

SURVEY AND REFLECTION ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF URBAN COMMUNITY SPORTS FACILITIES IN YONGZHOU CITY

Jinmei Li^{1*}, Supitr Samahito²

^{1*,2}College of innovative management, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, Bangkok, Thailand

E-Mail: s64584950005@ssru.ac.th^{1*}, supits.sa@ssru.ac.th²

ABSTRACT

This paper investigates and studies the construction status of public sports facilities in Yongzhou City through on-site inspections, questionnaire surveys, and mathematical statistics. It comprehensively analyzes the existing problems in the construction of urban community sports facilities in Yongzhou, including weak economic foundations, limited types and insufficient quantities of public sports facilities, uneven distribution, inadequate maintenance, developers prioritizing profit maximization, and inadequate regulatory mechanisms. These issues have become significant factors hindering the development of sports activities in urban communities in Yongzhou. Leveraging the advantages of the national fitness background, the paper suggests increasing the openness of public sports facilities in schools and enterprises to the community, improving the utilization rate of existing facilities, and enhancing regulatory responsibilities and constraint mechanisms to ensure the residents' right to fitness. The paper aims to provide constructive references for the development of sports facilities in urban communities.

Keywords: Yongzhou City, Urban Community, Sports Facilities, Current Status Survey

INTRODUCTION

With the acceleration of urbanization and the increasing awareness of residents' health, the current status of urban community sports facilities has gradually become a focal point of attention. With the implementation of the national fitness strategy, community public sports services have become a key focus in promoting nationwide fitness and constructing a "Healthy China." The government service philosophy of "putting the people at the center" recognizes urban community sports as a crucial component of mass sports, an inevitable outcome of China's ongoing economic development and reform. In 2016, the State Council issued the "Healthy China 2030 Plan" (hereinafter referred to as the "Plan"),

proposing the strategic theme of "shared construction, nationwide health." The "Plan" prioritizes the strategic position of people's health development. This study aims to investigate the quantity, quality, and usage of urban community sports facilities in Yongzhou City, in-depth understanding of current issues, and challenges. Through a comprehensive survey of the current status of urban community sports facilities, this study aims to provide valuable information and suggestions for urban planning, community development, and resident health. The results of this research will contribute to promoting the rational layout and improvement of urban community sports facilities to meet the growing demand for fitness, fostering residents' physical health, and enhancing community development.

OBJECTIVE

This study focuses on the current status of urban community public sports facilities in Yongzhou City. The research targets residents from ten randomly selected communities in Jianghua Yao Autonomous County, Lengshuitan District, Lingling District, and Qiyang City in Yongzhou City. Additionally, 400 questionnaires are randomly distributed as supplementary data for the investigation.

METHODOLOGY

In accordance with the research needs of this article, a combination of on-site inspection, questionnaire survey, and statistical methods was employed to conduct field visits and collect data.

Sub-Section 1

On-site inspections were conducted in urban communities in Yongzhou City. Understanding the overall situation of the construction of urban community sports facilities in the context of nationwide fitness, we analyzed the main problems and current status affecting the construction. We also examined the subjective and objective reasons constraining the development of the urban community public sports service system in Yongzhou. Expert leaders' opinions were extensively sought, providing firsthand information for this study.

Sub-Section 2

A questionnaire survey involves the use of a pre-designed standardized questionnaire, distributed either by mail to each respondent in the sample or collected by investigators. The residents of Jianghua Yao Autonomous County, Lingling District, Lengshuitan District, and Qiyang City were surveyed to understand the current status of the construction of public sports facilities in urban communities in Yongzhou.

Sub-Section 3

Data collected from the questionnaire survey were processed and analyzed using the latest social science statistical software packages (SPSS 17.0) and Excel. The data were subjected to statistical treatment, summarization, and deduction to obtain the necessary and effective data for this research paper.

