

## RESEARCH PROPOSAL

# Public Participation as a Tool in Public Space Maintenance in Malaysian Towns

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# Research Background



## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Aarhus Convention in 1998, **individual and citizens are also the protector** of the environment.
- One of the big element in the process of **creating and managing open space** (Jansson and Lidgren, 2012, Conrad et al, 2011).
- Perancangan Strategik Jabatan Lanskap 2007-2016

Examples :

- Community in Bloom, Singapore
- TTDI Edible Garden, Malaysia.
- Indonesia Berkebun, Indonesia.

# Research Aim & Objectives

- ▶ The aim of this research is to **investigate the public participation as a strategic approach in landscape maintenance** in order to create vibrant open spaces in Malaysian towns.
  - I. To **identify the barriers** that cause lack of public participation in landscape maintenance in Malaysia;
  - II. To **identify the factors** that encourages public involvement in landscape maintenance; and
  - III. To **develop the concept of public participation** as a tool in landscape maintenance.

# Research Questions

**RQ1** : What are the **barriers** that deters public from engaging in public participation in maintaining their residential public spaces?

**RQ2** : How **willing** are the residents on involving themselves in maintaining their own neighbourhood public spaces?

**RQ3** : What are the **factors** that motivate the resident in a neighbourhood to engage with public space maintenance activities?

**RQ4** : How can public participation be a **tool** in public space maintenance in the neighbourhood?

# Issues & Problems

## Weak landscape management

- Management of urban landscape seems to **concentrate on day-to-day maintenance rather than long-term strategic thinking**(Tahir and Roe,2006)
- **Maintenance operation cost a big amount** of funds and energy (Parker and Bryan, 1989).
- **Lack of fund allocated for provision expenditure** for landscape planning and management are one of the main cause of **declining of maintenance standard of green spaces** (Aziz, 2012).

