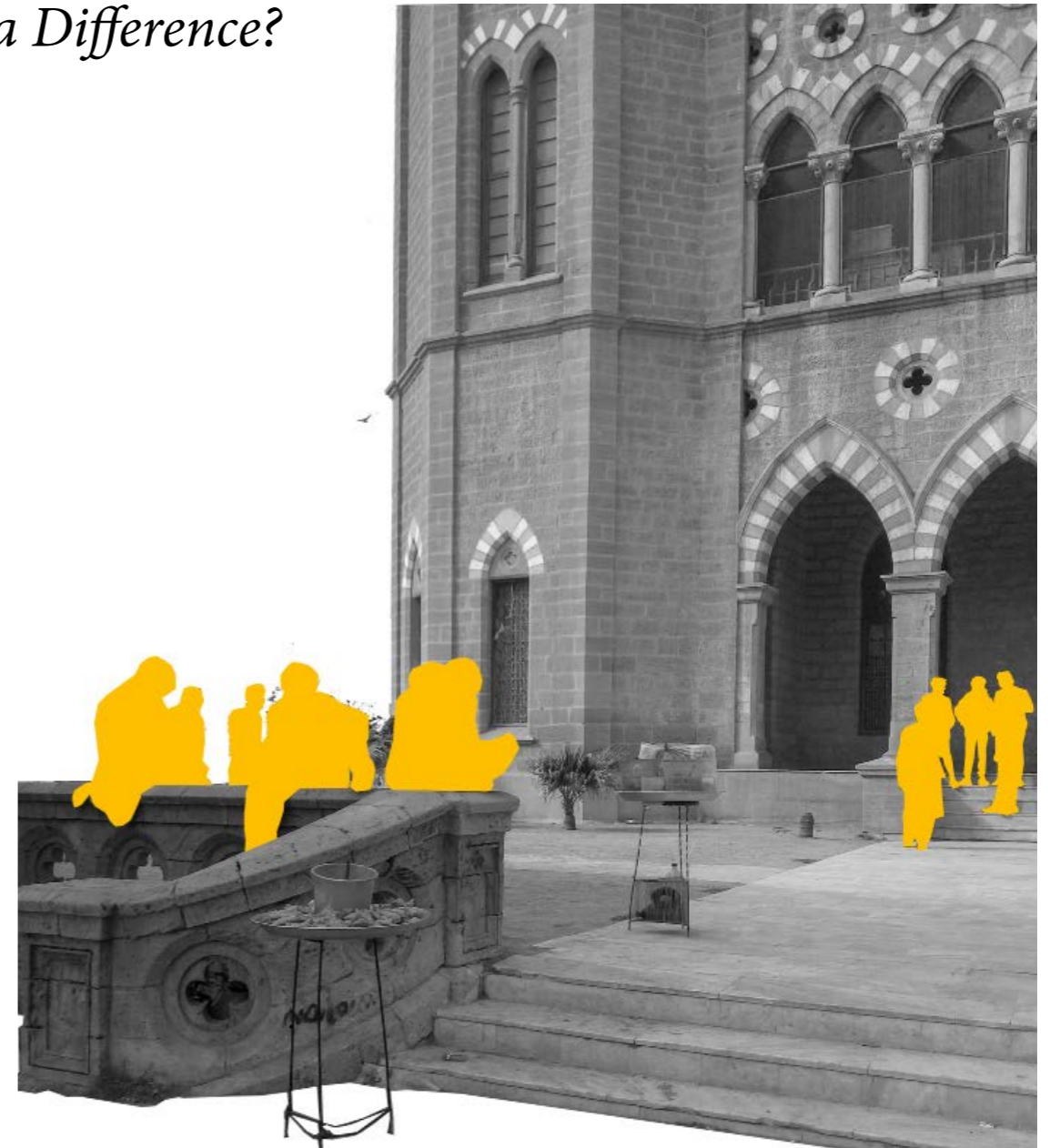
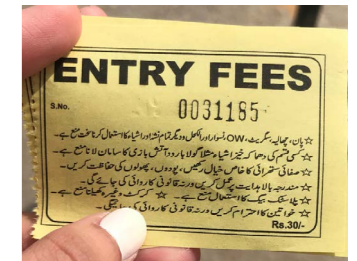
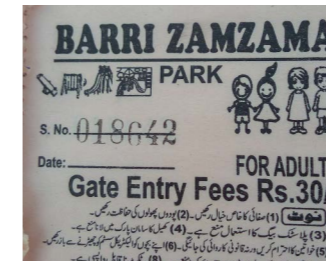


KARACHI'S PUBLIC PARKS

Does Design make a Difference?





Introduction
Walks In The Park
Taking Ownership
Designing A More Inclusive Future

Documented Parks
Bagh Ibn-e-Qasim
Baagh-e-Jinnah
Frere Hall
Hill Park
Jehangir Park
Nisar Shaheed Park
Mazar-e-Quaid
Zamzama Park

It is a late Saturday afternoon and Frere Hall's iconic Indo-Gothic facade has transformed from a dusty brown colour to a shimmering gold. As the sun begins to set, an eerie shadow falls upon the 444 ground-level tombstone structures that artist Adeela Suleman has created for the Karachi Biennale.

The following afternoon the exhibit is forcefully removed.

As journalists, activists and visitors (mostly from affluent neighbourhoods) gather to observe and document remnants of this controversial installation, families visiting from afar remain unaffected, enjoying picnics in the surrounding gardens. Adolescents sit casually on the balustrades of Frere Hall's outer podium and cheer each other on as they make energetic TikTok videos. Meanwhile, a Catholic couple has their wedding photographs taken in front of the hall's arched doorway. And hawkers try to capitalise on the footfall, hoping to sell samosas, paans and other delicious snacks.

The presence of individuals from all walks of life makes Frere Hall one of Karachi's few remaining multi-class, accessible, public spaces. But alas! It may not be long before this social gathering is also disrupted. The space may soon fall prey to another 'development' project, apparently aiming to sanitise the area, and in the process stripping it of the very characteristic that makes it such a treasured space — its inclusivity. The government claims that spaces like Frere Hall need to be 'protected,' but one wonders who exactly these places are being protected from.

This may be stating the obvious, but city parks and public spaces belong to everyone. Yet, with much frustration, the citizens of Karachi observe that parks are becoming instruments for social segregation. The corporate branding and private adoption of public spaces and parks in Karachi have transformed the relationship between citizens and community places. This ideological shift from public to private signals to women, individuals from lower-income groups and other minorities that their interests are secondary to the concerns of wealthier, mostly male users.

WALKS IN THE PARK

First up was Bagh Ibne Qasim. The park was built in 2007 in an attempt to transform the area around the historic monuments of Jahangir Kothari Parade and Lady Lloyd Pier. Its design was inspired by the iconic Mughal Charbagh. The 137-acre land certainly is grand. But like many grand structures, it is not meant to be enjoyed by the masses. The massive park is situated between two main roads and can only be entered from one controlled gate, making it inaccessible for most pedestrians. The park is surrounded by barbed wire.

Even after entering the park, one hardly feels welcomed. Bagh Ibne Qasim's policies prohibit visitors from eating food, playing sports or even walking on the grass. The trees within the park are trimmed and provide little to no shade. This environmental inconsideration makes Ibne Qasim unsuitable considering Karachi's warm and sunny climate.

The good news is that the park has necessary facilities like toilets. However, the plan is such that the toilets are at two opposite ends with only one functioning gate. Bagh Ibne Qasim also houses an amusement park, but that too is rundown and inaccessible.

