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Community-Led Initiatives in The Public Open Space System in Florianópolis: The case of Urban Parks

Iniciativas Lideradas Pela Comunidade no Sistema de Espaços Lives Públicos de Florianópolis: O Caso dos Parques urbanos

Iniciativas Lideradas Por la Comunidad em el Sistema de Espacios Libres Pùblicos de Florianópolis: El caso de Los Parques Urbanos

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Resumo: The rapid growth of cities, especially large urban centers, has increased the demand for public open spaces. In this context, society has been mobilizing ever more in defense of the 'right to the city', demanding areas for leisure, social interaction, and environmental preservation. Urban parks play an essential role in integrating natural and built environments, enhancing neighborhoods, and serving diverse social, political, and economic interests. This study aims to identify

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urban parks created through Community-Led Initiatives (CLIs) and determine their physical-spatial (territorial) coverage within the Public Open Space (POS) system of Florianópolis, SC. Research procedures involve documentary surveys, in laws, decrees, projects, and media publications, and GIS mapping of all identified urban parks in the municipality. The results demonstrate that community participation has been crucial in the implantation of these spaces, given that of the twelve parks analyzed, six resulted directly from Community-Led Initiatives (CLIs). This confirms the importance of community involvement in transforming the urban environment and building more just, accessible, and sustainable cities.

Palavras-chave: Community-led initiatives (CLIs);Urban Parks; Public Open Space System.

Abstract: O crescimento acelerado das cidades, especialmente os grandes centros urbanos, tem intensificado a demanda por espaços livres públicos. Nesse cenário, a comunidade tem se mobilizado cada vez mais na defesa do direito à cidade, reivindicando áreas que promovam lazer, convívio social e preservação ambiental. Os parques urbanos cumprem papel essencial ao integrar ambientes naturais e construídos, valorizar bairros e atender a diferentes interesses sociais, políticos e econômicos. Esse trabalho tem como objetivo identificar os parques urbanos criados a partir de iniciativas lideradas pela comunidade e sua abrangência físico-espacial (territorial) no Sistema de Espaços Livres (SEL) públicos de Florianópolis/SC. A metodologia utilizada envolve levantamento documental de leis, decretos, projetos e publicações em veículos de imprensa e mapeamento em SIG de todos os parques urbanos identificados no município. Os resultados demonstram que a participação comunitária tem sido determinante na implantação desses espaços: dos doze parques analisados, seis resultaram diretamente de iniciativas lideradas pela comunidade. Isso confirma a relevância da atuação da sociedade civil na transformação do ambiente urbano e na construção de cidades mais justas e sustentáveis.

Keywords: Inicitivas Lideradas pela Comunidade; Parques Urbanos; Sistema de espaços Lívres Públicos

Resumen: El rápido crecimiento de las ciudades, especialmente de los grandes centros urbanos, ha intensificado la demanda de espacios públicos libres. En este contexto, la comunidad se ha movilizado cada vez más en defensa del derecho a la ciudad, reclamando áreas que promuevan el ocio, la convivencia social y la preservación del medio ambiente. Los parques urbanos desempeñan un pa-

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pel esencial al integrar entornos naturales y construidos, valorizar los barrios y atender a diferentes intereses sociales, políticos y económicos. Este trabajo tiene como objetivo identificar los parques urbanos creados a partir de iniciativas lideradas por la comunidad y su alcance físico-espacial (territorial) en el Sistema de Espacios Libres (SEL) públicos de Florianópolis/SC. La metodología utilizada involucra el levantamiento documental de leyes, decretos, proyectos y publicaciones en medios de prensa, así como el mapeo en SIG de todos los parques urbanos identificados en el municipio. Los resultados demuestran que la participación comunitaria ha sido determinante en la implementación de estos espacios: de los doce parques analizados, seis fueron resultado directo de la iniciativa de la comunidad. Esto confirma la relevancia de la actuación de la sociedad civil en la transformación del entorno urbano y en la construcción de ciudades más justas y sostenibles.

Palabras clave: Iniciativas lideradas por la comunidad; Parques Urbanos; Sistema de Espacios Abiertos.

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1 INTRODUCTION

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in urban activism, which seeks to encourage reflection on the cities' future and the use of their public and private spaces, whether dispersed or organized. This social mobilization in the contemporary capitalist city has intensified due to the rapid advance of urbanization, which compromises the supply of green spaces, more and more scarce (Marino, 2019).

In this context, by understanding the importance of these spaces, the community uses and claims them. After all, since the emergence of the first urban agglomerations, open spaces have established themselves as essential elements in cities' organization and structuring, playing a fundamental role in shaping the urban environment (Lynch, 2010).

Queiroga (2012) emphasizes that such spaces are crucial for public health, contributing to the improvement of the urban microclimate and reduction of pollution, in addition to creating opportunities for physical and leisure activities, impacting the population's quality of life in a positive manner. Furthermore, they function as places for social interaction and cultural exchange and are very important to cities' everyday life (Gehl, 2013; Jacobs, 2011).

In Brazil, studies on open spaces were intensified by Professor Miranda Martinelli Magnoli, who, at the end of the 20th century, defined the concept of open space as "all space not occupied by a built volume." Thus, open spaces encompass streets, gardens, road dividers, vacant lots, backyards, squares, plazas, and privately or publicly owned parks (Magnoli, 2006), with streets, squares, and parks being the best known (Queiroga; Benfatti, 2007).

In this work, the focus will be specifically on urban parks, which transform over time according to the political and social interests of the places they are located. These parks can be classified based on several attributes, such as typology (nucleated or linear), functions (preservation or recreation), and even their scale or scope. Regarding scale, Kliass and Magnoli (2006) classify urban parks into four categories according to size and use: Neighborhood Park 500m², Community Park 1,000m², Sector Park 5,000m², and Metropolitan Park <5,000m², each with different functions within the city.

Given the importance of these parks to cities, the demand for these spaces has been steadily increasing. In Brazilian cities, the parks implemented in recent years are smaller in size due to the land scarcity and high cost (Macedo and Sakata, 2010). Consequently, neighborhood and community parks have gained prominence and, despite being smaller, they have functioned as spaces for a wide range of activities and uses. Contemporary parks, which emerged from the 1990s onwards, are mostly used for active recreation, and offer several sports facilities. However, contemplative activities remain important in these spaces. Among the contemporary parks' main aspects, it is possible to mention the revitalization and occupation of areas previously designated for other uses, the re-creation of natural landscapes with green spaces, and, especially, the utilization of forest remnants, often driven by community participation (Paula; Caser, 2020).

