

## El impacto social en el parque público General Esteban Baca Calderón “La Loma” de Tepic, Nayarit, México

*The social impact in the General Esteban Baca Calderón "La Loma" public park of Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico*

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### Resumen

Esta investigación realiza una exploración al parque público General Esteban Baca Calderón conocido comúnmente como “La Loma”, en la ciudad de Tepic, Nayarit, México. El objetivo del siguiente trabajo es conocer la impresión que se tiene de este parque y su entorno por parte de los habitantes y los turistas que acuden a dicha área verde, la cual como se sabe es un importante pulmón ciudadano para la comunidad nayarita. Ante la gama de cambios sociales que ha sufrido el estado, los resultados obtenidos contribuyen a motivar a las personas en general a alejarse del alcoholismo, la drogadicción y el sedentarismo. Para ello se utilizó un muestreo aleatorio simple donde se entrevistó a 250 personas mediante una encuesta semi-estructurada, cuyo principal resultado arrojó el impacto positivo del acondicionamiento físico y la rehabilitación de algunas enfermedades, generando bienestar físico y mental en quienes realizan alguna actividad al aire libre.

**Palabras clave:** parque público, ciudad, esparcimiento, recreación.

## Abstract

This research explores the General Esteban Baca Calderón public park commonly known as "La Loma", in the city of Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico. The objective of this paper is to know printing that makes this park and its environment by the inhabitants and tourists who come to this green area, which as you know is an important city lung for the Nayarit community. To the range of social changes suffered by the State, the results obtained contribute to motivate people in general move away from alcoholism, drug addiction, and physical inactivity. A simple random sampling of 250 people where interviewed through a survey was used semi - structured, whose main result showed the positive impact of physical conditioning and rehabilitation of some diseases, creating physical and mental well-being in those who involved in some activity outdoors.

**Key words:** public park, city, leisure, recreation.

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## Introduction

The green areas of the cities is the only way to meet certain needs of coexistence, grouping and socialization of various urban communities. The irreplaceable ecological role played by such green areas in cities compared with the proliferation of indiscriminate of particular open spaces, paved squares or large avenues is currently unclear.

The cities have replaced natural habitats by others covering the technical, cultural and economic needs of modern man: the artificial has devoured to the biological, making the inhabitants of cities claim and require a balance with the basic elements: water, air, space and plants, environmental resources that help make the city more comfortable (Gómez, 2005).

We call urban green areas to those areas grouped in open or public - spaces known as recreational sites and recreation; for example, the parks-, or located in places of access restricted or private, often accompanied by homes where green areas are indicators of some high social level. The main function of these areas is to achieve scenarios suitable for recreational and social activities of great importance to the quality of life. For a long time

the cities have been subject to processes of growth and development, transformations that have imposed particular internal dynamics to the structure and urban organization. Green spaces have been used as a way to contain urban growth; therefore recent expansion processes can compromise further the preservation of green areas, especially in absence of planning and base information - for example, indicators-providing for the future expansion of the city (García and Guerrero, 2006).

Urban parks have been created from historic times with the purpose of providing various services to benefit certain social groups. Currently, the concept of public parks includes principles of ecological, economic and social sustainability, so they are considered inclusive spaces with various recreational uses. Urban parks are a fundamental part of the urban landscape and can be characterized as a good complementary to the provision of housing for the various benefits provided to all social groups living in the city (Flores and González, 2007).

The relationship between city and nature is at the origin of the formation of urban spaces and, of course, in the reflections and speeches on the city throughout the centuries of history. The processes of formation of metropolitan areas are a good example of the need to reflect and provide contemporary solutions to the relationship between city, territory and nature (Santiago, 2008) solutions.

Urban parks and different scales in the city represent multiple dynamics in the environment, and undergo changes that transcend the city and its operation; prefixed in this way not only enjoyment, but new or already established ways of augmenting the territory with new forms of economic thought and everything that entails intervention. Urban environments parks end up structuring the activities in support of the population, which constitute a normal phenomenon due to the growth of the city and the allocation of land use by the planning offices, in response to conditions survival presents the contemporary city (Ocampo, 2008).

