


# Pakui Sayang Park: A History of Public Space Development in Makassar City

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## Abstract

This study aims to determine the background of the construction of Pakui Sayang Park, the function and role of Pakui Sayang Park and the social impact of the presence of this park as a Public Space in Makassar City. The temporal of this study starts from 2016, which is the year when the park was built, until 2023, when the most recent data on the existence of this public space can be obtained. This research uses historical research methods, with stages: heuristic, source criticism, interpretation, and historiography. The results of the study show that the background of the construction of Pakui Sayang Park is the emergence of a series of ideas that were energized by the existence of an unkempt and very alarming vacant land in the General Revenue Office area on Jalan A.P. Pettarani. For this reason, the Makassar City government built Pakui Sayang Park to become one of the sports venues and become a Green Open Space. The utilization of Pakui Sayang Park as a public space includes the location of major events such as Ramadan bazaars and concerts, sports facilities, and a place to relax.

## Abstrak

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui latar belakang dibangunnya Taman Pakui Sayang, fungsi dan peran Taman Pakui Sayang serta dampak sosial kehadiran taman ini sebagai Ruang Publik di Kota Makassar. Temporal kajian ini mulai dari 2016 yakni tahun dimana taman ini mulai dibangun hingga 2023 yakni data paling mutakhir mengenai eksistensi ruang publik ini dapat diperoleh. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian sejarah, dengan tahapan: heuristik, kritik sumber, interpretasi, dan historiografi. Hasil studi menunjukkan bahwa latar belakang dibangunnya Taman Pakui Sayang yakni munculnya serangkaian ide yang disemangati oleh adanya sebuah lahan kosong yang tidak terawat dan sangat memprihatinkan di area kantor Dinas Pendapatan Umum di Jalan A.P. Pettarani. Untuk itu, pemerintah Kota Makassar membangun Taman Pakui Sayang agar menjadi salah satu tempat olahraga serta menjadi Ruang Terbuka Hijau. Pemanfaatan Taman Pakui Sayang sebagai ruang publik antara lain, seperti lokasi pelaksanaan event-event besar seperti bazar ramadhan maupun konser, sarana olah raga, serta tempat bersantai.*

## Keywords

Keywords: park, public space, development, makassar

# 1. Introduction

Public space (Chitrakar, 2016) is an important element in the life of urban communities (Ahmadin, 2023a), which is defined as public land where functional public activities and other side activities can bind a community in daily activities or life (Hendrastuti, 2017). The functions of public space include accommodating community activities, both individually and in groups, where the form is highly dependent on the pattern and arrangement of building masses. As a public open area, public space is an area or place that is open to the public within a community or city designed to be used by everyone regardless of social background, economy, or status (A. Ahmadin et al., 2023).

The importance of the existence of public spaces for urban communities, the design must consider several important aspects, such as: aesthetics, comfort, and safety. In addition, supporting elements such as trees, benches, lighting, and other elements can functionally create a friendly and attractive environment. Another important thing is that good hygiene and routine maintenance are crucial so that public spaces become suitable for use and are easily accessible to all levels of society (Etiningsih, 2016).

In terms of their use, public spaces have regulations that users must abide by, such as smoking bans, pet rules, and specific operating hours. Public spaces also have important social benefits for communities, such as places to strengthen social networks, celebrate culture, and improve quality of life. For this reason, it is necessary to maintain public spaces so that they continue to function as valuable assets for the people of the city and places that allow for positive community interaction and growth. Public Space from the spatial aspect of the city, formed due to the existence of buildings and spaces in a mutually supportive unity (Hendriani, 2016), in creating the identity and character of the city. In addition, public space reflects a better quality of life for its residents. This can be seen from the establishment of community interaction, especially in carrying out various activities together, including social, economic and cultural interactions (Faedlulloh, 2017).

Public space can be categorized into two types, namely: (1) closed public spaces contained within a building, such as schools, buildings, mosques, and others; (2) open public spaces located outside buildings which are often also called open spaces. The public spaces in this location include the alley in front of two residential buildings that face the elongated building, the terrace of the house (Kusumastuti & Kusuma, 2022). One type of public space that is interesting to study is a city park that plays a role in harmonizing healthy and environmentally sound city life patterns that can present green parks as city elements (Halecki et al., 2023). City parks are one type of public green open space (Pincetl & Gearin, 2005) that has complex activities and can be said to meet quality if it achieves eligibility for user service criteria, level of activity, level of meaningfulness and ease of access.

