

The importance of public parks as an urban space in the algerian city Case study of the city of bordj bou arreridj

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Abstract

Public spaces are one of the most important components of the city, as they are of great importance for the direct impact on the life of the population. When it comes to a quality of life of cleanliness, safety and comfort, public spaces are often where these elements are included.

In order to learn more about the realities of these spaces and to put an end to their deterioration and upgrading, the subject of our research was the upgrading of urban public spaces in the context of sustainable development. This theme focuses on the public spheres and how to upgrade them in order to improve the living environment of the population.

We analyzed the most important public spheres of the city of Bordj Bou Arreridj which allowed us to learn more about its shortcomings. A sample of these city public spaces, located in public parks, was selected to discover the reasons and factors that underlie the fulfillment of their role within the city and to achieve results that help us improve them.

Through this study, we have been able to provide a range of solutions to address the situation of public spaces and the negative phenomena they undergo and to eliminate them in the future. This is done only in combination with the efforts of local authorities and all those involved in the development of the city, as well as involving the population in the process of modernization to improve their living environment.

Key words: *Public spaces, public parks, improvement processes, living environment, running spaces.*

Introduction

The space is an open space for all users. It is a common space, a place of gathering and socialization privileged, a place carried by individuals easily and freely. (Pierre Merlin et Françoise Choay.2000)

It is also known as a place where various social interactions occur, in streets, roads, green spaces, public parks, etc. (Rémy Allian. 2010 ,P 141 _180)

The Algerian city was known for its population growth. This rapid population growth has been accompanied by a rapid pace of reconstruction, with an emphasis on satisfying population demand and equipment at the expense of urban preparedness. This has had a negative impact on the public spheres of urban planning and urban projects. which led to the imbalance between the built and non-built environment, Impact on the development of the social, economic, environmental, administrative and humanitarian living environment of the city 'where it took on dangerous dimensions predicted further degradation and degradation. (Ahmed Messoudi, 2022, p.901)

It causes social ills that can lead to a deterioration of the social system and the mental health of the population. (Hicham Lakdari , 2023, p207)

Urban spaces are important not only to help people move from one place to another, but also in the activities that involve them, breathing from routine at home and pressures at work. (Feloussia L, Hadji Abdelkader, 2023,p132)

The quality of users of urban spaces also affects the space in terms of form, nature and characteristics, as well as the nature of the purpose for which it exists, where urban spaces can be divided into: public space, semi-public space public, private space, semi-private space.(Bahar IsmailFarhat, 1999, p.18)

With the marginalization of planning for urban public spaces in the city of Bordj Bou Arreridj such as public streets, play areas, green spaces, urban garden furnishings and the deterioration of its reality, with a focus on road planning and construction. and the neglect of other elements of the urban public sphere, and the failure to perform them according to technical and legal standards, in particular the aesthetic aspect, as well as the lack of programming of these areas in preparation and reconstruction programmes or the completion of some of them without prior programming, in the sense of the absence of a policy of completion and functioning of urban public spaces.

This study aims to discover The status of public parks as an urban space in the city of Bordj Bou Arreridj, and control factors in the achievement of the role entrusted to him

1. Submit the study area

The State of Bordj Bou Arreridj is located in eastern Algeria and is considered a connection between East and South, comprising a total area of 3,920.42 km², bordered by the northern state of Bejaia, the southern state of Msila, east of the state of Setif and west of the state of Bouira.

The town of Bordj Bou Arreridj is the median of its state territory, located 950 m above sea level It is divided over an area of 81.10 km². It is bordered to the north by the municipalities of Hassanawa and Mejana, to the south by the municipality of Hamadiyah and to the east by the cities of Sidi Mebarak and Al-Anasser , and to the west by the municipality of Yashir.

It is a point of convergence and intersection of many roads, the most important of which is the national road n. 16, between Algiers and Constantine, passing through the city center. National Road No. 56 between the city and the state of Msila, and National Road No. 86 between the city and the state of Bejaia. in addition to being a privileged industrial hub, the capital of e-industry at national and even African level.(Derradji Kadri,2022, p.65).