As previously mentioned, community mobilization has intensified in the fight for the creation and maintenance of open spaces, especially because the availability of these areas is not in line with the population's

demand. The right to the city (Lefebvre, 2016) underpins these claims, and urban planning must ensure that public spaces are accessible and attractive to the population, without discrimination or the imposition of geographic, economic, or political barriers.

In this paper, we address the Community-led Initiatives (CLIs), which means the leadership within communities (self-organize group of people) to act on issues that concern them, usually to improve their social or environmental conditions. According to Henfrey et al. (2019), CLIs arise and operate independently of government, but often seek to collaborate with local government.

Thus, parks created through community-led initiatives constitute an alternative model of urbanism focused on local needs, and, generally, the social use of the territory is successful. This is because, in addition to claiming these spaces, the community often also assumes the responsibilities of maintaining and caring for them, as well as developing programs and activities, whether social, cultural, or environmental. This creates a sense of belonging and ownership, strengthening social ties within the territory and impacting the quality of urban life positively.

Florianópolis, the study area of this investigation, is the capital of the state of Santa Catarina, and its territory is divided between mainland and island portions. It is rich in environmental preservation areas. According to the Municipal Environmental Foundation (FLORAM), the municipality is home to 21 Conservation Units (UC), which account for 41% of its territory. These UCs encompass both the Full Protection group and the Sustainable Use group (Prefeitura Municipal de Florianópolis, 2024).

In the period between the last two censuses – from 2010 to 2022 –, it was the fastest-growing capital in the Southern Region, and its population reached 537,211 inhabitants (IBGE, 2022), which poses significant challenges in associating urban expansion with environmental conservation. Although the city has a considerable amount of open space, much of it is composed of environmental preservation areas, which occupy a significant portion of its territory. On the other hand, open spaces for public use that are not environmentally protected are fragmented and insufficient to meet social and demographic demands (Santiago et al., 2015).

Considering Florianópolis, an increase in these community mobilizations is evident. With no doubt, one of the causes is the intense population growth in recent decades, and the lack of public open spaces for leisure and socialization has caused a strong demand for these places. Although the presence of seashore and beaches is often used as a justification for this scarcity – as they are areas widely used by the population –, the distribution of these spaces is not homogeneous and does not meet the leisure needs of city's all regions in a proper manner (Santiago et al., 2015).

Emblematic examples of these mobilizations in the city include the struggle for Luz Park, whose occupation by the "Associação dos Amigos do Parque da Luz" [Friends of Luz Park Association] (AAPLuz) in the 1990s was decisive for its subsequent consolidation as Green Leisure Area (AVL) recognized by the municipal government. This example demonstrates the impact of community mobilization by preventing the degradation of the area and blocking attempts at private appropriation, showing the transformative power of collective action in the dispute for urban space (Silva, 2008; AAPLUZ, 2024). Another example is Córrego Grande Linear Park, which, after years of community struggle, was created through a Conduct Adjustment Agreement (TAC) between the developers building in the area and the municipal government. Despite the particularities of each

case, these movements converge in defense of the right to the city and the community's collective demands.

It is therefore clear that, in addition to providing recreational areas, urban parks integrate the natural and built environments, enhancing neighborhoods and serving the social, real estate, and political interests of several groups, besides reinforcing their importance in the quality of urban life.

Therefore, this research aims to identify urban parks created through Community-Led Initiatives (CLIs) and determine their physical-spatial (territorial) coverage within the public Open Space System in Florianópolis, SC. This work is part of ongoing doctoral research.

2 RESEARCH PROCEDURES

This study had a quali-quantitative approach, in which data collection involved documentary survey, in-depth interview and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping.

2.1 Documentary Survey

Official documents (laws and decrees) were consulted and analyzed to identify all municipal parks in the city. Furthermore, other official documents, master plans, urban projects related to Florianópolis' urban parks, reports, historical records, and other institutional data were retrieved and analyzed in order to identify those parks created and implemented through Community Led Initiatives (CLI), between all parks implemented in the urban tissue of the city. This survey was concluded in October, 2025.

For the Community-Led Initiative, we consider **citizen power,** the highest level of citizen participation in Arnstein's (1969) "Ladder of Citizen Participation".

Arnstein´s "Ladder of Citizen Participation" categorizes the distribution of power between institutional authorities and the public. Structured as an eight-stage ladder, the model categorizes public engagement into three distinct levels: non-participation, tokenism (symbolic participation), and citizen power.

The lowest level of participation (non-participation), includes stages of (1) manipulation and (2) therapy. The intermediate level (tokenism) includes stages of (3) informing, (4) consultation, and (5) placation, where citizens are given a voice, but lack the structural authority to ensure that their views influence outcomes. The highest level of participation (citizen power) includes (6) partnership, (7) delegated power, and (8) citizen control (highest stage), which means empowered communities that directly negotiate, govern, and control public policy initiatives.

2.2 In-depth Interview

The Key-people identified in the documentary survey stage were interviewed to guaranty methodological triangulation and avoid bias in categorizing the level of community participation in the creation of municipal parks.

A total of 12 subjects were interviewed, including 4 representing public power and at least one subject representing community members per public park.

2.3 Geographic Informatio (GIS) Mapping

Using Geographic Information System (GIS), urban parks mapping was carried out in ARQGIS Software to represent the territorial coverage of parks created by Community-Led Initiative (CLIs) within the public Open Space System in Florianópolis, allowing quantitative analysis.

GIS software allows us to compare the territorial coverage of the parks (in area) and associate it with other variables available from the IBGE Demographic Census, such as population living in the surroundings.

These procedures allowed, not only the identification of all urban parks in Florianópolis, but also the understanding of the processes of community initiative involved in the creation of each park, and the physical-spatial (territorial) coverage and distribution of parks created by popular initiatives into the Public Open Space System in Florianópolis.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Twelve (12) urban parks, created by municipal laws and decrees and implemented in urban tissue were identified in Florianópolis until October, 2025, when we concluded this research stage.