Like Frere Hall, Ibne Qasim was another venue for the recent Karachi Biennale. The 'family only' entry policies, that disallow men unaccompanied by family (women) were still in place when the public art festival was on. But Biennale visitors could enter even if they weren't accompanied by a family; all they had to do was inform the guards that they are visiting the exhibition. This clearly shows the uneven implementation of these policies. Furthermore, other than the rare times when larger 'public' events like the Biennale are hosted at Bagh Ibne Qasim, the park's function as a shared community space is minimal.

Unlike Bagh Ibne Qasim, our next site Jahangir Park fits Olmsted's three criteria (at least on paper). The area which was initially gifted to the public by Parsi philanthropist Khan Bahadur Behramjee Jehangirjee Rajkotwala in the 1880s, was formerly named after him and known as Behramjee Park. In a 2019 article titled, "The Future of Karachi's Public Spaces", Architect Arif Hasan writes that this area was a famous political and sports hub. Many well-known cricket players practiced in this park and Liaquat Ali Khan was also

known to have given multiple speeches here. This renovated park now has educational and amusement facilities such as a new library and dinosaur statues (that are curious fixtures in multiple parks across the city). The park also has an amphitheatre which, if utilised well, could be an asset to the people in surrounding localities.

Jane Jacobs, an influential urban theorist, called parks "real estate stabilisers or community anchors". Our third site, the Frere Hall Garden is a unique example of such a space in Karachi. The easily accessible garden is built around the historical monument Frere Hall. The hall now features a library (the Liaquat Library) and a gallery (Sadequain Gallery). Of course, there are many things that can be improved at the Frere Hall. The park lacks necessary facilities like toilets and proper signage. But even so, the space attracts a large crowd and is open throughout the day. Indeed, it is the only major park without a fence and gate — at least so far.

Frere Hall is also an interesting case study as the heritage property has not been architecturally vandalised since 1865, apart from the relocation of large marble statues and fountain parts that can be easily rehabilitated. On Sundays, a book fair takes place in the gardens, where local vendors collect and cater to the general public. This informal gathering successfully brings people together and is an effective use of a public space. Culture seems to thrive at Frere Hall, which is also home to a grand Sadequain mural. But the mural needs to be sensitively conserved and requires a rehabilitation plan that documents and preserves the artistic contributions of one of Pakistan's most celebrated visual artists.

Any future master plans for the space must also take into account how Frere Hall has evolved over time. The space transformed from the original colonial-era master plan that catered to the privileged classes to a space that can be enjoyed by everyone. Besides the activities already mentioned, the park has also hosted significant public events such as the Aurat March and the Climate Strike in the recent past. Gatherings such as these must be protected and allowed to take place in Frere Hall's future master plan as this space caters to the public for both educational and social purposes. One wonders why the book fair only occurs in parks such as Frere Hall and whether this academic and social activity will continue to exist if Frere Hall is renovated.

The next two parks, namely Zamzama Park and Nisar Shaheed Park (along with the aforementioned Jahangir Park) are similar in that there is an availability of essential facilities like toilets, playgrounds and food stalls here. A parallel can also be seen in the design of these parks as they all possess functioning walking tracks. On the surface, all three of these parks fulfill Olmsted's three imperatives as they improve public health, facilitate community interaction and provide urban amenities to citizens. However, some facilities at Nisar Shaheed Park and Zamzama Parks, including the indoor gym, skating rink and amusement park rides, are expensive for lower- and lower-middle-class visitors. Rides at the Zamzama Park vary from Rs25 to Rs50 per ride. These parks are also gated with high concrete walls, that add to their existing sense of exclusion.

Jahangir Park, which was recently inaugurated, is in a good condition. It also does not charge an entry fee. But unfortunately, the master plan of the park and its design intervention is isolated from the general public and does not take into consideration the needs of nearby users. Nisar Shaheed Park and Zamzama Park have existed for some time and both have a strict ticketing system that provides funding for regular maintenance. The parks charge Rs20 and Rs30 per adult, respectively. One has to pay for parking separately. A ticketing system may help in sustaining parks in the long run, but it also makes the spaces inaccessible for many. While Rs20 may not seem like a lot of money, for visitors with larger families of five or six, especially ones from lower-income backgrounds, the ticket prices add up.

Ticketing is not the only thing that stands in the way of making parks accessible. The Mazar-e-Quaid parks or Bagh-e-Quaid parks that surround the Mazar-e-Quaid stand between such narrow main roads that easy pedestrian access is next to impossible. Upon entering the parks one is likely to come across one of the multiple fountains which are either completely empty or choked with stagnant water. Moreover, while the park has been supplied with some necessary facilities, not all of them work. There is only one functional toilet for the 86-acre park which is occupied by thousands of people on a regular basis. Design of the space aside, there seems to be no understanding of even applied graphic design for special occasions. On the Quaid's birthday on December 25, 2019,

the beautiful white facade of the monument was completely covered by a massive projection showing a fist on a neon yellow and pink background. Under the image the word "KASHMIR" was prominently displayed. One wonders how Jinnah, a suave man, would respond to the design sensibilities on display.

Gulshan-e-Jinnah (which used to be known as Polo Ground, and should not to be confused with Mazar-e-Quaid parks) is another park that seems to pay tribute to Jinnah in name only. The park is a pre-Partition landmark that has been renovated three times. The most recent renovation took place in 2019. In an interview before the inauguration, the Mayor of Karachi declared that the park was equipped with walkways, benches and jogging tracks, and featured a musical fountain, flower beds, a lake and a wooden bridge. But despite these features, our visit to the park was not a pleasant experience. The park has five entrances, none of which were guarded or functional. During the first 20 minutes of our visit we were approached by security personnel (without any identification) who forced us to buy tickets that were mislabelled as tickets for Hill Park.

Maybe the mislabelled ticket was a sign for what our final site should be. We lastly visited the Ahmed Ali Park, better known as Kidney Hill Park. We had heard much about what a beautiful place the park was. Even today, we can see why people remember the park so fondly. The amusement park and lake are in an appropriate condition. The park has recently been inaugurated after restoration efforts. The facelift was announced early last year. The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) had started retrieving 20 acres of land around the park which had been encroached upon. KMC demolished illegal structures, including 17 bungalows built on the park's land.

The park had remained inaccessible to citizens for over three decades due to encroachment. Speaking at the inauguration, Karachi Mayor Wasim Akhtar said that "Karachi contributes the huge sum of Rs350 billion to the national exchequer, but still no attention is paid to resolving the city's issues." Lauding his team for "completing" this project in 80 days he said that over 23,000 trees were planted in the park.

One can see the kind of impact government interest in re-imagining these spaces can have on not only the parks, but on the city as a whole.

TAKING OWNERSHIP

Karachiites often claim that Karachi is the mother that feeds all of Pakistan. Indeed, the city seems to be constantly expanding to house new residents. It is in Karachi's nature to be welcoming. Yet, many of the city's parks are anything but welcoming. They have exclusionary policies and feature single-story, high sandstone fencing that keep some visitors out. There is inconsistent ticketing, poor pruning and intense surveillance.

Often park funds are designated towards constructing irrelevant structures rather than maintenance and intervention of designed systems. In her magnum opus, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Jane Jacobs argues that public parks are volatile spaces which can either be a delight or a disaster. Karachi's parks may not be disasters yet, but all of them are far from being a delight. Issues of shrinking urban space are exacerbated because our existing public parks are poorly maintained and badly planned.