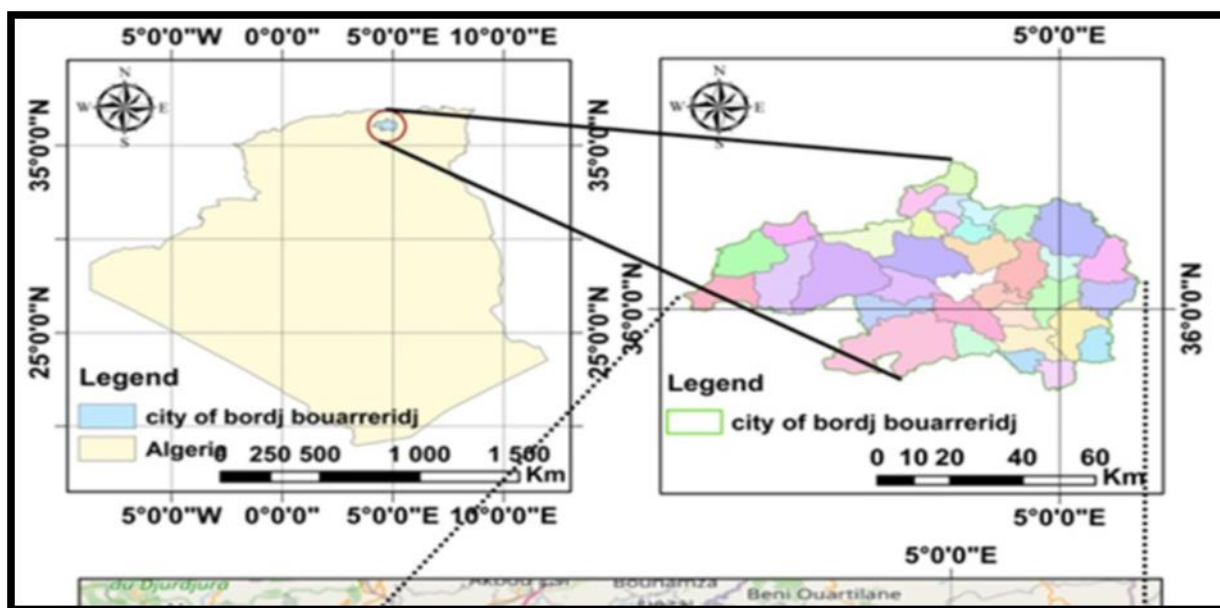


Figure 1: Location of Bordj Bou Arreridj.source:(Fateh Toufik Benaissa, 2021,p7739).

2. Methodology

The descriptive and analytical program was used, based on the examination of written documents from articles, books, notes and documents drawn from the construction and construction plans of the city of Bordj Bou Arreridj, and the use of field surveys based on observational research tools to monitor the deterioration of public spaces, monitor the behavior of individuals, take photos and use the interview with. Organisms concerns

The research consists of two axes, the first of which deals with a general introduction to the phenomenon and the identification of the desired objectives. The second part concerns the field study at the level of the city of Bordj Bou Arreridj, where it touches on the types of urban spaces in which it is located and clarifies its physical and functional state. Then my age analysis of the study sample of the public park of historical teachers through its different components in order to follow its deficiencies and to question the different city bodies responsible for managing these spaces, To identify the causes and factors that hinder the achievement of the objectives of the spaces, the study finally concluded that some solutions are proposed to contribute to their upgrading.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. The most important urban public areas in the city of Bordj Bou Arreridj

After learning about the city of Bordj Bou Arreridj, we will highlight the most important public spaces and their importance and extent of use by the population by conducting an analytical study of some of them for the purpose of identifying their deterioration in order to find a solution to how to upgrade them.

- Streets

All roads and open spaces that allow the movement of vehicles and pedestrians, including parking spaces, is the linear route with variable width, designed for pedestrian and vehicle traffic to connect different spaces with each other, and is achieved in general through special treatment of land, roads, pavements, side borders, fences or buildings. It grades in terms of its dimensions, finding main and secondary streets, lanes and alleys that are usually covered and closed to cars (Robert-Max Antoni, 2010, p.84) In addition to the pivots representing the contract, which are the focal points and strategy to which the observer can access, the main

types are either the points of convergence of the track or a gathering of various activities. (Lynch, K. (1982).

and the city of Bordj Bou Arreridj, like other cities, contains a range of important streets, including

- **Reghi Said Street**

The image represents Reggae Said Street, which proceeds from the Hawari Boumeddin approach to the Monia petrol station, with a length of 1.6 km to a single road and a double movement. This street is characterized by heavy traffic as a result of its extensive use by the population to contain many varied commercial activities, its condition is rather good. The pavement is deteriorated and lacks furniture.



Photo No. 1 Regghi said Street. source: Authors, 2020

- **Mebarakiya Ismail Street**

The image represents Mebarakiya Ismail Street, which proceeds from the Houari Boumeddien approach to the 1008 neighbourhood circle, with a length of 1.7 km and a single road.