Among the twelve parks, six originated from Community-Led Initiatives (CLIs), whether citizen control or delegated power, highest stages of Arnstein's Ladder of Participation, highlighting the community power in transforming the urban environment. Other six were created and implemented by Public Power. The parks listed in Table 1 below were identified by analyzing laws and decrees and are implemented in the urban fabric. It was possible to observe, as mentioned Casarin et al (2025), that In Florianópolis, a greater concern with urban parks is recent, as the vast majority of parks were created from the 2000s.

Even though we manage to identify the origin of the mobilization to create them, it is important to mention that these parks, today, are the result of joint action by public authorities, community mobilization, and public-private partnerships.

In Florianópolis, communities and social movements have been mobilizing to revitalize underutilized areas, transforming them into spaces for socialization and leisure. In this context, parks created through

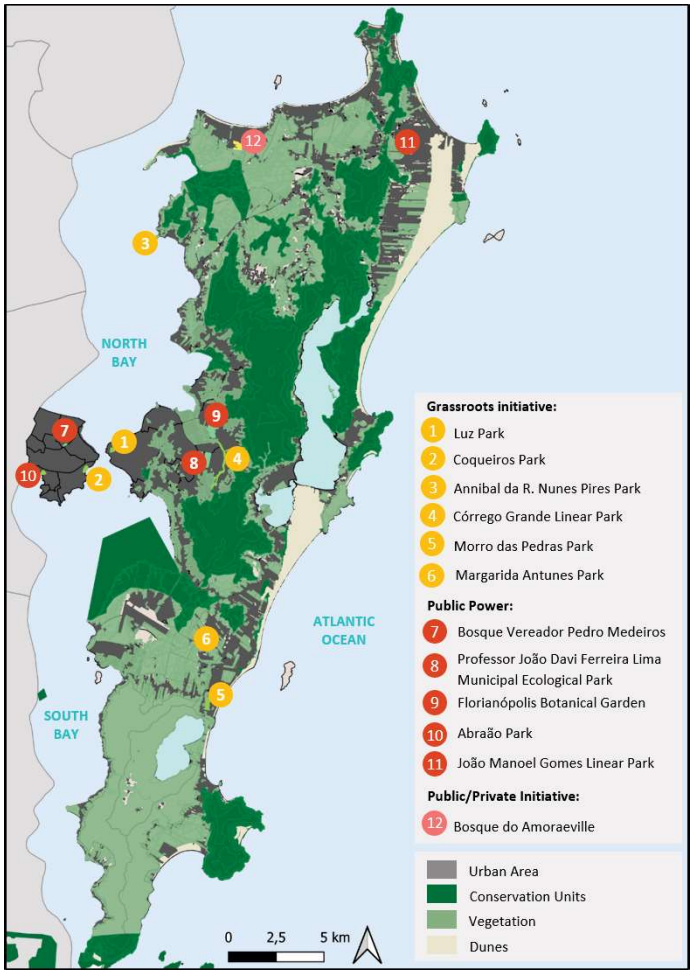
Tabela 1 – Parks not implemented or not classified as parks

Park	Creation Law	Area	Location	Origin
Bosque Vereador Pedro de Medeiros	LAW No. 3409/90	1.13ha	Jardim Atlântico/ Mainland	Public power
Luz Park	COMPLEMENTARY LAW NO. 51/1999 LAW No. 8017, October 23, 2009.	3.7ha	Central area/Island	Community-led initiative (Citizen control)
Coqueiros Park (Parque de Coqueiros Engenheiro Hamilton Schaefer)	COMPLEMENTARY LAW No. 482/2014, amended by Complementary Law No. 081, June 28, 2001; LAW No. 11,509/2025, December 12, 2025.	5ha	Coqueiros/Mainland	Community-led initiative (Citizen control)
Professor João Davi Ferreira Lima Municipal Ecological Park/ Forest Garden	Agreement nº. 3214/93-39, 1994. LAW No. 5978, January 2, 2002.	20.8ha	Córrego Grande/Island	Public power
Annibal da Rocha Nunes Pires Park/ Ponta do Sambaqui	LAW No. 10.598, October 17, 2003. COMPLEMENTARY LAW No. 6725, July 6, 2005.	1.35ha	Sambaqui/ Island	Community-led initiative (Delegated power)
Passeio dos Delfins/ Bosque do Amoraeville	LAW No. 8309, July 6, 2010	11.9ha	Jurerê Internacional/Island	Private initiative
Córrego Grande Linear Park (Parque Linear do Córrego Grande)	LAW No. 9455, January 23, 2014.	17ha	Córrego Grande/Island	Community-led initiative (Delegated power)
Florianópolis Botanical Garden	DECREE No. 17.708, June 7, 2017	22.7ha	Itacorubi/Island	Public power
Morro das Pedras Park (Parque Morro das Pedras)	DECREE No. 19.971, FEBRUARY 26, 2019	9ha	Morro das Pedras/Island	Community-led initiative (Citizen control)
João Manoel Gomes Linear Park	LAW No. 10.668 OF DECEMBER 16, 2019	0,27ha	Ingleses/Island	Public power
Abraão Park [Parque do Abraão]	Created as a compensatory measure. Opened in 2020	2.2ha	Abraão/ Mainland	Public power
Margarida Antunes (Dona Guida) Park	LAW No. 10.815 OF OCTOBER 28, 2021	0,24ha	Campeche/ Island	Community-led initiative

Source: Prepared bay the authores, 2025.

Community-Led Initiatives (CLIs) include Luz Park, Coqueiros Park, Annibal da Rocha Nunes Pires Park (Ponta do Sambaqui), Córrego Grande Linear Park, Morro das Pedras Park and Margarida Antunes Park. So Community-Led Initiatives (CLIs) has strengthened as a fundamental vector in the creation and preservation of urban parks.

Figura 1 – Urban parks in Florianópolis



Source: Prepared bay the authors, 2025.

Those data not only reveal the community's importance in demanding recreational areas, but also its capacity for organization and action vis-à-vis public authorities, demonstrating an active engagement in the fight for the 'right to the city'.

