

Gen Z's Perception of Green Open Space in Cirebon City

Dipta Bagaskara Leonan*, Arni Muslimah Handayani Widjaja

Universitas Swadaya Gunung Jati, Indonesia

Email: dipta.119210004@ugj.ac.id*

Keywords:	Abstract
Generation Z; Cirebon City; Green Open Spaces.	Generation Z (Gen Z) possesses significant creative potential that requires supportive public spaces for discussion and collaboration; however, the availability of suitable open spaces in Cirebon City remains limited. This gap highlights the need to optimize existing Green Open Spaces (GOS) so that they can be transformed into creative public spaces for younger generations without requiring the construction of new infrastructure. This study aimed to examine Gen Z's perceptions of the availability of green open spaces in Cirebon City and analyze the characteristics of ideal green open spaces based on their preferences. This study employed a descriptive statistical method with a quantitative approach. Data were collected through questionnaires administered to at least 100 Gen Z respondents aged 18–29 years across five subdistricts in Cirebon City using purposive sampling. The findings revealed that the highest perceived importance in the ecological aspect was visual/aesthetic vegetation (86%); in the social aspect, pedestrian accessibility; in the economic aspect, the provision of spaces for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) (78%); and in the visual aspect, well-maintained and clean parks (81%). The evaluation of current conditions indicated that public open spaces were adequate in terms of vegetation and basic facilities; however, significant gaps remained, particularly regarding hydrological functions for flood mitigation and environmental safety systems. As the primary recommendation, the development of public open spaces in Cirebon City should adopt the Smart & Sustainable Eco-park concept to integrate sustainable environmental elements and smart technologies, thereby accommodating Gen Z's need for safe, well-maintained, and productive public spaces.

INTRODUCTION

The development of cities in Indonesia has been occurring rapidly, accompanied by increasing demands for land use to support various urban activities, such as settlements, trade, and services (Arifin et al., 2023; Fitri et al., 2023; Gandharum et al., 2024; Rachmawati et al., 2024; Salim & Faoziyah, 2022; Suhartini & Jones, 2023). This condition has directly placed pressure on the availability of green open space (GOS), which is an essential component of urban ecosystems due to its functions as an urban ecological regulator, provider of environmental aesthetics, and means of mitigating climate change impacts (Mahipal, 2024). The Indonesian government, through Law Number 26 of 2007 concerning Spatial Planning, requires each city to provide at least 30% green open space of its total area, consisting of 20% public GOS and 10% private GOS, to maintain ecosystem balance, air quality, and urban aesthetics.

Amid the increasing demand for GOS provision, urban demographic dynamics have also been influenced by the dominance of Generation Z (Gen Z), a population group born between 1997 and 2012 (Ramadhan & Ernaya, 2023). As a generation that has grown alongside rapid developments in digital technology and social media, Gen Z exhibits

distinctive characteristics, including practicality, creativity, sensitivity toward environmental and social issues, and the ability to utilize information technology. In Cirebon City, the Gen Z population was recorded at 83,840 people in 2025 (Central Statistics Agency, 2025), indicating that this generation represents one of the dominant population groups requiring consideration in urban spatial planning, particularly regarding the provision of public spaces that support their characteristics and needs.

However, Gen Z's high creative potential has not been matched by the availability of adequate public spaces as platforms for discussion and idea development (Almadina & Marcillia, 2024; Krishna & Agrawal, 2024; Mohamed, 2025; Saputra, 2024). The limited availability of public discussion spaces may restrict younger generations' opportunities to express their ideas and creativity. These needs can be addressed through the optimization of existing GOS without requiring the construction of new infrastructure, allowing GOS to function not only as an ecological element but also as a social space that adapts to the needs of younger urban communities.

Conceptually, public space is understood as an area accessible to urban communities without restrictions on time or cost and serves as a medium for social interaction (Danisworo, 2004). Public spaces may include enclosed spaces, such as shopping centers and museums, as well as open spaces, such as parks and squares. These open public spaces are commonly referred to as open spaces, one form of which is GOS (Astutiek et al., 2022; Nieuwenhuijsen et al., 2022; Pereira & Rebelo, 2024; Venter et al., 2024; Аныар et al., 2025). Based on Law Number 26 of 2007 and reinforced by Regulation of the Minister of Public Works Number 05/PRT/M/2008, GOS is defined as an elongated area/path or clustered area whose utilization is open and serves as a place for vegetation growth, either naturally occurring or intentionally planted. GOS performs ecological functions as a microclimate regulator and pollutant absorber, social functions as a space for interaction and recreation, economic functions as support for business activities, and aesthetic functions as an element that shapes urban identity and beauty (Purnomohadi, 1995; Imansari & Khadiyanta, 2015).

Previous studies have examined the provision and utilization of GOS from various perspectives; however, most studies have generally focused on the broader community or management perspectives from the government's standpoint and have not specifically highlighted Gen Z's perspective. Imansari and Khadiyanta (2015), in their research in Tangerang City, found that communities preferred public GOS that functioned as shaded areas and urban lungs while also serving as centers for resident interaction and communication, with comfort being the primary consideration in GOS provision. Similar findings were reported in research examining urban park provision in the Kaidipang Area, North Bolaang Mongondow, which showed that ideal GOS should function as shaded areas, centers of community interaction, and recreational facilities supported by adequate infrastructure.

