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## Tree Preservation Order and Its Role in Enhancing the Quality of Life

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### Abstract

Trees are an important part of human community especially in the urban area. They can help to define the character of an area and create a sense of place. The deep enthusiasm for trees as an integral part of an urban environment is evident, thus protecting trees with aesthetic and a high amenity value is part of a good sustainable practice. This study is to analyze the implementation of TPO in tree management practice through interview and survey. Consequently, the results show that 80% of the respondents considered TPO were not fully utilized during proposed landscape design.

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**Keywords:** TPO; protecting trees; implementation; tree management

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## 1. Introduction

Trees are natural assets that need to preserve. The purpose of trees preservation is to ensure the future generation can enjoy the natural resources. Previous research survey in Malaysia has revealed the communities preferred landscapes that perceived as natural, environmental friendly and highly aesthetic in urban recreation areas (Noralizawati and Noriah, 2009). Local planning authorities have important responsibilities in preserving trees in the areas. Sections 35A, tree preservation order TPO is provided to protect certain trees to ensure the ecological system can be maintained. This section also gives the power to local planning authority to order the preservation of endangered trees or trees that has significant aesthetic values. According to national landscape guidelines, there are seven categories of trees that need to preserve such as from rare, endemic and endangered species, has historical and aesthetical value, protocol trees and trees in preservation areas.

Malaysia is one of the rich countries with beauty green areas. In addition, many matured and significant trees can be found in this country. Groups of Samanea saman (hujan hujan) in Taman Tasik Taiping are maintained by Taiping Municipal Council. Amazing landscape and variety of beautiful old trees in Labuan Botanical Garden (Nurul Nazyddah et al., 2014) can attract tourist from local and outsiders. However, the maintenance of trees is still frequently lacking, and public safety was often overlooked (Masbiha and Noriah, 2010). Lack of public interest in planning implementation (Wannasilpa, 2011) in preserving the trees is still at infancy level and no official documented or proper guideline to preserve the trees (Wan Noor Anira, 2014). Many studies have been conducted on the importance of urban trees (Sreetheran et al., 2006; Rafiuddin, 2011; Daniel et al., 2014), but none of these studies have taken TPO into consideration. The aim of this research is to explore the effectiveness of TPO in an urban area.

## 2. Literature reviews

### 2.1. Trees as important role in our life

Trees increase our quality of life, contribute to the health and well-being of humans by creating a peaceful, aesthetically pleasing environment and by bringing natural elements and wildlife habitats into urban settings. Trees enrich people lives and beautify landscapes, provide benefits and add value to developments. Preserving trees has positive effects on the image and attractiveness of developments and enhances developers' reputations and profits. Various people, such as landscape architects, arborists, engineers, architects, planners and municipal officials may become involved in preserving trees. Properly preserving trees in development takes time, good design, communication, and money.

Trees contribute to preserving and purifying the environment (Farahwaheeda et al., 2009) and their leaf shapes, colorful flowers, fruits and attractive forms in creating a beauty landscape. As living thing, the characteristics of the trees are changes with the periods from year to year. Mostly, trees give a lot of the positive impact on human life. In addition, they give beneficial to the community in creating a sense of well-being and reducing stress. The role of trees that will enhance the quality of human life can be classified as follow:

- Social

Humans were planted trees to provide shade and create beauty scenery. They feel peaceful, serene and tranquil in a grove of trees. The effect of urban greening will reduce the stress levels in the workplace, workers are more productive and reduce absenteeism problems (Mohd Akmal and Noriah, 2011), calm traffic and reduce crime in town areas. Urban trees make walking spaces safer as they protect the pedestrians from traffic. It also can be buffer sound and reduce noise pollution.

- Environmental

Trees improve the lifestyle by moderating local climate, reducing storm water runoff, improving air quality, protecting wildlife and attractive to birds (Suria et al., 2013). Planted trees in urban areas give the good effect on local climate such as moderated from rainfall, wind and sun direction. Planted trees in development area can moderate the heat-island effect that caused by the material of pavement (Jennifer et al., 2014) and glass buildings. Air quality will improve through leaves filter the air human breathe by removing dust and other particulars. It also

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