This community action, performed through Residents' Associations and Community Groups, has generated significant benefits for Florianópolis, such as the expansion of green, leisure, and recreational areas in neighborhoods where they previously did not exist, thus improving such places. In addition to strengthening community bonds and promoting population's improved health and well-being by providing respite from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, these spaces also contribute to urban sustainability by promoting environmental preservation and soil permeability.

On the other hand, public parks created by municipal government in Florianópolis, include Bosque Vereador Pedro Medeiros, Professor João Davi Ferreira Lima Municipal Ecological Park (Forest Garden), Florianópolis Botanical Garden, Abraão Park and João Manoel Gomes Linear Park. Parks created by public authorities are generally designed to meet the collective needs of leisure, health, and well-being, ensuring universal access for the population. These spaces play an essential role in promoting the quality of urban life, combining recreational, environmental, and social functions.

Complementing the actions of public authorities and the community, public-private partnerships have become increasingly common, with the private sector playing a growing role in the creation and maintenance of green spaces. Many of these initiatives combine economic interests with the provision of quality public spaces (SCHMITT et al, 2025). One example is Passeio dos Delfins, also known as Bosque do Amoraeville, implanted in the context of a same-name private real estate development.

So, based on the data collected and the analysis performed, it was clear that the community played a fundamental role in the availability of urban parks in Florianópolis, being responsible for half of these facilities in urban tissue.

3.1 Looking More Closely At Parks Created By Community-Led Initiatives (CLIs)

This chapter presents the six parks that were created through community-led initiatives, by mobilization of groups of individuals or residents' associations. These actions were crucial for government intervention in the areas now consolidated as parks.

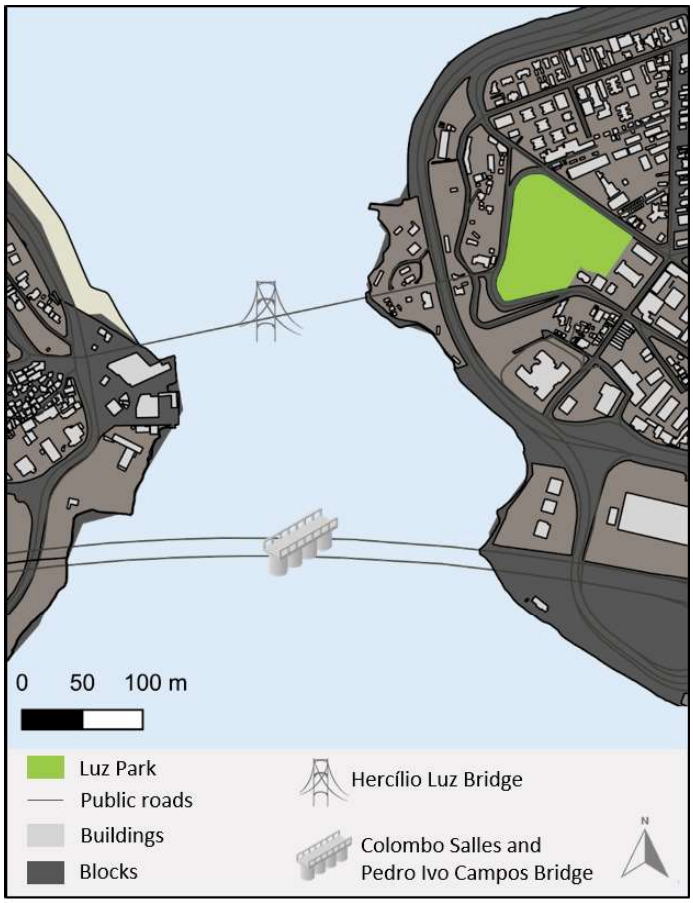
All of these initiatives identified in the cration of this group of parks were categorized by the researchers at the last level on Arnstein's Ladder of Participation (Arnstein, 1969), that is, Citizen Control, where, in this case, stakeholders, had the idea and set up (or starting implementing) the project, and come to facilitators (whether legislative, executie or judicial branch) for support.

3.1.1 Luz Park (Parque da Luz)

Luz Park (Figure 2) is an urban park located on the island, in the central region of Florianópolis, near the historic Hercílio Luz Bridge, covering an area of 3.7 hectares. One of the park's main attractions is the observation deck, which offers panoramic views of the Hercílio Luz Bridge and the city's seashore (AAPLUZ, 2024).

In the 19th century, the site was known as Colina da Vista Alegre or Morro do Barro Vermelho. In 1840, it was designated as the site for the city's first public cemetery, which remained active until 1925. At that time, the area was far from the city's central area. With the construction of the Hercílio Luz Bridge, the site was deemed unsuitable for the cemetery, which was transferred to the Itacorubi neighborhood. After this change, the area remained abandoned for many years (Silva, 2008).

Figura 2 – Location of Luz Park.



Source: Prepared bay the authores, 2025.

With its prime location, a group of residents concerned about the future of the space began a movement to transform it into a public park. In 1997, AAPLuz was created, a non-governmental organization whose goal is to safeguard the area of great historical and scenic value that now houses Luz Park.

In the late 1990s, through Law No. 51/1999 of December 27, 1999, the City Council established the area as AVL, ensuring its historical and scenic preservation (AAPLUZ, 2024). However, the measure did not generate significant government investment, and the association relied on local residents' financial contributions to maintain the park (Agostinho, 2008).

From then on, the area started being progressively used by the community, with voluntary tree planting and the spontaneous creation of trails. In recent years, the municipal administration began to devote more attention to the area and established the FLORAM headquarters at the place, which works in partnership with AAPLuz in the shared park management. In 2014, in collaboration with the private sector, the observation deck was revitalized, making it one of the main park attractions.

In addition to preserving the space, the community, through AAPLuz, promotes several activities focused on environmental education, culture, leisure, physical education, and local fairs, among others. These initiatives strengthen bonds between visitors, keeping the park vibrant and integrated into the city's daily life.

In this way, Luz Park not only enriches the quality of life in Florianópolis' central region but also reinforces the community's role in environmental preservation and the appreciation of public spaces. Its importance to the city is undeniable, as it is the only park in the central area. Besides offering space for various leisure activities, it plays a vital ecological role by serving as a sanctuary for various species of fauna and flora. It also enables the introduction and preservation of Atlantic Forest native species, helping mitigate the impacts of the destruction of this endangered biome. Furthermore, its dense vegetation helps reduce the urban heat island effects, which is a crucial factor in a dense urban region lacking public open spaces (Barros, 2010).

