



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

The Governance of Green Public Spaces Who manages?

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Public spaces

Public spaces are areas that are open and accessible to all, such as parks, streets, plazas, and public buildings. These areas are designed to be inclusive and serve the community's needs.



Importance of public spaces

- Public spaces facilitate community interaction and social cohesion by providing venues for people to meet, interact, and engage in collective activities.
- Public spaces boost local businesses by attracting tourists and residents, thereby stimulating the local economy.
- Green public spaces provide a wide ranges of ecosystem goods and services



Complexity

- Competition for Land use
- Inadequate financing
- Cultural sensitivities
- Absence of effective dialogue among stakeholders
- Environmental concerns
- Lack of technical capacity and soft skills
-



Shared interests

- Recreation
- Physical activity
- Nature conservation
- Pet Walking
- Concessions
- Events



Governance

- Strategic
- Integrated
- Inclusive





So, who manages?



1

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How the customer explained it



2

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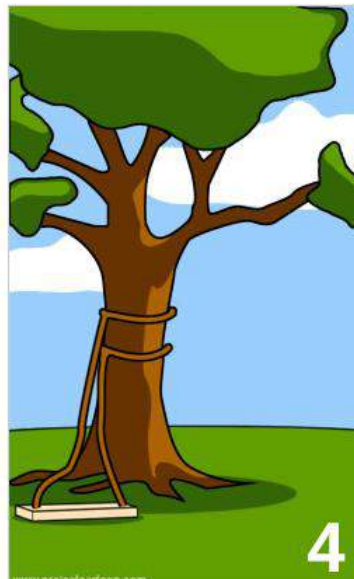
How the project leader understood it



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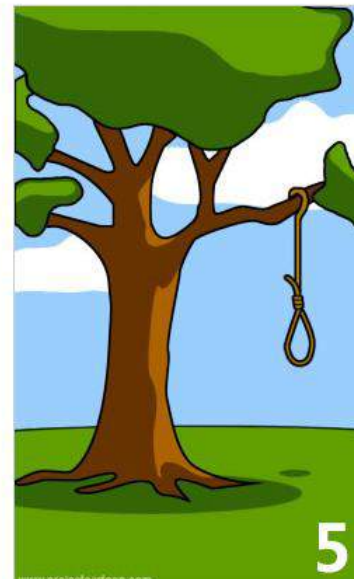
How the analyst designed it



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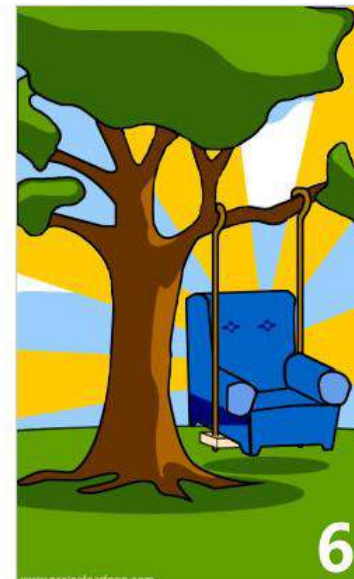
How the programmer wrote it



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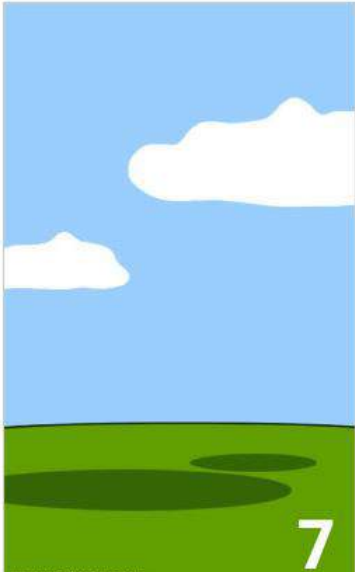
What the beta testers received



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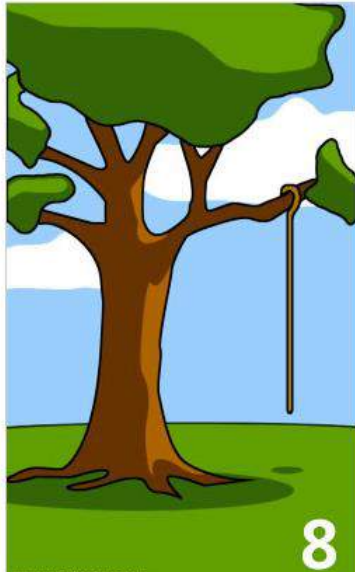
How the business consultant described it



