

Evaluating Placemaking Elements in Campus Urban Parks: A Case Study of UNDIP Jogging Track, Semarang

Daffa Maulana Rifli^{1*}, Airin Dian Nagari¹, Budi Sudarwanto¹, Siti Rukayah¹, Agung Budi Sardjono¹

¹Master Program in Architecture, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Diponegoro University, Indonesia

*Corresponding author. e-mail: daffamaulanarifli@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Public space plays a crucial role in improving urban quality of life by supporting social interaction, physical activity, and community engagement. However, many existing public spaces in Indonesian cities are not designed with sufficient attention to user comfort, inclusivity, and long-term spatial sustainability. This study evaluates the implementation of the placemaking concept in UNDIP Jogging Track Park, Semarang, by examining four key elements: Uses and Activities, Comfort and Image, Access and Linkages, and Sociability. A qualitative descriptive approach was employed, supported by systematic field observations, spatial mapping, informal user interviews, and triangulation through spatial plan analysis and activity-based interpretation. Data were analyzed using placemaking indicators as an evaluative framework to assess the relationship between spatial configuration, facility distribution, environmental quality, and user perception. The results demonstrate that only 17 of 33 placemaking subcategories were fulfilled, indicating partial implementation of placemaking principles. Nevertheless, the park exhibits strong sociability, high activity diversity, and continuous daily use, supported by spatial integration, visual openness, and functional facility provision. The findings reveal a structural gap between functional success and comprehensive placemaking performance, particularly in aspects of universal accessibility, passive engagement spaces, micro-scale comfort, and inclusive design. This study uniquely positions campus-based public space as a hybrid socio-spatial environment, integrating academic life, public use, and everyday urban activities within a single placemaking evaluation framework. This study contributes to placemaking literature by providing an integrated user-centered assessment model within a campus-based public space context, offering both theoretical insights and practical implications for inclusive and sustainable urban public space development.

Keywords: Placemaking Concept, Placemaking Indicators, Campus Open Space, Public Space.

ABSTRAK

Ruang publik memainkan peran penting dalam meningkatkan kualitas hidup perkotaan dengan mendukung interaksi sosial, aktivitas fisik, dan keterlibatan komunitas. Namun, banyak ruang publik yang ada di kota-kota Indonesia belum dirancang dengan perhatian yang memadai terhadap kenyamanan pengguna, inklusivitas, dan keberlanjutan spasial jangka panjang. Penelitian ini mengevaluasi penerapan konsep placemaking di Taman Jogging Track UNDIP, Semarang, dengan mengkaji empat elemen kunci, yaitu: penggunaan dan aktivitas, kenyamanan dan citra, akses dan keterhubungan, serta sosiabilitas. Pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif digunakan, didukung oleh observasi lapangan sistematis, pemetaan spasial, wawancara informal dengan pengguna, serta triangulasi melalui rencana tata ruang dan interpretasi berbasis aktivitas. Data dianalisis menggunakan indikator placemaking sebagai kerangka evaluatif untuk menilai hubungan antara konfigurasi spasial, distribusi fasilitas, kualitas lingkungan, dan persepsi pengguna. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa hanya 17 dari 33 subkategori placemaking yang terpenuhi, yang mengindikasikan penerapan prinsip placemaking secara parsial. Meskipun demikian, taman ini menunjukkan sosiabilitas yang kuat, keragaman aktivitas yang tinggi, serta penggunaan harian yang berkelanjutan, yang didukung oleh integrasi spasial, keterbukaan visual, dan penyediaan fasilitas yang fungsional. Temuan ini mengungkap adanya kesenjangan struktural antara keberhasilan fungsional dan kinerja placemaking yang komprehensif, khususnya pada aspek aksesibilitas universal, ruang keterlibatan pasif, kenyamanan skala mikro, dan desain inklusif. Studi ini secara unik memposisikan ruang publik berbasis kampus sebagai lingkungan sosio-spasial hibrida, yang mengintegrasikan kehidupan akademik, penggunaan publik, dan aktivitas perkotaan sehari-hari dalam satu kerangka evaluasi pembentukan ruang. Penelitian ini berkontribusi terhadap literatur placemaking dengan menyediakan model penelitian terintegrasi yang berorientasi pada pengguna dalam konteks ruang publik berbasis kampus, serta menawarkan wawasan teoritis dan implikasi praktis bagi pengembangan ruang publik perkotaan yang inklusif dan berkelanjutan.

Kata kunci: Konsep Placemaking, Indikator Placemaking, Ruang Terbuka Kampus, Ruang Publik.