On a more specific scale, Maulan and Sulistyarso (2019) found that communities in Jambangan District, Surabaya City, prioritized the ecological function of GOS as an oxygen producer, followed by social functions as platforms for education and citizen communication, as well as aesthetic functions that stimulate community creativity. The study also formulated strategies for optimizing public GOS through institutional strengthening, land-use planning,

recreational development, and community social participation. Meanwhile, Mahipal (2024) highlighted the urgency of increasing GOS availability in the Bogor area amid urbanization pressures, proposing strategies including urban park development, green area conservation, green zoning implementation, and vertical GOS development as innovative solutions to urban land limitations.

Regarding the utilization of GOS as an activity space for younger generations, Indria et al. (2022) examined recreational and educational activities in Tanjung Bersinar Park, South Kalimantan, and found that GOS could function as a living space through visitors' active participation in sports, recreational activities, and environmental education. However, public awareness regarding cleanliness maintenance still required improvement. From an economic and environmental health perspective, Maryam (2026), through a community service program in Rampoang Village, Palopo City, demonstrated that integrating productive GOS through urban farming could improve community understanding while strengthening local economic resilience and food security.

The synthesis of these studies indicates that GOS has multifunctional roles encompassing ecological, social, economic, and aesthetic dimensions, and that the success of GOS provision largely depends on its suitability with user preferences and characteristics. However, most previous studies have continued to view communities as homogeneous groups without specifically examining how generations with distinct characteristics, such as Gen Z, perceive and utilize GOS as spaces for activities, creativity, and social interaction. This research gap is increasingly relevant considering the significant proportion of Gen Z in Cirebon City and the need for urban planning approaches that provide adaptive GOS according to future generations' needs.

The urgency of this research stems from the fact that Gen Z and Millennials represent a substantial proportion of Cirebon City's population, while existing GOS provision remains below the 30% target mandated by spatial planning regulations. Furthermore, existing GOS faces performance gaps, particularly regarding hydrological functions for flood mitigation and environmental safety systems. The novelty of this study lies in its generation-specific approach, focusing on how Gen Z, characterized by digital familiarity, environmental awareness, and creative potential, perceives and utilizes GOS in Cirebon City.

Based on this background, this study was formulated to answer two main research questions: how Gen Z perceives the availability of GOS in Cirebon City and how the characteristics of ideal GOS are formed from the perspective of Gen Z. In line with these research questions, this study aimed to examine Gen Z's perceptions of GOS availability in Cirebon City and identify the characteristics of GOS based on Gen Z's preferences. The results of this study are expected to contribute academically to the development of generation-based GOS studies and provide practical input for the Cirebon City Government in planning GOS that is responsive to the needs of younger urban generations.

METHOD

This study employed a quantitative approach with a descriptive method to examine Generation Z's perceptions of the availability and ideal characteristics of Green Open Space (GOS) in Cirebon City. This approach was selected because the study aimed to describe

respondents' perceptions based on numerical data obtained from questionnaires, which were presented through tables, graphs, and average scores to facilitate data interpretation.

Research Location

This research was conducted in the Cirebon City area, West Java Province. The determination of this location is only in the Cirebon City area which includes the sub-districts of Harjamukti, Lemahwungkuk, Pekalipan, Kejaksan, and Kesambi.

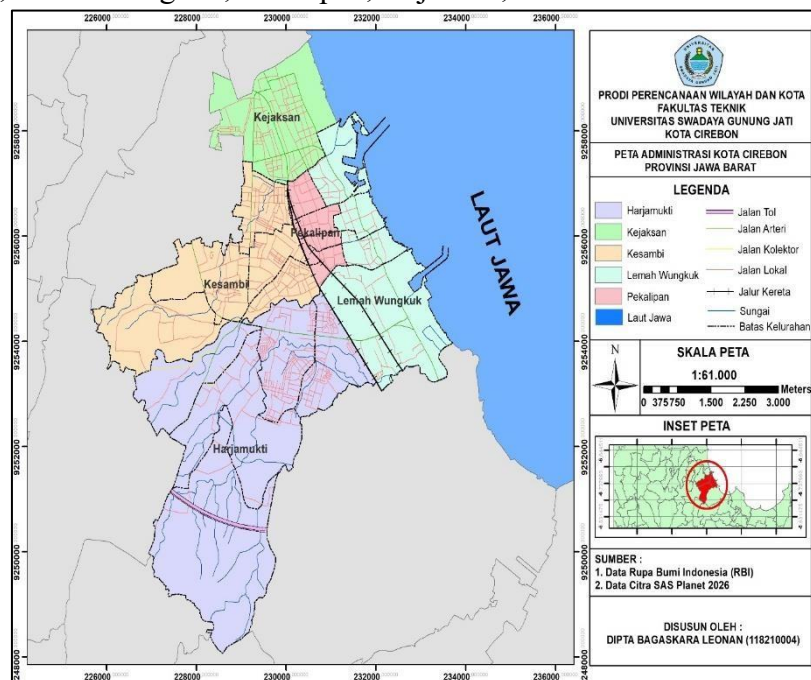


Figure 1. Cirebon City Administration Map Source: RBI, Citra SAS 2026

The determination of the variables of this study explains the variables needed in the research consisting of relevant previous research and also explains the table of study research elaboration which can be seen below this table:

