

A Brief Introduction to Implementation of Urban Green Space Line Regulation in China

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Abstract: This paper introduces a new rule known as urban green space line regulation as well as its implementation in China. In order to promote urban planning and construction, the Ministry of Construction issued a series of policies and regulations. Like those "Red Line" for buildings and road, "Blue Line" for water system, "Yellow Line" for important infrastructure sites, and "Purple Line" for historic sites, "Green line" is for urban green space. In fact, it is green space border control line. Urban Green Space Line Regulation (2002) is also a compulsory means and has another great significance in intensifying the professional management, preventing the loss of urban green space, and advancing the development of landscape architecture. It is regarded as an important breakthrough in the field of urban management in China. This regulation wins positive feedback from some cities and has already benefited both local urban green space and the people who use it.

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1 Background

Through the untiring efforts for many years, urban greening in China has made great achievements. But with the development of urban construction, the sprawling cities have raised big problems in urban green space in the past over 20 years. Because of lack of feasible protective measures for urban green

space in a legal way, illicit constructions frequently take place within the range of planned or built urban green space --the green space nibbled and occupied illegally. Such results destroyed the urban green space system and worsened living environment for inhabitants. Thus it is of great importance to protect existing green space and to realize planned green space. In response to this, the Ministry of Construction enacted Urban Green Space Line Regulation on September 13, 2002, which shows that the planning and building of urban green space system has jumped to a high level management, from a static, passive control mode to dynamic, positive one.

2 The concept of Urban Green Space Line

Urban green space, according to "The Classification Criteria for Urban Green Space" issued by Ministry of Construction, includes 1, park green space, 2, production green space, 3, protective green space, 4, affiliated green space and 5, other green space. Urban green space line refers to border control lines of all sorts of urban green space. Its abbreviation is Green Line. According to the regulation once the government decides the green line, any inch of land in urban green space cannot be put into other construction purposes. In other words any non-green space development is prohibited. It is believed that "green space line" and "red line" are equally important.

3 The role of Green Space Line

Urban green space line regulation requires that urban planning department and urban greening depart should work together to organize urban green space system planning. The regulation confirms legal status of urban green space system planning as part of urban master planning. Urban green space system planning includes establishing urban greening goals and urban green space structure, stipulating control principles of each kind of urban green space, putting forward the area of green space according to the stated standard, arranging urban public green space and confirming the green lines of protective green space, large-scale park green space and so on. In control detailed urban planning the boundary lines of all sorts of urban land use, target of green rate and the exact coordinates of green line should be put forward definitely. And Site plan should follow control detailed plan to nail down the layout of green space, bring forward the principles or scheme of greening and delimit the green space.

Urban green space line regulation has been deeply integrated into urban detailed planning. Generally, it is required to be done by 1:2000 ~ 1:1000. The big significance of urban green space line regulation is to pre-solve complicated problems such as land use conflicts or balance of interests in urban green space construction in the process of urban planning and management, and to ensure that urban green space system planning is carried out legally and supervised in time.

When urban green space is delimited, its existing conditions can be

gained easily. This is a great help in protecting it from invaded and occupied.

Once the borderlines of all kinds of green spaces were worked out, the future greening task would be clear. This will be help to improve urban green space system plan.

The Urban Green Space Line Regulation offers technical support to procedure for approval of the construction projects, which can stop invading and occupying urban green space.

4 The basic steps to implement Urban Green Space Line Regulation

First of all, ensure the existing urban green space is marked with green line, especially the ecological sensitive area, key site or historic site and so on. Secondly, regain the green space invaded and occupied according to "urban green space system planning" and "urban master planning" strictly, coordinates the green space system by 1:2000 and digitize the management. Finally, use the green cachet to control, insisting the principle that green space design and construction should apply for approval at the same time. Any urban construction project can be approved only if green rate and greening satisfy the requirements.

5 Measures taken in some Chinese cities

Then how to put "green line" into effect? At present, many cities in China are active to explore an efficient and effective way. The four cities below are good examples:

5.1 BEIJING

In Beijing, the urban green space line regulation is regarded as bases of urban greening. The green space line is in the process of staking as a permanent and legal borderline of planned or built green space in Beijing to emphasize the inviolable status of "green line" in the urban planning and construction. So far the stake maps for planned urban green space in the city as well as in its districts and counties have been finished in order to accomplish the greening task before 2008 Beijing Olympic games.

5.2 HEFEI

- Aggrandize the propaganda to strengthen the citizen's sense of protecting green space line. Let units and individuals stand to the city green space line regulation consciously. Make the green line concept to be rooted in the hearts of the citizens.
- Accomplish green line planning and put it into original green space system planning. All of the existing green space was registered in green line control manual.
- Enact corresponding statutes to offer the legal basis for urban green space line regulation. Organize a team composed by more than 100 volunteers to supervise the activities of damaging urban green space in time. At the same time, set up service mailbox and phone to welcome the appeal and supervision from the citizens.
- The government has strengthened the work of tearing down the buildings built in violation of the rules and turn gray area into green space effectively.

In the past few years, the total area of demolished illegal facilities from the residential area is about 90,000 square meters in the city.

5.3 SHIJIAZHUANG

- The process of ascertaining the urban green space line includes:(1) Site surveying; (2) Detail the green line to drawing; (3) Bring the green line into the urban green space system planning after exhibition, review and approval; (4) Announce the results to the society to accept the public supervision.
- Implementing urban green space line regulation is to use the special cachet for urban greening examination and approval, which is so-called green cachet.
- The procedure of examining and approving the project is from preliminary checkup of green rate, examination of the urban greening planning, to final approval.
- During the first year of implementing urban green space line regulation, Shijiazhuang Bureau of Landscape Architecture examined and approved 96 construction projects. They raised the red card to any action of infringing the green space line, and use the veto authority from the angle of urban green space, thereby more than 130000 square meters-green space were prevented from being occupied illegally.

5.4 WUHAN

- Establishing the details to implement the Urban Green Space Line Regulation.
- Classifying green line as the not-real line and the real line. This makes the urban green space line easier to handle.
- Building the information platform based on 3S technology, offering the technical support for the Urban Green Space Line Regulation. The government invested one million Yuan to build Wuhan digital green space information management system at the first stage. It includes making use of the RS technique and geographical information system (GIS) combined with the manual information collection, using GPS in one centimeter precision to locate green line, green space, trees of the whole city, etc. accurately drawing these information by 1:2000 and working out the information platform. In this way, the construction and management of urban green space has turned into the modernized way. Through GPS equipment surveys, the green space line infringed can be accurately monitored.

6 Conclusions

Through bringing the Urban Green Space Line Regulation into effect, some of the Chinese cities have protected and improved built urban green space, enhanced the urban green space system planning, provided inhabitants with more eco-friendly living environment. It is expected that this new rule has and will play more an important part in urban construction in the near future.

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