

Urban Parks: An Abandoned Priority – The Case of Civic Centre Gardens in Gweru City, Zimbabwe

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KEYWORDS Gweru. Civic Centre Gardens. Park. Stress. Aesthetic

ABSTRACT The Civic Centre Gardens in Gweru City in Zimbabwe, which used to be an attractive sanctuary, have become an eye-sore. The gardens have lost their aesthetic and therapeutic values due to a number of factors which include general neglect. Most of the infrastructure in the park is run down and needs to be revamped. The deterioration is largely blamed on the economic challenges that were experienced in Zimbabwe between 1999 and 2009. The study used interviews and observations to gather data. The study recommends that the responsible authority pays urgent attention to the gardens as they are an important component in the landscape of the City of Gweru. The residents of the city should be made aware of the value and importance of the park since it has positive impacts on their lives.