1. INTRODUCTION

Public spaces are one of the most important urban elements in enhancing social, economic, and cultural interactions among residents (Aguila et al., 2019; Wihandono & Qomarun, 2021). Recent studies highlight that contemporary public spaces are increasingly understood as relational environments where social interaction, perception, and spatial experience are interdependent (Branislav Antonić et al., 2024). Additionally, they serve as venues for various community activities, as public spaces are functional areas that can be shared and utilized by everyone (Carr, 1992). In urban areas, public spaces generally consist of two types: open public spaces and closed public spaces. The provision of open public spaces, such as Green Open Spaces (GOS) and Non-Green Open Spaces (NGOS), includes Green Open Spaces like City Parks. It is the government's responsibility to provide public spaces for its citizens. According to (UU No. 26, 2007) every city in Indonesia is required to allocate at least 30% of its land area for Green Open Spaces (GOS) in its spatial planning. In the design of good public spaces, urban spaces should be able to accommodate the diverse interests of users with varying behaviors and activities (Shirvani, 1985), as also emphasized in recent urban design studies (Branislav Antonić et al., 2024). Beyond physical provision, contemporary urban design emphasizes that public spaces must also support social inclusion, psychological comfort, and long-term user engagement as part of sustainable urban development. Public spaces are therefore not only spatial infrastructures, but also social systems that shape patterns of interaction and collective life. This includes existing facilities; a city park, as one of the best public spaces, should be accessible to all segments of society.

City parks play a crucial role in promoting healthy living patterns for the city. This is a key consideration in urban development as it relates to the quality of the living environment (Sukawi, 2008). In Semarang itself, there are many urban parks used as social spaces; unfortunately, the availability of urban parks capable of accommodating various activities for all users is currently insufficient. Yet, the quality of urban spaces is said to meet standards only when they achieve functional, visual, and environmental criteria (Branislav Antonić et al., 2024; Purwanti, 2022). Humans and the spaces or activities associated with them are two inseparable elements. This is because the interaction between users and urban parks creates a unique meaning for the space, in line with its functional aspects (Aguila et al., 2019). Through this interaction, space is transformed into place, where social experience, memory, and everyday practices construct spatial meaning beyond physical form. Therefore, the quality of urban parks should be understood not only through physical design, but also through user perception and lived experience.

Among the many urban parks in Semarang City, the UNDIP Jogging Track Park is one of the most active parks frequently used by the community. This is because it is located within the University of Diponegoro campus area, specifically on the western side of the main entrance (Arsyadani, 2021). This park was built with the aim of utilizing the area along the river to create an open public space that is commonly used for various community activities, particularly by students, such as gathering, sports, art performances, playing, and other activities (Awaliah & Wibawa, 2022). As one of the forefront areas of the campus, this park is always in the spotlight of the surrounding community and passersby, especially regarding access, physical conditions, and the facilities and infrastructure available at the site.

This study addresses a critical gap in placemaking research by focusing on a campus-adjacent public park as a hybrid socio-spatial environment that integrates academic life, public use, and everyday urban activities. Unlike previous studies in Indonesia that predominantly examine city parks, heritage spaces, or commercial public spaces, this research positions campus public space as a distinct spatial typology with unique social dynamics, mobility patterns, and user compositions. Most existing studies on urban parks and placemaking focus on physical performance and activity intensity, while limited attention is given to the relational dimension between users and space, particularly in campus environments (Branislav Antonić et al., 2024; Strydom et al., 2018). By applying the four placemaking elements as integrated assessment indicators, this research offers a methodological contribution to placemaking studies and provides new empirical insights into user-centered spatial quality in campus-based public spaces.

For this reason, the concept of placemaking has also become an alternative in the design of urban spaces, prioritizing comfort for users. According to (Wyckoff, 2014), the placemaking concept is a process of creating a quality space where users can live, work, play, and engage in various activities. Recent studies further emphasize that placemaking should be understood as a multidimensional framework that integrates spatial design, social interaction, and user perception in urban environments (Branislav Antonić et al., 2024; Strydom et al., 2018). This approach creates an emotional connection between users and the space, as users can feel the strength and spirit of a space or place (sense of place). Therefore, placemaking not only functions as a design approach but also as a conceptual framework for understanding how spatial form, social interaction, and user experience are integrated in shaping place quality (Istoriou & Pozoukidou, 2025). The focus on the four placemaking elements: Use and Activities, Comfort and Image, Access and Linkages, and Sociability, is theoretically grounded in contemporary placemaking scholarship that conceptualized place quality as an integrated

interaction between spatial form, user behavior, and social experience. These dimensions provide a structured analytical lens that allows placemaking to function not only as a normative design concept, but as a measurable evaluative framework for assessing public space performance in real contexts.

This research aims to evaluate the placemaking elements in UNDIP Jogging Track Park by integrating functional, spatial, and perceptual indicators in order to assess user-centered public space quality and support the development of comfortable campus public spaces.

2. METHOD

The methodology used in this study is a qualitative approach that systematically describes empirical facts and phenomena, supplemented with data elaboration. According to (Saryono & Anggraeni, 2013), qualitative research is a type of research used to investigate, discover, or describe and explain social phenomena that cannot be explained by quantitative research methods.

The qualitative descriptive method was selected because this research focuses on identifying spatial characteristics and user activities within the research object. Through direct observation and spatial analysis, the qualitative approach allows the researcher to understand the relationship between physical elements of space and the behaviour of users in public spaces. This method is considered appropriate because placemaking elements are closely related to spatial experience, social interaction, and environmental qualities that cannot be fully measured using quantitative approaches.

This research approach identifies placemaking in public spaces. There are several stages used in this research:

- 1 First stage: involved collecting data on the concept used, namely placemaking.
- 2 Second stage: conducting field observations to gain detailed insights into the research object. During observations, several methods are employed, such as counting, mapping, and tracking within the research area. Additionally, other methods may be incorporated, such as interviews with users of the research object.
- 3 Third stage: analyzing the data from field observations in conjunction with the placemaking concept data obtained in the previous stage.