Table 1. Determination of Research Variables

Yes	References	Kriteria Ideal RTH	Indicator
1	Al Fikram	1. Has an ecological function 2. Has a Social function 3. Has an Aesthetic function 4. Supervision and management of RTH by the government 5. Land functions for the community 6. Completeness of supporting facilities and infrastructure	1. Required RTH functions 2. Institutional Aspects 3. Land Use Aspects 4. Recreational Aspects 5. Social Aspects
2	Tariza Noviranti	1. Tourist Attractions 2. Accessible accessibility 3. Facilities and infrastructure to support tourism are available	1. Beauty and Comfort 2. used for recreation and social activities 3. Hygiene 4. Freedom of activity

3	Indra	1. Urban Agriculture	1. Support for the local economy
	Maryam	2. A place for community socialization	2. Social interaction 3. Public health 4. Community participation 5. Cost efficiency

Source: Researcher Analysis (2026)

From the references that have been presented, it can be concluded that the ideal RTH component is divided into 4 aspects, namely:

1. Ecological Aspect: Related to the environmental function of RTH such as maintaining ecosystem balance, improving air quality, reducing pollution, and as a water catchment area to prevent flooding
2. Social Aspect: Emphasizing the function of RTH as a space for community interaction, such as recreation, sports, and social activities.
3. Visual Aspect: Related to the beauty value displayed by RTH, such as garden arrangement, plant type selection, and harmonious space design.
4. Economic Aspect: Related to the economic benefits that can be generated from the existence of RTH both directly and indirectly, such as increasing the value of property around RTH.

The description of the variables used in this study can be seen in the table below:

Table 2. The description of Variables App

Yes	Aspects	Criteria	Definition
1	Ecology	1. Have vegetation2. Able to absorb rainwater	RTH functions as a support for environmental balance which plays a role in maintaining air, water, and soil quality through the existence of vegetation and the ability to absorb rainwater.
2	Social	1. Easily accessible to the public2. Safe and comfortable3. Provide public facilities	RTH functions as a community interaction space that supports social activities, recreation, education, sports, and health with easy access, safe and comfortable conditions, and supported by adequate public facilities.
3	Economy	1. Supporting economic activities (MSMEs)2. Has a tourist attraction	RTH has economic value, both directly and indirectly, through supporting MSME activities, increasing tourist visits, and contributing to the community's economy.
4	Visual	1. Neat and harmonious arrangement2. Well maintained and clean3. Become an identity or landmark of the region	RTH functions to beautify urban areas through neat arrangement, cleanliness and good maintenance, as well as its existence as an identity or landmark of an area.

Source: Researcher Analysis (2026)

Thus, this study uses the above variables consisting of 4 aspects and 12 ideal RTH criteria that will be tested on the respondents, and then analyzed to produce the ideal RTH preference based on the perspective of Gen Z in Cirebon City.

Data Collection Methods

Data was collected by an online questionnaire through google form with the purposive sampling method, purposive sampling is a sampling technique in research conducted by researchers on certain respondents. By definition, the main purpose of using purposive

sampling is to find samples that fit the criteria that have been specifically determined by the researcher. In addition, the purpose of purposive sampling is to explain a problem clearly because the representative sample has a representative value so that the main goal can be met.

There are several requirements that must be met in order for purposive sampling to remain valid for use, including:

1. The characteristics of the population should be in accordance with the objectives of the study.
2. Samples by individual, group, or region must meet the background desired by the research.
3. The selected sample must really be the majority characteristic of the population.

There are several requirements that need to be understood when using purposive sampling, including:

- a. The more samples taken, the better the research results obtained.
- b. The size of the sample depends on the consideration of the researcher, whether it meets the needs of the research.
- c. The background of the sample must have characteristics relevant to the study.

This study requires respondent criteria for questionnaire data collection, which is described in the following table:

Table 3. Respondent Criteria

NO	Criteria	Description
1	Age	18-29 years old
2	Gender	Men and women
3	Domicile	Cirebon City Area
4	Status	Students, Students, or Young Workers
5	A visit to RTH	Have visited RTH at least 1 time
6	Knowledge of RTH	Knowing about the concept of Green Open Space
7	Activities at RTH	Have done activities at RTH (sports, recreation, gathering, etc.)
8	Respondent Willingness	Willing to fill out the questionnaire voluntarily

Source: Researcher Analysis (2026)

Method Sampling

The sampling technique in this study is Purposive sampling. According to Sugiyono (2014) Purposive sampling is a sampling technique with certain considerations, currently the researcher uses a method based on the criteria that have been set by the researcher this time with an objective. In this study, the researcher has special criteria in sampling, namely Gen Z with an age range of 18-29 years with a Gen Z population of 83,840 in Cirebon City.