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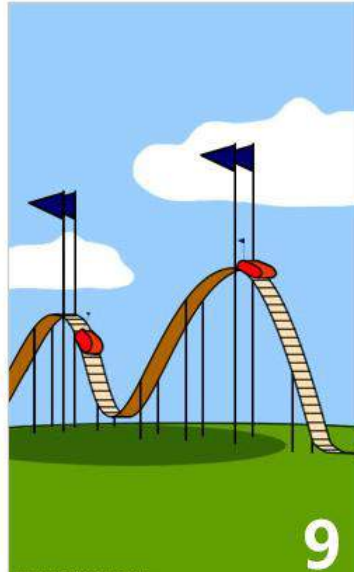
How the project was documented



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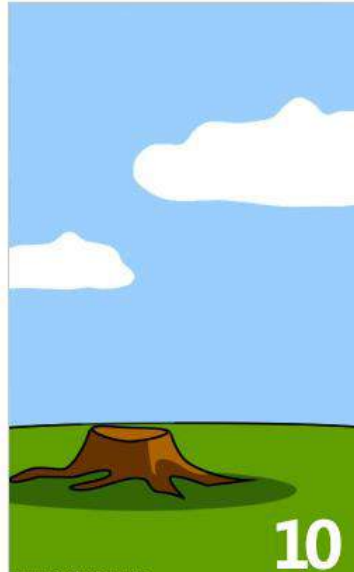
What operations installed



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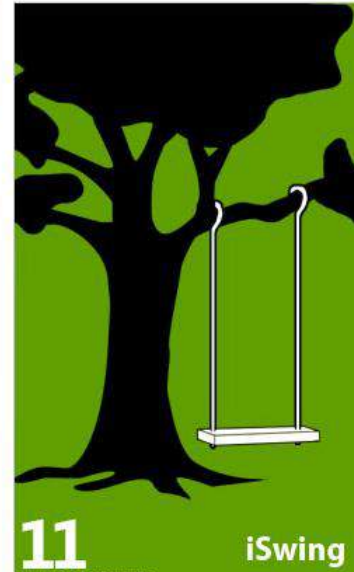
How the customer was billed



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How it was supported



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What marketing advertised



12

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What the customer really needed

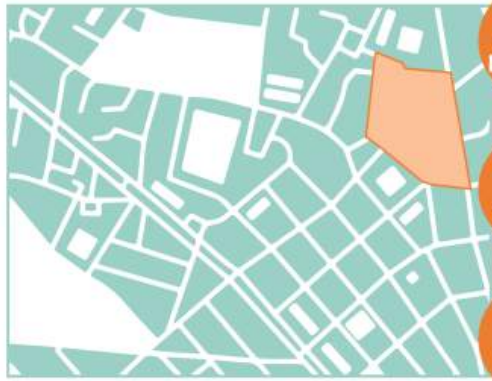




Do You Know Who Takes Care of the Local Environment?

STEW-MAP can help you find out!

The Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project (STEW-MAP) is a framework for communities, governments, land management agencies, and nonprofits to create a partnership mapping tool. The interactive mapping tool identifies stewardships groups and provides information on:



Organizational Data

The organizational characteristics of each group such as year founded, mission, primary work sites, services offered, etc.