In addition, qualitative descriptive analysis was also used in this study to describe and summarize various conditions and situations based on previously collected data. The results of this study will show the elements of the placemaking concept found in the research object.

There are several indicators of placemaking concept elements that can be used to analyze several findings during the observation process.

Participants were selected using purposive sampling, focusing on active users of the park, including students, campus staff, and community visitors. Field observations were conducted through repeated visits across different temporal cycles (morning, afternoon, and evening), beginning in September 2024 and continuing over multiple observation periods. This approach allowed the capture of temporal variation in user behavior, activity patterns, and spatial dynamics. Data collection instruments included structured observation sheets based on placemaking indicators, informal interview guidelines, field notes, photographic documentation, and a spatial mapping record. A total of 30 participants were informally interviewed, and field observations were conducted over 7 days, with each observation session lasting approximately 2-3 hours. These instruments were designed to capture physical conditions, activity patterns, user behavior, and perceptual responses to space. Data analysis was conducted using qualitative descriptive analysis through indicator-based coding. Field observations, interview notes, and spatial data were categorized according to the four placemaking dimensions.

To ensure data accuracy, reliability, and credibility, the observational data were validated through triangulation methods. Field observation results were verified through informal interviews with park users and cross-referenced with available spatial planning documents, site layouts, and campus masterplan information. Triangulation is a widely recognized strategy in qualitative research to enhance data credibility by combining multiple sources and methods, thereby reducing potential bias and strengthening the consistency of findings (Chitwattanakorn et al., 2024). This process was conducted to reduce observational bias and strengthen the trustworthiness of the qualitative findings.

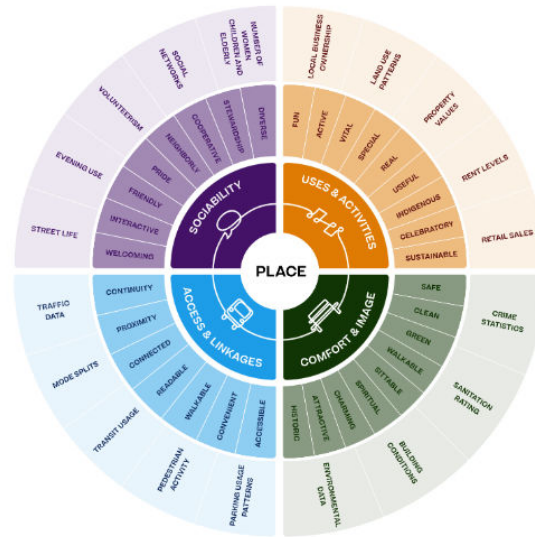


Figure 1. Four elements of the placemaking concept

Source: *Public Space*, 2017

From the four categories of placemaking concept elements proposed by (Public Space, 2017) there are a total of 33 subcategories from the four aspects of these elements, all of which cover the relationship between users and space (Figure 1). All of these subcategories can be used in their entirety or in part, but in a design it is important to consider all of the categories of elements mentioned. The processing of placemaking concept data and the grouping of data based on the concept result in the following research variable table (Table 1).

Table 1. Research Concept

Theory	Aspect	Element
Placemaking Concept	Uses and Activities	Active
		Celebratory
		Useful
		Special
	Comfort and Image	Safe
		Clean
		Attractive
		Spiritual
		Sittable
		Green
	Access and Linkages	Connected
		Proximity
		Accessible
		Readable
	Sociability	Interactive
		Friendly
		Diverse

Source: *Author*, 2025 and (Hardi & Diananta, 2023)

The variable table was then analyzed to find existing indicators based on several sources, so that appropriate indicators could be found that could be used to analyze the research object.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The object of this study is UNDIP Jogging Track Park, a green open space located within the University of Diponegoro campus area in Semarang City. This park has several supporting facilities such as an amphitheater, gazebo, fitness area, and others (Figure 2). This study integrates field observation, spatial analysis, and the placemaking framework to evaluate spatial quality from a user-centered perspective. The analytical process is structured based on four core placemaking dimensions: Uses and Activities, Comfort and Image, Access and Linkages, and Sociability, allowing a comprehensive assessment of both physical attributes and social-spatial interactions. This integrated approach enables the interpretation of the park not merely as a physical environment, but as a relational space shaped by user experience, perception, and everyday practices.

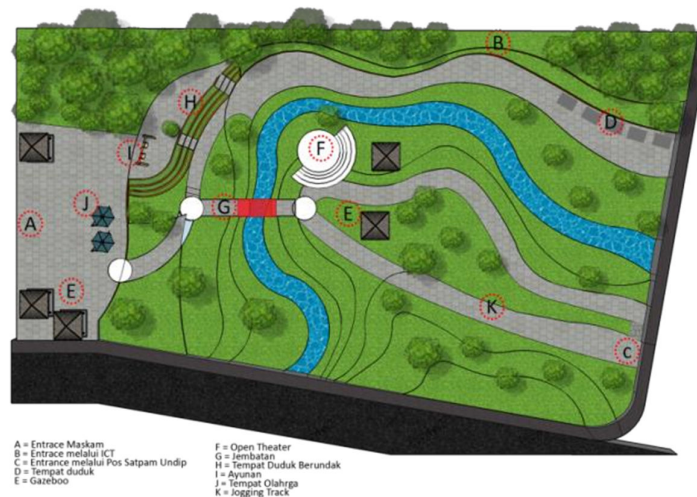


Figure 2. UNDIP Jogging Track Park Siteplan

Source: (Awaliah & Wibawa, 2022)

The results of analysis and literature were obtained, resulting in research indicators based on the methods discussed earlier, which brought up several criteria used for previous research objects. Based on data according to (Hardi & Diananta, 2023) several variables were found and then reanalyzed to form a new table of indicators from the four aspects of placemaking.