3.1.2 Coqueiros Park

Located on Florianópolis' mainland region, this park occupies an area of about 5 hectares by the sea (Figure 3). The area where it was originally located was part of the Coqueiros reclaimed land, designated for an urban development project that included the construction of the Colombo Salles Bridge, connecting the mainland to the island. Today, the park offers a privileged view of Santa Catarina Island and Baía Sul and has established itself as an important space for leisure and sports.

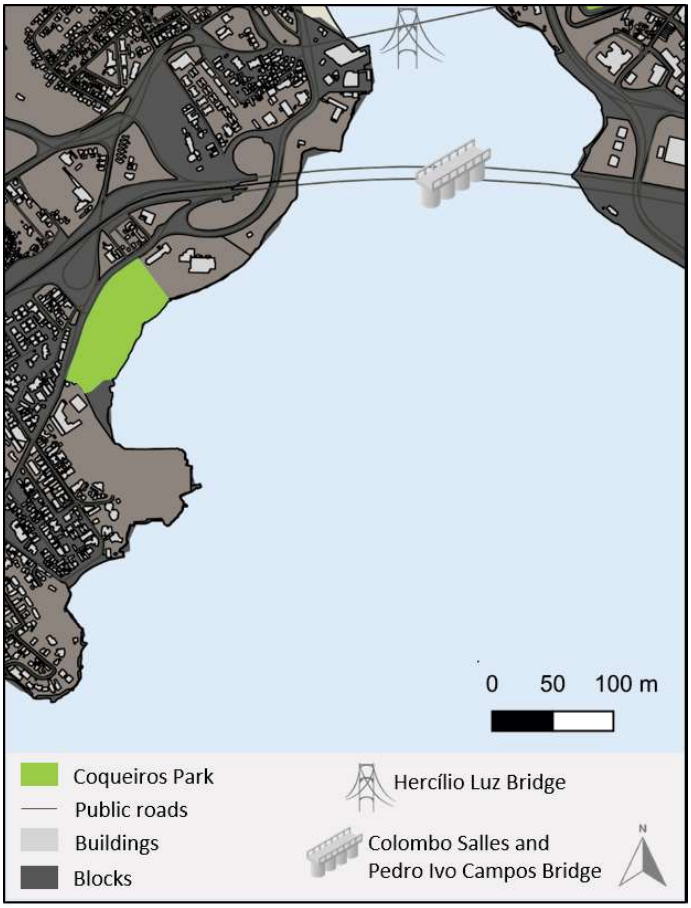
The park creation was driven by the "Sociedade Amigos de Coqueiros" [Friends of Coqueiros Society], a community organization that mobilized residents to campaign for its creation and support the project financially. Before that, the area remained underutilized for years, known as "mud hole" due to its precarious conditions. The neglect of the area generated dissatisfaction among residents, who sought not only to revitalize the neighborhood entrance but also to create a space for socialization, leisure, and sports.

In 1998, after years of mobilization, the community celebrated a significant victory: the government, through Law No. 10.839, granted the "Sociedade Amigos de Coqueiros" permission to use the area, officially recognizing its role in claiming and transforming the space. With this achievement, the Society needed to raise funds and attract investments to make the park construction possible. Given that, it entered into a partnership with Centrais Elétricas de Santa Catarina (Celesc) [electricity supplier], which enabled residents to make donations through their electricity bills, guaranteeing funding for the project (Schaefer, Wolff, 2023).

The park project was developed by a multidisciplinary team, which collaborated closely with the community under the coordination of the Society's coordination. Construction began in 1999 and benefited from a broad network of partnerships with private companies through donations of resources, materials, and services. The state government participation was later secured through parliamentary amendments from state representatives, while the municipality contributed funds through budget proposals raised by city council members (Schaefer, Wolff, 2023). Nonetheless, it was the population's active involvement that drove the project implementation, demonstrating the community organization power to create quality public spaces. This park is widely used by locals and visitors, and it is one of the main leisure spaces in Florianópolis' mainland region. The park offers soccer, beach volleyball, and basketball courts for physical activities, areas with a children playground for family leisure, and areas for relaxing and enjoying the beautiful scenery. It also enables social gatherings and cultural events, such as the traditional craft and food fair held every Saturday, Sunday, and in

the holidays.

Figura 3 – Location of Coqueiros Park.



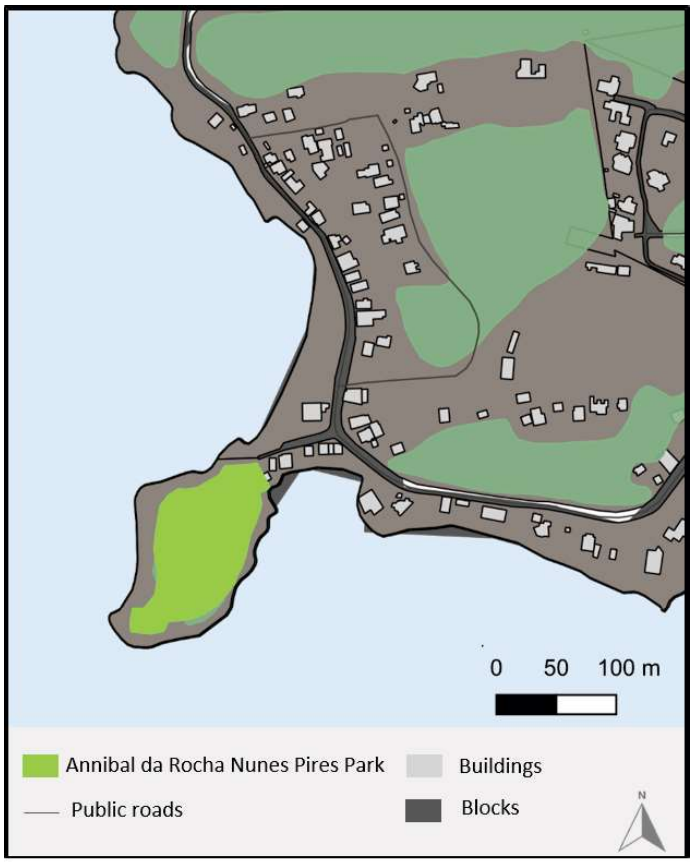
Source: Prepared bay the authores, 2025.