In Makassar city (Asmunandar, 2020), there are several parks that are the main choice for people to relax and do activities, including Macan Park, Maccini Sombala Park, and Pakui Sayang Park, which are interesting to study further, especially Pakui Sayang Park which has a variety of complete public facilities, such as jogging tracks, tennis courts, children's play areas, free gyms, and stages that can be used for various community activities. From observations during several visits to this park, it can be seen that many Makassar residents (M. Ahmadin, 2024) utilize this park as a place to exercise, while on weekends, this park is also often the location for various interesting events, such as live music performances or exhibitions, which further enrich the park's function as a dynamic and social public space.

Pakui Sayang Park, located on Jalan A. P. Pettarani, Makassar City, is one of the large areas in the city that provides various facilities that support various forms of community activities, making it a multifunctional and very useful public space for city residents; Among the facilities usually found in city parks, Pakui Sayang Park provides sports fields, toilets, large green open spaces, and children's play areas, which is one of the important breakthroughs considering that there are still very few parks in Makassar that have decent and safe children's play areas, so that this park is not only a place for recreation for adults, but also provides a fun and safe play space for children, fulfilling the need for inclusive public facilities in the middle of the city (A. Ahmadin, 2023b).

The importance of research and study of Pakui Sayang Park as a public space in Makassar City can be related to several main things. First, public history has an important role in society, especially in shaping people's attitudes towards something in the future. Public space is also a place where historical events take place, such as: important speeches, political meetings, or other important events in public squares, historic buildings, and city streets are often silent witnesses to historical events. Second, public space in the political sense relates to public discussions formed from individual interests linked to state power. Third, public spaces play an important role in social change, as events that take place in these places can influence public opinion, spark social movements, or trigger significant political change. Fourth, public spaces are often symbols of a community's or country's identity: national monuments, memorials, or historical landmarks can help shape and strengthen a sense of collective identity.

## 2. Method

This type of research is historical research that uses qualitative data both in its explanation and analysis (M. Ahmadin, 2022). Data collection techniques are carried out referring to the four-stage procedure of historical work, namely: heuristics, criticism, interpretation, and historiography (Thomson, 2012). Data source searches are carried out in several ways, namely literature studies where searches are carried out for reference sources that are relevant to the research problem, either through books, articles in scientific journals, newspapers, magazines, and other types of sources. The heuristic process (Groner et al., 2014) is also carried out through observation where the current condition of the research object can be used as material for dialogue with past conditions synchronically. Interview techniques (Neumann et al., 2018) are also carried out in the data collection process which function as reinforcement or comparison of other data from different sources. Source criticism is carried out in two models, namely external criticism and internal criticism (D' Andrea, 2017) which are intended to ensure the authenticity of the source and then interpretation is carried out. The last stage is historiography, namely the compilation, depiction and re-presentation in the form of reconstruction of events into historical stories (Burke, 2001).

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1 Profile of Parks in Makassar City

Before describing the history of Pakui Sayang Park in Makassar city as the focus of this research, first describe the profile of several parks in this city. Makassar as the capital of South Sulawesi province, has several parks, namely: (1) Macan Park located on Jalan Sultan Hasanuddin. The park, which is strategically positioned because it is located south of the Makassar City Hall office, is an alternative choice for lovers of public space both for exercise and just taking advantage of leisure time to relax, (2) Pattimura Park which is located on Jalan Pattimura which is not far from Macan Park. Like Taman Macan, this park offers a cool and beautiful atmosphere that can tempt visitors to always enjoy, (3) Fort Rotterdam Park which is located next to this historic building. Apart from being a photo spot, this park is also always crowded with visitors to enjoy a relaxed atmosphere, (4) Maccini Sombala Park located on Jalan Nuri Baru, where the concept of this park has the nuances of garden tourism, (5) Indosat Park located on Jalan Selamat Riyadi, where this public space also functions as often used by visitors to read and discuss while enjoying a cool and comfortable atmosphere, and (6) Pakui Sayang Park located on Jalan A.P. Pettarani, namely on the right side of the Public Works Office (PU) or still one location with the office. A park that is very easy to reach.

