

# THE GREEN CULTURE OF ISLAM

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# NATURALISTIC APPROACH OF SUSTAINABLE RIVER DEVELOPMENT

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## ABSTRACT

This chapter reviews sustainable river development. It focuses on *naturalistic approach* as one of the three ecological frameworks for the planning, design and management of urban river developments. The approach has important roles in considering the remnants of natural areas within an urban fabric in providing a basis for landscape management.

**Keywords:** Naturalistic approach; river development; ecological framework; landscape management

## INTRODUCTION

River, would contribute to provide a sense of place, history, identity and community. Orientation towards rivers would bring people in contact with them more regularly, cultivating respect for local heritage as well as the precious water supply, ultimately the most effective way to nurture stewardship (Ellin, 2010). As stated by many authors, it is important to preserve and conserve the river as the heritage that belongs to the earliest evolution of cities and urban areas (Nagpal and Sinha, 2009; Baschak and Brown, 1995; Shannon et al., 1995; Rohde et al., 2006; Toggolini et al., 2006; Tzolova, 1995). Nearly all major cities in the world have been built on rivers. It would ultimately transform the 'problem' of unsafe and unsavory river banks into a solution for enhancing quality of life and quality of place in the urban region. For example, the City of Kuala Lumpur which was located and developed between two main rivers, Sg Klang and Sg Gombak. These create 'a sense of place' to the City of Kuala Lumpur. Kevin Lynch defines that the "clarity with which it can be perceived and identified, and the ease with which its elements can be linked with other events and places in a coherent representation of time and space" (Lynch, 1987, p.131; see also Nagpal and Sinha, 2009, p 490). This expands the knowledge of sustainable urban landscape development efforts in order to restore, preserve and conserve the ecological establishment, visual quality and visual enhancement of the rivers in urban areas.

There has been increasing public concern for protection of urban river corridors. Numerous river commissions have been established in an effort to plan, use and protection (Baschak and Brown, 1995). So far, there are many programs have been taken to preserve, and restore have occurred in these corridors as part of ongoing conservation programs (Nagpal and Sinha, 2009; Baschak and Brown, 1995; Shannon et al., 1995; Rohde et al., 2006; Toggolini et al., 2006; Tzolova, 1995). There is reason to be optimistic about combining human use and natural environments as many river cities are rediscovering their riverfronts and commissioning planning, design and management of urban rivers.