From the beginning, the park creation was a direct result of the local community's mobilization and persistence, coordinated through the "Sociedade Amigos de Coqueiros." This effort transformed the abandoned area into a landmark public space in the city, which remained under the Society's management until 2006, when was transferred to the municipal government, and remains so to this day. However, despite the change in formal management, the community continues to advocate for improvements, promote activities, and preserve the collective space identity. This action reinforces how the park has become a concrete symbol of citizen participation in Florianópolis.

3.1.3 Annibal da Rocha Nunes Pires Park

Anibal da Rocha Nunes Pires Park, covering around 1,35 hectares, is located in the Sambaqui neighborhood, in the Northern Santa Catarina Island (Figure 4). As it is a Navy site, the Florianópolis government has a Loan for Use Agreement with the Brazilian Navy.

Figura 4 – Location of Annibal da Rocha Nunes Pires Park.



Source: Prepared bay the authores, 2025.

The park stands out for its environmental, historical, and cultural importance, housing a shell midden and a rocky coastline. Officially designated by Municipal Decree Law No. 6725 of July 6, 2005, its preservation was the result of a community mobilization that began in the 1980s. In this context, the "Associação do Bairro de Sambaqui" [Sambaqui Neighborhood Association] (ABS) was created to prevent its degradation and ensure its protection, after the Brazilian Navy expressed its intention to sell it to a private company. Concerned about the fate of the area, some residents organized against the sale and began a demand for the area to be listed as a cultural heritage site (Ranck, 2017).

Since 1985, ABS has its headquarters in the old "Casarão da Alfândega", a listed heritage site, strengthening its work regarding local preservation. Despite its legal demarcation in 2005, the effective park implementation only occurred in 2014. During this period, as reported by ABS, the area remained managed inadequately by the Florianópolis government, suffering from irregular waste disposal, deforestation, noise pollution, and uncontrolled fires.

Starting in 2011, the community sought dialogue with FLORAM to facilitate the park implementation and regulate its use through a Normative Instruction (IN). To intensify this effort, ABS created the Park Implementation Committee, composed of residents and technicians, with the aim of lobbying the government and ensuring the area conservation. The implementation process was complex, and during this period, there was a

proposal to reclassify the area as an Area of Relevant Ecological Interest (ARIE), considered more compatible with its environmental and social characteristics. After years of mobilization, the community finally secured the park implementation through environmental compensation measures, approving the project with participatory guidelines (Ranck, 2017).

The park revitalization was completed in 2014, and its protection was formalized through a Normative Instruction, approved by the community. Clear rules of use were established and marked on signs at the site, promoting environmental awareness among visitors. The park is widely used for leisure purposes, with fishing being one of the most common activities among visitors. The area attracts not only residents but also people from other neighborhoods and regions. Gastronomic tourism along the Rota do Sol Poente contributes to its visibility, with passing tourists taking advantage of the opportunity to explore the area during their visits (Ranck, 2017).

Currently, Anibal da Rocha Nunes Pires Park stands out as an important biodiversity sanctuary, in addition to holding significant symbolic and aesthetic value for the region's cultural identity. The community remains mobilized in its defense and participates actively in debates on land use in the area, establishing it as an example of community engagement in environmental protection and the appreciation of public spaces.

3.1.4 Córrego Grande Linear Park

This linear park (Figure 5), with approximately 17 hectares of permanent preservation areas, is located along the Córrego Grande River in the Córrego Grande neighborhood. It serves as a green corridor connecting two Conservation Units: Maciço da Costeira Municipal Natural Park and Itacorubi Mangrove Municipal Park (Carvalho Filho, Campos, and La Rovere, 2022).

Its creation represents an important milestone in the integration of urban environment and nature, resulting from active community mobilization and a partnership between the government, residents, and local businesses. Since 2006/2007, when discussions surrounding the Participatory Municipal Master Plan began to highlight the need to create a park in the area, community participation has been essential to making the project viable (Carvalho Filho, Campos, and La Rovere, 2022). During this long process, several meetings were held to conciliate ideas and interests, involving public authorities, the community, and the developers responsible for the new neighboring buildings.

In 2013, as a result of pressure and advocacy from civil society, Santa Catarina Public Prosecutor's Office signed a TAC with the construction companies responsible for projects near the stream. Among the compensatory measures, the donation of Permanent Preservation Areas (APP) along the watercourse stood out, in addition to the necessary interventions to transform the site into a space for environmental preservation and recreation (Carvalho Filho, Campos, and La Rovere, 2022). The community played a decisive role in making this agreement happen, and the construction companies accepted the public-private partnership, assuming the costs of carrying out the works.

In 2014, the park was officially created through a Municipal Law. The project not only restored degraded

areas but also made the park a vital integration point that values the previously neglected stream, reconnecting the population with the neighborhood natural landscape. The project was developed by an architectural office, together with community members, especially from Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina. It resulted in a proposal that revitalized and enriched the urban fabric, promoted the use of public space, and generated dynamism in the region (Kindlein, 2024).

One of the main features of the park is the bridge designed for cyclists and pedestrians, which also serves as a large public square. The space hosts community gatherings, cultural performances, and events, strengthening the sense of community. Furthermore, the community, through the "Associação de Moradores do Sertão e Córrego Grande" [Sertão and Córrego Grande Residents' Association] (AMOSC), organizes cultural activities and craft and food fairs on a regular basis. These initiatives, in addition to promoting well-being and leisure, contribute to environmental preservation and ecological education, bringing the community even closer to this important area of natural vegetation that was restored during the park implementation process.

Figura 5 – Location of Córrego Grande Linear Park Park.



Source: Prepared bay the authores, 2025.

