

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 6170

Introduced by Rep. CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

AN ACT

**MANDATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN SPACES IN BARANGAYS,
MUNICIPALITIES, CITIES AND PROVINCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution affirms the State's duty to protect and advance the people's right to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

To this end, the government and various civil society organizations and agencies have promoted urban greening and development of green spaces. However, in dense urban areas, developing and maintaining green spaces is challenging due to limited land and competing land use.

The World Health Organization has issued a guideline recommending a minimum of nine (9) square meters of green space per person within a 15-minute walking distance.¹ Yet many urban areas, particularly in Metro Manila, fall short of this benchmark.

For example, reports indicate that Quezon City has approximately 23% green space and about 20% tree coverage.² Although this appears promising, it remains insufficient to serve residents adequately around the area.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the country has roughly 12,152.79 hectares urban green spaces. However, as of 2020, about 54% of the

¹ <https://mb.com.ph/2025/1/25/a-walk-in-the-park-the-need-for-urban-green-spaces>

² Ibid

population lived in urban areas,³ and the mid 2025-population is estimated at 116.8 million.⁴ Based on these figures, the existing urban green spaces are inadequate to serve the populace.

Green spaces are essential to sustainable urban living. It enhances public health, mitigate heat and flood risks, and provide accessible opportunities for recreation and contact with nature. Recent extreme weather and disaster events further underscore the urgency of investing in resilient, well-distributed green spaces.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

³https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2023/06/5._unhabitat_philippines_country_report_2023_final_compressed.d
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⁴ <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/philippines>
population/#:~:text=the%20Philippines%202025%20population%20is,the%20Philippines%20is%2026.1%20years



Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives

Quezon City, Metro Manila

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AN ACT MANDATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN SPACES IN BARANGAYS, MUNICIPALITIES, CITIES AND PROVINCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1.** *Short Title* - This Act shall be known and cited as “Green Spaces Act”

2 **SECTION 2.** *Declaration of Policy*- It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
3 protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful in accord with the rhythm
4 and harmony of nature.

5 To this end, the State shall promote and institutionalize the development and
6 maintenance of green spaces in the barangays, municipalities, cities and provinces, with priority
7 in densely populated urban areas, to provide accessible spaces for recreation, health and wellness,
8 environmental services, and climate and disaster risk reduction benefits.

9 **SECTION 3.** *Scope*- This Act shall cover all barangays, municipalities, cities and
10 provinces in the country.

SECTION 4. *Definition of terms-* For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. Environment refers to the surroundings; all conditions, circumstances and influences surrounding and affecting the development of an organism or group of organisms;
- b. Green spaces- also known as urban spaces, refers to open spaces that are designed with soft and hard landscaping intended for leisure, recreation and promenade. Green spaces shall also provide environmental support and promote both physical and mental aspects of human well-being;
- c. Soft landscaping- refers to living elements such as plants, trees and grass;
- d. Hard Landscaping- refers to non-living materials such as walls, fences, driveways and patios.

SECTION 5. *Objectives* – This Act shall have the following objectives pursuant to the policy declared herein:

- a. Build and maintain green spaces in the barangays, municipalities, cities and provinces;
- b. Develop green spaces where people can conduct health and wellness activities such as jogging, Zumba, yoga or tai-chi;
- c. Integrate the development of green spaces as part of beautification and environmental program of every local government unit consistent with national policy.

SECTION 6. *Green Space Development Committee* – There is hereby created a National Committee which shall be responsible for planning, standard-setting, coordination and monitoring of green space development in the country.

The Committee shall be composed of the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as Chairperson, with the Secretary of Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) as Co-Chairperson, and the Secretaries of Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Tourism (DOT) as members. The Committee may invite other agencies (e.g MMDA, NEDA, DepED) as resource members and shall designate a Secretariat.

SECTION 7. *Functions of the Green Space Development Committee-* This Committee shall initiate, coordinate and monitor the activities pertaining to green spaces development in the country.

It shall coordinate with the local government units, civil society organizations, the League of Provinces of the Philippines, League of Cities of the Philippines, and the Liga ng mga Barangay to mobilize resources and provide technical assistance for the implementation of this Act.

1 The Committee shall promulgate within one hundred eighty (180) days upon the
2 approval of this Act, the pertinent rules and regulations for its implementation.

3 **SECTION 8. *Prohibitions***- The cutting of trees and plants within green spaces shall be
4 prohibited unless authorized for reasons of public safety or health and in accordance with permits
5 and clearances required by law and regulations. Littering and vandalism of structures within the
6 green space shall likewise be strictly prohibited. The improper disposal of waste, illegal dumping,
7 and destruction of landscaping or park furniture are likewise prohibited.

8 **SECTION 9. *Penalties***- Any person who willfully or maliciously destroys or damages,
9 or litters within the green space shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than six (6) months
10 and one (1) day to one (1) year, or a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) but not
11 more than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00), or both fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of
12 the court.

13 **SECTION 10. *Appropriations***- The fund needed for the implementation of this Act
14 shall be taken from the available appropriations in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) the
15 under budget of DENR for the year; Provided that, for this purpose, funding shall be included in
16 the GAA for the following year and every year thereafter; Provided finally, that there shall be
17 equitable allocation of funds to all barangays, municipalities, cities and provinces for the
18 development and maintenance of established green spaces. Local government units may also
19 charge eligible expenditures to their development funds consistent with law.

20 **SECTION 11. *Separability Clause***. If any provision of this Act is declared
21 unconstitutional or inoperative, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and
22 effect.

23 **SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause***. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
24 parts thereof contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
25 modified accordingly.

26 **SECTION 13. *Effectivity Clause***. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
27 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

28 *Approved,*