1) Use And Activities

The results of the analysis based on the criteria of use and activity indicators (Table 2) in the research object can be used as a reference.

Table 2. Research Indicator Analysis: Use And Activities

Aspect	Element	Indicator
Uses and Activities	Active	There are many user activities in the space.
	Celebratory	There are many art activities, theater festivals, and other activities.
	Useful	Many facilities are used by the community.
	Special	The place is something special for the community that uses it.

Source: *Author, 2052*

a. Active

Based on the results of research conducted at the location, there is an active gathering space that is frequently used for many activities. These activities range from social gatherings to group and individual activities, all of which are commonly found in this park, for example cleanup activity (Figure 3). In addition, the majority of users are students who often use this area for group discussions and other activities. As a result, this area appears lively due to the large number of users.



Figure 3. Cleanup activity in the area

Source: *PWK UNDIP, 2022*

b. Celebratory

Some celebrations are held at the UNDIP Jogging Track Park for example, UNDIP Park Opening Celebration (Figure 4). This is because the place is spacious, has a flat area for activities, and has an amphitheater area that is suitable for various activities.



Figure 4. UNDIP park opening celebration in the amphitheater

Source: *UNDIP, 2022*

c. Useful

Some areas facilitate users to be used for various activities such as gazebos for group work and discussions, sports areas, sitting groups for sitting and resting, amphitheaters for activities or celebrations, and other facilities commonly found in research objects (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Students are having a chat in the gazebo

Source: *Author, 2025*

d. Special

This area is special for users because it has a river and terraced terrain, making it attractive to users (Figure 6). In addition, the open theater located in the center of the area and surrounded by the river adds to the uniqueness of this place. The amphitheater area overlooking the open theater is located on the opposite side.



Figure 6. River and Open Theater in the park

Source: *Author, 2025*

The analysis of Uses and Activities shows that UNDIP Jogging Track functions as an active social space with high activity intensity. Field observation indicates continuous use throughout the day, dominated by students but also involving diverse user groups. Activities range from informal social gatherings and individual recreation to organized communal events, demonstrating the multifunctional character of the space. The spatial concentration of activities around the amphitheater zone and river corridor indicates the presence of functional and social nodes that structure movement patterns and interaction dynamics within the park. This condition reflects the concept of open space as a meaningful place, where space becomes

socially intelligent through repeated everyday practices, transforming physical settings into socially constructed environments (Hanan, 2013). In this context, facilities function not merely as physical infrastructure, but as activity generators that shape user behavior, interaction intensity, and place identity.

Comparatively, these patterns are consistent with campus open space studies showing that activity diversity and multifunctional facilities significantly enhance social interaction and positive user perception in academic environments (Amal et al., 2020). However, unlike the findings of (Hardi & Diananta, 2023) in Jam Gadang, where placemaking performance was dominated by symbolic and tourism-oriented activities, UNDIP Jogging Track Park demonstrates a relational placemaking pattern in which everyday social practices, informal quality. This indicates that campus-based public spaces generate placemaking value through daily relational use rather than event-based or representational functions, while still reinforcing the social function of public space when spatial facilities are adequately distributed (Susanti, 2018).

2) Comfort and Image

The results of the analysis based on the comfort and image indicator criteria (Table 3) used as a benchmark in analyzing the research object.

Table 3. Research Indicator Analysis: Comfort and Image

Aspect	Element	Indicator
Comfort and Image	Safe	Availability of security in the research object, both in terms of design and other aspects.
	Clean	The research object area must be free of all types of dirt, with regular maintenance and cleaning, as well as the provision of trash bins.
	Attractive	The research object has its own appeal to the community and users.
	Spiritual	Spiritual facilities are provided for visitors to the research object.
	Sittable	There are many seating and resting areas in various areas of the research object.
	Green	The research object offers visitors a sense of beauty and freshness, such as the abundance of green areas.

Source: *Author, 2025*

a. Safe

In the research object, there are many garden lights illuminating the area so that with the lighting, users feel safe when visiting the location at night (Figure 7).



Figure 7. Picture of garden light in location
Source: *Author, 2025*



Figure 8. Concrete Railing
Source: *Author, 2025*

There are concrete safety railings on several stairway access points for the safety and security of users when walking around the site (Figure 8).

b. Clean

There are quite a number of trash bins in several areas of the park that are accessible to users (Figure 9). Although the park is generally perceived as clean and comfortable by users, field observation indicated localized maintenance issues such as leaf litter accumulation. This condition reflects inconsistencies between perceived comfort and environmental management performance.



