

**The Emerging Urban Open Space System in Northern Kowloon, Hong Kong:
Preliminary Analysis**

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There is an increasing awareness of the need to incorporate urban open spaces into city development policies, especially in compact Asian cities such as Hong Kong. This paper intends to adopt the 'link-hub' network model to examine the existing urban open space in the northern Kowloon area of Hong Kong. The integrated urban open space (IUOS) system provides a logical, scientific-based framework that will enable us to strategically evaluate the multiple-uses and values of urban open spaces. This paper addresses the fragmentation of urban open space development and the absence of hierarchy in the design and planning of urban open spaces. Little has been done thus far to comprehensively document the urban open spaces of Hong Kong, and there is little attempt to link these discrete, isolated spaces together into an integral whole. This paper aims to fill this void. The IUOS system model stresses the integrity and quality of the urban environment, and it contributes to good civic design that is so critical to the overall livability of the city.