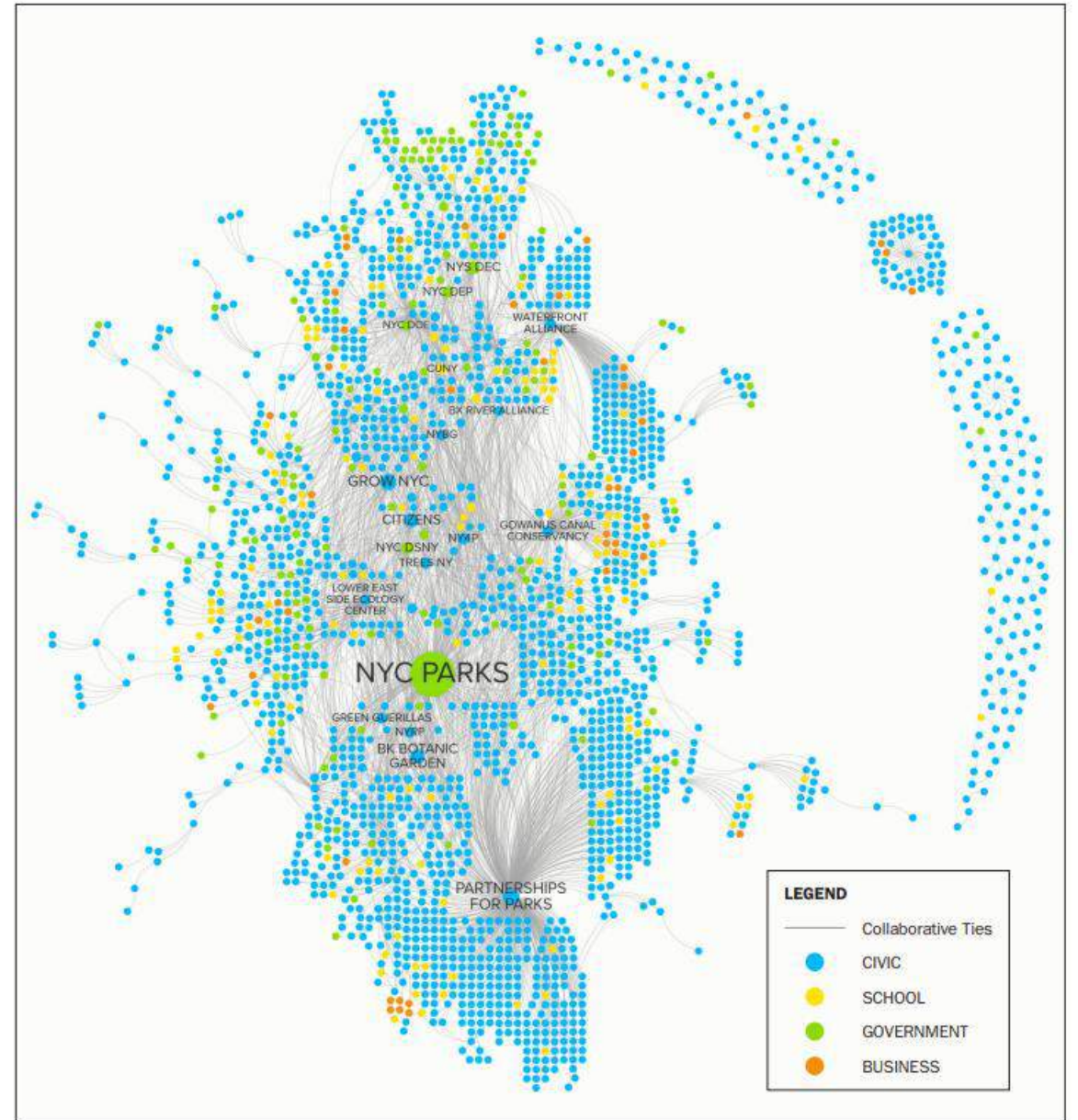
Geographic Territory

The area of activity, or 'stewardship turf,' of each group, such as a park, forest patch, or watershed.



Social Networks

A group's social network helps understand organization connects and the structure and function of stewardship across the landscape.



LEGEND	
—	Collaborative Ties
● (Blue)	CIVIC
● (Yellow)	SCHOOL
● (Green)	GOVERNMENT
● (Orange)	BUSINESS

Figure 31. Organizational collaboration network of NYC respondents and groups they named, color-coded by sector and size-coded by in-degree statistic (n = 2,042, including 455 respondents, 1,774 named groups). Network graph created by Michelle Johnson, USDA Forest Service.

Key Stakeholders in public space management



Local governments and administrations: e.g. decision-makers, technical staff and administrative boards



Professionals in green and grey infrastructure (planning, design and management): e.g. urban foresters, agronomists, landscape architects, urban planners and civil engineers
Administrators and staff of parks and protected areas



International institutions and agencies: e.g. FAO, UN-Habitat, UNEP, UNDP, WHO, ICLEI



Forest owners near urbanizing areas
Owners of private gardens, parks and urban forests
Business sector: e.g. companies, donors, investors and labour



Non-governmental organizations and associations: e.g. forest users, nature conservationists, businesses, schools and social youth associations, senior citizens' organizations, and sports and recreation groups



Communities (individuals and groups) dependent on or related to economies and services from urban forests
Urban forest stakeholders and actors




GETTING OTHER AGENCIES TO SAY YES.