RESULTS

1.1 Current Status of Public Sports Facilities in Urban Communities in Yongzhou City

1) Insufficient total quantity of public sports facilities, unable to meet the growing fitness needs of residents. Public sports facilities are the material foundation for the development of community sports. The mass sports in Yongzhou City are thriving, with 1.6929 million people regularly participating in

sports activities, accounting for 31.05% of the total population. The per capita investment in national fitness is 14.05 yuan. In 2023, the China Dragon Boat Open Championship came to Yongzhou, attracting the attention of sports enthusiasts nationwide. However, the current construction of public sports facilities in urban communities in Yongzhou is lagging far behind. From on-site investigations in communities, it was found that 78.4% of urban communities basically lack public sports facilities. The remaining 21.6% of urban communities may have some, but only one basketball court, a few ping-pong tables, or several pieces of fitness equipment, far from meeting the fitness needs of residents. This point is also confirmed by the distributed questionnaires: 77% of urban community residents believe that current public sports facilities cannot meet exercise needs, with only 17% considering them adequate or basically adequate. From Table 1.

Table 1

Statistical Table of the Quantity of Public Sports Facilities in Urban Communities in Yongzhou City (N=400)

Sports Facilities Situation	Enough	Basically adequate	Inadequate	None
Number of People	31	69	225	75
Percentage	7.75%	17.25%	56.2%	23.52%

The survey indicates that sports facilities in urban communities in Yongzhou City are severely insufficient. Most community residents resort to exercising in non-standard sports venues such as their own courtyards, streets, residential open spaces, and courtyards, as the existing community sports facilities fall far short of meeting residents' fitness needs. The difficulty of staying fit despite favorable living conditions in the community has become a new concern and sentiment among urban community residents. Many sports enthusiasts, especially young individuals, play sports like football in open spaces around residential buildings, resulting in broken windows, damaged plants, pedestrian obstruction, and significantly impacting the harmonious living environment. On one hand, the rapid increase in the population engaged in sports and the growing demand for a healthy lifestyle intensify the need for physical exercise. On the other hand, the severe shortage of community sports facilities exacerbates the contradiction between the urgent demand of urban community residents for daily physical exercise and the inadequacy of sports facilities.

2) The layout of public sports facilities is unreasonable, exacerbating the contradiction between residents' exercise demands and the supply of facilities. According to the requirements of the General Office of the State Sports General Administration's "Notice on Carrying Out the 2021 Sports Venue Statistical Survey," the Hunan Provincial Sports Bureau organized a statistical survey of sports venues. The province has a total of 159,600 sports venues, covering an area of 123,722,260 square meters, with a per capita sports venue area of 1.86 square meters. However, the statistical report on the national economic and social development of Yongzhou City in 2022 shows that the city has 14,300 sports venues (indoor and outdoor). This includes 13 sports halls, 583 stadiums, 47 swimming pools, and 89 administrative villages with newly built rural sports and fitness projects. Despite these numbers, these sports facilities are primarily concentrated in institutional enterprises. Public places such as parks, squares, residential communities, which bear the exercise demands of the majority, lack sufficient sports facilities. Among them, 2545 are distributed in campuses, accounting for 73.23% of the total number of sports venues in the province; 269 are located in the courtyards of government institutions and enterprises, accounting for 8.77%; 180 are in factories and enterprises, accounting for 4.52%; 108 are in residential communities, accounting for 2.88%; and the remaining 459 are classified as "other," constituting 10.6%.

Among these facilities, those within schools and institutions account for 82%, while community public sports facilities, crucial for meeting the exercise needs of the vast majority of urban residents, only constitute 2.88% of the total sports facility quantity in Hunan Province. From Table 2.

Table 2
Overview of the Distribution of Public Sports Facilities in Yongzhou City's Urban Communities

Distribution	Campus	Government Units	Factories/Enterprises	Residential Areas	Other
Quantity	2545	269	180	108	459
Percentage	73.23%	8.77%	4.52%	2.88%	10.6%