Public parks in Karachi are owned by different local authorities, depending on their size and location. The parks that have been discussed here fall under the purview of KMC, the District Municipal Corporation (DMC) and Defence Housing Authority (DHA). The subdivisions are relatively simple. KMC is responsible for large parks like Bagh Ibne Qasim and Bagh-e-Jinnah, DMC looks after smaller neighbourhood parks like Jahangir Park and finally DHA maintains semi-private parks such as Nisar Shaheed Park and Zamzama Park. As different authorities are responsible for different parks, the amount of money allocated for preserving each park also varies greatly.

DESIGNING A MORE INCLUSIVE FUTURE

Public parks must function as open spaces that bring communities closer together. When government officials work with urban planners to create parks, they must take into account how people from all backgrounds will access these spaces and how these parks will integrate with the neighbourhood. There is little benefit to building a park if it is not used. It is especially unfortunate if existing communities and activities are disrupted to make way for new, unused gated spaces. Such was the case with the development of Bagh Ibne Qasim, that displaced many cricket enthusiasts who

would gather to play their daily matches in this space. For a public park to be genuinely public, it must take into account the accessibility of communities from various socioeconomic backgrounds, gender and age.

Gender inclusivity is another overlooked design factor. Our communal recreational spaces internalise the values of the patriarchal society that we inhabit. Indeed, the social and environmental qualities of parks inform how safe women feel in public areas. This is a global problem. But elsewhere in the world much work has been done to design safer parks and spaces for women.

A research carried out in the United States titled *Fear Perceptions in Public Parks: Interactions of Environmental Concealment, the Presence of people Recreating, and Gender* provides some insights that can be applied in Pakistan. The researchers showed 732 participants (540 park visitors and 192 college students) 24 photographic representations of a community park. The participants were asked to rate their estimate of fear of crime. The study found that seeing people ‘recreating’ greatly helped put the participants at ease and made them feel safe. “These results suggest that social and environmental cues may jointly affect fear experiences and that the presence of other people recreating in a park environment and the gender of an individual may influence fear of crime when recreating alone in a park setting,” the authors of the research state. “Implications include design and management techniques that promote safe park environments.”

In a local context for example, women will be reluctant to frequent parks such as Bagh Ibne Qasim if the only other people in the space are the entirely male maintenance team. A more nuanced approach is required to make parks feel safer for women. ‘Family only’ policies that keep ‘stags’ from entering many parks may help the parks appear safer for women and children, but they are not a sustainable solution. They are also exclusionary.

Thinking of women and children in Karachi, one is reminded of Azra Abbas’s book *Mera Bachpan*. Her 1997 memoir narrates the life of a rebellious girl growing up in the city. The writer is

nostalgic about her childhood and reminisces about playing with other children on dusty pavements, flying kites, playing with marbles and renting a bike to ride for hours. The book is set in the 1950s and 1960s — a time when girls could ride bikes even in lower-middle-class areas. However, as the girl ages, grows and changes, so does the city. Abbas’s book highlights the transformation of the city and how there is a constant struggle to maintain a sense of safety in Karachi’s public spaces.

Most of Karachi’s public parks require sensitive, practical and urgent re-designing. Government officials and local stakeholders must intervene. For sustainability and ownership, the design mechanism must involve the neighbourhood and users of the proximity.

As a successful case study, we can observe the three-kilometre-long public park in Clifton (Block-2) that has been recently developed by DMC and sustained by local communities. This public park contains a family park, a woman’s park, a basketball court, a skating area and an area open for the general public. The plots have been layered so that there is a raised footpath and ‘kiyari’ (informal flower bed) surrounding each park. It is one of the only parks in the city without a gate or any fencing. It is also free for the general public and is open at all times of the day. Sustainable, inclusive public spaces such as this unnamed neighbourhood park are few and far between, but they indicate that all hope is not lost.

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24°48'40.6"N 67°01'32.9"E

History & Development

The Promenade pier and pavilion, which one sees right at the start if they enter the park from Shahr-e-Firdousi were constructed between 1919-1923. The pavilion is named after Jehangir Kothari, the Parsi businessman who donated a sum of 300,000 for the construction of the pier and pavilion. At that time, it was a gift to the people of the city for leisure activities. The park is essentially built around Kothari Parade and Lady Lloyd Pier. There is also a Hindu Temple beside the parade called Shree Ratneshwar Mahadev temple. The park's current design and construction were motivated in 2005 and was opened to the public in 2007, however, the park was in shambles during the construction of Icon Tower and was re-inaugurated in 2018 by the Mayor of Karachi, Wasim Akhtar. In terms of design, Ibn e Qasim is rather inconvenient, the washrooms are located at two different ends of the premises, one is on the extreme northeast part and the other is at the southwest of the park. Moreover, only one out of the three entrances for the park is operational which results in more than half of the park being unutilized. The park is surrounded by residential areas but no direct connection to them.



Physical Data

Facilities

- Toilets
- Food Stalls
- Benches
- Structural Shade
- Natural Shade
- Mosques
- Handicap accessibility
- Tracks

Marker

Bahria Icon

Total Area

130 acres

Historical Monument

- Lady Lyod Pier
- Jehangir Kothari Parade.
- Shree Ratneshwar Mahadev Temple

Entry/Exit

Entrance on adjacent ends of the park, access available only from Shahrah-e-Firdousi.

Fencing

Concrete walls with barbed wires on top.

Timings

- Morning: 7:00 - 11:00 AM
- Afternoon: Closed
- Evening: 4:00 - 11:00 PM

Demand goods

A non-functioning amusement park.

Food vendors (Inside/Outside)

None

Tickets

None

Signages

A few present, mainly stating the rules.

Average height of trees

5 feet

Parking

Available

Surveillance

None

Policies

None

Users

Maintenance staff, School children and a few couples.

Identifiable Centre

None

Park Engagement

35%



Illustrated by : Uzayr Agha



Jehangir Kothari Parade - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Signages in the park - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Washrooms in northeast of the park - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Gazebo for shading - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Entrance of Bin-Qasim - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Lady Loyd Pier - Javeria Taufiq 2019



24°50'59.0"N 67°01'23.5"E

History & Development

More commonly known as Polo ground, the origins of Bagh-e-Jinnah are unknown, however, according to Balouch (2014), the ground was part of the Hindu Gymkhana (now called Karachi Gymkhana). Bagh-e-Jinnah was known to host Independence Day Parades while Karachi was established as the capital city of Pakistan. During Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's era, it was renamed to Sherpao Garden after a Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK). Come Zia ul Haq's reign, the park was renamed once again to 'Bagh-e-Jinnah'.

Bagh-e-Jinnah is spread over 20 acres and is in a state of disarray, with its jurisdiction lying under Karachi Municipal Corporation, re-inaugurated by Governor Sindh, Ishrat ul Ebad in 2013 and then by KMC in 2019. Following the renovation, Mayor Wasim Akhtar claimed the park was equipped with walkways, benches, jogging tracks and adorned with a musical fountain and flower beds along with the installation of a China hut, a lake and a wooden bridge. Unfortunately, our visit to Bagh-e-Jinnah in early December showed us otherwise. Fundamentally, it is inaccessible owing to the unavailability of the facilities and park is essentially rundown, unkempt and in a way falling apart.



Physical Data

Facilities

- Toilets
- Food Stalls
- Benches
- Structural Shade
- Natural Shade
- Mosques
- Handicap accessibility
- Tracks

Marker

Governor House

Total Area

20 acres

Historical Monument

None but the ground itself was previously used for Independence day Parades.

Entry/Exit

3/4 are functional but they don't match the location on the map.

Fencing

Steel fences with barbed wires.