Despite this, the growth of cities entails many different problems such as: improper alignment of streets, wide incorrect thereof; misuse of land, and this means that there are no suitable for industries, recreation centers, shopping centers, public parks, room, etc. (Morales, 2009) areas.

Direct observation of the use to which the public space and its suitability for these purposes, is an irreplaceable source of improved design and organization of environmental

information. However, it happens that many aspects of the design of the immediate environment, as in the case of parks and other urban areas, have been raised in a certain way and not another, for easy maintenance and cleaning of the site, or to match the flatness of the whole. Therefore, changes in environmental conditions have an impact on the people living in the public space. Also, are the structures and forms of architecture (Puyuelo and Gual, 2009). Admittedly, the environmental functions of urban parks are raised today as a key issue; as an objective of urban management (Vélez, 2009).

It should be noted that the role of vegetation on the urban environment is much wider and beneficial, since it controls the development of urban heat islands by providing shade and latent heat consumed by the process of evapotranspiration. Urban green areas are cold islands, from which breezes park or airflows clean and fresh originate, whose power depends on the size and complexity of plant surfaces and whose ability to penetrate into urban areas it develops interconnected along tree-lined streets and are not blocked by buildings (Romero et al., 2010).

It is true that interest in urban green spaces is the importance that landscape issues are having on the public debate on the habitability of the big cities and their influence on the relations between neighbors and social identity of communities. Various studies indicate that the presence of green areas in neighborhoods or the existence of public parks and gardens is an element that contributes to improving the state of physical and mental well-being of the population, which favors social interaction and ultimately makes livable cities releasing the stresses of everyday life (Priego et al., 2010).

From the social point of view, a larger size of green areas-and public spaces in general allows various activities and facilitates the simultaneous presence of different groups, such as children, adults and young people (and Figueroa Reyes , 2010). The importance of green areas is increasing, since they are an important factor for health and welfare of the urban dweller (Mena et al., 2011).

It is understood that the green areas are places where the predominant vegetation and natural features such as lakes, estuaries and unpaved trails. These deliver multiple benefits to the population and the urban environment: promote physical activity, social inclusion and quality of life of the population; also they provide environmental services such as urban temperature control, carbon sequestration, improving air quality, protecting biodiversity,

reducing erosion, flood control, energy saving and noise control (Patagonland Investment, 2013) .

## **METHODOLOGY**

### Definition of urban parks

They are large gardens or forest areas, in addition to fulfilling the functions of the above spaces, allow the development of other outdoor activities, including cultural and sports facilities. Therefore, they are green or green areas of particular importance for the enjoyment of citizens because of their size or location within the city. Such spaces respond well to traditional concept of park or open space roughly in the design of which has been considered gardening. They are spaces with a medium or large size, spread over the urban geography and often have built sports facilities or close to them (James, 2008). From the above CONAFOVI (2005) defines the urban park as an area of variable length of between 10 000 and 1 million m<sup>2</sup>, with a width of 100 m at a minimum- having the possibility of various sports, recreational and cultural activities .