3) Existing sports facilities lack management and maintenance, losing their original functions. Maintenance and upkeep are crucial guarantees for the development and sustainability of community sports facilities. The open nature of urban community sports facilities makes it challenging to monitor them around the clock. According to feedback from some community committee members, there are no relevant maintenance and management measures for the government's investment in building fitness facilities in residential areas. Additionally, due to insufficient community staff, it is impossible to assign personnel for daily management and maintenance. Moreover, maintenance funds have not been allocated properly, resulting in a lack of funds for upkeep. The research results show that sports facilities in Yongzhou City urban communities have suffered varying degrees of damage, with only 2% of surveyed communities reporting intact facilities. Approximately 30% have minor damage that does not affect use, 40% have moderate damage that affects use, and 10% are severely damaged and unusable. Some public sports facilities in certain communities are severely damaged, with many fitness equipment pieces no longer functional. For example, basketball hoops are missing, the rotating disc on the rotational training device has been stolen, the seat on the leg press machine is gone, horizontal bars are missing from the parallel bars, the stretching device is in poor condition, and some equipment is covered in graffiti with phrases like "so-and-so was here" visible everywhere. From Table 3.

Table 3
Overview of Damaged Public Sports Facilities in Urban Communities of Yongzhou City

Degree of Damage	No Damage	Slight, Does Not Affect Use	Moderate, Affects Use	Severe, Cannot Be Used
Quantity	2	3	4	1
Percentage	20%	30%	40%	10%

Urban community public sports facilities are being damaged for various reasons. Some instances result from residents using the sports equipment improperly during exercise, while others are due to individuals not taking care of the facilities or intentionally causing damage. Additionally, facilities constructed a long time ago that have not received proper maintenance and upkeep contribute to the

gradual deterioration and abandonment of a significant portion of the equipment. Moreover, some community-based national fitness service centers outside residential areas face issues of neglect, with regulations for management established by authorities often being disregarded. This lack of oversight and maintenance has led to instances of intentional damage and theft of equipment. Such conditions significantly impact the exercise opportunities for residents in urban communities.

4) The contradiction between the standardized configuration of community public sports facilities and the diverse needs of the community residents. In some communities, there is a tendency to equip certain public sports facilities only to meet the requirements of higher-level inspections. The planning, layout, and design standards of these facilities, as well as the quantity and types of fitness equipment indifferent communities, are standardized. This uniformity diminishes the dynamic appeal that should attract public participation and stimulate the desire for fitness. The facilities become standardized, overlooking the diverse needs of different genders, ages, and purposes of activities. This approach often results in the construction of facilities for the sake of construction, aiming for quantity increase, and aligning with the performance goals of relevant government departments, leading to a construction orientation that turns some fitness equipment into mere decorations without serving their intended purpose.

1.2 Analysis of Factors Influencing the Development of Urban Community Sports Facilities in Yongzhou City

1) Impact of Economic and Social Development: The lack of financial investment poses a significant challenge to the construction of sports facilities, as substantial funding is required. Therefore, the availability of funds from government budgets, sports industry investments, community fundraising, and other sources is crucial for the construction and maintenance of sports facilities.

2) Unclear Rights and Responsibilities: The lack of clarity in the allocation of management responsibilities results in improper management and maintenance of public sports facilities in urban communities. This leads to a delayed response to the needs of community residents, ultimately reducing their satisfaction with the government.

3) Profit Maximization by Real Estate Developers: Pursuit of maximum profits by real estate developers often leads to the existence of public sports facilities only on paper, as they are included in design plans. The failure to meet diverse sports needs is critical, encompassing various aspects such as types, quantities, and locations of sports facilities.

4) Lack of Effective Supervision: The absence of effective oversight results in safety hazards in urban community public sports facilities. The structure, equipment, or maintenance of facilities may not comply with safety standards, increasing the risk of accidents for users. This lack of supervision also contributes to facility damage or abandonment, rendering relevant laws and regulations ineffective in practice

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

CONCLUSION: This study focuses on the current status of urban community public sports facilities in Yongzhou City. From ten randomly selected communities in Jianghua Yao Autonomous County, Lengshuitan District, Lingling District, and Qiyang City in Yongzhou City, 400 questionnaires are randomly distributed for a survey. The conclusions drawn are as follows:

1) The sports population in Yongzhou City is steadily increasing, but the corresponding urban community facilities are relatively lagging. There is a significant contradiction with the growing demand

for fitness, with nearly 77% of urban residents indicating that public sports facilities cannot meet their fitness needs.

2) The planning and layout of public sports facilities in urban communities in Yongzhou City are unreasonable. There is a certain gap in the quantity and quality of sports facilities between the old and new urban areas.

