



# Park City: A New Paradigm Leading Urban Development in the New Era

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**Abstract:** When President Xi Jinping came to Sichuan for an inspection, he first put forward the major proposition of "Park City", and deeply answered the fundamental questions of what kind of city to build in the new era, how to build a city, and so on, to construct a new paradigm for planning and promoting urban development in a new historical position. From the perspective of combining theory and practice, this paper expounds the time position, historical heritage, main connotation and advancement path of park city construction.

**Keywords:** urban development, new paradigm, park city

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## 1. Introduction

In February 2018, President Xi Jinping emphasized when inspecting in Sichuan that Tianfu New Area is an important node in the construction of the "Belt and Road Initiative" and the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt. It must be planned and constructed, especially the characteristics of park cities and the ecological value should be taken into consideration. Strive to create a new growth pole and build an inland open economic highland.<sup>[1]</sup> From a broad perspective of the integration of history and reality, international and domestic correlation, and the combination of theory and practice, this important exposition creatively puts forward the major proposition of "Park City". It profoundly answers the overall fundamental questions such as what kind of city to build and how to build a city in the new era, and constructs a new paradigm for planning and promoting urban development in the new historical position.

## 2. The main content of "Park City"

### 2.1 The "Park City" is closely related to the times and embodies the organic unity of issue orientation, law orientation and need orientation

The Marxist practice view believes that problems are the voice of the times, and theories are the works of the times. Any theory is the product of the times, and any theoretical innovation is a response to the problems of the times to a certain extent. President Xi Jinping put forward the major proposition of "Park City", which is by no means made out of nothing or on a whim, but with a clear direction of the times.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### 2.1.1 Issue orientation

"Park City" directly hits on the issues of the times and reflects a conscious reflection on the traditional urban development model. Since the reform and opening up, China has experienced the largest and fastest urbanization process in global history. By 2017, the national urban permanent population increased from 170 million in 1978 to 810 million, and the urban population accounted for 58.52% of the total population (urbanization rate).<sup>[3]</sup> This process is mainly characterized by population agglomeration in big cities. Many cities are getting bigger and bigger, approaching or even exceeding resource and environmental thresholds, and eventually suffering from big city diseases such as "puffiness" and "edema". It leads to a series of prominent problems, such as traffic congestion, environmental pollution, high house prices, disorderly governance and so on.

The important inducing force of these problems is that the traditional urban development model is mainly driven by investment and construction expansion, focusing more on "urbanization of land" rather than "urbanization of people", and one-sidedly treating economic value as a city. All the value. Starting from the initial development of "Better City, Better Life", "Park City" deeply reflects on the value deviation and development alienation caused by the traditional urban development model, and regards ecological and other values as an important dimension of urban value, realizing the original and clear source of urban development.

### **2.1.2 Law orientation**

"Park City" has an insight into the general trend of the times and reflects a scientific grasp of the new situation and characteristics of urban development. From a global perspective, from the United Nations passed the first resolution on development in 1961, *United Nations Development Decade*, to the first definition of "sustainable development" by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987, and to the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development put forward "building sustainable, inclusive, safe and efficient cities" in 2016, the pursuit of sustainable development has become a universal consensus in the world today. At the same time, in the face of increasing international competition, more and more countries regard green barriers as an important non-tariff barrier, and green development has become an important competitiveness related to the prosperity and decline.

From China's perspective, urbanization is entering the middle and late stages, and urban development has shifted to a stage where both scale expansion and quality improvement are emphasized. The marginal utility continues to decrease; resource environmental costs and social costs continue to increase; it is increasingly urgent to transform the urban development mode. Starting from the strategic overall situation of shaping the city's competitive advantage and promoting the sustainable development of the city, "Park City" coordinates the dialectical relationship between scale and quality, power and efficiency, protection and development, economy and people's livelihood. It has realized another sublimation of the understanding of the law of development.

### **2.1.3 Need orientation**

"Park City" focuses on the voice of the times and reflects a positive response to the needs of the people for a better life. As a clear symbol of human wisdom and civilization, the core of the city is human, and the key is: food, clothing, housing and transportation; birth, death, illness and old age; living and working in peace and contentment. This is an important part of judging whether a city has done a good job or not. At present, socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, and a series of trend changes have taken place in the people's need for a better life. It is changing from the pursuit of material wealth to spiritual pleasure, from the pursuit of stable employment to the creation of a career, from the pursuit of medical care to health management, from the pursuit of housing to a pleasant place to live, and from the pursuit of security and stability to humanistic harmony. In the face of the "question of people's livelihood" in the new era, "Park City" regards "solving people's problems" as the fundamental value yardstick, strives to improve the functional quality of the city, and strives to make the life of citizens more convenient, more comfortable and better. It actively conforms to the development logic of human society from material-oriented to capital to human-oriented.

