

Xinying District, Tainan City, Taiwan

WHOLE CITY, CATEGORY C

**PARTIES BEGIN
AT SUNSET**

2012

XINYING DISTRICT, TAINAN CITY, TAIWAN

(WHOLE CITY, CATEGORY C)

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BASIC INFORMATION:

Xinying District, Tainan , Taiwan

Whole City Category C

Population of Xinying: 78,688 people and 27, 642 households

Area of scale: 3,853. 86 hectares

Nonurban area: 49.48 %

Urban area: 50.52%



Diag.1

Xinying District / Green Urban Heat Park in Tainan / Night Scenery at Underground Square

INTRODUCTION

The Tropic of Cancer crosses the hottest area of the world, including the desert in the island of Taiwan, Xinying. However, due to the beneficial climatic conditions created by the high mountains and ocean, it is not too dry. The day time temperature averages around $25^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 10^{\circ}\text{C}$ while at night it is above 10°C throughout the year. The night is always young in Xinying, especially, the three golden hours after sunset when local life can best be experienced.

A free and democratic electoral system is an inevitable element in community participation and empowerment, yet the government, strongly encourages the engagement of various non-profit organizations in the development of public affairs in order to gradually replace its influence and that of the councilmen in matters concerning the budget. In 2003, the District Office began accepting applications from non-profit organizations for project budgets and implementation and began a series of measures to encourage public participation such as:

I. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

1.

Lowered requirements for the establishment of organizations: Having 30 members is the only requirement.

2.

Promoted public education efforts to teach residents about the project proposal process and how they could use it to create programs that benefit the public: In cooperation with universities, courses are offered to teach residents how to prepare project proposals and allocate a budget or obtain financial support from authority agencies so that they could implement their projects on their own. So far, more than 250 so called "community planners" have been trained. In the past decade, these students have been working as the leaders of non-profit organizations or have become government officials.

3.

Yearly increasing grants: The government has provided grants to community projects equivalent to US\$ 1,000 to 10,000. In 2010, Xinying received a grant of US\$445,000 with 42% from the budget of District Office, 41% from the authority agencies that approved the project proposals submitted, and the rest from donations.

4.

Indicator: In 2008, the District Office set up designated units and personnel to assist non-profit organizations. Before the implementation of big projects, it requires small trial ones to be carried out to test for public acceptability and risks. For example, Jioubu Li, with a population of less than 400 people, just finished its first self-initiated community training project in which community residents received 100 hours of training subsidized by the government.

Besides legally founded associations, some non-profit organizations are established as reading clubs as well as for recreational functions and cultural and historical work. There are two types of public participation:

1.

Community Development Associations: Li is an example of the basic unit of local self-governance and proves that even with a small scale administrative system, it is possible to cooperate with local directors who are duly elected into their positions. There are 27 Community Development Associations in Xinying consisting of approximately 4,000 members who are actual residents of Li. Take the community of Dahung as an example:

This community has a population of 3,800 with 350 of them that are members of a Community Development Association. Among the members, 80 people participated in landscape maintenance with the Willow Waterfront Green Tunnel being their major achievement. Another 40 people participated in caring work by regularly visiting the elderly and the disadvantaged. In addition, there are Mother's Classroom, the Elderly Learning Center, Japanese, singing, dancing, and Chinese and Western music clubs. Local temples provide the land for community centers and the government provides financial support for their construction. In return, they offer various types of courses and must be completely operated by club members thereby making them important sites for community empowerment. Wang Rui-he is a community planner. Each year, he writes at least 20 project proposals. He tries his best to look for government and college resources. Although he has very good interpersonal connections, he has never run for election. He just wants to serve the public.

2.

Community empowerment organizations: After the conflicts with Mainland China have been resolved, China Youth Corps was transformed into a series of community centers that even provides community education programs in Mainland China. Courses are offered by China Youth Corps for US\$5 per hour. Every week, there are over 90 courses offered. The government also subsidizes community colleges for the courses at the cost of US\$2 per hour and each year, 50 courses are offered. These courses encourage the public to improve themselves by learning and enjoying the three golden hours every day.