### 3.2 Background to the Construction of Pakui Park

The idea to build Pakui Sayang Park in 2013 came from the governor of South Sulawesi, Dr. H. Syahrul Yasin Limpo, S.H., M.Si., M.H. who felt concerned about the condition of the land on the side of the Public Works Office which was waterlogged and unkempt. Pakui Sayang Park, which was built in the complex of the Public Works Office of South Sulawesi Province, received a budget of Rp 4.6 billion (Adiaksa, 2018). The budget for the construction of this park came from the APBN and BBD, with the aim of supporting the development of green open spaces that are increasingly needed in Makassar City. The

reason for its construction, among others, is considered to be the limited amount of Green Open Space in the city (Anguluri & Narayanan, 2017). In response to the need for public space, the provincial government took the initiative to build Pakui Sayang Park as one of the Green Open Spaces that can provide great benefits to the community, both for recreational needs (Peters, 2010), sports, and as an area that supports environmental quality (Lam et al., 2005). The establishment of Pakui Sayang Park as a Green Open Space, then this area is expected to become a public space that is not only refreshing, but also supports government programs in improving the quality of green open space in the middle of a dense and growing city (Samsul, interview, 24 October 2024).

Pakui Sayang Park was built with the main purpose of providing a green landscape (Priya & Senthil, 2021) that can be utilized by the community as a space for social interaction and exercise (Rasidi et al., 2012). As one of the green open spaces in Makassar City (Dollah et al., 2023), the park is designed to create a comfortable environment that supports a variety of activities, from simply relaxing with family, exercising individually or in groups, to attending community events. With facilities such as a jogging track, tennis court, children's playground, and rock climbing area, this park is a multifunctional place that is able to meet the recreational and health needs of urban communities (Samsul, interview, October 24, 2024).

In addition to being a socially useful place, Pakui Sayang Park also contributes as one of the sources of Regional Original Revenue (Indonesian, PAD) of South Sulawesi Province. This is obtained through various forms of leasing carried out in the park area, such as renting a canteen located at the bottom of the main stage, renting locations for various events or activities, to providing facilities such as ATMs. With good management, Pakui Sayang Park not only provides social benefits, but also supports regional economic growth. The combination of recreational functions, sports, and economic contributions make this park a park that has a positive impact on the community and local government. (Samsul, interview, October 24, 2024).

The name of Pakui Sayang Park is taken from the abbreviation of Dr. H. Syahrul Yasin Limpo so that residents or the community can remember that Pakui Sayang Park was built during Mr. Syahrul's era. "The name Pakui Sayang Park is an acronym consisting of Pray (prayer), Attitude (behavior), Knowledge (knowledge), Tenacious and Dream. While Sayang is a term that indicates a deeper feeling than love," Syahrul said (Adiaksa, 2018). Pakui Sayang Park, located in the yard of the Bina Marga Agency of South Sulawesi Province, is currently one of the most visited public spaces by citizens. Every day, this park is filled with people from all walks of life who use it as an open arena for exercise, from jogging on a special track, training using fitness equipment, to playing recreational sports such as tennis. The park has become an important part of the daily activities of local residents, offering a comfortable space to improve physical health as well as a pleasant gathering place (A. Ahmadin, 2023b).

The park was first inaugurated in 2017 by Mr. Syahrul Yasin Limpo, who at that time served as the Governor of South Sulawesi (Meliala & Permana, n.d.). Since its inauguration, Pakui Sayang Park has proven to have a significant positive impact on the surrounding community. In addition to being a place for sports, this park also functions as a green space that helps improve air quality amidst the hustle and bustle of the city. With facilities that continue to be actively utilized by visitors, this park not only serves as a place of recreation, but also as an important symbol of the need for green open spaces in supporting a healthier and more harmonious urban community life (Samsul, interview, October 24, 2024).

### 3.3 Development of Pakui Park

Pakui Sayang Park has experienced very significant development from year to year, making it one of the important public spaces for the surrounding community. The initial construction of this park in 2016, the area was still an empty, neglected land and did not have adequate facilities, but along with the increasing need for green open spaces in Makassar City, the government began planning (Altshuler, 2019) and implementing the construction of Pakui Sayang Park to be more efficient and functional, by adding various facilities that support various community activities, such as sports areas, relaxation rooms, and places to gather and socialize. With these facilities, this park is not only a refreshing and aesthetic green space, but is also able to meet the various needs of the community, both for sports, socializing, or just relaxing and enjoying the natural atmosphere, making Pakui Sayang Park a place that can be enjoyed by all groups and contributes positively to the quality of

life of Makassar City residents. In 2017, Pakui Sayang Park was officially inaugurated as one of the public spaces in Makassar City, adding to the list of recreational places that can be enjoyed by the community.