Figure 9. Garbage bins on the site
Source: *Author, 2025*

c. Attractive

Based on observations, the amphitheater area is the most popular area among users because it is spacious and accessible (Figure 10). In addition, this area also offers views from several directions and is located in the heart of the area. Many user activities are found in this area.



Figure 10. Amphitheatre Area
Source: *Author, 2025*

d. Spiritual

This area is located next to the UNDIP campus mosque, so the spiritual aspect of this area is still evident. The mosque is located on the west side of the park and is directly connected to the park area (Figure 11).



Figure 11. Mosque in the Park Area
Source: *Author, 2025*

e. Sittable

There are many seating areas in the area, both in the amphitheater, gazebo, and along the pedestrian path. Seating is available in the form of park benches and concrete seats (Figure 12).



Figure 12. Sitting Area Location on the Siteplan

Source: *Author, 2025*

f. Green

There is still a lot of vegetation found in the research area, including elephant grass, trembesi trees, mahogany trees, Karsen trees, and banana trees (Figure 13). In addition, the abundance of vegetation in the area makes the research site appear lush and verdant for its users.



Figure 13. Vegetation at the Object

Source: *Author, 2025*

The analysis of the Comfort and Image dimension indicates that UNDIP Jogging Track Park provides a high level of physical and psychological comfort through the integration of environmental quality, safety elements, and spatial clarity. Lighting infrastructure, safety railings, vegetation coverage, seating distribution, and spatial openness contribute to users' sense of security and environmental comfort. The amphitheater functions as a dominant visual and spatial focal point, shaping the park's image and strengthening spatial legibility and orientation. This condition reflects contemporary perspectives that comfort in public space must be understood as a multidimensional construct, encompassing not only physical and thermal conditions but also environmental perception, visual quality, and psychological experience (Peng et al., 2021).

Comparatively, recent empirical studies confirm that user comfort and spatial image are inseparable components of public space quality (Siregar, 2014). Similar findings are also observed in placemaking assessments of public open spaces in Indonesia, where the comfort and image dimension is strongly associated with visual quality, environmental cleanliness, and positive user perception (Cahyaningtyas & Jenny, 2024). In campus contexts, studies on student perception further demonstrate that spatial comfort is influenced by greenery, accessibility, signage, safety, and environmental quality, reinforcing the role of psychological and perceptual factors in shaping spatial experience (Adiba & Ernawati, 2022). Therefore, in UNDIP Jogging Track Park, the Comfort and Image dimension functions not merely as a measure of physical design quality, but as a key determinant of user perception, emotional attachment, and placemaking performance, positioning comfort and spatial image as central components of user-centered campus public space quality.

3) Access and Linkages

The aspects of access and linkages in the research object based on indicator analysis are as follows (Table 4).

Table 4. Research Indicator Analysis: Access and Linkages

Aspect	Element	Indicator
Access and Linkages	Connected	There are paths connecting different areas within the research site.
	Proximity	The distance between areas within the research site.
	Accessible	The research site is easily accessible to various groups of people, with no obstructions on pedestrian paths.
	Readable	There are easy-to-read information signs to assist users.

Source: *Author, 2025*

a. Connected

Almost all areas in the region are interconnected and traversed by pedestrian paths so that each area is accessible to users. The layout of each area is also integrated with the others, such as the layout of gazebos, open theaters, and amphitheaters (Figure 14).

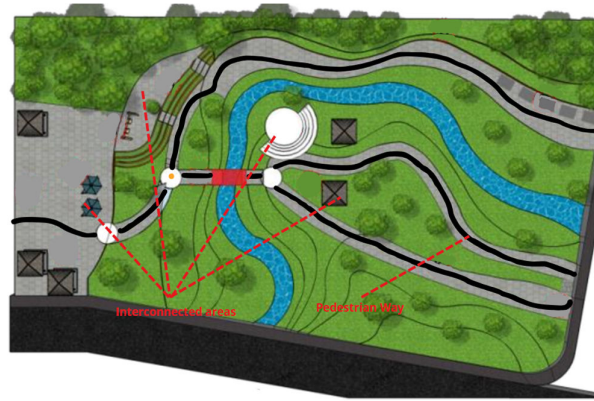


Figure 14. Interconnected areas on the siteplan

Source: *Author, 2025*

b. Proximity

All areas are close to each other, so users do not need to expend extra energy to go from one place to another. Most areas are located on the east side of the site, such as the amphitheater gazebo, sports area, and others, while those on the central side of the site are the open theater and several gazebos (Figure 15).