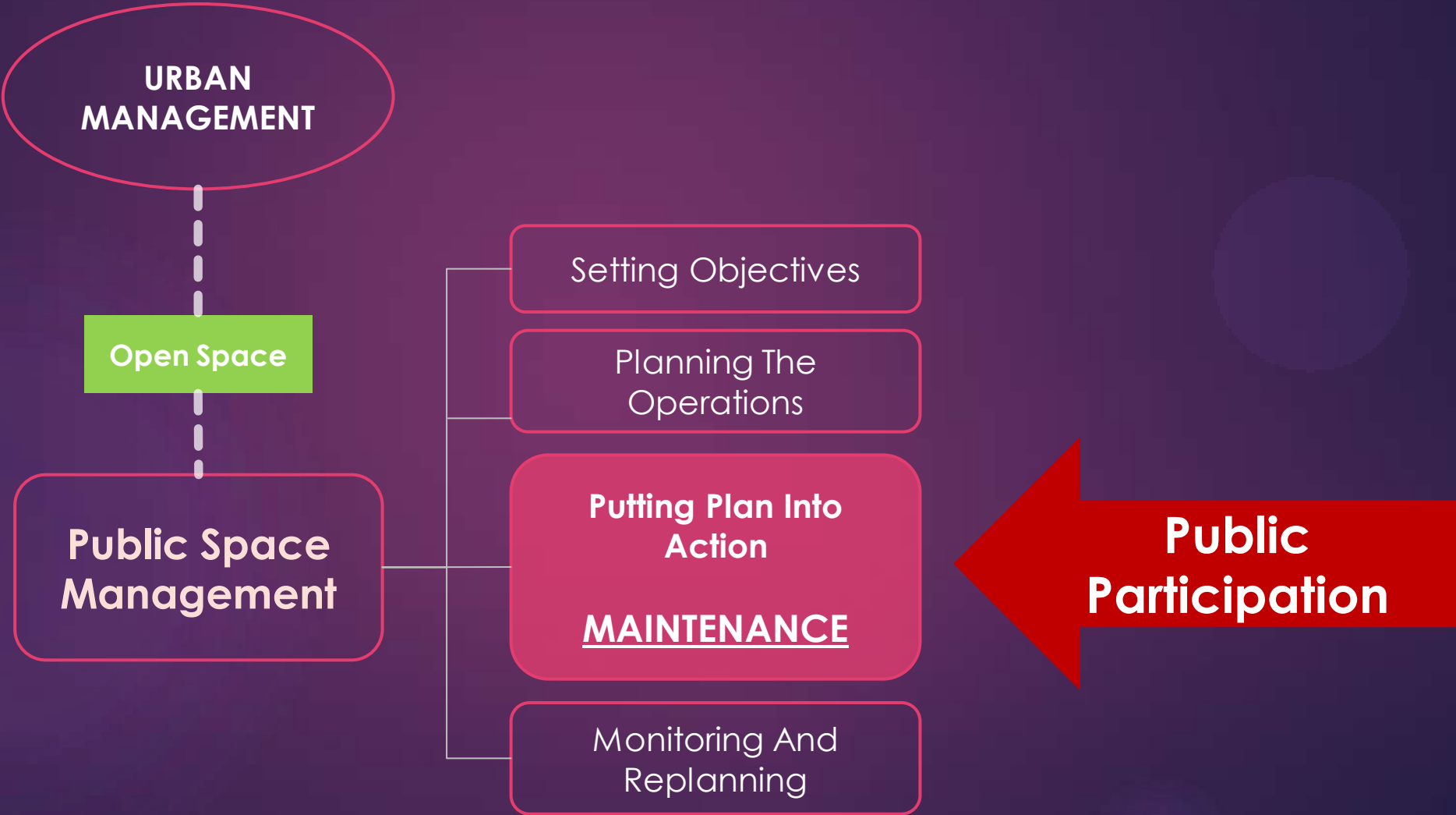
## Lack of public Participation

- **Weaknesses in regulation** cause low involvement other than lack of awareness and expertise among the public (Marzuki, 1998)
- Malaysians are **concerned** on the environmental issue **but their concern did not translate into action** (Haliza,2011)

# Research Gap

- ▶ **Diverse researches on public participation** yet there are **none of them are recognized in the area of landscape planning and management** (*The Landscape Observatory, 2010*).
- ▶ According to Balram and Dragi (2005) the **strategies to encourage participation should be given greater consideration** rather than public awareness.
- ▶ Concept and practice of involving local people in the planning and design process has been common for many years and has proved its worth. There is a reasonable amount written about its worth. **However, in contrast with that there has been relatively little work done on community involvement in landscape maintenance and management (Pryce, 1990)**

# Literature Review- Conceptual Framework





# Literature Review

## Public Open Space

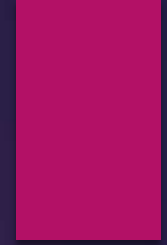
- 1) **All those parts of the built and natural environment where the public have free access** (OPDM,2004).
- 2) **Neighbourhood public space should be identify as an outdoor room** where they can enjoy from all range of outdoor activities to be the venues for events (Thompson, C. 2002).

## Public Participation

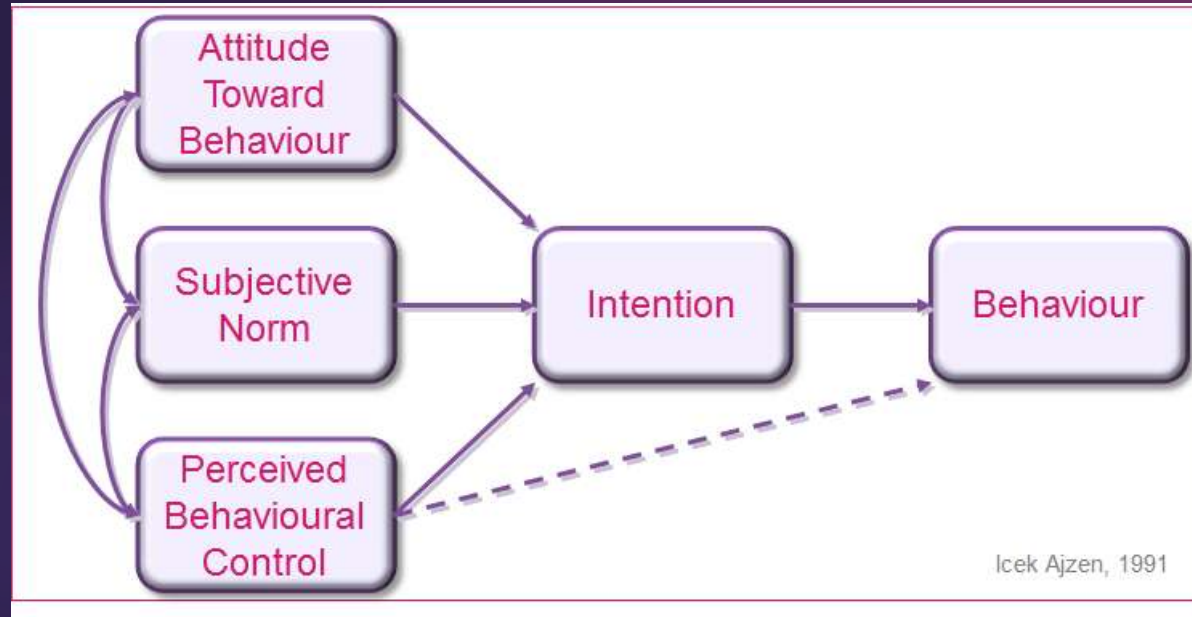
1. Defined as the **intervention of citizens in public matters**, individually or collectively (The Landscape Observatory, 2010)
2. Participation understood in a very broad sense as the act of **taking part in a wide range of social and civic activities** (Brodie et al 2011)
3. Also called public involvement, citizen engagement, citizen participation, collaborative decision-making, or facilitated problem solving (The International Association for Public Participation 2010).

