

Exploring the Development of Community Parks in Urban-Rural Fringe Areas in China: Expert Perspectives on Sustainable Design and Strategies Planning

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Rapid urban expansion has led to an increasing number of people relocating to Urban-Rural Fringe Areas (URFAs) in China, with related development placing pressure on ecosystems in these locations. Community parks (CP) are a key category of urban public parks (UPP) in Chinese planning and play a vital role in improving residents' quality of life and enhancing the regional environment, whilst also promoting sustainable urban development in China. Consequently, CPs are considered by many to be integral components of 'communities' in Chinese cities. Drawing on documentary analysis and field research, this paper explores the socio-economic and ecological values associated with CP investments in URFAs in China. It assesses governmental policies and expert perspectives concerning CPs' development in URFAs and analyses the factors influencing their planning and delivery. The research highlights how policy and stakeholders' viewpoints impact the development of sustainable green space in URFAs.

To enhance the construction of multi-functional CPs in URFAs, we propose a series of characteristics that need to be considered in future developments, including stakeholder engagement, resident needs, and park design. These insights offer an evidence-based reference for decision-makers, aiming to better meet the requirements of residents and support the development of urban sustainability.



Figure 1. The distribution of parks in Urban-Rural Fringe Areas in Wuhan

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Ian Mell is a professor of Environmental and Landscape Planning at the University of Manchester, where he is also head of department. His teaching and research examine the intersections of theory, policy, and practice on the development of interactive and sustainable cities. His work explores green infrastructure planning globally, asking how political, temporal, and disciplinary variation impacts investment. He is the author of *Global Green Infrastructure* (Mell, 2016, Routledge) and *Growing Green Infrastructure in Contemporary Asian Cities* (Mell, 2024, Routledge), and was a key contributor to the UK government's National Green Infrastructure Standard Framework (Natural England, 2023).

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