Since its inauguration, this park has been equipped with various facilities that are quite adequate to support visitor activities. Some of the facilities available include a comfortable jogging track for exercise (Barreira et al., 2010), a safe and fun children's playground, a stage for holding various events, fitness equipment that can be used for free, a challenging rock climbing area (deCastro-Arazola et al., 2021), and a tennis court that can be rented. Although several years have passed, Pakui Sayang Park has not experienced many changes in terms of facilities or the number of visitors. This stability shows that this park remains a favorite choice for people to do activities, even though Makassar City already has many other parks. The advantage of Pakui Sayang Park lies in the diversity of facilities it has, which are not always found in other parks in this city. The combination of a beautiful atmosphere, diverse facilities, and easy accessibility make this park have its own appeal. For visitors, Pakui Sayang Park is not only a place to relax, but also a space to live a healthy lifestyle, gather with family, or participate in various community activities that are often held here.

In 2019-2021, Covid-19 hit Makassar City (Abrari, 2023), forcing people to stay at home and implement social distancing protocols to reduce the spread of the virus, which also resulted in the total closure of access to Pakui Sayang Park to maintain visitor safety. In 2021, the park was finally reopened after Makassar City successfully entered the green zone and most of its residents had been vaccinated (Sulistiyawati et al., 2021), however, visitors are still required to maintain physical distance and wear masks in accordance with regulations set by the government, to ensure that health protocols are maintained in the public space. From 2022 to the present, Pakui Sayang Park has again become the center of public attention, this park is increasingly crowded with residents from various circles and communities that have been active since it was first inaugurated, but also because the Makassar City Government routinely holds various major events that have succeeded in attracting public interest, such as the "Childhood Games" event held on October 29, 2024, "National Nutrition Day" in 2023 (Elba et al., 2024), and "Jalan-jalan Seru Indonesia Makassar" which was also held in the same year, making it one of the public spaces that not only provides entertainment and recreation for visitors (O' REILLY, 2013), but also becomes a forum to strengthen social and cultural values in the community, and provides opportunities for residents to participate in activities that support health, togetherness, and preservation of local traditions, thus further strengthening Pakui Sayang Park as a center of activities that are beneficial for social and cultural development (Schech, 2000) in Makassar City.

The planning carried out by the management of Pakui Sayang Park two years ago, namely in 2021, aims to add a Playground (Cohen et al., 2023) at the end of the park, precisely in front of the rock climbing equipment. However, until now, the plan has not been implemented due to limited funds available for park management (Godbey et al., 2005). In addition, the management also plans to make repairs to several parts of the park that have been damaged, such as the field in front of the stage which is often dusty and lacks grass, causing pollution and reducing visitor comfort, as well as making repairs to the jogging track whose color has begun to fade due to intensive use. Not only that, they also plan to replace and add several toys in the Playground area, such as swings, slides, and other play facilities to improve the comfort and appeal of the park, as well as making repairs to the toilet facilities.

## Conclusion

Pakui Sayang Park in Makassar is a very important green open space for the people of Makassar. This park is equipped with various facilities for leisure and sports activities, such as a jogging track, tennis court, children's play area, fitness equipment, toilets, canteen, and stage. This park also has rock climbing facilities and a gymnastics area, so it can accommodate various types of activities. Inaugurated in 2017 by the Governor of South Sulawesi at that time, Dr. H. Syahrul Yasin Limpo, SH., M.Sc., M.H., this park is expected to be a place of interaction and recreation for the community. The name "Pakui Sayang" which is taken from the acronym "Pray, Attitude, Knowledge, Ulet, and Impian" (PAKUI) with the addition of "Sayang" as an expression of love reflects the aspiration of this park to become a place that inspires the community. Since its inauguration, Pakui Sayang Park has received a "Child-Friendly Playroom" charter as an award for its efforts to provide child-friendly

facilities, although this certificate is only valid for two years and has not been renewed since the pandemic. In addition, this park is a location for various public events, such as concerts, bazaars, and Ramadan events, which makes it even more crowded with visitors. The attraction of this park also lies in the shady atmosphere of the trees and ornamental plants, which make it a cool and beautiful place. The presence of a children's playground and barriers in the area provide a sense of security for children who play while their parents exercise. The jogging track and fitness equipment in this park are also the main attractions for visitors who want to exercise regularly. With various and strategic facilities, Pakui Sayang Park has succeeded in attracting the attention of many communities to hold training or meetings in the park area, such as the rock climbing community "Beda Jalur" and the gymnastics community "Fit Club Kota Daeng."

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