Agency	Where do they fit in?	What can they do?	What they get out of it!
Parks	Recreation, Outdoor Experiences	Plan for tree canopy	Many benefits, including improved public health
Public Works	Stormwater management	Include trees in GI Plans	Reduced flow, pollutant reduction
Planning	Zoning, Development	Maximize green space, minimize development impact [LID]	More tree canopy creates healthy, vibrant neighborhoods
Transportation	Roads, street and sidewalk design	Complete and Green Streets	Vibrant, safe neighborhoods and stormwater management
Public Health	Promote healthy places	Assure people in "health hotspots" have access to nature	Improved health outcomes for many chronic conditions
Sustainability Office	Climate adaptation and mitigation	Commit to trees as solution to problems [e.g. urban heat island, energy use]	Greener, healthier, more resilient communities
Regional Planning Organization	Often the hub for future-oriented planning	Convene like-minded officials from member municipalities	Stronger foundation for effective region-wide [and watershed level] action

ENLIST COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Organization	Where they fit?	What can they do?	What they get out of it?
Local business groups	Commitment to economic growth	Support and invest in green streets and sidewalks	Increased foot traffic, sales
Universities	Campus design	Demonstrate exemplary practices	Attracts applicants and top faculty, creates environment conducive to learning
Hospitals	Community health improvement	Support and sponsor efforts to "green" neighborhoods	Improved health outcomes, more efficient delivery of care
Chambers of Commerce, Convention Bureaus	Improved business climate	Support adding green space and trees to business, entertainment and cultural sites	Draws new corporate investment, increased convention revenue
Faith-based groups	Neighborhood revitalization	Advocate for equitable distribution of green assets	More livable, healthier communities for all.
Tree organizations	Trees	Allies and sources of volunteer stewards	Increased tree canopy
Conservation groups	Growing interest in the environment where people live	Allies, sources of technical support, funding	Improved urban environments
Neighborhood, homeowners and citizens groups	It's home	Constituents and potential citizen stewards	Fair share of important benefits from trees