## Landscape management and maintenance

- 1) Landscape management defined as ensuring the regular upkeep of a landscape in order to guide and harmonize changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental (Council of Europe, 2000).
- 2) Landscape management and maintenance are programmes and activities related to the management and maintenance of landscapes to ensure all aspect related to sustainable landscape development (National Landscape Policy, 2006).



## Theory of Planned Behaviour



- ▶ According to Ajzen(1991) people's **willingness to act is the best predictor for their behavior.**
- ▶ To predict whether a person intends to do something, we need to know:

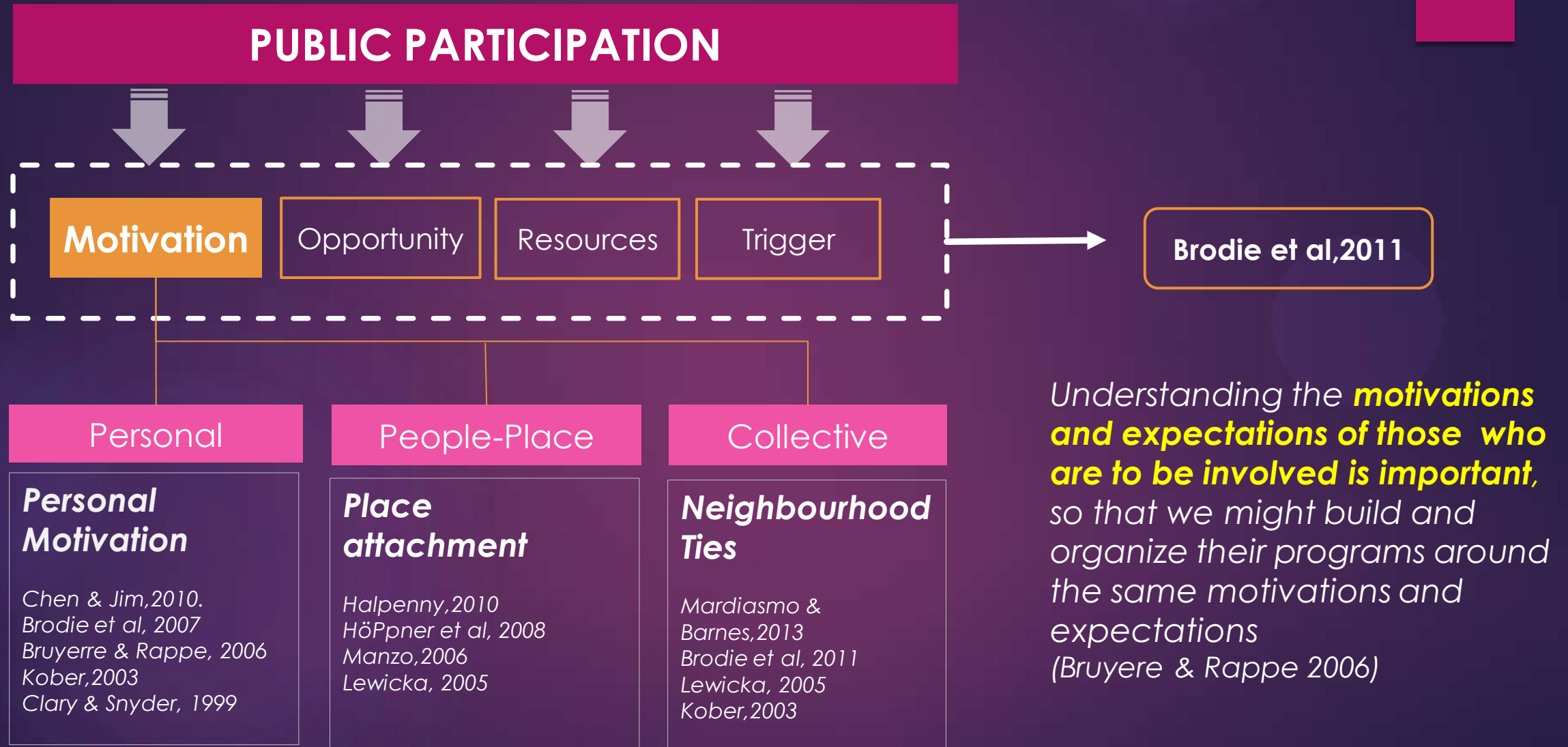
**ATTITUDE** : Whether the person is in favour of doing it