In Xinying, night activities include night markets, classes, and outdoor activities. In order to ensure local security, the police work with the communities to fight and deter crime. The Taizi Community, for example, is at the border of residential and industrial areas. Approximately 40 community members routinely patrol the residential area. Because they are all familiar with the living environment, they are able to identify strangers and prevent crime on the spot. Taizi has the lowest crime rate in the area. The community patrol team uses a minimal set of equipment and budget provided by the government but achieves amazing results.

II. H E A L T H Y L I F E S T Y L E

Table 1
Statistics of Crime Cases and Clearance Rate

Time	Location	Crime Rate (on the calculation base of 100,000 people)	Clearance Rate	Description
2010	Tainan	1,118	79%	
2010	Xinying	947	54%	
2011	Xinying	791	55%	
2011	Taizi (with community patrol team)	193	55%	Among the community population of 5,696 people, 6 out of 11 crime cases have been cleared.

When Mr. Chen Tang-shan served as the County Magistrate in 1994, he promised to make all vehicles stop for traffic lights. During his eight-year term, he rode a bicycle to his office. However, he is best known for chasing down a bus that ran through a red light to get the license plate number. In 2010, there were only two death traffic accidents in Xinying with four deaths.

In 2002, County Magistrate Mr. Su Huan-chi implemented the "Clear, Order, and Landscaping" policy in which each community in Xinying has to provide landscape maintenance volunteers. Xinying was selected as the most livable town among 319 throughout Taiwan by CommonWealth magazines two times, in the top two and top five, respectively.

The environmental volunteer teams are the foundation of Community Development Associations. They often gather together on early Saturday mornings. During that time, members of Mother's Classroom prepare breakfast and members of the environmental volunteer teams begin to clean up rubbish and debris in the neighborhoods. They can apply for subsidies for to plant trees and other relevant activities. They always finish their work before the sun rise and then enjoy their breakfast.



In the community of Nanzi, in order to encourage volunteers, a citizen garden of about 10 hectares is planned at Xiehyentai (salt unloading platform) Farm Garden with each person allowed to adopt a unit of 50 square meters. These "citizen gardeners" often care for their plots after work and exchange ideas about vegetable and fruit cultivation. The use of chemicals is prohibited here. It is a great opportunity for residents to be rewarded for their own efforts as well as maintain good interpersonal relations and health.

*Diag. 2
Nanzi Li, Xinying District /
Citizen Farm Garden in Idle Land
around Sugar Railway*

The current City Mayor, Lai Ching-de, proposed the "A City of Happiness-Suitable for Work, Falling in Love, and Getting Married" program. He is very popular and has the highest satisfaction scores of any municipal mayor. He continues to expand caring programs for the disadvantaged and the elderly. In Xinying, there are 14 community caring stations that provide recreational facilities for the elderly and dispatch volunteers to conduct home visits to care for those who live alone.

In Xinying, there are 281 low income households (in 2012, their total annual income/per household is lower than \$4,100) with 643 members or .8% of the population. In addition to government subsidies and employment provision, the Fund for Children and Family and Huashan Social Welfare Foundation also assisted in caring for children and the elderly.

In Xinying, there are many reasons for you to leave your house and go out to enjoy its healthy night life.

There are night markets every Saturday, weather permitting. Along the 1km long pedestrian area, vendors trade with their customers until 11:00 pm while the Artist Market, a temporary setting for handmade boutique products, is open once a month. The local sporting scene is another healthy feature of Xinying with its 20-hectare sports park. Non-profit sport related organizations assist in the promotion of sports activities. The 3-on-3 baseball tournament is the most exciting event held. It starts on sunset on New Year's Eve and is played until sunrise the following year. This year, Jeremy Lin will participate in the tournament thereby making it even more challenging.



Diag. 3
Green Urban Heart
Baseball Court / Baseball
Games

III. ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Temple festival activities are the essence of local culture and the array of folk performances are divided into martial arts and singing and dancing.

The Martial Arts Array originated from efforts to fight crime and civil defense initiatives. Residents were organized for the performance during temple festivals later to improve their physical strength and create teams. The official Martial Arts Array such as Sung Jiang Zhan in Huzhan Li performs according to traditional temple festival custom at temple festivals that are often held around the clock to ensure that all visitors can participate, especially those who have to travel long distances.