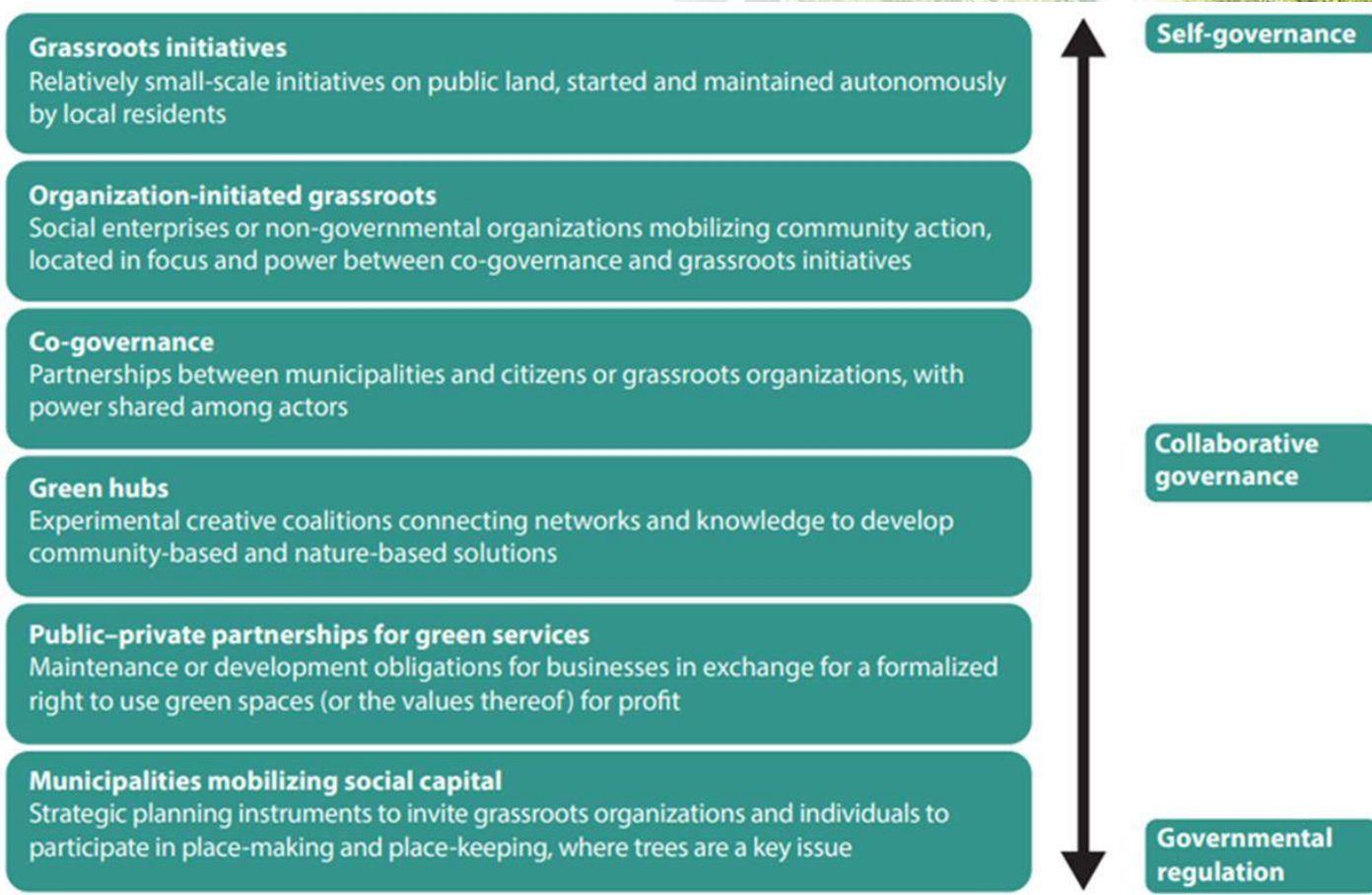


An aerial photograph of a public square. The central feature is a large, winding play area with a red base and white diagonal stripes. The play area includes various shapes like circles, triangles, and a large 'X' structure. People, including children and adults, are seen walking and playing on the area. To the right, there is a modern building with large glass windows and a sign that says '2 SWAROVSKI'. A large red umbrella is positioned near the play area. On the left, there are green trees and a paved walkway. The overall scene is a vibrant, public urban space.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Planning and Design
- Maintenance and Operations
- Funding
- Policy and Regulation

Governance arrangements



Management cycle



Assess



Prioritize



Organize



Plan



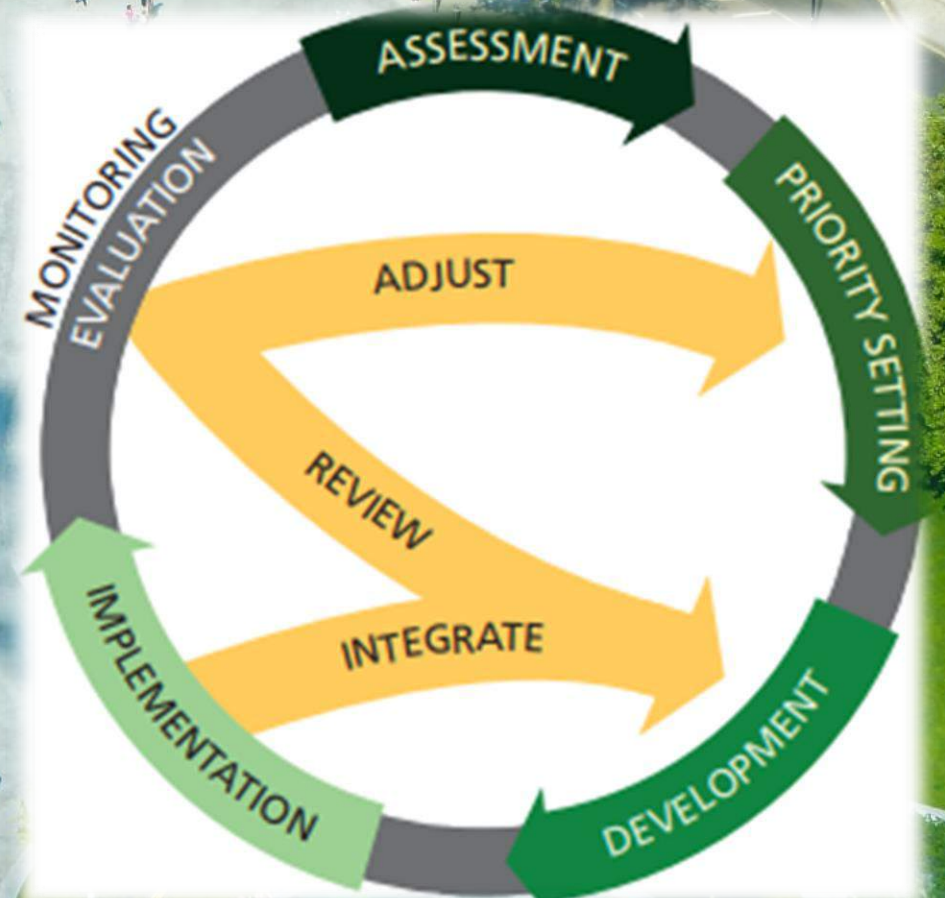
Build



Protect




Sustain



Some Examples



Central Park, New York City

An aerial photograph of Central Park in New York City. The park is a large, lush green area with several lakes and winding paths, situated in the heart of a dense urban environment. The surrounding city is filled with tall buildings and skyscrapers, with the Hudson River and the Manhattan Bridge visible in the background under a clear blue sky.

