



The Uasin Gishu Urban Talk



*Creating Inclusive Public Spaces
for Quality Urban Life*



26 March 2018

Urban Dialogues

UG Talk Structure

26 March
(AM)

Responsible stakeholder
ship in public space
development and
management

Designing inclusive public
space through popular
consensus

Striking a balance between
the socio-economic and
environmental benefits of
public spaces

Assembling popular views
and recommendations

Urban areas are, by their nature, a confluence of diverse cultures, traditions and beliefs that shape the social dimensions of the physical space. While the Constitution (Article 174c) gives powers of self-governance to the people as well as enhancing their participation in the exercise of powers of the State, the urban areas remain the most dynamic presenting a challenge to public participation.

Since the advent of devolution in 2013, County Governments and their public have experienced various modes of civic engagement in realization of public participation. One of these experiences has been through the Local Urban Forums (LUFs) established through the facilitation of the Civil Society Urban Development Platform (CSUDP) with support from the Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi. The LUFs have been instrumental in generating knowledge that has informed various local dialogues on common issues affecting the urban population, with specific interest on the poor and vulnerable sector of the urban society.

One of the emerging interests from the public during the LUF dialogues is the need for issue-based urban conversations that are developmental oriented. It is against this backdrop that CSUDP in partnership with the LUFs has initiated the *'Urban Talk Series'* that seeks to promote issue-based local developmental dialogue between citizens and their county government. The first of this series convenes in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County.



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Inclusive Public Spaces

Theme: Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue for Inclusive Public Spaces; the Case of Nandi Park and Sosiani River Nature Park

The Kenya implementation plan for the New Urban Agenda (NUA) recognizes that the spatial organization, accessibility and design of urban space can either promote or hinder social cohesion, equality and inclusion. For this spatial organization to meet the standards required for sustainable development, there must be sufficient incorporation of functional public spaces. Such functionality is predicated on effective inclusion of the citizens in the planning, design and eventual use of the public space.

Uasin Gishu is not new to the Public Space agenda, as it has already embraced a unique model of public participation in the development planning of the Nandi Park. Through this approach, the County Government of Uasin Gishu in partnership with the Eldoret Local Urban Forum (ELUF) and with support from CSUDP deployed a multi-stakeholder and multi-agency model to revamp the Nandi Park.

This Park facility has continued to inspire social cohesion, opening

space for the young & old, rich & poor, women & men to commune and strengthen the urban social fabric. The Nandi Park has also revived interest amongst the county government and the public towards the revamp, conservation and management of the available public spaces.

The most prominent of these public spaces is Sosiani River, which cuts right across the city and offers one of the most unique features for an inclusive public space.

The Sosiani River Dialogue: “A gem or a curse”

The urban conversation in Uasin Gishu is inspired by three key factors;

1. The prioritization in the CIDP of Uasin Gishu
2. The Nandi Park experience, especially the partnership model for public participation
3. The threat to the unique natural feature – Sosiana River.

In this conversation, the conversation will focus on three

aspects critical to the development of the river and its basin into a nature park, namely;

- Responsible stakeholder ship in public space development and management
- Designing inclusive public space through popular consensus
- Striking a balance between the socio-economic and environmental benefits of

public spaces

Quest for Life (QFL), the host organization for the Local Urban Forum, shall coordinate the dialogue supported by key Experts in these three respective areas.

It is intended that this conversation should bring together the different minds, interests and expectations to converge for the common purpose of creating an inclusive nature park that inspires social cohesion.



Figure 6. Landscaper's impression of the Wildlife area layout



Figure 8. Landscaper's impression of the amusement park layout



Figure 7. Landscaper's impression of the recreation park layout

Sosiani River Nature Park

Inclusivity by Nature

The Sosiani River bears great potential for development of a nature park due to its central position within Eldoret Central Business District. The permanent water flow and the spectacular Koromosho Waterfall located downstream about 16 km from Eldoret town makes the River an ideal site for development of Nature Park. The County Government has embraced a partnership strategy in the development of the Sosiani River Nature Park. The Park shall be part of the urban regeneration initiatives and connect with the town's new infrastructure that includes non-motorized pathways and street lighting.