Timings

- Morning: 9:00 - 10:00 AM
- Afternoon: Closed
- 4:00 - 10:00 PM

Demand goods

None

Food vendors (Inside/Outside)

None

Tickets

PKR 20/Person

Signanges

None

Average height of trees

5 feet. Trees around 20 feet tall were present around the edges, providing no shade in the park grounds.

Parking

Not Available

Surveillance

None

Policies

None

Users

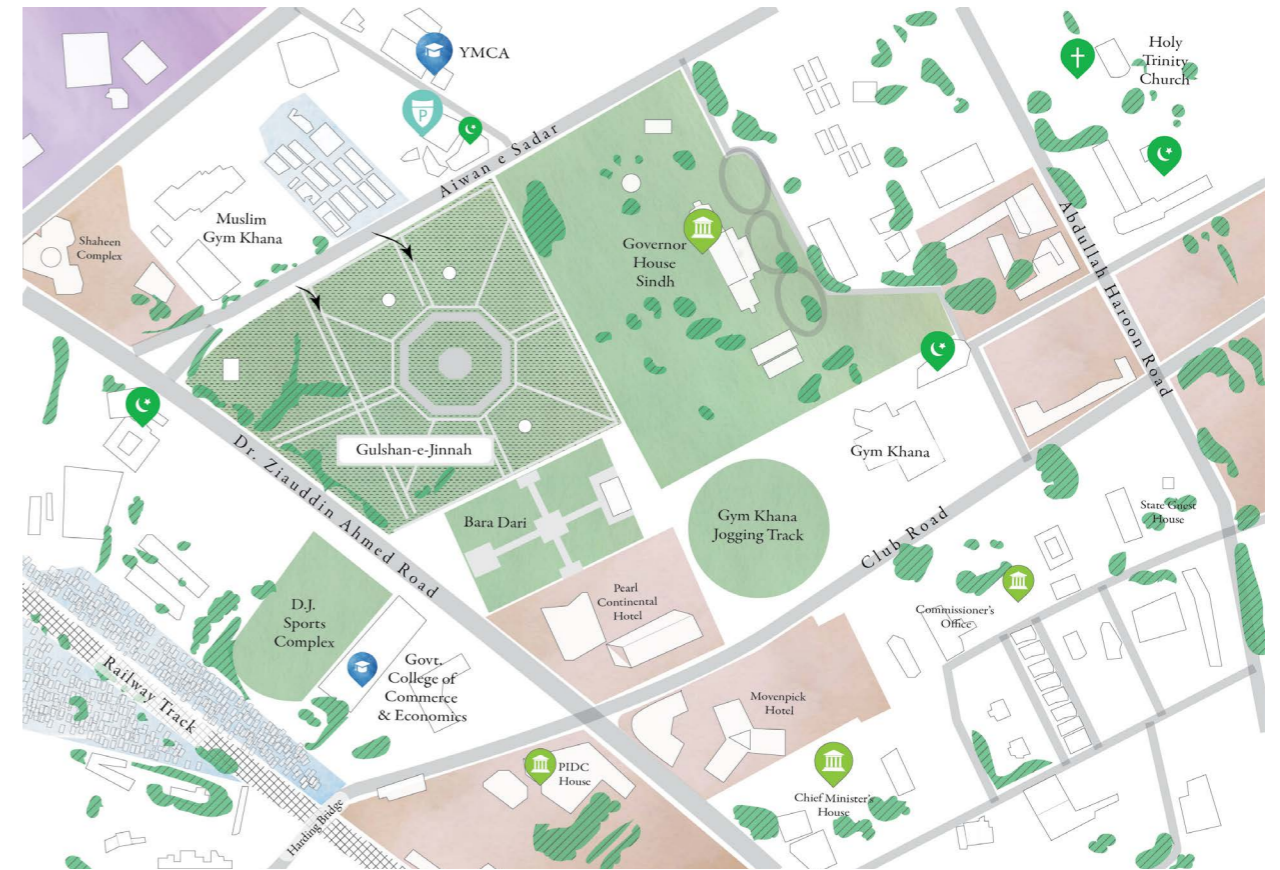
Mostly maintenance staff and a few men loitering around. No woman in sight.