A double movement, with a large movement of vehicles as it contains a variety of economic activities, especially shops that attract a significant number of residents. Therefore, pedestrian traffic is considered a good condition to benefit from a recent operation. The pavement deteriorates only in front of some stores.



Photo No. 2 Mebarakiya Ismail Street. Source: Authors, 2020

- **Public parks**

The park is an indispensable place in the city for its important role in recreation and the provision of comfort to residents that has existed since the Middle Ages.(Pierre Merlin et Françoise Choay,2010, P. 426)

The idea of the public park emerged in the nineteenth century, the green space is generally closed, available to the public and can be decorated with various buildings and installations such as playgrounds and kiosks, a meeting point for public hiking, and planted with distinctive plant species.(REMY A,2004, p.254). With a landscape. For the city of Bordj Bou Arreridj, it has a few gardens, most of which are located in the city center and do not meet all the residents' needs.

- **Square Park**

Located on an area of 22900m², it is located in the city center near the square 54 Shahid Square, It is bordered by the north by residences with shops, from the south by a commercial building, from the east, 54 Shahid Square and the middle in Arabic, Ba'bush, and from the west, residences with shops, It received the attention of the municipality by installing and removing the fence that surrounded it to make it a destination and breathe for residents and passers-by to sit and rest It has green spaces, but it's a bit of a deterioration.



Photo No. 3 Square Park.source: Authors, 2020

- **Moukrani Park:**

It consists of an area of 3600m², located in the centre of the city and is rectangular, Bordered from the north by Qal 'at al-Mekrani, and from the south by the Directorate of Youth and Sports, From the east Badr Bank, and from the west the municipal branch, it was recently intervened by removing the fence that surrounded it because it was not functioning.space ", thus becoming open and used by various segments of society, and being equipped with seating, rest and wooded green spaces in good condition.



Photo No. 4 Moukrani Park.sourceAuthors, 2020

- Arenas

It is a public land not built, limited by roads and generally surrounded by buildings, with which pedestrians and vehicles can be affected, a place open and accessible to all, taking different forms and dimensions.(Pierre Merlin and Françoise Choay 2010, p.560, 561,562)

It played an essential role in establishing the city and the place where various daily activities and functions took place. Moreover, it is an aspect of community life and a key point for the future of cities.(MEBARKI RYM, ALKAMA DJAMEL, 2023,p.68)

They play the role of semi-private space in residential neighbourhoods, and sometimes become spaces for leisure during vacations and neighborhood parties. It reflects the dynamism of practices and user interactions.(Korosec-Serfaty,P. , p. 287-292) In the city of Bordj Bou Arreridj, a small number are inadequate and are closed and non-functional.

- Square 1may

It consists of an area of about 4 hectares, one of the most important squares of the city and its mediation, It has an irregular shape, bordered from the north by the historic park, From the south both the market of Mecca and the national gendarmerie, of the Post and Transport Centre of the East and on November 4, From the west of the district of Seraj, it has an hour of its area and strategic location and contains a monument and a regulation with the national anthem and the names of the martyrs, surrounded by a number of commercial stands.



Photo No. 5 Square 1 May.source: Authors, 2020

- **Square 54 Shahid**

It is located on an area of 3170m², with a square shape and is located in the city center (neighbourhood of Belad), where it is bordered from the north by residences with shops, from the south of the neighbourhood of zamallah, from the Middle East in Belarebi Baabouche and from the west of the park Square is not frequented by many inhabitants because it is often closed, it has green wooded spaces with a list of martyrs, it does not receive the attention of the authorities, so it is not prepared, and it does not meet the minimum conditions for sitting or meeting.



Photo No. 6 Square 54 Shahid. source : Authors, 2020

- **Parks**

It is an outdoor space that is converted into green spaces and sports stadiums, in order to promote the living environment, is a field prepared in front of a protected arena Pierre Merlin and Françoise Choay. 1996

In the town of Bou Arreridj, there is the park of light and breeze, which has many leisure facilities for families, as its property is attributed to the private, as well as the forest of Boumarkad , which considers the lung of the city as a natural place for hiking and recreation.

- **Park of Nour and Nassim**

Al Noor and Al Naseem Park is located in the eastern entrance of the city of Bou Arreridj National Route No. 6 of the South is limited by vacant land from the east of Martyrs' Square, From the west, residential properties, consisting of an area of 44 hectares, He is the only breather for families in the city because it contains many toys for children and adults It also contains an animal park and a water park, and has the necessary equipment for a restaurant park, dessert stalls and ice cream. And it also has a lake and large green spaces running it back to the private, so it's in good shape and getting the necessary attention.