In this study, in determining how many samples are used, the Slovin Formula is a formula to calculate or process the minimum number of samples, when the actions of a person or group of the population are not known in real or definite terms.

Slovin Formula

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

Description:

n = Minimum Sample Count

N = Population

e = error margin

$$n = \frac{83840}{1 + 83840 \cdot 0,12}$$

= 99.88 rounded to 100

Based on this slovin formula using a standard error of 10%, a sample of 99.88 respondents was obtained or can be rounded to 100 respondents.

Data Processing Methods

The data processing method uses descriptive statistics, It is a field of statistical science that studies how to collect, compile, and present data in a research. Descriptive statistics is a part of statistical science that summarizes, presents and describes data in an easy-to-read form so as to provide more complete information. Descriptive statistics are only concerned with describing or providing information about a data or situation or phenomenon, in other words only looking at the general picture of the data obtained.

One of the commonly used data centering measures is the mean. In addition to the form of data centering sizes, it can also be presented in the form of one of which is pareto charts and tables. The following is an explanation of means, pareto diagrams, and tables (Santosa, 2004).

1. Red

Mean is commonly translated as average or average. The mean is denoted by the x sign with a line on it ($\bar{x}$) or commonly called the x bar. The mean of a population is denoted by μ , while for the sample it is denoted by $\bar{x}$ (Kuswanto, 2012). If there is a variable X , namely X1, X2, X3, ... , X_N as the result of observation or observation of N times, then the population mean (Santosa, 2004).

$$\mu = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N X_i}{N}$$

Description :

- μ : the average of a set N
- X_i : variable value to i
- i and N denote the number of variables.

2. Diagram Pareto

A Pareto chart is a series of bar charts that describe the frequency or influence of a process or state or problem. The diagram is arranged from highest to lowest from left to right.

3. Table

In this study, Gen Z preferences from this data will be processed using a table to show the distribution of respondents' answers in detail and charts are used to provide a clearer visual picture of Gen Z's perception. Through this presentation, researchers can identify Gen Z in a more systematic and informative way so that the results of the research can be understood more easily.

Then it is carried out using SPSS with the normality test and the Chi-Square test as follows:

a. Normality Test

The Normality Test is a test that is carried out with the aim of assessing the distribution of data on a data group or variable, whether the distribution of data is valid or invalid.

b. Uji Chi Square

The Chi-Square or X2 method for the Normal-Distribution Goodness of fit Test uses an approach of summing the deviation of the observation data of each class with the expected value. The Chi-square test is often used by researchers as a normality test tool (Statistician, 2013).

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$$

Normality Test Formula with Chi-Square Description:

X2 = Value X2

O_i = Observation value

E_i = Expected value, the area of the class interval based on the normal table multiplied by N (total frequency) (p_i x N)

N = Number of numbers in the data (total frequency)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Respondent Characteristics

Based on the data obtained from this study, it is supported by the number of 100 respondents using the slovin formula in the perspective of gen z against green open spaces, with the following results:

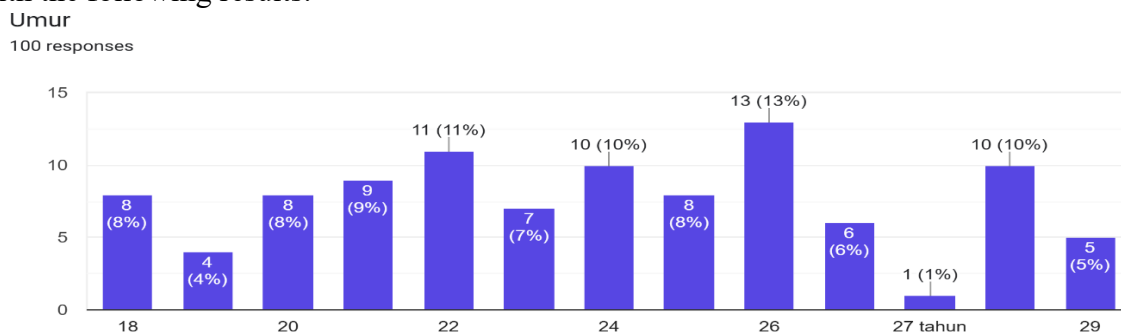


Figure 2. Respondent Age Source: Researcher Analysis (2026)

It can be seen from the graph above that the age of respondents with the dominant age range is 18 – 26 years, with less than 20 years of age totaling 20 people, 21 – 25 years of age totaling 58 people, and over 25 years of age totaling 43 people.