Identifiable Centre

None

Park Engagement

10%



Illustrated by : Uzayr Agha



Entrance to Baagh-e-Jinnah - Fizzah Riaz 2019



Debris/Grass/Pavement - Fizzah Riaz 2019



Ticket given at Baagh-e-Jinnah - Aroomah Naqvi 2019



Entrance to Baaagh-e-Jinnah - Aroomah Naqvi 2019



Pavement and Debris - Aroomah Naqvi 2019



Inaugural by Governor of Sindh 8th Oct' 2013 - Aroomah Naqvi 2019



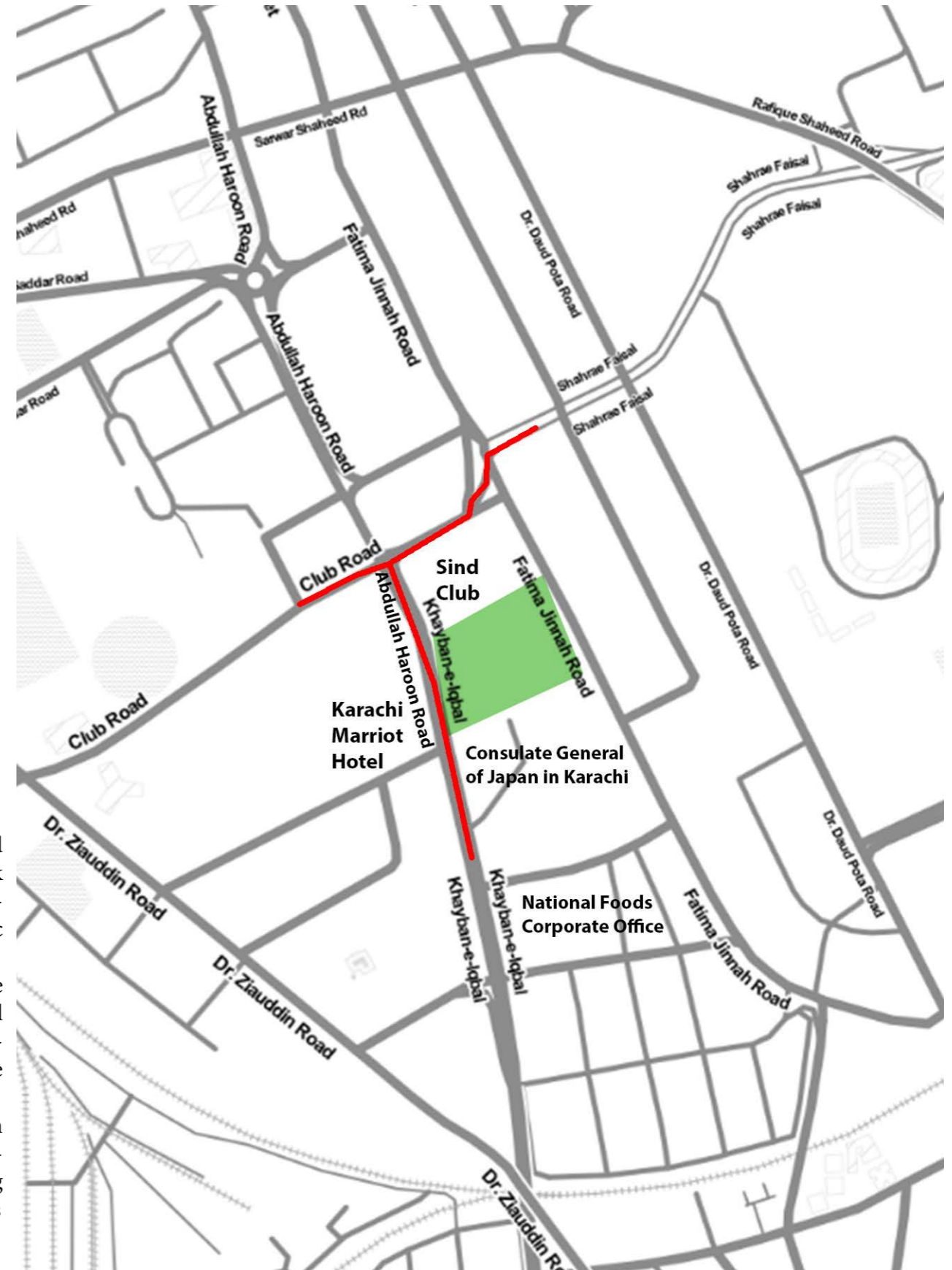
24°50'50.7"N 67°01'58.0"E

History & Development

Located in the city's cultural hub of Saddar Town, Frere Hall stands between Fatima Jinnah Road and Abdullah Haroon Road. It has been standing proud for around 150 years now. This landmark was constructed in 1865. Originally, it was used as the city's town hall with statues spread throughout the gardens. The building design can be categorized as Domestic Gothic and Venetian Gothic with an intrinsic oriental style, also the first construction referring to Indo-Gothic design.

Today, Frere Hall hosts Sadequain Gallery and Liaquat Hall Library with gardens all around. The library contains books in four different languages; Urdu, English, Arabic and Persian, with several editions dating back to approximately 150 years ago, as well as, rare handwritten manuscripts. Galerie Sadequain, on the other hand, is home to many well-known pieces and an iconic mural on the ceiling by Sadequain.

The hall and surrounding gardens lie under the jurisdiction of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) which is mainly responsible for the maintenance. The park serves as a distraction for families and students as well as nearby office-workers who are frequently found enjoying meals during lunch hours. It also serves as a public space for exhibitions, book fairs, and rallies for social causes (climate and aurat march). Although not well kept, Frere Hall is quite practical owing to the abundant trees present in the gardens.



Physical Data

Facilities

- Toilets
- Food Stalls
- Benches
- Structural Shade
- Natural Shade
- Mosques
- Handicap accessibility
- Tracks

Marker

Marriot Hotel / Frere Hall

Total Area

16 acres

Historical Monument

- Frere Hall
- World War 2 Monument

Entry/Exit

Park is open from all sides, no proper entrance or exit.

Fencing

Small iron fences on some sides, mostly open.

Timings

Open all day

Demand goods

- Library
- Art Gallery
- Book Fair on Sundays.

Food vendors (Inside/Outside)

4 present within the Gardens

Tickets

None

Signages

None

Average height of trees

15 - 30 feet providing ample shade in the gardens.

Parking

Available and Free.

Surveillance

None

Policies

None

Users

Young men, Office goers, and a few women.

Identifiable Centre

Frere Hall

Park Engagement

55%



Illustrated by : Uzayr Agha



Frere Hall - Fizzah Riaz 2019



Sadequain Gallery - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Frere Hall Library - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Green spaces around Frere Hall - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Collonade within Frere Hall - Fizzah Riaz 2019



Toilet Facilities - Fizzah Riaz 2019



24°52'17.1"N 67°04'15.6"E

History & Development

Established in the 1960s to provide a green space for rapidly growing urban Karachi, Hill Park sits on one of the few elevated spots in Karachi's topography. With a lake full of ducks and geese, an amusement park, a children's playground and beautiful views, Hill Park is a popular recreation spot and receives a lot of activity at night. The park is spread over 62 acres but only 25% of this land has actually been developed to be utilized as a park.

Located in Pakistan Employees Cooperative Housing Society (PECHS), a significant section of the park features the remains of bulldozed encroachments and debris from the nearby Shaheed-i-Millat underpasses. The park has plenty of rubbish and many benches are broken and most of the park's facilities paint a sad picture.

The Park lies under the jurisdiction of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) whose office is also located within the park. Much like other parks under KMC, the maintenance of Hill Park is substandard. In fact, parts of the park's land have been encroached upon among which some have been bulldozed to the ground by KMC in 2018.



Physical Data

Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Toilets ■ Food Stalls ■ Benches ■ Structural Shade ■ Natural Shade ■ Mosques □ Handicap accessibility ■ Tracks 	Marker Total Area 62 acres Historical Monument None
Entry/Exit 2/2 are operational	Fencing Not much but iron fences present at the bottom of the hill in some aplaces.
Timings 9:00 - 12:00 AM	Demand goods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amusement Park • Lake
Food vendors (Inside/Outside) Around 3-4 present inside the park.	Tickets None
Signages None	Average height of trees 15 - 20 feet
Parking Available	Surveillance None
Policies None	Users Young People, mostly men and women.
Identifiable Centre Hill Park Lake	Park Engagement 40%



Illustrated by : Uzayr Agha



Lake with ducks / Signage for keeping the lake clean - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Make-shift food stalls - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Amusement park within Hill Park - Javeria Taufiq 2019



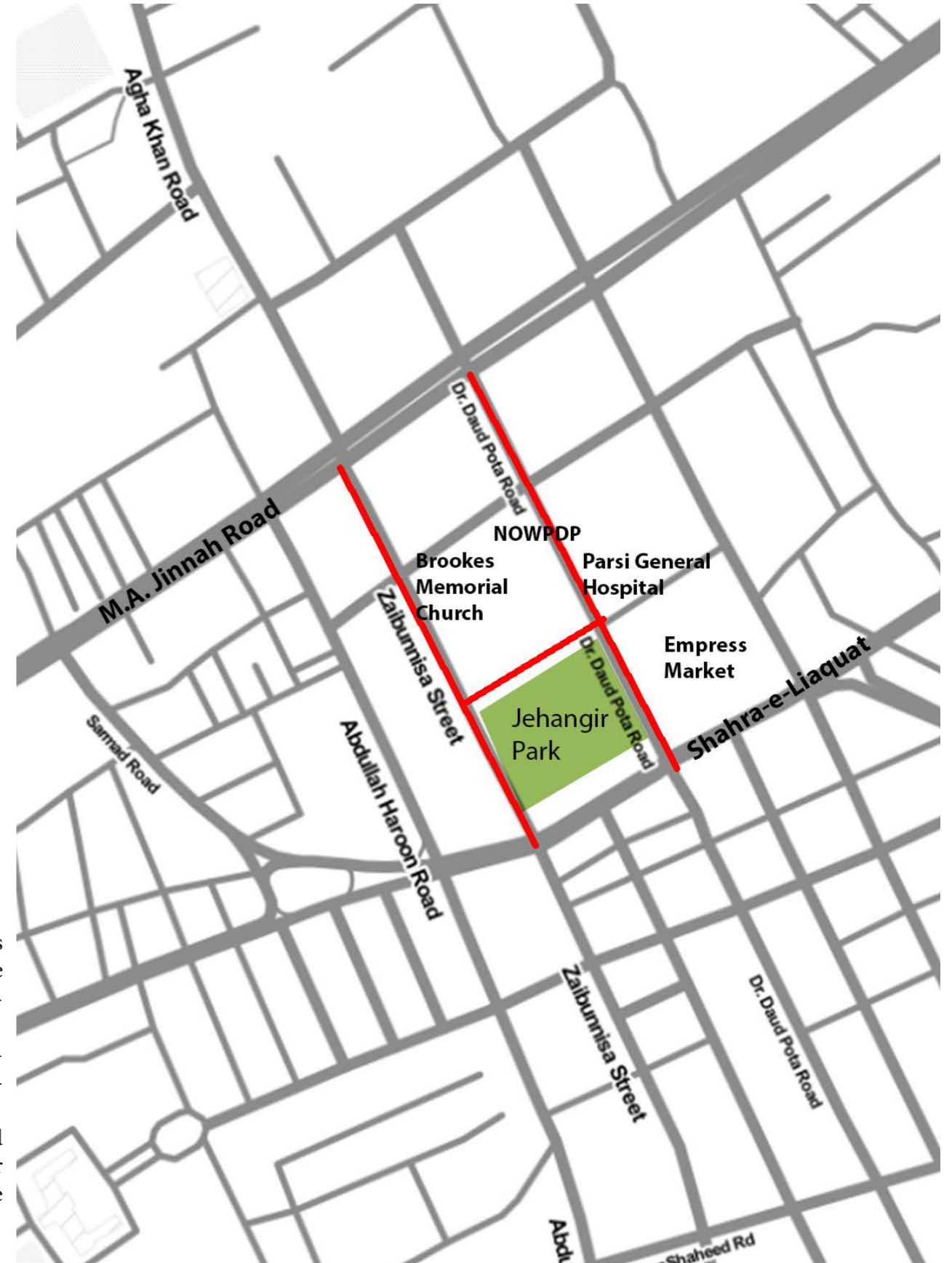
KMC office within the park - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Debris from construction outside of the park - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Terrains of the park - Javeria Taufiq 2019