The Nature Park to be situated in middle Sosiani River sub catchment that consists of a plateau to the North East with gentle sloping landscape towards River Sosiani. Sosiani river traverses many terrains of different geophysical characteristics and meanders through Eldoret; the capital of Uasin Gishu County. Along the river is the second biggest referral

hospital, Moi University School of Medicine and some informal settlements. The river harbors young people hawking wares in the bridges that connect to the town.

The nature park shall offer more than just a "natural" escape from crowded urban life. It will also serve as meeting points for picnics and family gatherings. The park shall include seats to enhance socialization, bridges, Gazebos, eating areas, barbecue pits, playgrounds and walking trails.

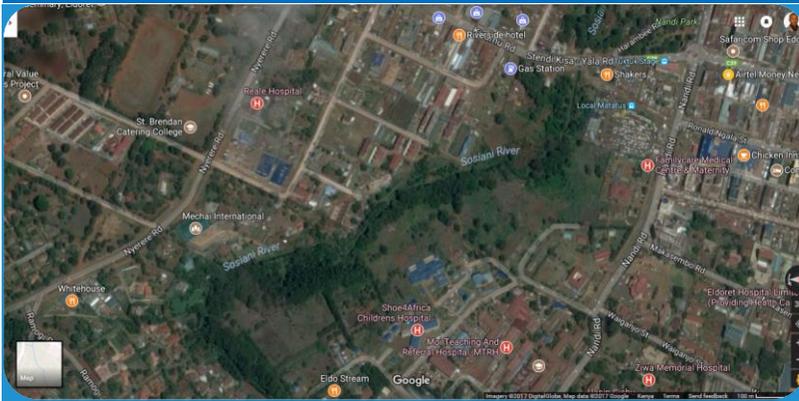
Some of the key features of the Nature Park design include;

1. Walk ways, fence, footbridges, nature trail, amusement park and all facilities within the park.
2. Landscaping, development of kerb, storm water channel and protection of some areas along riverbanks, creation of gardens inside the nature park.
3. Installation of Nature park resting facilities, including well designed, all weather benches,

and tables that are environmentally friendly, fountains, outdoor grills, or bike racks.

4. Installation and development of Children playing facilities
5. Installation of lighting (Street), sentry points and waste disposal facilities
6. Skills Development (training), research and Culture Documentation, Information panels and labels.
7. Botanical Garden Project that will serve as environmental conservation, education and awareness, research and exploration to young people in Uasin Gishu

Through this urban talk, the different stakeholders in Eldoret have an opportunity to dialogue on the concept, design features and most importantly, the inclusiveness of the proposed Nature Park. Such a conversation is necessary in building the citizen's confidence and also managing the expectations of the different stakeholders, some of whom may be displaced in the process.



About CSUDP

The Civil Society Urban Development Platform (CSUDP) is a Kenyan Non-Governmental Organization that facilitates urban social inclusion through capacitating CSOs to champion good local governance models, influence policies, leverage knowledge that strengthens community resilience and build innovations in pro-poor service delivery, all in a bid to achieve a vibrant, dignified and secure urban living environment

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TIME

Eldoret Urban Talk Session

RESPONSIBLE

Monday, 26th March 2018

9.00 - 09.30am	Introduction and Official Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guests • County Officials 	QFL
09.30 - 10.30am	Panel of Experts Dialogue; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible stakeholder ship in public space development and management • Designing inclusive public space through popular consensus • Striking a balance between the socio-economic and environmental benefits of public spaces 	Moderator
10.30 - 12.00pm	Open Public Dialogue; Key Discussion Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible stakeholder ship in public space development and management • Designing inclusive public space through popular consensus • Striking a balance between the socio-economic and environmental benefits of public spaces 	Moderator
12.00 pm	Closing Statements	