**SUBJECTIVE NORM** : How much the person feels social pressure to do it

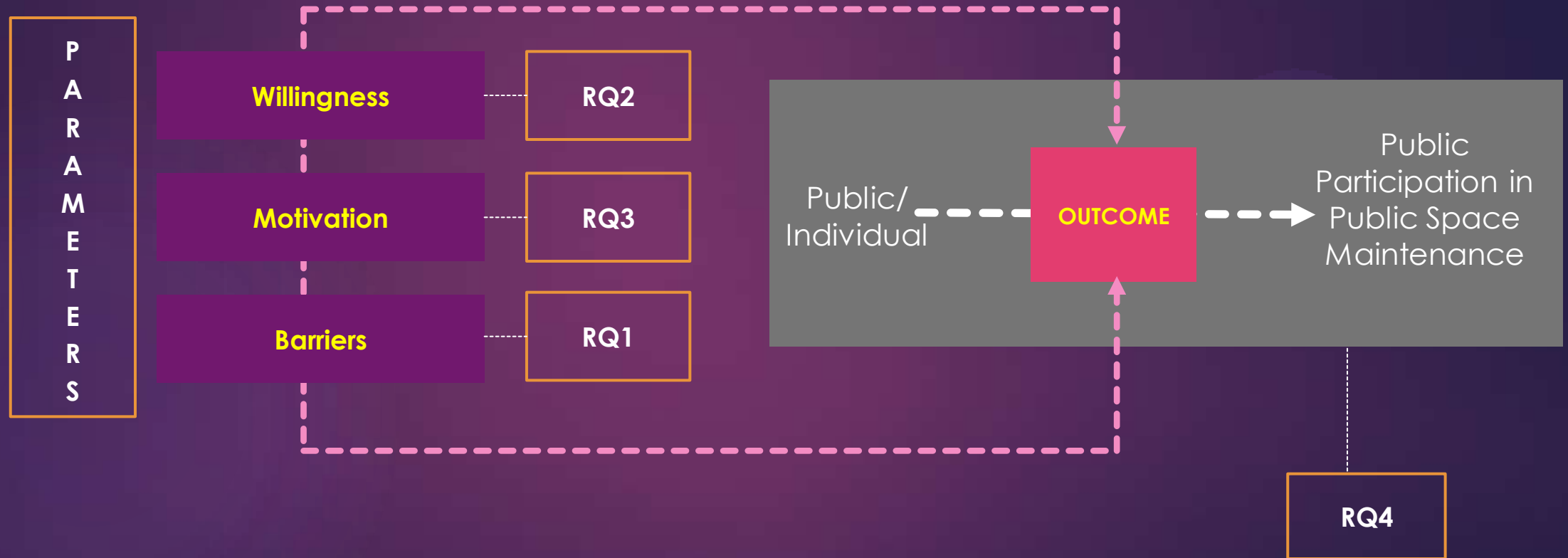
**PERCEIVED BEHAVIORAL CONTROL** Whether the person feels in control of the action in question

- ▶ By changing these three 'predictors', we can increase the chance that the person will intend to do a desired action and thus increase the chance of the person actually doing it.

