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**SUITABILITY AND SAFETY OF PUBLIC
RECREATIONAL PARK FACILITIES FOR DISABLED**

Final Project submitted in partial fulfilment
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ABSTRACT

Public recreational park is provided to community for encouraging recreational activities and healthy life style in city or town. It provides opportunities for individuals to socialize and interact with each other's. The park is fundamentally to cater the community within the vicinity, not only for the abled person but also for disabled as both have the same rights to lead healthy lifestyles. However, most public recreational parks in Malaysia do not provide disabled-friendly facilities where the layout and facilities are not accessible and fit to be used by people with disability (PWD). Disabled is defined as a person that has impaired some part of body which led to limitation in mobility or movement. The conditions thus may restrict them in community engagement and activities. This research aims to determine the satisfaction level on the suitability and safety of public recreational park facilities for disabled; with the objectives to identify the disabled facilities provided at public recreational park; to identify suitability and safety of provided facilities at public recreational park; and to determine the satisfaction level of the disabled users and disabled caregivers towards the current public recreational park facilities. Four public recreational parks in Perak were observed to fulfil the first and second objective. Questionnaire was given to 108 disabled users and caregivers to determine their satisfaction level on the current public recreational park facilities. SPSS was used to analyse the data obtained through the questionnaire survey. The research showed that Taman Tasik Taiping was the park that most of its facilities comply with the guideline produced by Malaysia National Landscape. It is found that all disabled users and disabled caregivers were dissatisfied with the current facilities provided at the public recreational park. Therefore, it can be concluded that most of the disabled users and caregivers still dissatisfied with the current facilities at the public recreational park.

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CHAPTER 1:

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Generally, there are many public recreational parks that have been provided at urban area in Malaysia with the goal to promote the citizen to practice a good healthy lifestyle. It has been one of Malaysian government's initiatives in taking care of its citizen welfare as government take seriously on the arising problems of the health issue of its citizen. Parks have been chosen as one of the place that can benefit its users in term of health aspect. It is proven through the definition on term park that is defined by MD Sakip et al. (2015) that park can be defined as a place that promote and provide space for physical activity, health behaviour and rehabilitation for sick people and it involve the relationship of man and nature. Furthermore, Romagosa *et al.* (2015) also concluded that the provision of park is related to the human health and well-being. So, the provision of the public recreational park is not only for non-disabled person but also for disabled person as they have the same rights as others.

Instead of healthy life style, public recreational parks can be a platform for disabled people to sharpen their skill in sport before entering a sport competition. It is because the public recreational parks can be easily access by the common people comparing to others fitness facility such as stadium. So, disabled people can have a dream to be like the two Malaysian para athletes champions who are Mohamad Ridzuan Mohamad Puzi and Muhammad Ziyad Zolkefli. Both are disabled person and had created a new history in para sport games by winning two medal gold in the men's shot put F20 and 100m T36 event at Rio Paralympics, Brazil in year 2016 (The Star,