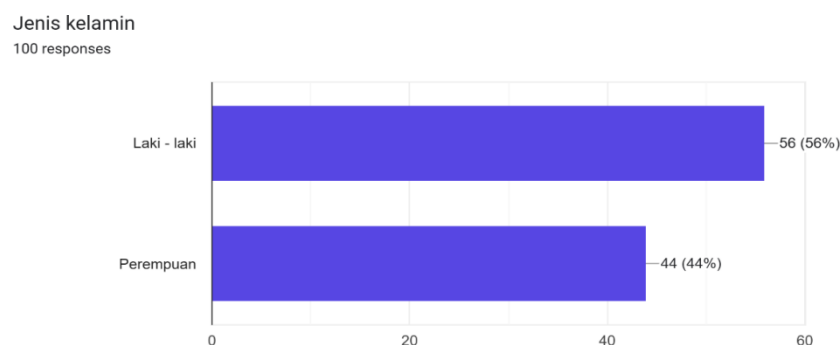


Figure 3. Respondent Gender Source: Researcher Analysis (2026)

It can be seen from the graph above that gender is more dominant with 56 people.

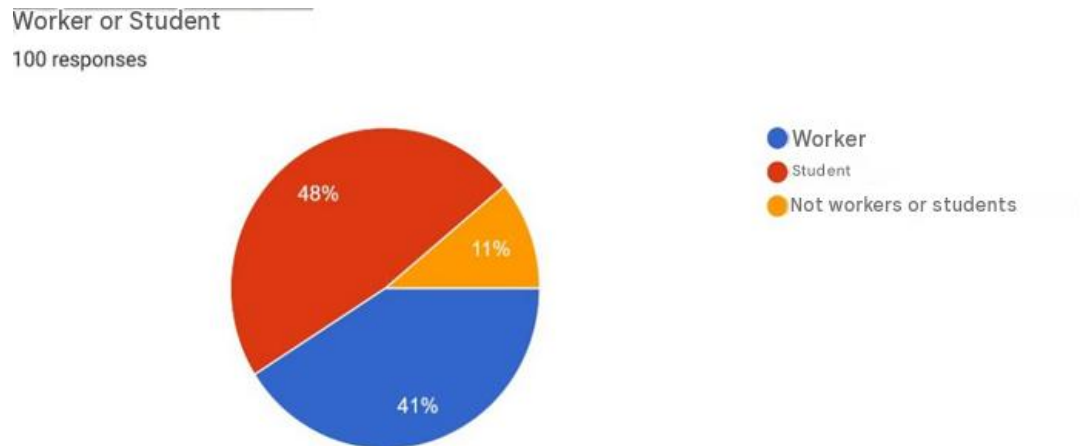


Figure 4. Respondent Job Type Source: Researcher Analysis (2026)

The results of the chart above show that students are more dominant as many as 48% of workers and not workers or students.

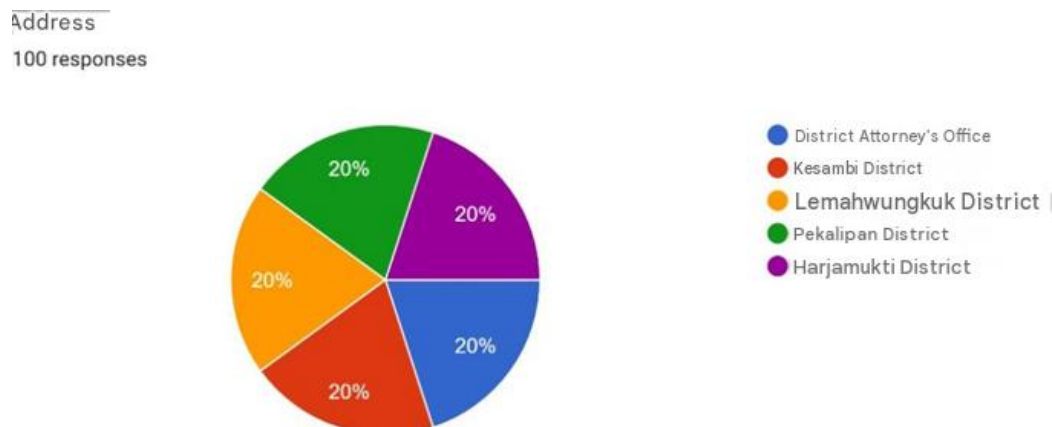


Figure 5. Distribution of Respondent Addresses Source: Researcher Analysis (2026)

From the chart above, it can be concluded that each sub-district contributes 20% of the distribution per sub-district.

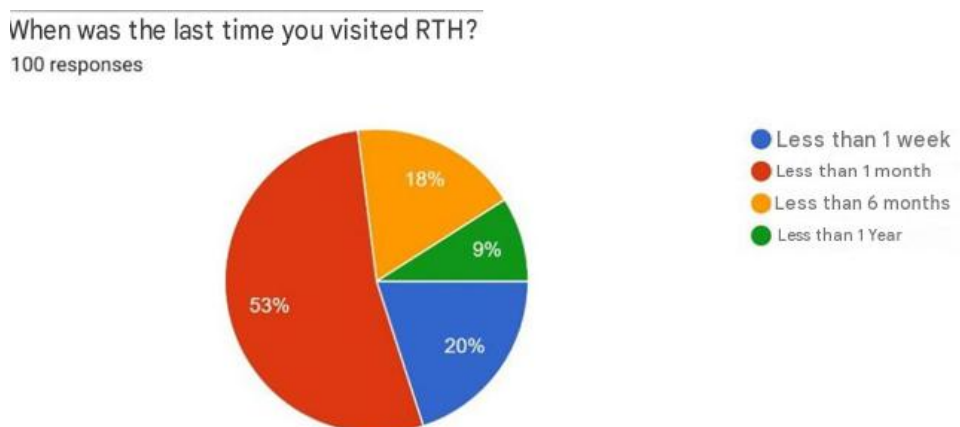


Figure 6. How often do visits to RTH Source: Researcher Analysis (2026)