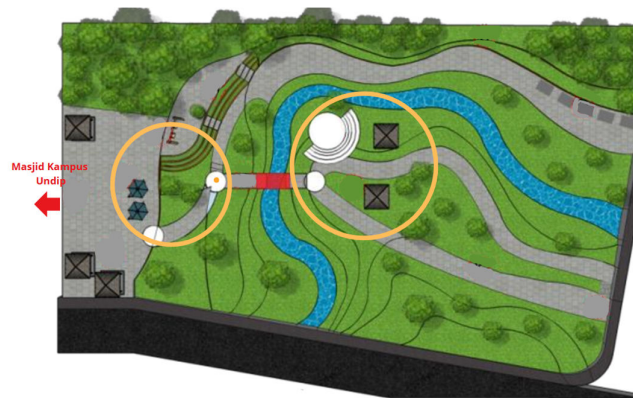


Figure 15. Siteplan of the proximity of areas to each other

Source: *Author, 2025*

c. Accessible

The entire area can be accessed via two routes, the first from the UNDIP campus mosque area on the east side of the site (Figure 16) and the second from the UNDIP ICT Building parking area on the north side of the site (Figure 17). In addition, there is a pedestrian bridge leading to the central area of the site where the open theater is located, as well as pedestrian access to the UNDIP gate security post (Figure 18). While the park demonstrates strong physical accessibility through multiple access points and integrated pedestrian routes, universal accessibility remains only partially achieved. The absence of tactile paving, inclusive wayfinding systems, and fully barrier-free circulation limits accessibility for visually impaired

users and persons with diverse mobility needs, indicating that accessibility in the park is still primarily physical rather than fully inclusive in design.



Figure 16. Access from the Campus Mosque University
Source: *Author, 2025*



Figure 17. Access from the ICT Building UNDIP
Source: *Author, 2025*



Figure 18. Pedestrian bridge in the park
Source: *Author, 2025*

d. Readable

There are many signs in the area, making it easy for users to obtain information. Signs themselves are a form of communication, guidance, and identification of a place, which greatly facilitates users (Figure 19).



Figure 19. Signage in the Object

Source: *Author, 2025*

The analysis of the Access and Linkages dimension indicates that UNDIP Jogging Track Park demonstrates strong spatial integration through interconnected pedestrian pathways, multiple access points, and continuous circulation networks that enhance spatial permeability and navigability. These features support smooth movement patterns, reduce physical and perceptual barriers, and strengthen spatial legibility within the campus environment. This condition reflects recent empirical findings that spatial configuration and path networks significantly influence perceived accessibility and frequency of park use, where the structure of circulation systems directly shapes user movement behavior and spatial experience (Gomaa et al., 2024). In this context, access is not merely a physical attribute, but a relational spatial quality that links movement, perception, and experience.

Comparatively, contemporary studies confirm that accessibility and connectivity are central determinants of public space performance and user experience. Research on campus environments demonstrates that walkability and pedestrian network quality strongly influence users' affective walking experience, spatial comfort, and perception of accessibility, particularly in academic settings (Liao & Zhu, 2025). Systematic reviews further emphasize that both physical and perceptual determinants, such as connectivity, visual continuity, safety perception, and ease of navigation, collectively shape the intensity of use and experiential quality of urban green spaces (Endalew Terefe & Hou, 2024; Li et al., 2023). Therefore, in the case of UNDIP Jogging Track Park, the Access and Linkages dimension functions not only as an indicator of physical connectivity but also as a core component of user-centered spatial experience, reinforcing the park's role as an accessible, inclusive, and integrated social space within the campus environment.

4) Sociability

The aspects of Sociability in the research object based on indicator analysis are as follows (Table 5).

Table 5. Research Indicator: Analysis Sociability

Aspect	Element	Indicator
Sociability	Interactive	There is a lot of social interaction at the research site.
	Friendly	The research site is user-friendly.
	Diverse	There are various facilities that can be used by all users.

Source: *Author, 2025*

a. Interactive

In the research area, there are many interactions between users, both in the morning, afternoon, and evening. The most common interaction is discussion, but there are also users who are exercising or relaxing in several areas. The area most used for interaction is the amphitheater area.



Figure 20. Interaction between students at night

Source: *Author, 2025*

b. Friendly

The research found that many users from various backgrounds, both young and old, use the UNDIP jogging track park for various activities. In addition, this area is also child-friendly, as evidenced by the provision of playground equipment for children. There are also ramps to assist users who use wheelchairs but still need improvement because the ramp has a sharp slope.



Figure 21. Many users from all walks of life use this place

Source: *Author, 2025*

c. Diverse

There are many diverse facilities found in the research object, such as gym facilities, swings and children's playgrounds, discussion areas such as gazebos, areas for performances and large events such as open theaters and amphitheaters, and seating areas. In this context, the amphitheater functions as a spatial convergence node that structurally concentrates movement, visibility, and co-presence, thereby intensifying social encounters and interaction density. Its open configuration, terraced seating, and visual connectivity create conditions for spontaneous interaction, shared attention, and prolonged stay, which are essential spatial mechanisms for sociability formation in public spaces.

The sociability dimension demonstrates that social interaction in the park is not generated solely by user presence, but by spatial conditions that structurally enable interaction. Spatial permeability, visual openness, seating arrangements, and spatial layout function as social infrastructures that shape patterns of encounter and co-presence. This pattern reflects the argument that social interaction in public spaces emerges from spatial conditions that enable encounter, co-presence, and engagement rather than from density alone (Peters et al., 2010). This is also similar to conceptualizing sociability as an outcome of spatial design logic, where layout, edges, and permeability actively generate patterns of interaction, supporting the interpretation of the park as a socially generative environment (Mehta, 2014).



