Urban Open Spaces
Concept and Benefits

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IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST MERCIFUL, THE MOST BENEFICENT
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To my family, both here and gone, for their love, prayers and guidance
About Author

Professor Noor ul Amin
MSc Floriculture, PhD and Post Doc Urban open spaces Management

Professor Dr. Amin got his BSc (Hons) in Horticulture and MSc (Hons) in Floriculture from Pakistan. His professional career started in the Department of Horticulture, the Agriculture University, Peshawar, Pakistan as a lecturer in 1985 and became a Professor in 2003. He was appointed as Chairman of the Horticulture Department (2006-2009 and 2009-2012) for two consecutive tenures, but Professor Amin could not complete the second tenure as after two years, he left for the University of Jordan on the request of Dean Council, who appointed him as a Professor of Floriculture and Landscape in the department of Horticulture sciences, Jordan University.

He co-authored a book with a title “Therapeutic Horticulture in human life”, published more than 70 research articles in impact factor and other Journals of international repute. Moreover, he also published number of community publications both in Urdu and English languages. Additionally, he supervised 2 PhD scholars and more than 74 Master level students in their research projects.

Besides, teaching and research in the University, he remained actively involved on a number of important management positions within University and without. Prior to joining the University, he served as Assistant Director Horticulture for Peshawar Development Authority, Peshawar, Pakistan (1983-1985). He has also been working with local authorities, the private sector and academia; and remained consultant with many organizations including IUCN, Agribusiness & Diversification project, MINFA, Governor’s House Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chief Minister, House Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sevdam International Peshawar, The Townscape Peshawar and number of Army establishments and private organizations.
Preface

During Graduate and Master’s levels studies, I developed an obsession towards studying, investigating and exploring in the field of Landscape. This mania led me to proceed to the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, where I accomplished PhD in Landscape Management (1992-96). Later, in 2005-06, I carried out Post Doctoral Research in the same Department and University.

At PhD and Post doctorate levels, I explored some of the issues related to the use, barriers to use and management of urban open spaces in the city of Sheffield. On my return to Pakistan, I realized that most of my students as well as researchers particularly those interested in landscape seem unaware of the term “urban open space” its concept and benefits these spaces provide free to the society. The current book concentrates on the concept and benefits of urban open spaces, which may clarify the essentials related to urban open spaces. Moreover, the book is a diminutive effort to add the existing knowledge with regard to urban open spaces and would be equally important to students, researchers and management authorities. The other themes such as Landscape Gardening will be discussed in other book which I intend to compile after publishing the current one and hopefully will be available to students and researcher in the years to com.

I understand that the market whether local or international is replete with variety of books, booklets written on the same themes. The book in hand, is a unique effort in a sense that in addition to standardising the concept, its roles and functions, it also contains a separate section devoted to the urban open spaces of Peshawar, Pakistan. History reveals that Peshawar, a capital city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, used to be a city of flower but now presents very bleak picture. The book particularly section one, concentrates on the concept of urban open spaces, while section two and three explored various roles and functions of urban open spaces. These two sections are crucial for students and researchers as they contain helpful information. The last two sections (four and five) particularly will be of great help to the management authorities, who are responsible for the maintenance of these spaces and provides useful information for those, who want to explore Peshawar and its parks and gardens.

Professor Dr. Noor ul Amin
The University of Agriculture Peshawar,
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All prays to ALLAH, who provided means and opportunities on my ways and give me will, strength and health to complete this task and contribute to the noble field of knowledge. Cordial gratitude to our beloved PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH), who is forever a torch of guidance and knowledge for the whole humanity.

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Last and by no mean the least, I am extremely impressed by the help, patient, extra ordinary support of my wife and kids (Saad, Safa, Marwah and Shaheer), who always remained the source of encouragement during writing of this book and un-compliantly afford my late night setting both at home and office.

I believe that without the help of all mentioned above and many others not mentioned, this book would not come to its final shape.

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Peshawar