From the results of the chart above, it was stated that visits to RTH were dominant for less than 20 weeks, less than 1 month 53%, less than 6 months 16%, and less than 1 year for 9%.

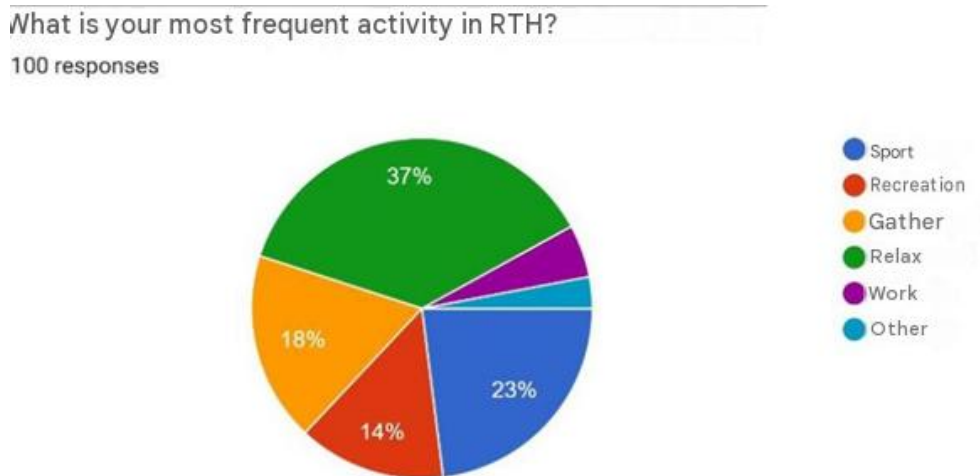


Figure 7. Types of Activities Carried out in RTH Source: Researcher Analysis (2026)

It can be concluded from the chart above that the most dominant activity carried out by RTH visitors is to relax with a percentage of 37% of the 6 available activity options. Based on the characteristics of Gen Z respondents, the use of Green Open Space (RTH) shows that Gen Z is more comfortable relaxing, this shows that Green Open Space (RTH) is more widely used as a space to unwind, rest, and socialize. Thus, Gen Z likes Green Open Space (RTH) as a place of relaxation where the more comfortable and attractive the quality of RTH, the higher their tendency to visit and use RTH regularly.

Characteristics of RTH Based on the Perspective of Gen Z

Based on the results of the respondents obtained, the results of the characteristics of green open space (RTH) were obtained using the following formula:

$$\text{Indicator score formula (Si)} = (\text{Fi1} * 1) + (\text{Fi2} * 2) + (\text{Fi3} * 3) + (\text{Fi4} * 4) + (\text{Fi5} * 5)$$

Remarks : Fi1 = frequency of answer score 1

Fi2 = Frequency of Answer Score 2

Fi3 = frequency of answer score 3

Fi4 = frequency of answer score 4

Fi5 = frequency of answer score 5

To find the weight of perception by:

$$\text{Perceived achievement weight} = \frac{n \text{ score} * n \text{ min}}{N \text{ max}}$$

N max

Remarks : n score = total score obtained

n min = minimum 100

n max = maximum 500

For an average understanding with:

$$\text{Average comprehension} = \frac{n \text{ score}}{n \text{ min}}$$

n min

Remarks : n score = total score obtained

n min = minimum 100

With the formula above, the results of the Green Open Space (RTH) are obtained as follows in the table:

Table 4. Respondents' perspectives on RTH needs

No	Aspects	Criteria	Indicator	1	2	3	4	5	Scores	(%)	Average
1	Ekologi	Vegetasi	The presence of plants in the garden	0	13	0	68	19	393	78,6	3,93
			Vegetation as shade	0	12	0	69	19	395	79,0	3,95
			Vegetation for visuals and aesthetics	0	15	3	15	67	434	86,8	4,34
		Absorbing Rainwater	The garden has a drainage system	0	11	1	69	19	396	79,2	3,96
2	Social	Easily accessible to the public	The park is accessible without guardrails	0	14	4	67	15	383	76,6	3,83
			The park is accessible on foot	0	8	1	72	19	402	80,4	4,02
			The park is accessible by vehicle	0	10	6	67	17	391	78,2	3,91
			Walking distance to the park	21	45	24	10	0	223	44,6	2,23
		Safe and Convenient	The park has security	0	10	1	75	14	393	78,6	3,93
		Public Facilities	Special pathways for people with disabilities	0	9	1	72	18	399	79,8	3,99
			Parks as a gathering place	0	4	3	81	12	401	80,2	4,01
			Parks as a place of recreation	0	9	6	72	13	389	77,8	3,89
			The park has health facilities	0	10	2	77	11	389	77,8	3,89
			The park has a playground	0	10	5	71	14	389	77,8	3,89
			Activity signs	0	11	4	69	16	390	78,0	3,90
			Wi-Fi network available	0	13	4	64	19	389	77,8	3,89
			Parks as a place to exercise	0	6	7	75	12	393	78,6	3,93
			Garden as a place for rehearsals and art	0	11	7	71	11	382	76,4	3,82