Management Style: Public-Private Partnership

Management Entity: Central Park Conservancy

Ownership: City of New York

Details: Central Park is managed by the Central Park Conservancy, a non-profit organization, in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. The Conservancy handles maintenance, operations, and funding through donations, while the city provides oversight and additional resources. This model exemplifies mosaic governance, where multiple stakeholders collaborate to achieve common goals.

Royal Parks, London

Management Style: Government Agency
with Community Involvement

Management Entity: The Royal Parks

Ownership: The Crown, managed by The
Royal Parks charity

The Royal Parks, including Hyde Park
and Kensington Gardens, are managed
by a government agency that
transitioned into a charity in 2017. This
organization oversees maintenance,
event coordination, and public
engagement, with funding from the
government, donations, and revenue
from events and concessions.

Community involvement ensures the
parks meet public needs.



Jardin du Luxembourg, Paris

Management Style: Centralized
Government Management

Management Entity: French Senate

Ownership: French Government

Details: The Luxembourg Gardens are managed by the French Senate, reflecting a highly centralized management style. The gardens are maintained by government-employed gardeners and staff, with funding coming directly from the state budget. This model emphasizes top-down governance with strong government control.



Golden Gate park, San Francisco

Management Style: Community and
Volunteer Driven

Management Entity: San Francisco
Recreation & Parks Department, with
significant volunteer involvement

Ownership: City of San Francisco

Golden Gate Park is managed by the city's
Recreation & Parks Department, which
collaborates closely with various
community groups and volunteers.
Funding is sourced from the city budget,
grants, and donations, and volunteers
contribute significantly to maintenance
and event programming. This approach
highlights the role of placemaking, where
community input shapes the space.



Gardens by the BAY, SINGAPORE


Management Style: Integrated Government Management

Management Entity: National Parks Board (NParks)

Ownership: Government of Singapore

Gardens by the Bay is managed by NParks, a government agency responsible for the development and maintenance of green spaces across Singapore. This highly integrated management approach ensures that the gardens are well-maintained, with funding from government budgets, tourism revenue, and corporate sponsorships. This model showcases efficient centralized governance with strong public-private cooperation.






UENO PARK, TOKYO

Management Style: Mixed
Management with Corporate
Sponsorship

Management Entity: Tokyo
Metropolitan Government, with
corporate sponsors

Ownership: Tokyo Metropolitan
Government

Ueno Park is managed by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, which collaborates with corporate sponsors for specific projects and events. This mixed management style combines public funding with private contributions to enhance park facilities and programming. Corporate involvement adds financial stability and innovation.



Superkilen Park, Copenhagen

Management Style: Public-Private and
Community Partnership

Management Entity: City of Copenhagen
in collaboration with local community
groups and businesses

Ownership: City of Copenhagen

Superkilen is a result of a public-private partnership, designed through collaboration between the city, local businesses, and community groups. The park's unique design and ongoing maintenance are funded through a combination of public funds, private sponsorships, and active community involvement. This model emphasizes placemaking, where community-driven initiatives shape public spaces.

Bryant Park, New York Stakeholders

- Bryant Park Corporation (BPC)
- New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
- Local Businesses and Corporations
- Community Groups and Volunteers
- Non-Profit Organizations



Bryant Park, NY

Management Features

- Integrated Management Approach
- Sustainable Funding Model
- Dynamic Programming and Events
- High-Quality Maintenance and Safety
- Community Engagement and Placemaking