### Brief History of General Esteban Baca Calderon Park "La Loma"

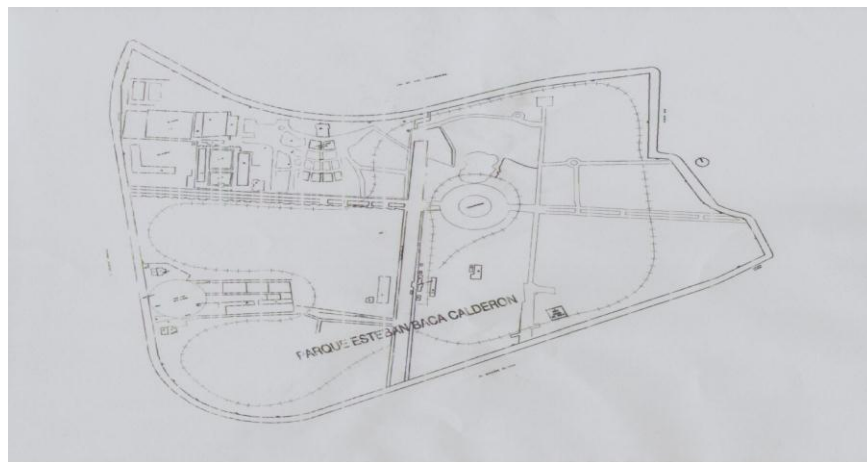
Its history goes back to 1810, when the insurgent Jose Maria Market, a national hero, camped at this site. Years later was the scene of military skirmishes between conservatives and liberals; later, in 1910, it became a strategic area for the army that took Northwest Plaza Tepic. In the nineteenth century it was used as recreational space for popular events, including traditional bullfights that take place during the month of May or the religious celebration of St. James on July 25 of each year. As of October 12, 1892 construction, renovation and rehabilitation of a kiosk was initiated to make this attractive park. During the governor's Gilberto Flores Muñoz (1946-1951), the first works of what would be the Paseo de La Loma, trace of palm trees walkway built under his rule were made. the band shell is constructed, casuarinas and eucalyptus for the time gave particular appeal are planted. Under the government of Francisco García Montero (1946-1951), the charro which now bears his name (Sierra and Ramirez, 2010) is constructed.

## Study area

The study was conducted in the public park General Esteban Baca Calderon commonly known as "La Loma", the city of Tepic in the state of Nayarit, Mexico. The public park "La Loma" is located in the downtown area south of the city of Tepic, by reference to the street Avenida Insurgentes and Puebla; its area is about 186,372 m<sup>2</sup> (H. Ayuntamiento de Tepic, 2012-2014). Its location shown in Figures 1 and 2.



Figura, 1. Localización del Parque Público General Esteban Baca Calderón "La Loma". Fuente: elaboración propia a partir de imágenes del Google Earth, 2015.



Figura, 2. Esquema del Parque Público General Esteban Baca Calderón "La Loma". Fuente: H. Ayuntamiento de Tepic, Fondo Municipal, 2012-2014.

Also, the state is located at coordinates 22 ° 5 '20 ° 36' north latitude and -105 ° 43'-105 ° 46 'west longitude (Figure 3), with a total population of 1,084,979 inhabitants that is, the city of Tepic has 380,249 inhabitants, of whom 195,082 are women and 185,167 are men (INEGI, 2010).



Figura, 3. Ubicación geográfica del Estado de Nayarit. Fuente: INEGI. Marco Geoestadístico Municipal 2010.

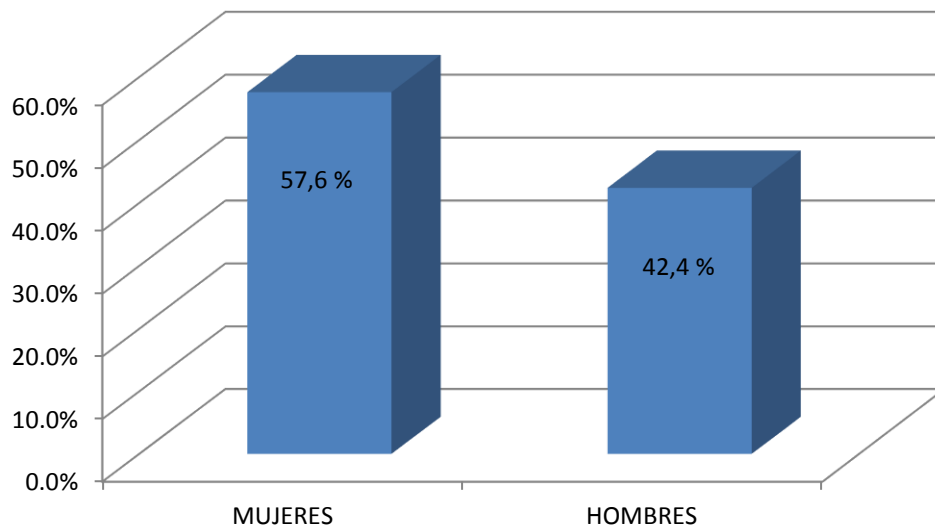
This research was performed using simple random sampling in the public park "La Loma" of this city, in order to meet the printing of city dwellers and tourists about this park. For this 250 semi-structured interviews, processed statistically using the SPPS system is applied.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Survey conducted by the Public Park "La Loma" of this city, the following results were obtained.