24°51'43.9"N 67°01'39.9"E

History & Development

The Jahangir Park was donated by Khan Bahadur Behramji Jehangirji Raj Kot Wale in 1883. It was previously called Behram Bagh. Arif Hassan says that back in the 1970s, Jahangir park became the hub for political activities. Even Liaquat Ali Khan gave a speech here when he was the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Hence, this park has political significance as well.

This park used to be a shabby, dirty and bland space utilized as a hangout for druggies and homeless (Salman, 2014). After the intervention by the government and the revamping of the park altered the prospect and function it played.

Jahangir Park comes under the jurisdiction of District Municipal Corporation (DMC) South and after the renovation, the park started to serve educational and social purposes with the Dinosaur figures and the library. However, being turned into a gated space wasn't very instrumental for the neighbourhood since the back entrance facing the empress tower is sealed and the park has a family only policy restricting the ideology of a "public" park.

Physical Data

Facilities

- Toilets
- Food Stalls
- Benches
- Structural Shade
- Natural Shade
- Mosques
- Handicap accessibility
- Tracks

Marker

Empress Market

Total Area

6 acres

Historical Monument

None

Entry/Exit

1/2 functional.

Fencing

Concrete walls with iron rods in between.

Timings

12:00 - 10:00 PM

Demand goods

- Library
- Amphitheatre
- Play Area

Food vendors (Inside/Outside)

4-5 Available inside.

Tickets

None

Signages

Yes

Average height of trees

10 - 30 feet

Parking

Not available

Surveillance

Yes

Policies

- No food allowed.
- Unaccompanied men are not allowed.

Users

Families, a few couples, & elderly people.

Identifiable Centre

None

Park Engagement

80%



Illustrated by : Uzayr Agha



Inaugural plaque at Jehangir Park - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Canteen within the park - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Aviary within the park / Documentation of before and after - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Functioning library within the park - Fizzah Riaz 2019



Amphitheatre with aviary in the background - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Master Plan of the park - Fizzah Riaz 2019

Nisar Shaheed Park



24°49'36.0"N 67°03'43.2"E

History & Development

Tucked in the residential area of Defence Phase IV, Nisar Shaheed Park has become a popular choice among residents of Defence. The park is the same in size as Zamzama park - being 26 acres. Nisar Shaheed Park shares the wall with the famous amusement park - Chunky Monkey, previously known as Sindbad.

The park has not had any major design changes since the day it was opened to the public. Although the park was well-kempt over the years it has become a little rundown. The functioning of Nisar Shaheed Park is somewhat similar to that of Zamzama park with the exception of lesser surveillance and maintenance in the former. Upon observation, it was found that the park had different activities going on among different groups of people. From a group of elderly women who claimed to come to the park every day from the residential area around the park to hang out, gossip and maintain their health to young adult males who were exercising with a coach in a corner to women coming from low-income backgrounds having a picnic in different spots of the park. The park caters to all ages, social classes and is gender-friendly.

Physical Data

Facilities

- Toilets
- Food Stalls
- Benches
- Structural Shade
- Natural Shade
- Mosques
- Handicap accessibility
- Tracks

Marker

Chunky Monkey Amusement Park

Total Area

26 acres

Historical Monument

None

Entry/Exit

4/5 are operational.

Fencing

Concrete walls with steel fences on top.

Timings

- Mornings: 6:30 - 9:30 AM
- Afternoon: Closed
- Evenings: 4:00 - 10:00 PM

Demand goods

- 2 Play Areas

Food vendors (Inside/Outside)

Available both Inside & Outside

Tickets

PKR 20/Person

Signages

Yes

Average height of trees

5 - 20 feet but the trees have been trimmed from the sides, providing very little shade.

Parking

Available and Free.

Surveillance

Yes

Policies

None

Users

Children, Women, Men, & the Elderly.

Identifiable Centre

Clock Tower

Park Engagement

85%



Illustrated by : Uzayr Agha



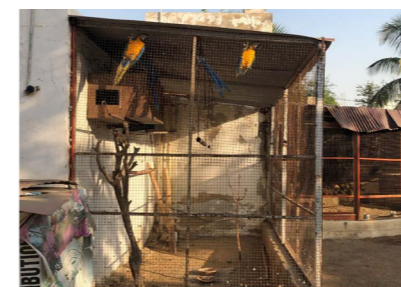
Walking track - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Skating ring within the park - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Amusement park accompanying the park - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Birds and animals kept within cages - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Canteen within the park - Fizzah Riaz 2019



