



اُنُوَرْسِيْتِي تِكْنُوْلُوْجِي مَارَا
UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

*CENTRE OF STUDIES FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FACULTY OF
ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING AND SURVEYING
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA*

**RIVER REVITALIZATION:
AN ECOLOGICAL APPROACH AS A COMPONENT OF PUBLIC SPACE
AT PART OF *SUNGAI LANGAT, SELANGOR.***

“I hereby declare that this academic project is the result of my own research except for the quotation and summary which have been acknowledge”

STUDENT’S NAME : SITI FAZNILY BAHDIA BT ZAINUL ABIDIN
SIGNATURE :
UiTM NO. : 2013662134
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ABSTRACT

This project proposal deals with a revitalization of the riverscape at part of Sungai Langat. The aim of the project is to revitalize the Sungai Langat by integrating an ecological approach as a component of public space. The project proposal explores what impact urban greening can have on a city like Bandar Baru Bangi, and how a degraded river can be transformed into a public park.

By analyzing part of Sungai Langat, the urban development of Bandar Baru Bangi and the Sungai Langat, there are three main challenges: underutilized green space, inadequate public access - pedestrian and bicycle, and a river which has become a void and an ecological tragedy.

As a solution to these challenges, put forward a vision and a strategy for Sungai Langat, with the river as a point of interest. The strategy focuses on two themes: human and nature. The river zone then becomes the structure that ties these themes together, essentially by proposing the river network to become a green infrastructure connecting different areas in the city.

In continuation of the vision, site visit has done, showing in tangible detail plans, sections and visualizations, imagine a river park on a four kilometer stretch of the Sungai Langat. Initially, the Sungai Langat Eco-Park proposal suggests ways to transform what is currently an abandoned and underutilized green area into a green public space that reconnects the people toward the river. Secondly it creates access along the river and ultimately the park connects the river to the city.

The design focuses on supporting and preserving the river, by connecting and emphasizing the river and the adjacent urban development. Each area in the park has been designed based on its current use, with the local characteristics in mind. In that way, they become part of a sequence where each of them adds their distinctive character to the greater whole.

4km of Sungai Langat envisioned as an ideal site for the recovery and development of the symbiotic relationship between humans and nature within the context of an urban environment. The project was also intended to bridge the gap between a typical landscape design approach to restoration and a restoration ecology perspective to create a welcoming and ecologically diverse design. Also, provide natural environments, offering both passive and active recreation while promoting such themes as environmental sustainability and ecologies.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION TO TOPIC

1.1 Introduction of Topic

Vast land use changes occur during times of dramatic socio-spatial transformation, all the economic, political, social and cultural changes of a globalised world have their relation to space (Harvey, 1989). Rapid development of the city and dependencies of vehicles is increasing, the river is no longer measured as a benchmark that reflecting quality of human life. According to Baschak, 1995, the transformations of land and rising an urban development will affect water, air, energy resources and, particularly, human populations. Based on the report titled *East Asia's Changing Urban Landscape: Measuring a Decade of Spatial Growth*, Malaysia is one the most urbanized countries in East Asia, and its urban population continues to increase rapidly. In the article also state that, the statistic of urban population increased from 10.2 million (43% of the total population) to 15 million (53%), making Malaysia is among of the urbanized countries and economies in the region by increasing about 10%.

Nowadays, various stages of development initiatives has undergone and become the most challenging tasks for planners and urban designers. Cities became not just a place of living and working, but it became also the reflection of people's spiritual and physical culture (Moughtin, 1992). Besides, cities have worked to address the public desire for increased recreational opportunities and access to the waterfront. There are not only an edge between urban fabric and water, but due to the variety of roles and functions that waterfront has across the history from a place for trade, transport, industry and nowadays as public open space.

A growing number of population, demands for outdoor activities grow. The natural landscape becomes the ultimate resource providing open space for human leisure activity have a close relationship with urban development, such as significant connectivity, ecological values and recreational opportunities. Thus, urban rivers and waterfront space are part of the urban open space and play important roles in affording urban resilience and health.