For starters he was asked visitors surveyed public park what her sex. According to the results, 144 women attending the public park, that is, 57.6%, and 106 men represent 42.4%

(Figure 4). In short, we can say that more people flock female than male to do some physical or recreational activity in the park of the city.



Figura, 4. Representación de mujeres y hombres que visitan el parque. Fuente: elaboración propia.

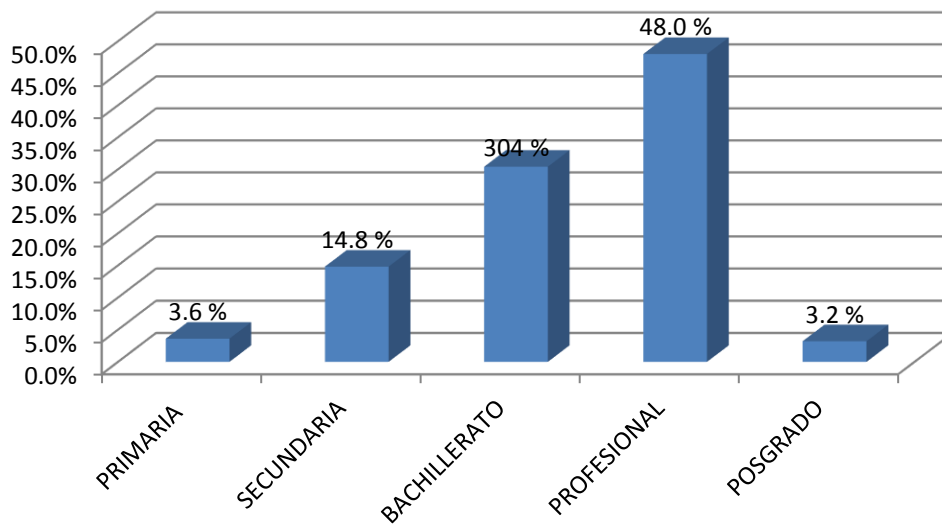
Location of the people who come to public park.

With regard to the origin of the respondents it found that 96% originated in the state of Nayarit and 4% are residents of other states. The local government should give more attention to these areas because it lacks cultural and environmental community events that benefit local tourism in the state.

**Education of the people who come to public park.**

The academic level of respondents was 3.6% with primary, secondary 14.8%, 30.4% with high school, 48% professional level, and 3.2% to graduate. Therefore, respondents had different levels of schooling, 82% have undergraduate and high school, and the remaining 18% of primary, secondary and graduate. Therefore, it follows that the general public is aware of the importance of physical or recreational activity in the public park in their free time (Figure 5).