The Singing and Dancing Array is the main recreational focus of temple festivals. In Xinying, the largest temple, "Tazi Temple," is dedicated to the worship of a naughty child god. Through these temple activities, local culture has been preserved and weaponry, clothing, and musical instruments are now the development core of the area's modern cultural and creative industry. now models of community festival development. For example, San Tazi has designed as the mobile phone strap and "Techno" is now a popular dance. The Chu Ma Array in Tuku and Boating on Land in Nanzhi are now models of community festival develo

About 400 years ago, when Taiwan was colonized, the Spotted Deer (also known as the Formosan Sika Deer) were killed and their fur sent to Japan to produce armor. In the history of the Pingpu Tribe, the Spotted Deer has been a spiritual symbol of Xinying. This color painting project allows residents to interact with art located at schools, parks, and traffic nodes. The parent-child color painting activity can also be used to reflect on historical events related to the deer.



Diag. 4 & 5
Sung Zhiang Zhan and Ba Jia Jiang

With government support, folk arts performing activities have evolved into a large international festival. Every two years, artists from other countries are invited to participate in 16 nights of performances. The community residents fully understood the difficulties encountered by the government in convening an international festival with its limited budget and systematically organized 100 host families to welcome the international performing groups that participate in. This successful volunteer system was adopted by the World Games in Kaohsiung and the Taipei International Flora Exposition.



*Diag. 6 & 7
Taizi Temple, Xinying District /
Temple Festival Activities*

Several music activities have been organized in Xinying with the most famous one being "Singing City." It is a successful example of government policy and its effect on inspiring public participation. Xinying has a music hall that can accommodate 1,000 seats and is suitable for music feasts and related events. Performances have been delivered by the Medical Association Symphony organized by M.D. Chang Zhao-jung, Monday and its branch band, Tuesday, organized by Section Chief of Tseng Ming-chun of the District Office, the Ying Guang Band organized by members of an architecture office, and several other private bands. Moreover, music courses provided here by the community college and community center are often full.



*Diag. 8 & 9
Green Urban Heart Park in Xinying District, Tainan / Underground Square / Music Activities*

IV. LANDSCAPE

4.1. Parks

The center of Xinying is composed of several large parks, one of which is a five-hectare park that connects to the downtown administrative district and is used for various outdoor activities. Above ground, it is a venue for large folk and cultural festivals while the underground square can accommodate a 500-seated performance. There is another park that is a 20-hectare large scale sports park, which attracts all types of sports lovers. It has the facilities to host national sporting events and act as a disaster shelter. The suburban Swan Lake is a rural park that incorporates flood detention and ecological designs to provide an alternative irrigation water resource.



Diag. 10
Xinying District / Green Urban Heart Park in Tainan



Diag. 11
Xinying District

4.2 Green tunnel and green corridor

The green tunnel is the priority development area for re-planning and agricultural zones. In order to emphasize the features of streets, different themes are selected for the green tunnel. In the west of the agricultural zone, sandalwood is selected as the road-side trees and downtown, the cotton trees of the Pingpu Tribe account for the majority of trees. When land is left fallow, green manure plants are cultivated to form the unique landscape.



Diag. 12
Swan Lake

4.3 Community gardens

Through concrete and practical methods, the government has encouraged gardening and environmentally-friendly landscaping in idled private land with tax breaks. The government allocates budgets to non-profit organizations for the public to provide gardening or small farming opportunities on small lots. The subsidies cannot be directly used by gardening companies but are given to projects that involve in public participation. Instead of the acquisition of green land, but the DIY plantation is the principle. The public and volunteer teams are in charge of maintenance of these areas.

4.4 Cultural landscape

The land used by the railway previously for sugar transportation is gradually being transformed into a green belt. This used to be Taiwan's earliest passenger and cargo transportation system. However, it stopped operations 2000, due to the downturn in the sugar industry and has remained idle ever since. Later, local residents volunteered to develop it into a 70cm wide walking trail with the pavement made of residual ash from crushed rock and the chalk factory. All of the local communities involved in the project agreed to not use concrete as pavement material and to not use chemical treatments in community gardens and landscaping.