Washroom facilities within the park - Fizzah Riaz 2019

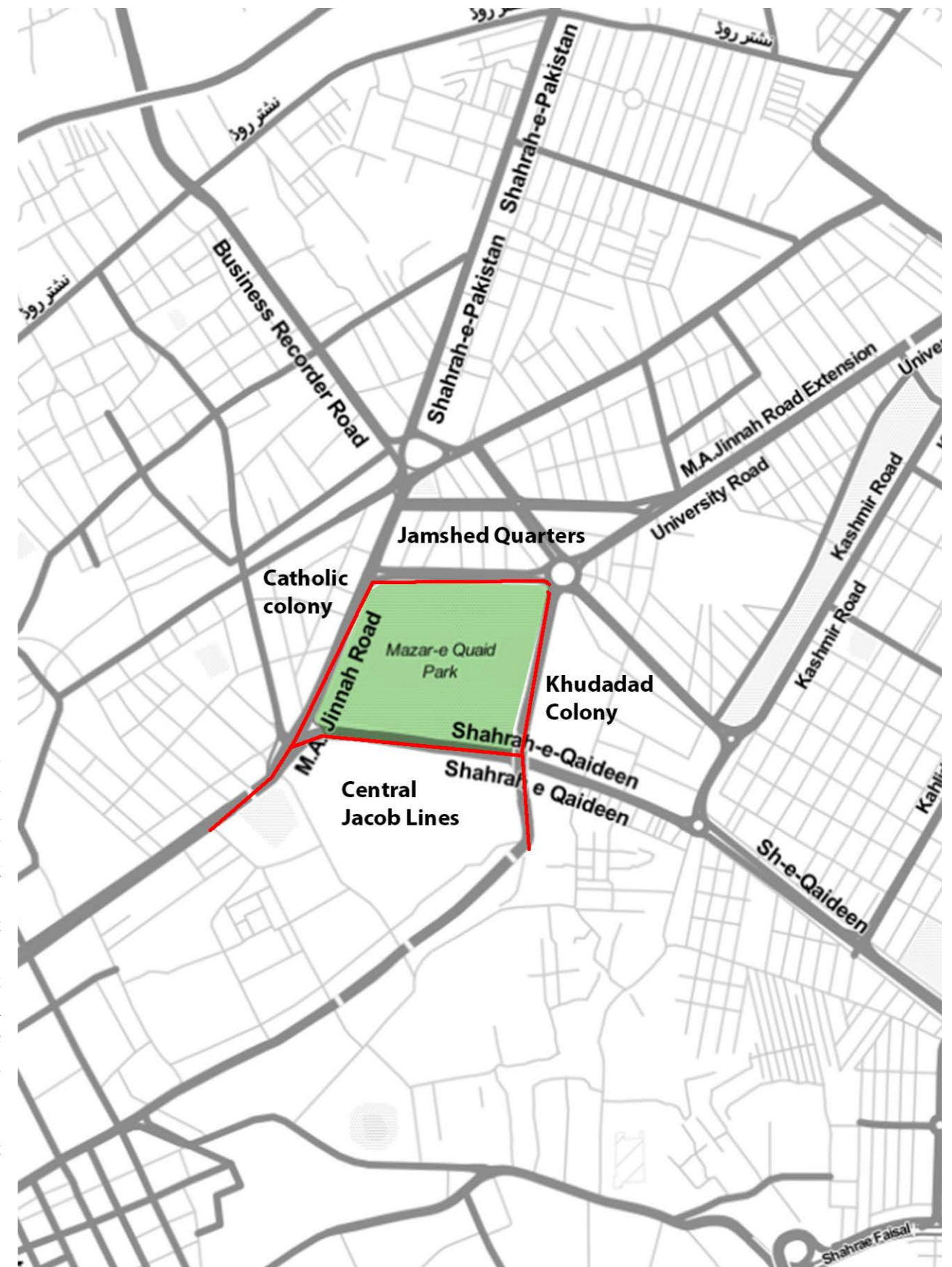


24°52'29.3"N 67°02'22.0"E

History & Development

While Jinnah was buried here immediately after his death in 1948, the Quaid-e-Azam Mazar was developed over several stages from 1960 onwards. The site was chosen for its central location in Karachi and position at the end of the historic axis formed by Bunder (now M. A. Jinnah) Road and its later extension (New M. A. Jinnah Road). Originally the site of a refugee shantytown, the land was cleared and the mausoleum constructed first (1960-70) surrounded by simple green park space. This was replaced by an elaborate Mughal-style char bagh in the 1990s.

Bagh-e-Quaid's design appears disconnected from the surrounding urban fabric: the central plot is bounded on four sides by major thoroughfares and cordoned off with large fences and gates. The charbagh's layout doesn't align with the axes of the surrounding roads and ends abruptly as it approaches the edges of the plot. A small portion of the park is used by the public and hence well maintained to the detriment of the rest. Visitors primarily come to the Mazar and museum and use the green space near the main route to the Mazar. Bagh-e-Quaid's design clearly caters to political and ceremonial functions, as evidenced by the single elevator to the Mazar's platform (not in use). Upon closer inspection, the char bagh shows signs of cheap construction and poor maintenance. Marble bridges were chipped or missing pieces. Fountains were either dry or filled with stagnant algae-choked water. The southernmost field had several rows of trees but the ones in the centre have died and the ground is extremely dry and desiccated. There are no facilities for small children or sport, however, the large empty field opposite Mazar-e-Quaid is open and free to enter and as a result, was full of young men playing sports.



Physical Data

Facilities

- Toilets
- Food Stalls
- Benches
- Structural Shade
- Natural Shade
- Mosques
- Handicap accessibility
- Tracks

Marker

New M.A Jinnah Road

Total Area

61 acres

Historical Monument

Quaid's Mausoleum

Entry/Exit

1/5 are operational.

Fencing

Concrete walls with pointed steel fences in between.

Timings

- Closed on Mondays
- Other Weekdays: 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
- In winters: 10:00 AM - 8:30 PM

Demand goods

Museum

Food vendors (Inside/Outside)

Available both inside and outside.

Tickets

PKR 30/person.

Signages

None

Average height of trees

5 - 30 feet

Parking

Not available

Surveillance

Yes

Policies

No political gatherings or events to take place in the gardens.

Users

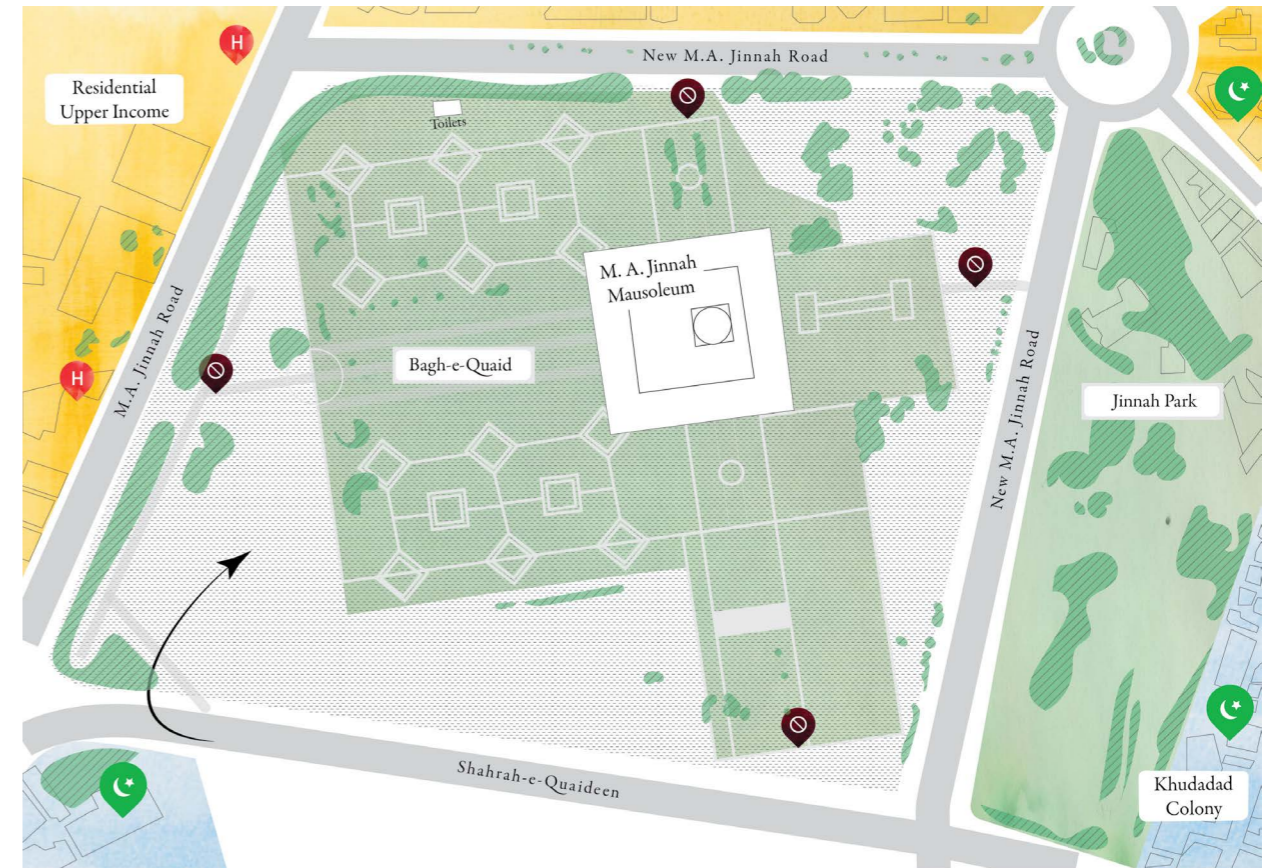
Families & a couple of tourist groups.