## **2.2 The "Park City" is inherited from history and has achieved a major leap in urban development and evolution**

Although the proposition of "Park City" is the first of its kind, its source of practice is much longer. It can be traced back to the "New Harmony Commune" created by British utopian socialist Robert Owen in the 1820s. For hundreds of years, mankind has never stopped promoting urban development and evolution, and has successively explored many groundbreaking urban forms. First, British social activist Howard emphasized urban problems in order to solve urban problems such as traffic congestion and environmental degradation in the early stages of industrialization. The scale should not exceed the limit that is detrimental to the healthy life of urban residents, and plan to build an ideal city that has both urban and rural advantages, that is, "pastoral city." Second, as the process of urbanization accelerates, some cities have developed and expanded in clusters across mountain forests and rivers and lakes and wetlands, forming large forest areas in urban centers or suburban areas, giving birth to a new form of "forest city". Third, some cities have introduced garden elements in their development, highlighting the unique culture, art and beauty of the city through urban space design, landscape design, and architectural design, and exploring the construction of a "garden city". The fourth is represented by Singapore, etc., to gather content such as urban landscape improvement, art, culture and heritage management, environmental protection practices, and healthy lifestyles to build a uniquely attractive "garden city". Fifth, in the 1970s, UNESCO proposed to build an "ecological city" in accordance with the principles of ecology to recycle materials, make full use of energy, adjust information feedback, and coexist with nature. This series of practical explorations outlines the basic context of urban development and evolution, and provides rich historical nourishment for the park city.

"Park City" is inherited from history, but transcends history, presenting a series of new features that are different from rural cities, forest cities, garden cities, garden cities, and ecological cities. From the perspective of focus, park cities not only focus on improving the green coverage rate, forest area ratio and other ecological indicators, but also focus on the economic, cultural, and people's livelihood fields to improve the quality of the city in all directions. From the perspective of attention, "Park City" emphasizes not only urban construction, but also rural expression, and strives to shape

an urban form that integrates urban and rural areas, accelerating the elimination of the dual structure of urban and rural areas. From the perspective of the main body of practice, "Park City" adheres to the word "public", highlights the public product attributes of urban ecology, and guides the public to create, maintain, and share together. From the perspective of promotion strategy, "Park City" not only pays attention to the current severe resource and environmental issues, but also pays attention to the "anthropocentrism" value orientation and institutional arrangements behind these issues. It emphasizes fundamentally enhancing the endogenous driving force for sustainable development. On the whole, compared with garden cities, forest cities, garden cities, garden cities, and ecological cities, park cities have more natural flavors, cultural connotations and development characteristics, more people-oriented care, strategic vision, and systematic thinking. They are urban planning. The upgraded version of the construction represents the correct direction of urban development and evolution.

### **2.3 The "Park City" is rooted in civilization and has extremely rich and profound connotations**

What is "Park City"? In the final analysis, "Park City" is an urban civilization form centered on the people, guided by the new development concept, with ecological civilization as the core, and the harmony and unity of the human and urban environment as the symbol. Its connotation mainly includes the following aspects.

#### **2.3.1 In terms of value orientation**

"Park City" insists on taking the people as the center. The city is built for the people and the city is for the people. This is the fundamental starting point and goal of doing a good job in the city, and it is also the fundamental driving force to promote the evolution of urban development. Park cities require continuous improvement of citizens' sense of happiness, and promote urban development from "industrial logic" to "human-oriented logic", from "production-oriented" to "life-oriented", and from "things city" to "human city". It is required to regard a good ecological environment as the fairest public product and the most inclusive people's livelihood, continuously improve green infrastructure, effectively increase the supply of green products, and continue to improve the green welfare and individual needs of citizens. It is required to implement the people's dominant status, achieve mutual consultation, co-construction, co-governance, sharing, and inclusiveness, and unite a strong force of thought and action.

#### **2.3.2 In terms of development concept**

"Park City" insists on taking the new development concept as its guide. The construction of a park city is an all-round and in-depth change in the field of urban work. It requires that we should pay more attention to innovation and development, put the basic point of urban development on innovation, and form an institutional framework to promote innovation. to create a leading development that is more driven by innovation and gives more play to its first-mover advantages. It is required to pay more attention to coordinated development, adhere to regional coordination, the integration of urban and rural areas, and attach equal importance to material and spiritual civilization, broaden the development space in coordinated development, and enhance the staying power of development in strengthening weak areas<sup>[4]</sup>. We should pay more attention to green development, promote the formation of a green development style and way of life, and strive to solve the problem of harmony between man and nature<sup>[5]</sup>. It is required to pay more attention to opening up and development, to further enrich the connotation of opening up to the outside world, to jointly promote economic and trade cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, to form a pattern of deeply integrated and mutually beneficial cooperation, and to pay more attention to shared development so that the broad masses of people can share the fruits of reform and development, better promoting social fairness.