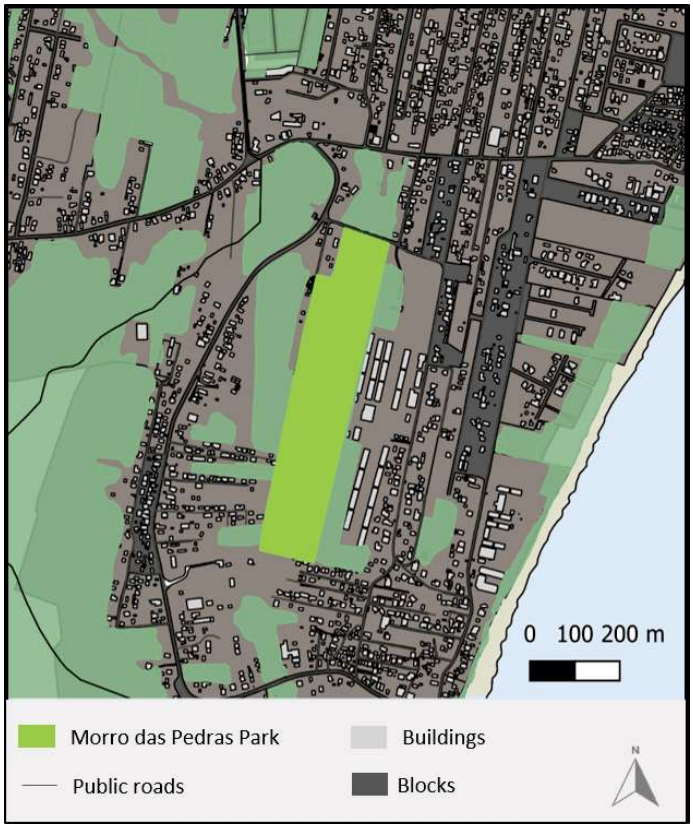
In short, this park exemplifies how urban planning combined with active community participation and private sector's counterpart actions can result in the creation of living spaces that promote leisure, improve

quality of life, and promote environmental preservation within the city.

3.1.5 Morro das Pedras Park

Morro das Pedras Park (Figure 6) is an important initiative focused on environmental preservation for the Morro das Pedras neighborhood community, serving as both a green space and a municipal recreational space. The project encompasses two areas defined in the Florianópolis Master Plan (2014): AVL (Green and Recreation Area) and ACI (Institutional Community Area), totaling some 9 hectares (20 acres) (Rede Morro das Pedras, 2017).

Figura 6 – Location of Morro das Pedras Park.



Source: Prepared bay the authores, 2025.

Located in the Southern Santa Catarina Island, the park is approximately 20 km from downtown Florianópolis, in the Morro das Pedras region. The park creation is the result of the local residents' efforts, including members of the Strategic Planning and Revitalization Commission of the Morro das Pedras Community Association (ACMP). Located in one of the last fragments of Atlantic Forest vegetation, the park is in good condition, situated between the Erasmo Interchange, Peri Municipal Park, and Morro das Pedras beach (Rede Morro das Pedras, 2017).

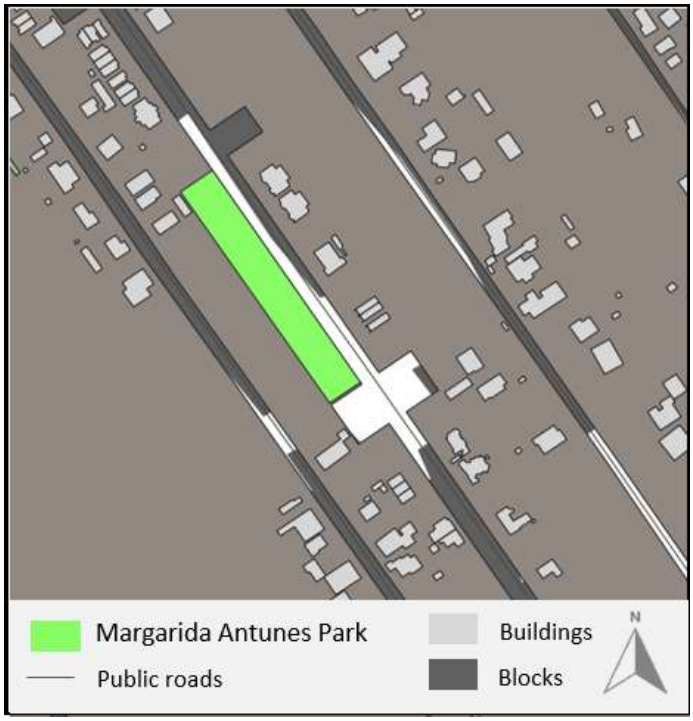
The park's main priority is the protection and restoration of permanent preservation areas and forest

fragments. Moreover, the project includes the construction of a square for several leisure, contemplation, and low-impact sports activities, aligned with its environmental functions. The park construction works began in 2018 and is expected to be completed within 30 years (Da Luz, 2019).

3.1.6 Margarida Antunes (Dona Guida) Park

Margarida Antunes (Dona Guida) park is a square-scale park located on the island, in the Campeche Neighborhood (Figure 7). Although designated by law as a park, it is smaller in scale, with a built area of 2,125,85 m².

Figura 7 – Location of Morro das Pedras Park.



Source: Prepared bay the authores, 2025.

It is another example of public leisure created by community-led initiative. Even before its official designation in 2021, the community was already using the area and demanding its recognition as a public leisure space.

Residents themselves installed a playground for children and planted some new trees alongside the native ones. However, despite being legally supported, the government has yet to mobilize to make improvements to the area.

In addition to these parks already implanted, others are still being demanded/created by the community, which continues to work tirelessly to ensure the preservation and expansion of these areas. These actions demonstrate that the fight for the 'right to the city' is constantly renewed through the articulation and demands for

public policies that recognize and value the community's role in building a more just, inclusive, and democratic city.

3.2 Parks Not Implemented

Some parks, although already approved or supported by municipal legislation and decrees, have not yet been implemented, such as those identified in Table 2 below.

Tabela 2 – Parks not implemented or not classified as parks

Park	Creation Law	Location	Origin
Francisco Dias Velho Metropolitan Park	LAW No. 3409/90	Jardim Atlântico/ Mainland	Public power
Jurerê Internacional Central Park	COMPLEMENTARY LAW NO. 51/1999 LAW No. 8017, OCTOBER 23, 2009 (The law establishes the name Parque da Luz for the 1999 AVL)	Central area/Island	Community-led initiative (Citizen control)
Maria Inês Tounier Rodrigues Adventure Park	COMPLEMENTARY LAW No. 482/2014, amended by Complementary Law No. 081, June 28, 2001; LAW No. 11,509/2025, December 12, 2025	Coqueiros/ Mainland	Community-led initiative (Citizen control)
Former Airfield / Campeche Cultural Park (Parque Cultural do Campeche (PACUCA))	Agreement nº. 3214/93-39, 1994. LAW No. 5978, JANUARY 2, 2002	Córrego Grande/Island	Public power

Source: Prepared bay the authores, 2025.