Photo No. 7 Al Noor and Al Naseem Park. source: Authors, 2020

- **Boumarkad Forest Park**

The forest of Boumarkad is located on the east side of Bou Arreridj and 8 km from the city center "Composed of 91 hectares, bordered by vacant land Village Sud Sud, Route Nationale Est No. 6 and by the west, vacant land, which is considered the lung of the city and its wealth, the forest contains a dense vegetation cover and a variety of trees, Despite their importance and the consolidation of development projects to prepare them and make them breathe and parks for families, these projects have not yet been implemented on the ground because of the negligence of the authorities.

Through the analytical study, we have noted that the public spheres of the city of Bou Arreridj are mostly concentrated in the city centre and they suffer from deficiencies and do not meet the needs of the population. We will be exposed to some of these deficiencies:

- Lack of security and comfort conditions in the gardens.
- Significant absence of urban furnishing in some of these areas.
- Pay attention to the maintenance and preparation of roads more than other areas.
- Some of these areas suffer from neglect and lack of periodic maintenance of green spaces



Photo No. 8 Boumerkad Forest Park. source: Authors, 2020

3.2. Analysis of the study area

After touching on urban public magazines in the city of Bou Arreridj, we selected a sample of these fields, namely the Public Parks, the Citadelle Historical Flag Park. It plays an important role in the city as a breathing place and a place of comfort and recreation, which suffers from several shortcomings despite its strategic location. It is considered one of the most important parks in the city, formerly a military barracks in colonial times. The median city is easily accessible, in addition to the important facilities surrounding it.

- Site and limits of the park

The Historic Landmark Park is located in a strategic area in the city centre of Bou Arreridj, where it is bordered by the north: the middle of Amar Oshish, the south of All May Square, the east of the Post and Transport Center and the 1th of November, and the west of the Mujahid Museum and the Seraj neighbourhood.

- Garden orphology

The park sits on an area of about 1 hectare and is of an irregular shape according to the nature of the floor

-The real estate nature of the garden

The park belongs to the municipality (according to the Directorate of Land Survey). According to the urban division of the city of Bou Arreridj which is specified in the guideline for development and reconstruction, the studied square is located in the perennial urban area and belongs to the land occupancy scheme No. 4

- The perimeter next to the park

Residences

Owing to the park's location in the city centre, the surrounding dwellings are sparse, except on the western side (Al-Sarraj neighbourhood) we find individual dwellings dating back to the colonial period as pictured No. 9.



Photo No. 9 Housing next to the park. source. Authors, 2020

Equipment

The park is surrounded by a series of important installations, making it a transit point and a place for the residents using these installations. From these installations, mention is made of the municipal centre and the Post and Transport Centre, as shown in photos No. 10.



Photo No. 10 Equipment Next to the park. source: Authors, 2020

Ways

The park passes the most important road in the city, the Houari Boumeddine approach (National Route No. 5) in the northern side, as well as 8 May Street in the east and Fars Mohammed Street in the western side.

Garden outlets and fences

The park is easily accessible because there are four entrances in the main front surrounded by fences on the northern side, the eastern side is open on the sidewalk, the southern side is open on the All May Square, and the western side is surrounded by fences.

Footpaths

The picture represents 11 pedestrian walks in the garden, where it is sufficient to reach all parts of the park. It is prepared and tiled in such a way that it is usable by visitors and used by visitors in abundance. It facilitates mobility in the park



Photo No. 11 pedestrian lanes. source: Authors, 2020

Green Spaces

From the field view, we noted that the green spaces of the garden have different forms and spaces. However, they are not cared for, as illustrated by photo No. 12, they lack the green element, which in turn contributes to the psychological comfort of visitors, as well as the lack of shading except in some places where trees such as milk pine, calitus and palm are located.



Photo No. 12 Green Spaces. source: Authors, 2020

Children's Play Spaces

The park has playgrounds for recreational activities dedicated to children. It has a series of toys distributed in these spaces, including what is usable and what is not usable, as shown in photos 13 and 14. It is insufficient in comparison with the number of children visiting the park. The grounds on which the toys are placed are dangerous and unsafe.



Photo No. 12 Children's Games. Source: Authors, 2020



Photo No. 13 Children's Games. source: Authors, 2022

4. Urban furnishing in the garden

We note that the garden does not have seating seats except for some stone chairs Photo 15 it does not meet visitors' needs, which requires sitting on the edges of the hallways according to Photo 14.