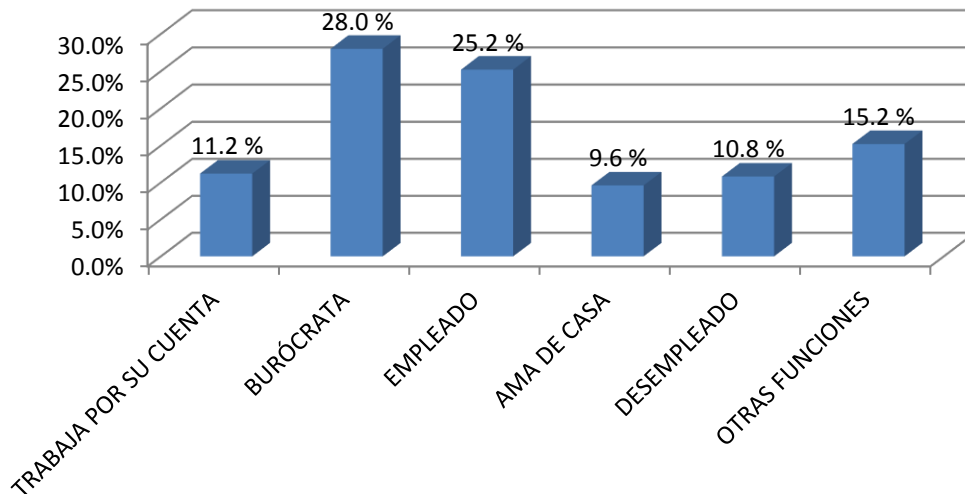




Figura, 5. Escolaridad de las personas que acuden al parque. Fuente: elaboración propia.

Where people who come to public park working

Labour activity of users surveyed is 11.2% self-employed, 28% are bureaucrat, 25.2% are employed, 9.6% is a housewife, 10.8% are unemployed and 15.2% perform other functions (Figure 6). While 53.2% of people who visit the city park are occupationally serve as bureaucrats and federal employees, 46.8% includes people who are self-employed, unemployed and housewives. Bureaucrats and federal employees were the highest percentages; They are people who because of the nature of their work are in need of frequent green areas to enable them to carry out recreational activities, rest or exercise, for the benefit of their physical and mental state.

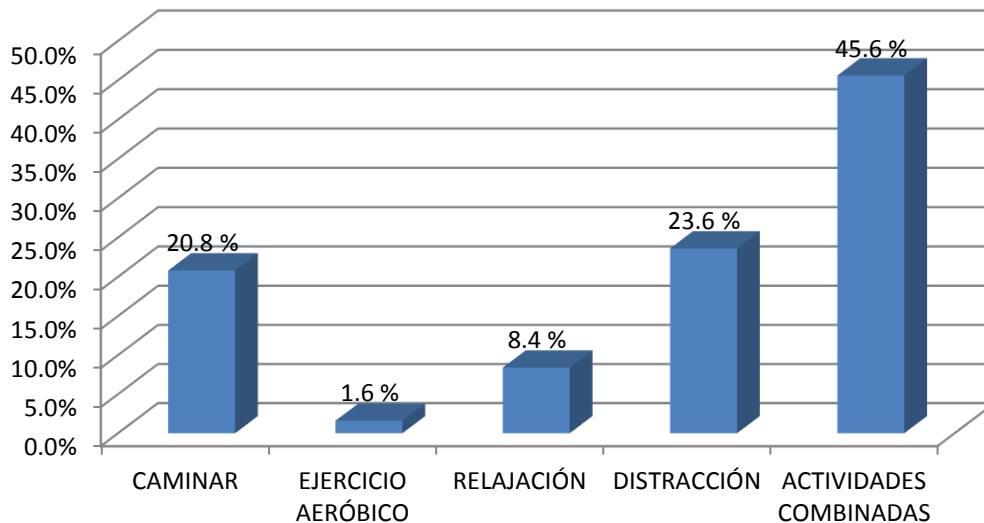


Figura, 6. Lugares donde laboran las personas que acuden al parque. Fuente: elaboración propia.

#### Activities carried out by people in the public park "La Loma"

The activities that people do in this park are: 20.8% do hiking, aerobic exercise makes 1.6%, 8.4% relax, 23.6% is distracted, and 45.6% combined practice different activities (7) (Mejia and Gomez, 2015) . It also confirms the great need for people to do different activities within the park, whether natural, recreational or relaxing.