Francisco Dias Velho Metropolitan Park is one of the city's oldest parks. In 1978, this area was recognized as an urban park, having been created as a result of the 1960s Baía Sul reclaimed land project. After the reclaimed land area construction was completed, landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx's firm was hired to develop a project for the area, aiming to make the region more active and conducive to public use (Ferraro; Yunes, 2021). However, the project was not fully implemented, resulting in the absence of several original design elements. Currently, much of the space is used as a parking lot, meeting local demand, and much of

the community does not recognize or even know this area is a park. Jurerê Internacional Central Park, developed through a public-private partnership, is currently being implemented with a project that seeks to integrate contemplation areas by connecting the sea and greenery. With an area of 155,000 m² of vegetation, the park includes a significant amount of native vegetation and will allocate 30,000 m² to recreational areas (Habitasul, 2025).

Maria Inês Tournier Rodrigues Adventure Park, located in the former Abraão Quarry, is a place for climbing spots in Florianópolis. Although it has not yet been fully implemented as a park and has been neglected by the government, the area is frequently used for sports and community leisure activities, presenting infrastructure for climbing.

Campeche Cultural Park is a symbol of the local community's struggle for the creation of a space for leisure and cultural preservation. Located on the former Air Force Airfield, a public property owned by the Union, the site has historically been linked to the local population through activities such as the flour mill and the cultivation of cassava and corn. After years of neglect and an administrative process initiated in 2014, part of the area was ceded by the Superintendence of Federal Heritage in Santa Catarina (SPU-SC) for the creation of the municipal park, while the remainder is still under the Air Force management. Municipal Decree No. 13.707/2014 designated the historic and scenic complex as a Florianópolis' cultural heritage site, establishing guidelines for the use of the area, which is classified as mostly non aedificandi. The park design have to consider integration with the former Passenger Station and Morro do Lampião and should be oriented along the runway axis; cultural, leisure, and infrastructure facilities are allowed, as long as prior zoning is respected. Therefore, with approximately 350,000 m², the area should be recognized as a place for socialization, leisure, and remembrance, valuing the local Azorean culture (ND Mais, 2022).

Mirante Urban Park is a park intended to be located in the Carvoeira neighborhood hill. It is supposed to cover 21,177.13 m² and represents the local community's desire to create a space for leisure and social interaction. However, the reality is that, although there is a law recognizing the importance of this park, its implementation remains a challenge. Part of the area requested for the park is private, which makes its implementation difficult and generates conflicts between community interests and property owners' rights (Gadotti, 2022).

3.3 Other Relevant Leisure Spaces With Chracteristics Of Parks

In coastal cities, in addition to parks, beaches and shorelines are also widely used by the population as leisure spaces, valuing sports, recreation, and gastronomy, consolidated as "large linear parks, where vegetation gives way to water and sand, which become protagonists" (Sakata, 2018, p. 50). In Florianópolis, two non-bathing urban shorelines stand out with linear park characteristics, although not legally recognized as such: Beira Mar Norte (downtown) and Beira Mar Continental (Estreito neighborhood), both located around Baía Norte, in the city's central region (Casarin et al., 2025).

Beira-Mar Norte, located on Florianópolis' island portion, is home to the city's first major reclaimed

land area, built between the 1960s and 1980s and created for road purposes, which is now widely used for leisure, sports, and tourism. Currently, the Florianópolis government and the private sector are working on a project to build an urban park and a marina on Beira-Mar Norte Avenue in order to strengthen the connection between the city and the sea, also boosting the tourism and nautical sectors (Florianópolis City Hall, 2024). However, the project faces local community's resistance, which fears negative impacts on the area's environmental balance, artisanal fishing, and the region's traditional communities. As an alternative, social movements advocate for the creation of 3 Pontas Cultural Park to protect the region (Parque Cultural das 3 Pontas, 2025). The process for the Urban Park and Marina is progressing, and the Federal Court officially approved the agreement with the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office (MPF) authorizing the continued licensing of the Beira-Mar Norte Marina in Florianópolis by the Santa Catarina Environmental Institute (Menezes, 2025).

Beira Mar Continental, completed in 2012 and located on the mainland, also originated as a highway project, and has less leisure and landscaping infrastructure. Despite this, it is highly frequented and included in the "Ponte Viva: Hercílio Luz Para as Pessoas" municipal plan, which foresees actions and projects with diverse themes, scales, and complexities. It proposes improvements focused on connectivity, tourism, and quality public use (Florianópolis, 2025).

4 FINAL REMARKS

Throughout this study, we sought to identify public urban parks in Florianópolis, SC, created through Community-Led Initiatives (CLIs), and determine their physical-spatial (territorial) coverage within the Public Open Space (POS) system. The results show that community mobilization has been a determining factor for the existence of half of the urban parks in the city, highlighting the society's leading role in the fight for the right to the city and in the expansion of public open spaces, in line with growing environmental concern.

These Community-Led Initiatives (CLIs) have enabled more than 65,000, without prior access to urban parks near their homes, to have access to urban parks within 800 meters from their homes.

Many of urban parks in Florianópolis were created from popular mobilization through claims, local articulations, and pressure on the public power. In six of them, out of twelve, Community-Led Initiative (CLI) was a determinant factor to the creation of these spaces, however, the consolidation of these parks did not occur exclusively by the direct community action.

So the creation and management of urban parks result from the interaction between different agents, namely, public power, civil society, and private sector. This diversity of actors involved in the creation of these spaces expands their ability to meet the various social demands, reinforcing the feeling of belonging and causing urban environment valuation.

Given these findings, this study serves as a starting point for future investigations into the relationship between community participation and public policies in open space management. Comparative research between parks created by different processes can contribute to a deeper understanding of the impacts of shared management and the challenges faced in the implementation of these spaces.

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