Photo No. 14 Seating Seats. source: Authors, 2020



Photo No. 15 Seating. Source: Authors, 2020

-Lighting

There is only one type of lamppost, in addition to some poles broken and not maintained by the concerned party according to Photo No. 16.



Photo 16 Seating Seats. Source:Authors, 2020

-Trash containers

Through a field inspection of the park, a total absence of containers throughout the park adversely affects the park's aesthetic view by throwing waste from visitors. By image No. 17



Photo No. 17 Trash containers. Source:Authors, 2020

Through the analytical study of the park, we found that it suffers from several imbalances that touched on its various aspects, which must be addressed:

- The degradation of green spaces, the spread of dirt, the lack of care and the absence of periodic maintenance.
- A total absence of trash containers, so dirt is assembled in the garden corners and in green spaces.
- The chairs are semi-non-existent resulting in the visitor sitting on the edge of the footpaths.
- Children's play spaces are unsafe and some toys cannot be used.
- Lack of security, surveillance and widespread manifestations of public literature, as well as the gathering of young heroes, making it a black spot in the city.

5. Defining the responsibility for the conduct of public areas

Running public spaces is a set of actions aimed at the proper functioning of the neighbourhood and improving the living conditions of the population. This management requires administrative, technical and financial management. Administrative management is represented by the administrative authority responsible for issuing orders in urban projects, where the command and organization unit with various bodies is considered. Technical management is a set of coordinated and integrated processes that include the foundations of Planning, implementation, control and maintenance. While financial management is financial financing for urban projects, it is in planning, delivery and maintenance.

The preservation of public spaces is one of the tasks of the municipality, which must ensure public hygiene and comfort, protect the aesthetic and architectural nature, preserve health and provide public utility networks, establish and expand the maintenance of green spaces, and urban furniture aimed at improving the framework of life as stipulated in the law on the municipality Article 108 of Law 90-08, of April 7, 1990 The Law on Environmental Protection in the Context of Sustainable Development stressed the need to "protect forests, public parks, recreational spaces and every space of collective benefit that contributes to improving the living framework".

Article 65 of Law 03-10 of July 19, 2003

The need to preserve and upgrade green spaces is also included in article 9 of the City Directive Law Article 90 of Law No. 06-06 of February 20, 2006

The law obliged the inclusion of green spaces in all urban projects and obliged them to be protected and valued. Law 07-06 enacted on May 13, 2007

Through the study we found that the most important actors in the process of running public spaces are:

- Programming and financing: State, Municipality, Planning and Construction Managers.
- Planning and completion: Construction Directorate, Public Works Directorate.
- Maintenance and follow-up: Municipality, Agriculture Directorate, Construction and Reconstruction Directorate, Public Works Directorate.
- Awareness and sensitization: Environmental Directorate, Associations with Environmental Activity, Biological Committees.

Through an interview with these bodies, we concluded that the city of Bordj Bou Arreridj suffers from a shortage of public spaces despite the development of a series of projects, especially the construction of green spaces and gardens, but does not meet the deficit that the city is constantly expanding.

As to the causes of the deterioration of spaces, which have led to the failure to achieve their objectives, the authorities consider:

- Lack of periodic follow-up and maintenance.
- The absence of security and public safety of the user.
- Lack of culture and awareness in maintaining these spaces.
- Lack of physical and human capabilities of the agencies for follow-up and maintenance.

Conclusion

Urban public spheres play a key role in the lives of city dwellers social relations and economic and environmental exchanges and exchanges, It is the mirror reflecting the upliftment of the city, but these areas are witnessed by great marginalization and neglect in the Algerian city, including the city of Burj Bouarij The topic of our study was to learn about the problems affecting urban public spheres and to propose some solutions to improve them so that they can play their mandated role, including the following suggestions and recommendations:

- Establishing urban public spheres that serve all segments of society and take into account psychological, visual and sensory comfort by providing and guaranteeing security.
- Strict control by technical interests in the application of the Clause Book on the completion of public spaces from the follow-up and observance of standards.
- Stricter penalties for all violations affecting these spaces.
- Preparation and management of urban public areas with continuous maintenance under the supervision of specialists.
- Raising the population's awareness of the importance of urban public spheres through information campaigns in all media, as well as on-site outputs and face-to-face meetings with the population.
- Organizing voluntary campaigns for afforestation and cleaning up urban public areas to develop the population's civic sense.
- Activate the population's role as an active actor in the city by engaging them with their views and suggestions in various urban projects to improve its living framework.

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