Figure 22. Amphitheater in the Jogging Track UNDIP

Source: *Author, 2025*



Figure 23. Gazebo in the Jogging Track UNDIP

Source: *Author, 2025*



Figure 24. Fitness Area in the Jogging Track UNDIP

Source: *Author, 2025*

The diversity of users reflects the inclusive character of the space and strengthens social mixing, social cohesion, and place attachment. Social interaction functions as a mediating mechanism between spatial quality and emotional attachment, positioning the park not only as a physical environment but as a social system that supports everyday interaction and collective life within the campus context (Francis et al., 2012; Lau et al., 2014).

Based on the results of the Placemaking element analysis of several indicators that were not found in the research object. There are 17 out of 33 subcategories of Placemaking elements that cannot be analyzed in the research object. However, this does not affect the implementation of the Placemaking concept in the area. Field observations and user interactions indicate that the park functions effectively as a socially meaningful space, integrating comfort, activity diversity, accessibility, and sociability through everyday use. The absence of certain indicators does not weaken the relevance of the placemaking concept; instead, it reveals the contextual nature of placemaking implementation, where spatial quality is shaped by local conditions, user practices, and socio-spatial dynamics. At the same time, the findings highlight specific areas for improvement or enhancements in order to strengthen user comfort, social engagement, and spatial sustainability. This confirms that placemaking operates not merely as a design checklist, but as an adaptive evaluative framework for understanding the relationship between spatial form, social interaction, and place meaning in campus public spaces.

While the findings provide strong empirical and theoretical insight into campus-based placemaking, this study is limited by its single-case study design, which restricts the generalizability of the findings to other campus or urban public space contexts. However, as an in-depth qualitative and spatial analysis, this research provides transferable analytical insights into placemaking evaluation frameworks that can be adapted and tested in other socio-spatial contexts. Future research is encouraged to apply comparative multi-site studies to strengthen theoretical generalization and empirical robustness.

5. CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that placemaking implementation in UNDIP Jogging Track Park is characterized by strong sociability, high activity diversity, and continuous daily use. However, only 17 of 33 placemaking subcategories were fulfilled, highlighting structural gaps in inclusive accessibility, micro-scale comfort, passive engagement spaces, and long-term spatial inclusivity. Uses and Activities and Sociability emerge as the most dominant elements shaping space performance, while Comfort and Image, and Access and Linkages require targeted improvement. Theoretically, this study confirms that user perception-based placemaking indicators provide a reliable framework for evaluating campus public spaces and positions campus environments as integrated socio-spatial systems within campus planning and urban design policy, emphasizing inclusive accessibility, spatial legibility, and sociability as key strategies for sustainable and community-oriented public space development.

6. REFERENCES

- Adiba, A., & Ernawati, J. (2022). Persepsi Mahasiswa Terhadap Kenyamanan Spasial Ruang Terbuka Publik di Kampus I UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta. *Jurnal Mahasiswa Departemen Arsitektur*, 10(2).
<https://arsitektur.studentjournal.ub.ac.id/index.php/jma/article/view/1917>
- Aguila, M. D., Ensiyeh, G., & Vale, B. (2019). Theory of Place in Public Space. *Urban Planning*, 4, 249–259. <https://doi.org/10.17645/up.v4i2.1978>
- Amal, C., Amalia, A., & Fuadillah, S. (2020). Intensitas Penggunaan Ruang Terbuka Komunal di Lingkungan Kampus Kota Makassar. *Jurnal Linears*, 2, 55–65.
<https://doi.org/10.26618/j-linears.v2i2.3122>
- Arsyadani, R. (2021). Analisis Jogging Track Universitas Diponegoro. *IMAJI, Vol. 10 No 1*.
<https://ejournal3.UNDIP.ac.id/index.php/imaji/issue/viewIssue/1595/114>
- Awaliah, S. G., & Wibawa, B. A. (2022). Analisis Aksesibilitas Ruang Terbuka Publik di Jogging Track UNDIP. *UMPAK : Jurnal Arsitektur dan Lingkungan Binaan*, 5(1), Article 1. <https://doi.org/10.26877/umpak.v5i1.19652>
- Branislav Antonić, Despina Dimelli, Rotondo, F., Alexandra Delgado Jiménez, & Agisilaos Economou. (2024). *Placemaking in Practice Volume 1: Experiences and Approaches from a Pan-European Perspective* (C. Smaniotto Costa, M. Fathi, J. A. García-Esparza, & A. Djukic, Eds.; Vol. 1). BRILL. <https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004542389>
- Cahyaningtyas, A., & Jenny, E. (2024). Kualitas Placemaking Ruang Terbuka Publik Pada Koridor Jalan Di Kawasan Komersial Bersejarah Jalan Panglima Sudirman, Kota Batu. *Jurnal Mahasiswa Departemen Arsitektur*, 12(2).
<https://arsitektur.studentjournal.ub.ac.id/index.php/jma/article/view/2461>
- Carr, S. (1992). *Public Space*. Cambridge University Press.
- Chitwattanakorn, T., Chavasirikultol, N., Kerdngern, N., & Joungtrakul, J. (2024). Investigator Triangulation: A Strategy for Enhancing Trustworthiness in Qualitative Research. *Research Community and Social Development Journal*, 18(3), 521–532.
<https://doi.org/10.14456/nrru-rdi.2024.30>

