

Day 1 Home Task – María Paula Rodríguez

The “Simón Bolívar” park is a large urban park located in the heart of Bogotá (Colombia), my hometown city. It covers an area of approximately 400 hectares and is one of the most important green spaces in the city. The park has a variety of elements that make it a clear example of a form of urban nature. It has three artificial lakes, several sports facilities, children playgrounds, a concert venue, botanical gardens, walking and cycling path, small restaurants and cafes along with many other components that make it one of the most noteworthy public spaces in the city.

The park enables human-urban interactions, classified by several factors:

- **Immediateness→ More immediate:** The park provides a wide range of activities such as walking, cycling, sports facilities, and playgrounds. There are also concerts held in the park's concert venue. Visitors can even take their dogs for a walk. **Less immediate:** Visitors can appreciate the park's natural beauty and listen to the bird sounds from inside the restaurants and cafes.
- **Consciousness→ More conscious:** Visitors can take advantage of the educational opportunities, tours, and workshops offered by the park to learn about the different animal and plant species and their conservation. **Less conscious:** Visitors can engage in activities without being aware of the park's natural environment around them, such as exercising, playing sports, or having a picnic.
- **Intentionality→ More intentional:** Visitors can come to the park with the specific intention of learning about the animal and plant species, feeding the animals, practicing yoga barefoot to connect with nature, or participating in eco-tourism activities. **Less intentional:** Visitors may engage in activities that do not have a direct connection to the natural elements of the park, such as attending a concert, exercising, sunbathing, or having a picnic without a specific intention to interact with nature.
- **Degree of Human Mediation→ More mediated:** The park has infrastructure such as benches, kiosks, cafes, and bridges that mediate the interaction between visitors and nature. **Less mediated:** Visitors can directly enter small forests in the park to have a direct contact with nature.
- **Direction of outcomes (for humans)→ Positive:** The park offers a great option for entertainment and mental health benefits, inspiring visitors to feel free of the chaos of the city. Families often come on Sundays to enjoy activities together and bond. **Negative:** Visitors may be affected by mosquitoes or weather conditions such as excessive sun or rain.
- **Direction of outcomes (for nature)→ Positive:** The park promotes habitat conservation, and water quality and animal well-being are constantly checked. **Negative:** Human activities such as concerts with fireworks and visitors throwing garbage may disturb the natural environment and affect the animals.

The park has several categories of stakeholders, including the city government, park visitors, environmental organizations, business owners and park employees. These stakeholders have varied interests and concerns related to the park's use, conservation, and management. The city government is responsible for park management, visitors have different interests and levels of awareness for the park's natural environment, environmental organizations focus on protecting biodiversity, business owners may benefit or be affected by park events and park employees ensure park maintenance.

Feedback: The class taught by Professor Mihai Niță was very clear. He began with foundational concepts and ensured that students with varying backgrounds were all on the same level of understanding. Furthermore, the professor consistently found valuable insights in student contributions, which was appreciated. Overall, the class was well-prepared and successful in its instruction.