Bryant Park, NY Impact and Success

- Revitalization
- Economic Benefits
- Social Benefits
- Environmental Benefits



Challenges in managing public Spaces

- Funding Shortfalls
- Vandalism and
- Balancing Interests
- Sustainability





Morals

Power

Access

Growth

Learning

Goal

Positive thinking

EMPOWERMENT

Quality

Excellent



Good

OWNERSHIP

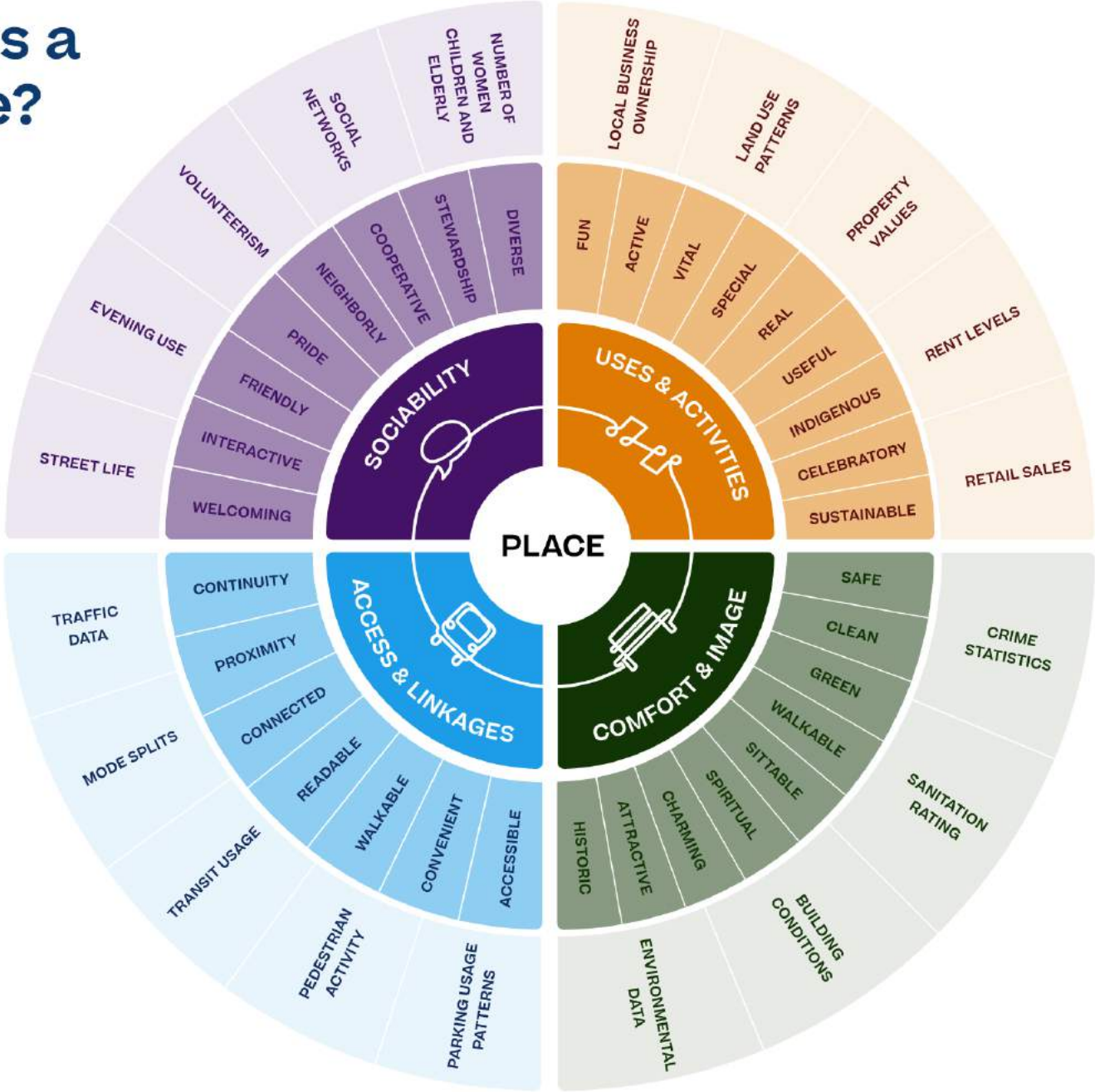




MANAGEMENT

CONFLICT

What Makes a Great Place?



Project
for Public
Spaces

PLACEMAKING

FRED KENT



EARTH DAY 1970

LIGHTER
QUICKER
CHEAPER

COMMUNITY IS THE EXPERT

INTUITIVE INTELLIGENCE

PEOPLE LIKE TO LOOK AT OTHER PEOPLE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

HAPPINESS



THE STREET AS PUBLIC PLACE



KISSING!

BEER GARDEN

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ON THE BRIDGE?

MARKETS

HOW DO WE SAVE PLACE?

YOU HAVE TO BE A ZEALOUS NUT!



ICE CREAM



PUBLIC SPACES ON THE STREET

PARK

PUBLIC SPACE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

TEN PLACES
TEN THINGS TO DO!
[POWER OF TEN]

ORGANIC NATURAL PROCESS



FOOT TRAFFIC

WE CALL IT MULTI-USE



CREATE PLACES WHERE PEOPLE CAN WALK

TRANSPORTATION

WHAT CAN YOU DO HERE?

REDUCE AUTOS

BEST BENCH

HALL OF SHAME



WHITE STONES

BLACK STONES

KEEP OFF

AFFECTION INFECTIOUS

YOU TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES!