3) Lack of clarity in management responsibilities results in a lack of management and maintenance of existing public sports facilities. The construction of sports facilities cannot timely respond to the needs of community residents, reducing residents' satisfaction with the government.

4) Developers lack strict supervision and acceptance mechanisms during the construction process. Public sports facilities exist only in design plans. The insufficient sports facilities lead to a lack of appropriate venues and equipment for residents to exercise, affecting their physical health.

FUTURE WORK: Recommendations: Increase the accessibility of public sports facilities in schools and enterprises to the public, enhancing the utilization rate of existing facilities. Gradually increase the quantity and layout of public sports facilities to facilitate residents' participation in sports and fitness activities nearby. Improve relevant laws and regulations for the construction of urban community public sports facilities, enhancing the supervisory responsibilities and constraint mechanisms of management authorities to ensure the fitness rights of urban community residents.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am a doctoral student majoring in Sports Management at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University in 2021. I am deeply grateful to my advisor, Dr. Supitr. She not only provided meticulous guidance in my academic pursuits but also offered thoughtful care and support in life and thoughts. I would also like to express my gratitude to all the teachers and classmates for their encouragement and assistance, which motivated me to successfully complete the paper for this international conference. My heartfelt thanks go to Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University for their invaluable support throughout the entire research process.

REFERENCES

- Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, State Council. (2016). *Healthy China 2030 Planning Outline*.
- General Office of the State Council. (2023). Notice on Printing and Distributing the National Fitness Plan (2021-2025). http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/202108/03/content_5629218.htm
- State Council of China. (2019). Outline of Building a Sports Power. Beijing: *People's Publishing House*.
- General Administration of Sport of China. (2023). 2022 National Sports Venue Statistical Survey Data. <https://www.sport.gov.cn/n315/n329/c25365348/content.html>
- Urban Community Sports Facility Construction Land Index. (2023-03-30). http://ig.mnr.gov.cn/201701/20170123_1428167.html.
- Analysis Report on the Situation of Cultural and Sports Facilities in Yongzhou City (Whole City). (2019).

- Zhijie Wang. (2018). Research on the Current Situation of Urban Community Sports Facilities in Wuxing District, Huzhou City - A Case Study of Longquan Street. *Sports Boutique*, (37), 8, 46-48.
- Mengchen Ma. (2022). Research on the Participation of Sports Social Organizations in Urban Community Sports Governance in Jinan City. *HuaiBei Normal University*.
- Yongsheng Wang. (2022). Research on the Construction Strategy of Urban Community Sports Facilities in High-Density Areas. *Henan University*.
- Shijia Song. (2022). Research on the Construction of the Public Health and Fitness Service System in Urban Communities in Lanzhou under the Concept of "Great Health". *Lanzhou University of Technology*.
- Liping Zhong. (2021). Research on Innovative Governance of Sports Services for the Elderly in Urban Communities. *Hunan Normal University*.
- Yiming Gu. (2021). Research on the Construction Mode of Zhangjiagang Sports and Fitness Circle under the Background of Building a Strong Sports City. *Guangxi Normal University*.
- Yuanxin Chen, Kaifang He&Jine Yang, et al. (2020). Research on the Construction of Sports Facilities Using Non-sports Land in China. *Sports Science Research*, 34(5), 41-47.
- Biao Zhou & Yuanxin Chen. (2022). Exploration of High-Quality Development of National Fitness Facilities in China in the New Era. *Sports Culture Guide*, (8), 50-57.
- Qiang Zhang, Yan Liu & Jiahong Wang. (2018). Research on Existing Problems and Countermeasures of Public Sports Facility Planning in China. *Journal of Tianjin University of Sport*, 33(4), 293-298.
- Maolin You. (2022). Research on the Development Strategy of Urban Sports Facilities in China Based on the Practice of the "Thirteenth Five-Year Plan". *Sports Culture Guide*, 2022(2), 56-62.
- Yongtao Yan, Zhidong Xu & Ziming Li. (2015). Exploration of Special Planning for Public Sports Facilities Aimed at National Fitness: A Case Study of Guangzhou. *Planner*, 31(7), 11-16.