#### **2.3.3 In terms of presentation form**

"Park City" is characterized by the harmony and unity of the people, city, environment and industry. People, cities, environment, and industry are the key elements of a park city. It is required to take "people" as the core, and effectively change the tendency of valuing things over people and even seeing things without seeing people, run through the whole process of urban work for the benefit of the people, and be determined to solve the shortcomings of people's livelihood, realizing "the city makes life better". Take the "city" as the carrier, scientifically construct the urban spatial form, comprehensively inherit the urban historical genes, constantly improve the livable quality of the city, shape the deeply integrated urban and rural form, and cultivate the urban soul of humanistic symbiosis. Take the "environment" as the guarantee, establish the consciousness of "the city of mountains, rivers, forests, fields and lakes is a community of life", persist in taking ecology as the texture and green as the background, and strive to integrate good mountains, good water and good scenery into the city to create the ecological human settlement of "push the window to see the field and open the door to see the green", the urban artistic conception of "blue and green intertwined, dense and elegant" and the great beauty of "the city in the scene and the man in the painting". Take "industry" as the support, make efficient use of all natural resources and energy, cultivate and strengthen a sustainable consumption development model, constantly improve the

recycling efficiency of production factors, and speed up the construction of a green industrial system.

#### **2.3.4 In terms of the core essence**

"Park City" takes ecological civilization as its core. The park city focuses on the harmonious relationship between man and nature. In the final analysis, it is a form of urban civilization with ecological civilization as the core. This form of civilization not only follows the ancient motto of "the unity of man and nature", re-examines the flesh-and-blood relationship between man and nature, but also naturally takes an equal subject status. It abandons the value orientation of "anthropocentrism" and re-examines the strength and value of human beings, returning man to the origin of a natural person. It is essentially different from primitive civilization, agricultural civilization and industrial civilization, but they are intersected in time and related in content, and do not have absolute exclusion and substitution. It will coexist and shine with each other for a long time in the future.

### **2.4 The success of "Park City" is due to practical work and systematic planning must be accelerated**

Chengdu is known as a country of abundance. The ancient quatrains such as "Nine days open out of Chengdu, thousands of families enter paintings", "Flowers on both sides of the Zhuojin River, spring breeze and waves are washing the sand", which fully confirm that Chengdu has always had a rich cultural heritage, beautiful scenery and exquisite city life, and has a good background for building a park city. The sixth meeting of the Central Finance and Economics Committee clearly stated that Chengdu should support Chengdu's construction of "Park City" demonstration area that implements the new development concept. We should step up planning and advance key tasks to ensure a good start and early results, further highlight the beauty of the country of abundance, and polish the golden signs of livable cities.

#### **2.4.1 Carry out in-depth theoretical research**

The construction of "Park City" is by no means the same as the construction of a "urban park", but an all-round and systematic green transformation involving all aspects of the construction of urban economic, political, cultural, social and ecological civilization, and the distribution of productivity and space. The pattern, industrial structure, production and lifestyle, value concept, system and system are closely related. At present, there is an urgent need to clarify the internal laws from theory, and extensively borrow intellectual resources from colleges and universities and think tank institutions to influence the connotation, form, green ecological value, consumption scene, quality of life of citizens, and city brand value of the park city. Carry out in-depth research and strive to release a batch of research results as soon as possible to provide intellectual support for the construction of a beautiful and livable park city.

#### **2.4.2 Speed up the improvement of the top-level design**

It is necessary to speed up the improvement of the index system of park city construction around the four key elements of people, city, environment and industry, and promote the construction of a spatial pattern, urban form, development model, cultural charm and livable environment suited to the park city.

It is necessary to strengthen institutional guarantee, explore the compilation of the balance sheet of natural resources, comprehensively carry out the departure audit of natural resources assets and environmental responsibilities of leading cadres, and establish and improve a systematic and complete ecological civilization construction system with clear property rights, diversified participation, equal emphasis on incentives and constraints, and a complete system.

#### **2.4.3 Give prominence to carrier construction**

The most important carrier for building a park city is to create a series, open, and people-friendly urban park system. The city must be planned as a park system, organically implanted with natural elements, and constructed a global green system to form an ecological "green vein" that connects forests and lakes and blends mountains and rivers, presenting the beauty of "the city is in the landscape and the pedestrians are drawing pictures". The focus is to optimize the layout, strengthen supply, promote connectivity, take large-scale ecological corridors as organic segmentation, regional greenways as the skeleton, promote the connection between city-level greenways and community-level greenways, organically connect urban ecological zones, parks, small parks, and micro-green spaces, speed up the formation of a public green open space connecting urban and rural areas, and put on a "green necklace" for the city.

#### **2.4.4 Resolutely promote joint construction and sharing**

To build a park city, the carrier is the "garden", and the key is the "public". This "public" is to highlight the public product attributes of the park city and take the practical path of co-construction and sharing. The key is to explore the construction of a scientific organizational system, strengthen positive publicity and guidance around hot issues of public concern, effectively integrate various social groups and public service resources, and gather consensus and joint efforts in the construction of park cities. It is necessary to explore the establishment of a legalized management system, and make

clear provisions on the boundaries of responsibilities and division of powers between the subjects, so as to ensure that the government, society and citizens are not missing or offside in the construction of park cities. It is necessary to explore the construction of a market-oriented operation system, resolutely break down unreasonable restrictions and hidden barriers, and flexibly adopt various ways to guide social capital agglomeration and investment, so as to continuously inject fresh water into the park city construction fund pool.

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