			performances									
			Parks as a community gathering place	0	18	3	67	12	373	74,6	3,73	
3	Economy	Economic Activity	Parks as a place for MSMEs	0	6	6	76	12	394	78,8	3,94	
		Tourist Attractions	Parks as tourist attractions	0	9	8	71	12	386	77,2	3,86	
4	Visual	Neat and Harmonious	The garden is neatly arranged and harmonious	1	15	3	69	12	375	75,0	3,75	
		Maintained and Clean	Manicured and clean garden	0	5	3	72	20	407	81,4	4,07	
		Regional Identity	Parks have an identity or landmarks	0	10	4	77	9	385	77,0	3,85	

Source: Researcher Analysis (2026)

Based on the results of primary data processing in table 4 regarding the perspective of respondents related to the need for RTH, it was found that public perception of urban public spaces is centered on aspects of visual quality, physical comfort, and inclusivity of spatial functions. In general, the highest needs voiced by the community are in the ecological and visual aspects of the park. This is empirically shown by the vegetation function indicator for visual and aesthetics which occupies the highest score of 434 (perceived weight of 86.8). This figure indicates that the main expectations of the community for the presence of RTH are not just the fulfillment of formal green elements, but as a support for the beauty of the urban landscape that has high architectural value.

These visual needs are linearly correlated with the high demands on the maintenance of facilities in the field. The indicator of well-maintained and clean parks ranks second highest with a score of 407 (perceived weight of 81.4), which confirms that aspects of cleanliness management and post-construction maintenance are an absolute prerequisite for the comfort of residents who use public spaces.

In the dimension of spatial mobility, there are anomalous findings that are crucial for the evaluation of spatial planning. On the one hand, respondents strongly want easy access to RTH on foot, which is shown by the high score of the ease of access indicator on foot of 402 (perceived weight of 80.4). But on the other hand, the indicator of walking time from the residence to the park location actually recorded the lowest score among all the variables tested, which was only 223 with a perception weight of 44.6 and an average understanding of 2.23. This very low value reflects the real conditions on the ground that the spatial distribution of RTH is currently considered uneven and the location is still too far from the reach of residents' housing. As a result, the distance and duration of travel factors are the main physical obstacles that reduce the intensity of people in utilizing green public spaces spontaneously every day.

Furthermore, when viewed from social and economic aspects, the community has a strong orientation towards inclusive and productive RTH. The need for public space as a forum for social interaction is confirmed through the indicator of the park as a gathering

place (score of 401; weight of 80.2) which is closely related to the need to provide special path facilities for people with disabilities (score of 399; weight of 79.8). This data proves the existence of high social awareness from respondents to create public spaces that are friendly to all age groups and physical abilities. Interestingly, RTH is no longer seen as a passive space for nature conservation alone, but has shifted towards local economic drivers. This aspiration is reflected in the high support for the indicator of park utilization as a forum for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) which achieved a score of 394 (perception weight of 78.8). The integration of creative economy functions shows that the optimization of public RTH in the future must be able to synergize traditional ecological roles (such as shade vegetation and water infiltration drainage) with local community economic empowerment programs to create resilient and sustainable urban areas.

Table 5. Evaluation of RTH performance based on respondents' perspective with a guttman scale approach

Yes	Aspects	Criteria	Indicator	Yes	No
1	Ekologi	Vegetasi	Is the existence of RTH/parks in Cirebon City adequate?	53	47
			Does the garden have lush and dense vegetation?	64	36
		Absorbing Rainwater	Can parks in Cirebon City help prevent inundation and flooding?	49	51
2	Social	Accessibility	Are parks in Cirebon City easily accessible to the public?	52	48
		Safety and Comfort	Does the park visited have a good level of security?	49	51
		Public Facilities	Does the park have a dedicated path for people with disabilities?	52	48
			Does the park provide facilities as a gathering place, recreation, playground, and health facilities?	51	49
			Does RTH have rules in activities?	48	52
			Does RTH provide Wi-Fi?	53	47
			Can parks be used as sports facilities?	59	41
			Can the park be used for rehearsals and art performances?	52	48
			Can the park be used as a community gathering place?	60	40
3	Economy	Economic Activity	Are parks used as a place for MSME activities?	59	41
		Tourist Attractions	Does the park serve as a tourist attraction?	53	47
4	Visual	Neatness and Harmony	Is the garden neat and harmonious?	52	48
		Hygiene and Care	Is RTH well-maintained and clean?	52	48
		Regional Identity	Does RTH have an identity or landmark of the area?	59	41