WHEN IT WINS AN AWARD YOU KNOW SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH IT.

WE HAVE TO TURN EVERYTHING UPSIDE DOWN TO TURN IT RIGHT SIDE UP

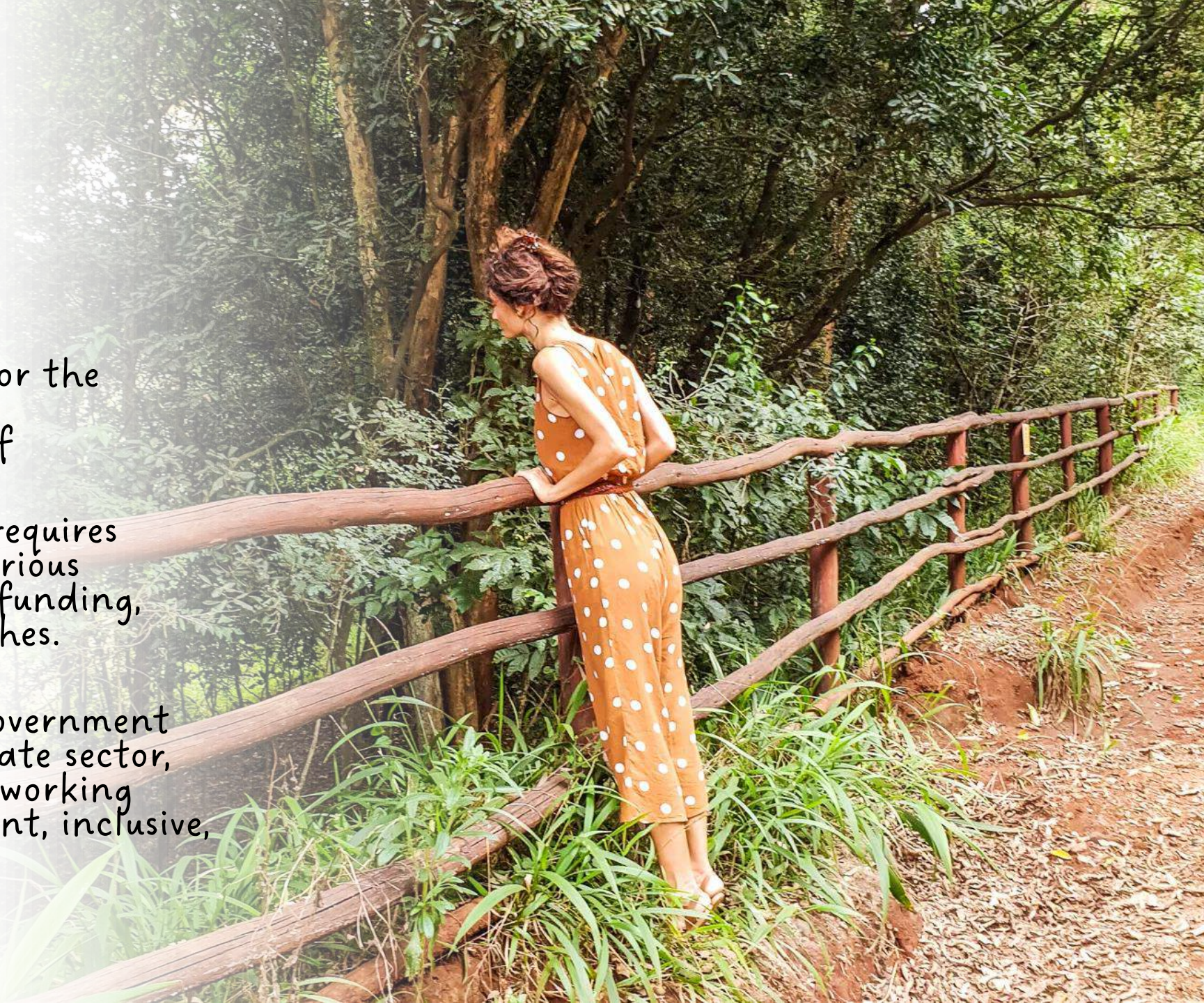
THE USES PEOPLE WANT

MODE OF TRANSFORMATION

THINKING SMALL IN A BIG WAY

Conclusions

- Public spaces are vital for the social, economic, and environmental health of communities.
- Effective management requires collaboration among various stakeholders, adequate funding, and innovative approaches.
- Successful public space management involves government agencies, NGOs, the private sector, and community groups working together to create vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable spaces.





Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Thank you for
your attention!

For more information

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