



INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN MANAGING AN URBAN FOREST PARK: ARROCEROS FOREST PARK, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

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ABSTRACT – The study problematizes that urban forests parks are significant social spaces for community activities. However, not all urban forests are well managed to function as such. Some urban forests parks are threatened by infrastructure development, land use change, or political priorities of the present governing local government unit. The objective of the study is to illustrate how the local government, non-government organizations (NGO) and advocacy groups collaboratively manage the urban forest park. The study used qualitative methods such as key informant interview, review of secondary data, and field observation to create a holistic picture of the urban forest park in the 5th district of Manila. Coding, categorization of themes and matrices were used as analytical tools. Results show that the Arroceros Forest Park (AFP), a city government property is managed and maintained by a non-government organization in collaboration with the city government of Manila. Moreover, there are other institutions, government agencies and private groups supporting the urban forest park but the latter appears to be neglected, poorly maintained, and viewed as unsafe for public use. Therefore, there is a need to strengthen collaboration among interest groups managing the urban forest park as it is a valuable space in promoting community well-being. The result of the study can be used as an aid to legislation, enhancing awareness on the role of urban forest parks as they provide natural amenities for urban residents to enjoy and appreciate nature in the midst of pollution and congestion.

Keywords: *Arroceros Forest Park (AFP), social space, institutional arrangement, urban forest*



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