Leisure rescue raises some activity growth, illuminating, cognitively challenging, thoughtful, creative, positive and productive to take the subject to higher forms of experience and thought. It is necessary to continue to assess the psychosocial conditions in the industrialized contemporary subject in mass societies, highly subject to condition of technologies that make everyday life is one of the more complex throughout the history of mankind (Vázquez, 2010).



Figura, 7. Actividades que se realizan en el parque público “La Loma”. Fuente: Mejía y Gómez (2015).

It is noted that the park not only contributes to social comfort and natural beauty of the environment but also actively involved in improving health and that these areas are usually carried out various recreational and leisure activities, social coexistence, rest, relaxation, exercise and tourism (figures 8, 9 and 10). Also in the environmental area favors the survival of wildlife, cools the air, reduce noise, regulates the temperature and absorbs some carbon dioxide -CO<sub>2</sub> produced in the environment.



Figura, 8. Personas de la tercera edad dando una caminata. Fuente: elaboración propia.



Figura, 9. Niños en un rato de esparcimiento. Fuente: elaboración propia.



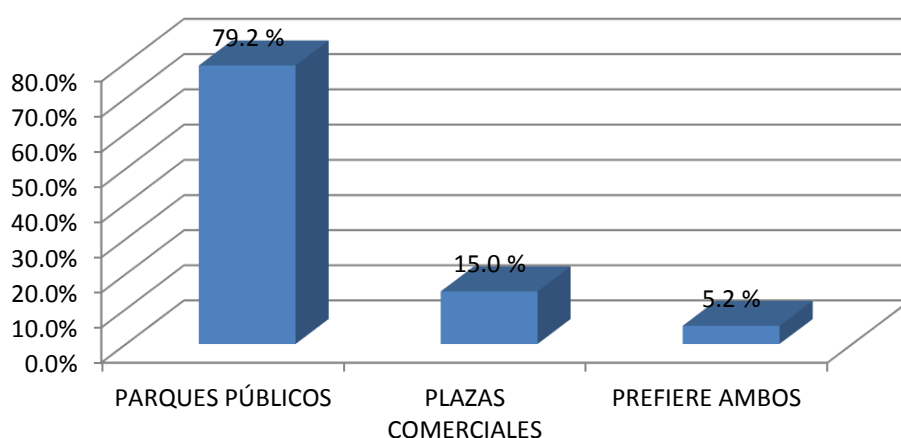
Figura, 10. Familia en un momento de relajación. Fuente: elaboración propia.

### **The public park has basic services**

Of those surveyed, 62% said yes and 38% said no. They were also asked if it was important to keep the public park and its surroundings, to which 100% of respondents said it was important to preserve and maintain the park and its environment as it has a positive impact on health through nature.

Do you prefer public parks or shopping malls?

By asking respondents whether they prefer public parks or shopping malls, 79.2% reported that parks, 15% preferred the malls and only 5.2% said both (Figure 11). The population requires especially public parks, real laboratories that support the cities and provide a better quality of life for its inhabitants and visitors regarding their welfare, health, recreation, security, culture, environmental education, etc. (Figure 12).



Figura, 11. Parques públicos o plazas comerciales. Fuente: elaboración propia.



Figura, 12. Personas paseando en el parque público “La Loma”. Fuente: elaboración propia.



## **CONCLUSIÓN**

The public park is very important for citizens. This effort produces results never before documented, or at least no evidence was found literature about the study of green areas within the city of Tepic. It is extremely important to teach future generations the value of the public park General Esteban Baca Calderon "La Loma" as urban green space; every tree and plant is part of an ecosystem where it performs vital processes for human beings and their environment, becoming an essential heritage and a lung for the Nayarit society. These findings may motivate people generally move away from alcoholism, drug addiction and physical inactivity.

In short, this urban public park exerts a generally positive to promote fitness and rehabilitation of some diseases impact, resulting in physical and mental development that perform some activity being. It also helps to reduce stress of citizens and visitors.

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