact of public parks upon improving the 'quality of life', as a synthesis of the findings from 'human needs' and 'subjective well-being'. This should open ways for policymakers, practitioners, researchers and the public to realise the potentials of public parks towards improving the quality of life and recognising the aspired-for individual and social development in Egypt.