- Endalew Terefe, A., & Hou, Y. (2024). Determinants influencing the accessibility and use of urban green spaces: A review of empirical evidence. *City and Environment Interactions*, 24, 100159. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cacint.2024.100159>
- Francis, J., Giles-Corti, B., Wood, L., & Knuiman, M. (2012). Creating sense of community: The role of public space. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 32(4), 401–409. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2012.07.002>
- Gomaa, M. M., Ullah, U., Afroz, M., & Zobia. (2024). The Impact of Spatial Configuration on Perceived Accessibility of Urban Parks Based on Space Syntax and Users' Responses. *Civil Engineering and Architecture*, 12(3A), 2395–2402. <https://doi.org/10.13189/cea.2024.121333>
- Hanan, H. (2013). Open Space as Meaningful Place for Students in ITB Campus. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 85, 308–317. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2013.08.361>
- Hardi, R., & Diananta, P. (2023). PENILAIAN PLACEMAKING DI RUANG TERBUKA PUBLIK KAWASAN JAM GADANG. *ALUR : Jurnal Arsitektur*, 6, 64–73. <https://doi.org/10.54367/alur.v6i2.2585>
- Istoriou, T., & Pozoukidou, G. (2025). Understanding placemaking in spatial planning using a text analysis tool. *Discover Cities*, 2(1), 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44327-025-00097-9>
- Lau, S. S. Y., Gou, Z., & Liu, Y. (2014). Healthy campus by open space design: Approaches and guidelines. *Frontiers of Architectural Research*, 3(4), 452–467. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foar.2014.06.006>
- Li, J., Md. Dali, M., & Nordin, N. A. (2023). Connectedness among Urban Parks from the Users' Perspective: A Systematic Literature Review. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(4), 3652. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20043652>
- Liao, B., & Zhu, J. (2025). Exploring the causal relationship between campus walkability and affective walking experience: Evidence from 7 major tertiary education campuses in China. *Journal of Urban Management*, 14(3), 657–674. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jum.2025.01.005>
- Mehta, V. (2014). Evaluating Public Space. *Journal of Urban Design*, 19(1), 53–88. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13574809.2013.854698>
- Peng, Y., Peng, Z., Feng, T., Zhong, C., & Wang, W. (2021). Assessing Comfort in Urban Public Spaces: A Structural Equation Model Involving Environmental Attitude and Perception. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(3), 1287. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18031287>
- Peters, K., Elands, B., & Buijs, A. (2010). Social interactions in urban parks: Stimulating social cohesion? *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 9(2), 93–100. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2009.11.003>
- Public Space, P. F. (2017). *What is Placemaking?* <https://www.pps.org/article/what-is-placemaking>
- Purwanti, S. (2022). MEMAKSIMALKAN FUNGSI TAMAN KOTA SEBAGAI RUANG TERBUKA PUBLIK. *Jurnal Jendela Inovasi Daerah*, 5, 56–70. <https://doi.org/10.56354/jendelainovasi.v5i1.114>
- Saryono, & Anggraeni, M. D. (2013). *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif Dan Kuantitatif Dalam Bidang Kesehatan*. <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Metodologi-Penelitian-Kualitatif-Dan-Kuantitatif-Saryono-Anggraeni/09ecc6f39fec4b2070bc8bcb2908ee1ef1124509>
- Shirvani, H. (with Internet Archive). (1985). *The urban design process*. New York : Van Nostrand Reinhold. <http://archive.org/details/urbandesignproce0000shir>

- Siregar, J. P. (2014). Assessment of Public Space Quality Using Good Public Space Index (Case Study of Merjosari Sub District, Municipality of Malang, Indonesia). *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 135, 10–17.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2014.07.318>
- Strydom, W., Puren, K., & Drewes, E. (2018). Exploring theoretical trends in placemaking: Towards new perspectives in spatial planning. *Journal of Place Management and Development*, 11(2), 165–180. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JPMD-11-2017-0113>
- Sukawi, S. (2008, August 1). *Taman Kota dan Upaya Pengurangan Suhu Lingkungan Perkotaan*. <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Taman-Kota-dan-Upaya-Pengurangan-Suhu-Lingkungan-Sukawi/cd32a2c34b4cf4375539ae9f3178c0380c891ed1>
- Susanti, W. D. (2018). POLA PEMANFAATAN RUANG PUBLIK DI LINGKUNGAN KAMPUS (STUDI KASUS FAKULTAS ARSITEKTUR DAN DESAIN UPN "VETERAN" JATIM). *JURNAL ENVIROTEK*, 10(1).
<https://doi.org/10.33005/envirotek.v10i1.1169>
- UU No. 26. (2007). *UU No. 26 Tahun 2007*. Database Peraturan | JDIH BPK.
<http://peraturan.bpk.go.id/Details/39908/uu-no-26-tahun-2007>
- Wihandono, F. A., & Qomarun, Q. (2021). Evaluasi Good Public Space Index pada Halaman Benteng Vasternburg sebagai Public Space di Kota Surakarta. *Prosiding (SIAR) Seminar Ilmiah Arsitektur*, 147–155.
- Wyckoff, M. A. (2014). *Definitions of placemaking: Four different types*.
https://www.canr.msu.edu/uploads/375/65824/4typesplacemaking_pzn_wyckoff_january2014.pdf