Identifiable Centre

Quaid's Mausoleum

Park Engagement

35%



Illustrated by : Uzayr Agha



Quaid's Mausoleum - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Expansive podium leading to the mausoleum - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Closed souvenir shop - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Dry grass patches within the gardens - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Bridges with dry water bodies - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Barriers around the entrances - Javeria Taufiq 2019

Zamzama Park



24°48'53.1"N 67°02'18.0"E

History & Development

Straddling between commercial and residential areas, Zamzama Park is located on Khayaban-e-Shujaat in DHA Phase V. The park opened its gates to the public in 2001 and it has been operational since then. It is spread over 26 acres and has a number of demand goods and facilities available for the users of the area. There is no family policy for utilizing the park so anybody can use it. The park seemed to be filled with almost 100 people in just the first half an hour of its opening, by all kinds of age groups. All engaged in a variety of facilities provided in the park. Moreover, the low ticket prices aid in making the park accessible by various social classes. The park was seen being used by women belonging to various backgrounds and ages which shows how the park is, to an extent, gender-friendly. The park falls under the jurisdiction of DHA in terms of maintenance and land, it was to be commercialised in 2018 but due to the protest of the users and the residents of the area, the decision was reversed and a small amusement park was recently built inside the park at extremely low and affordable prices.

Physical Data

Facilities

- Toilets
- Food Stalls
- Benches
- Structural Shade
- Natural Shade
- Mosques
- Handicap accessibility
- Tracks

Marker

Zamzama Mall/Neelum Colony

Total Area

26 acres

Historical Monument

None

Entry/Exit

2/3 are operational.

Fencing

Concrete walls with steel fences on top.

Timings

- Morning: 6:00 - 9:00 AM
- Afternoon: Closed
- Evening: 4:00 - 10:00 PM

Demand goods

3 Play Areas, 1 Playland, Skating Rink, & Outdoor Gym.

Food vendors (Inside/Outside)

Available both inside & outside

Tickets

- PKR 30/Adult
- PKR 20/Adult

Signages

Present

Average height of trees

5 - 15 feet

Parking

- PKR 30/Car
- PKR 20/Motorcycle
- PKR 80/Van

Surveillance

Yes

Policies

None

Users

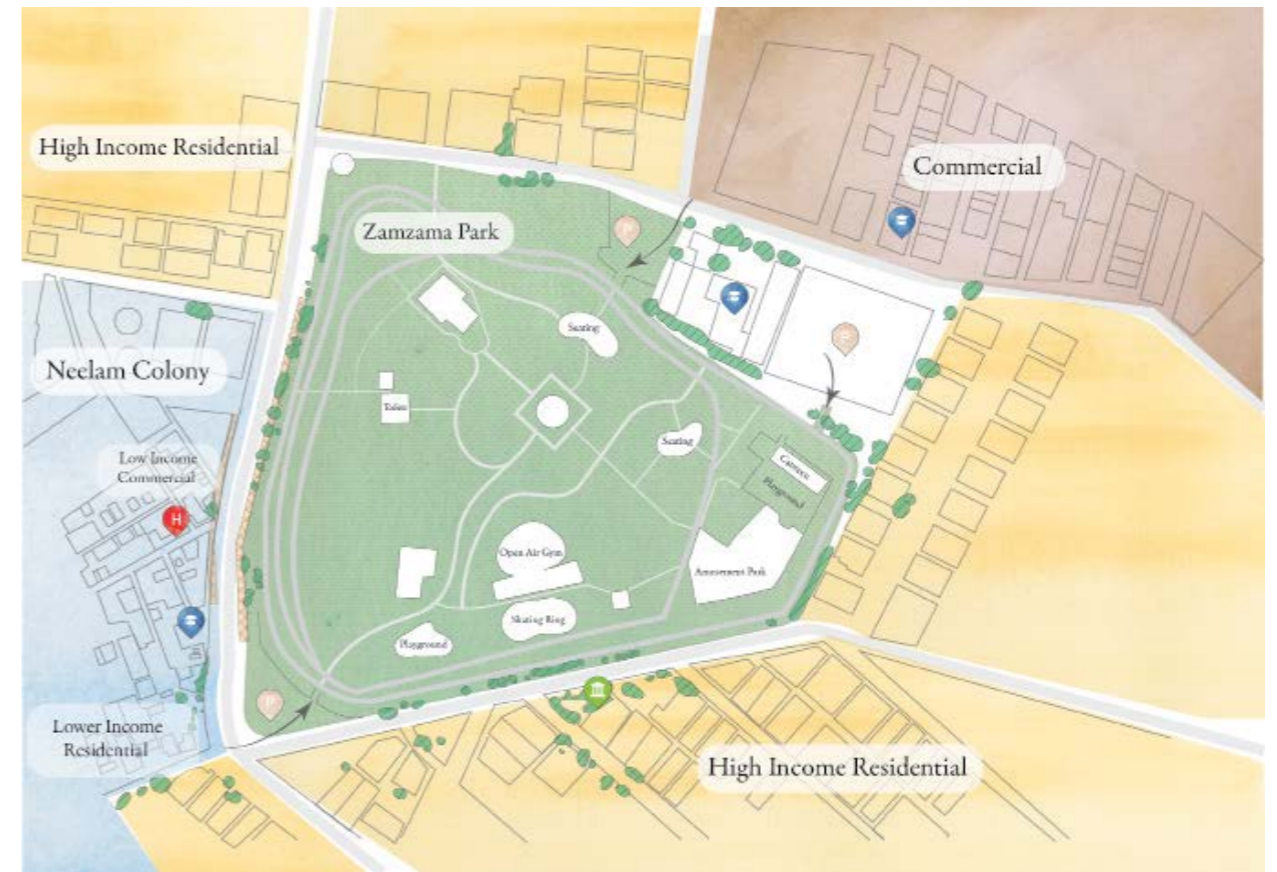
Children, Women, Men, & the Elderly.

Identifiable Centre

The Fountain

Park Engagement

90%



Illustrated by : Uzayr Agha



Car park - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Concrete walls toward neelum colony - Javeria Taufiq 2019



Walking tracks - Javeria Taufiq 2019



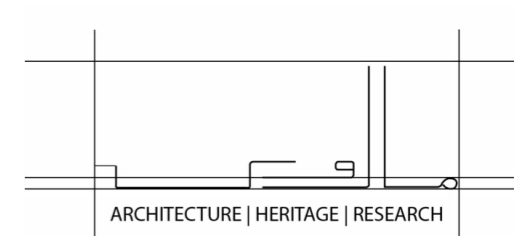
Washroom facilities - Fizzah Riaz 2019



- Aroomah Naqvi 2019



Food facilities- Fizzah Riaz 2019



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