Source: Researcher Analysis (2026)

Based on the results of primary data processing in Table 5, the performance evaluation of public Green Open Space (RTH) in Cirebon City was carried out using the Guttman scale approach to see the firmness of respondents' perception of existing conditions ("Yes" or

"No"). In general, the results of the test showed a fairly sharp polarization of opinion where the percentage of negative ratings ("No") on most macro indicators almost equaled or even exceeded their positive ratings. The most crucial performance deficits are found in the ecological aspects and the guarantee of spatial security. The indicator of the ability of city parks to prevent waterlogging and flooding recorded a negative assessment of the majority of 51%, which is linear with the indicator of safety assurance in the park which also achieved a "No" score of 51%. This figure is a strong signal that functionally, RTH in Cirebon City has not been able to carry out its ecological role as an urban flood control infrastructure and has not provided a safe psychological space for residents to carry out activities in it.

On the other hand, the portrait of social infrastructure and the completeness of public facilities showed a performance that was considered quite good by the respondents, although there was still significant room for evaluation. Positive perceptions of residents were recorded in the use of parks as a communal space to gather with the community (60% said "Yes") and the effectiveness of parks as a means of exercise (59% said "Yes"). The presence of RTH as a public space is also felt as a driver of the local economy, where 59% of respondents agree that parks have functioned well as a forum for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which is also supported by the ownership of a strong landscape identity or regional landmarks (59% said "Yes"). The existence of other supporting facilities such as wifi network access, special lanes for people with disabilities, cleanliness, and visual physical regularity of the park on average achieved a thin positive response in the range of 52% to 53%.

However, the consistently high rejection rate ("No") in the range of 41% to 49% in the indicators of facilities, visual aesthetics, and accessibility confirms that the quality of RTH services is currently in a critical limit condition. Moreover, there are complaints about the regulatory aspect in the field, where 52% of respondents consider that RTH does not have clear and structured rules for activities. In summary, the findings of the Guttman scale show that there is a gap between citizens' high social expectations for productive-recreational RTH and the reality of the physical performance of urban parks which are still weak in ecological mitigation functions, enforcement of public space rules of order, and security protection guarantees for their users.

The Needs of RTH in Cirebon City Based on the Perspective of Gen Z

Through the analysis process that has been carried out, it can be concluded that Gen Z expects the Green Open Space (RTH) in Cirebon City to have an increase in local plants to create a shady atmosphere and for a drainage system for Gen Z is needed for flood control or waterlogging. Then, in terms of social aspects, the Green Open Space (RTH) is expected to be accessible by the public both on foot, private vehicles, and through available public transportation. Gen Z also needs public facilities such as gathering areas, sports facilities, community spaces and more diversified internet access. In terms of security, improvements are needed in the Green Open Space (RTH) to create safety and comfort for visitors and be able to support MSME activities to encourage opportunities in the field of entrepreneurship, and also function to make the Green Open Space (RTH) a neatly organized, clean, and harmonious tourist and recreational destination.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the quantitative descriptive analysis and spatial performance evaluation conducted, this study successfully derived two main conclusions related to the perception and ideal characteristics of public Green Open Space (GOS) for Generation Z in Cirebon City.

The ideal GOS characteristics desired by Gen Z indicate the need for a paradigm shift from passive public spaces toward aesthetic, inclusive, and productive spaces. In the ecological aspect, Gen Z prioritized the aesthetic quality of vegetation as the main factor in shaping the visual quality of the urban landscape. From the social perspective, site accessibility, particularly pedestrian accessibility and the availability of disability-friendly pathways, represented key requirements. Meanwhile, in the economic and visual aspects, Gen Z preferred the integration of clean, well-maintained, and community-oriented public spaces that support local creative economic activities through the provision of dedicated spaces for MSME actors. These preferences align with Gen Z's tendency to utilize GOS as a third space for relaxation and social interaction.

The existing performance evaluation using the Guttman scale approach revealed a critical gap between Gen Z's expectations and the physical conditions of parks in Cirebon City. Existing GOS was considered adequate in providing basic vegetation and facilities; however, it demonstrated limited performance in hydrological functions, such as water retention and flood mitigation, and lacked environmental safety systems that ensure visitor comfort. This gap was further reflected in the uneven spatial distribution of GOS, as indicated by respondents' concerns regarding the accessibility and travel time required to reach park locations.

Based on these findings, future GOS planning in Cirebon City should move beyond conventional top-down approaches and adopt a more participatory and adaptive strategy. The Cirebon City Government is recommended to implement the Smart & Sustainable Eco-Park concept. This concept transforms urban green infrastructure by integrating applied ecological elements, such as sustainable drainage systems and additional infiltration areas; smart technologies, including public internet access and solar-powered facilities; and improved public space management regulations. These strategies are expected to support Gen Z's need for creative discussion spaces while ensuring safe, comfortable, and sustainable urban environments.

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