# Literature Review

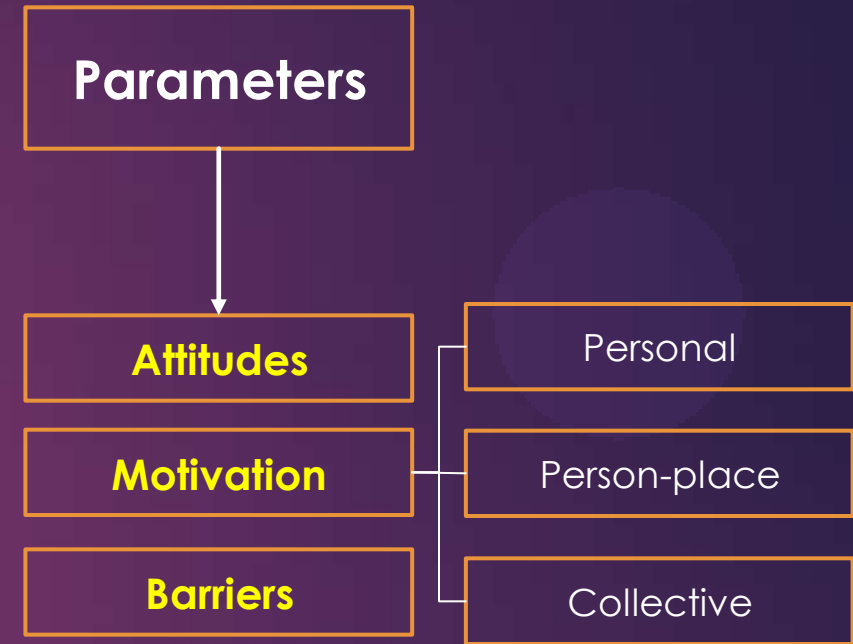


# RESEARCH DESIGN



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Method	Information gathered	Analysis method	Parameters or Variables
<b>Literature review</b>	Landscape maintenance and public participation practice in Malaysia	Document analysis	The process of landscape management and public participation in Malaysia.
<b>Survey questionnaire</b>	Perceptual responses and respondents background	Rasch Model	1. Willingness 2. Motivations 3. Barriers
<b>In-Depth Interview</b>	Perceptual responses	Nvivo	Personal motivation



# RESEARCH DESIGN



# Scope of Study

## Location

- ❖ Town
- ❖ Public open space

*Carr et al. (1992) define public space as “open, publicly accessible places” that facilitate the popular activities necessary for community building*

- ❖ Residential area

*Public spaces that are most valued are usually those that are intimate and familiar which play a role in people’s everyday lives rather than the one that are far from home (Burgess et al 1988).*

**Spatial based community where the community is based on where they live.**

The most important community to be in participation (Rustam,2006)

# Study Area - Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



- Located on the western fringe of Kuala Lumpur bordering with the state of Selangor.
- 286-hectare
- 1973
- DBKL as its local authority
- Approximately 6,500 housing
- TTDI development is also a **social statement where it was intended to accommodate the diversity of ethnic groups in Malaysia** (Fischer,2005)

- *"If Malaysians of various races are brought together in pleasant communities, with plenty of opportunities for neighbourly interaction, they will come to be more aware of the things they have in common and less conscious of the aspects in which they differ. If their children grow up together, and mix freely in schools and on the playing fields, they will think of themselves and of each other as Malaysians rather than Malays, Chinese or Indians"*





## TTDI THE EDIBLE GARDEN

- Adoption of a 'plot' basis.
- The garden for everyone, primarily TTDI residents and friends who gather together and support beautifying public spaces by growing edible plants and flowers.
- Aiming to get permission to use council land within the community centre grounds (next to the tennis courts) for a small community edible garden.

# Anticipated Findings

This study is also expected to come out with several other findings such as:

- ▶ **Factors that encourages** individuals to be involve in their own public space maintenance
- ▶ **The characteristic of public participation** in public space maintenance that are preferred by the public to participate in.



Thank you.