Diag. 13

Xinying District / Dahung Li / Willow Waterfront

4.5 Blue belt

The park around the Museum of Arts has a large scale green belt that is connected with the Xinying irrigation channel. The clean and pure water from the Wushantou Reservoir inspired the community of Dahung to create a blue belt incorporating these two major sources of water. A water wheel is accented with the special lighting that turns on automatically after sunset and the willows along the waterfront are shaped to provide an artistic ambience to the area. The park connects other parks and schools to the downtown area and has become the center of an ecological corridor and pedestrian path.



V. ENVIRONMENTAL BEST PRACTICES

Local community building efforts put an emphasis on DIY experience and Tainan is known as a world famous manufacturing center. During 2009, in a move to strengthen local participation in community plans, an annual budget of about US\$70,000 has been allocated for "community building engineering research programs" that provided R&D and consultation projects for the education of "community planners." The philosophy behind the projects is to "use local materials with tools and technologies that can be operated by community residents for the improvement of their homeland." detention and ecological designs to provide an alternative irrigation water resource.

Diag.14
Xinying District / Railway Garden

Another project was initiated in 2005 for an idled railway when a young local architect and community planner acquired the right to use the land. With professional expertise, he designed a pond with ecologically-friendly engineering methods that filters household waste water discharge with existing plants. Lotus and frog populations have increased as a result of his efforts and the use of only one bag of cement. Moreover, this "pocket park" was also designed to preserve railway-related features in the area. This project, now know as "Railway Garden" was the winner of 2009 Architecture Design Award for Community Building Projects.

The government began to improve the landscape surrounding Xinying Train Station by reducing road width and increasing pedestrian and green belt spaces. Based on the perspective of “new urbanism,” the downtown area is designed with people oriented spaces. The use of local material reduced construction costs and encouraged local participation in public construction efforts [as seen in the diagram, the use of Wu Fen cart element and bamboo]



Diag. 15 & 16

Xinying Train Station /

Waiting Stop Integrated with Public Art and Local Environmental Material

The “Community Building Engineering R&D Program” collected classic community building cases and investigated the craft and techniques of local masters. At the same time, workers were recruited from the disadvantaged and unemployed population to participate in a short-term employment program subsidized by the government for the reutilization of idle spaces and build a park made from local and recycled material.

San Jiou Mu Grassland within the park features plants used for creating natural dyes and the botanical area dedicated to various species of wild grasses and flowers. During the landscape design process, wild grasses were sorted by use for dyeing and the development of other cultural and creative products. Until the technology is mature, we will replant these usable wild grasses in a respectful way that benefits the local environment. The grasses and other ingredients needed for plant dyes can also be developed to promote a natural and organic dyeing industry.



Diag. 17

Xinying District /

San Jiou Mu Grassland Plant Dyeing Park



Diag. 18
Xinying District /
Community Space Building with the Cooperation of Community Residents and Students

In 2011, the government officially expanded this project by hosting a competition that included participants from throughout Taiwan. Each team was granted US\$ 2,300 for their creation and US\$7,000 for material used. With the cooperation of local communities, ten projects were completed. Among them, three were located in Xinying. For one of them, the "Youth Corner," a medical doctor provided 1,500 square meters of undeveloped land for students from the Department of Interior Design of Nanjung University to create an interesting space. We will work harder to look for other possibilities that allow local youth to participate in their community and help strengthen community education.

The Creative Park for Community Building aims to improve community building techniques, demonstrate public techniques that can be used in community building efforts, and to train volunteers in aesthetic design. Under the cooperation of a consultation team and work groups, the public are able to experiment with their methods here. Some of the best examples include a grass-based brick made of local bamboo material and scrap material from the chalk factory that can be used to create non-slippery pavement and bicycle trail along the rail line made of scrap steel. In the future, a light weight design will be incorporated to transform the idle railway into a convenient traffic route for personal vehicles.

VI. STRATEGIC PLANNING

6.1 Pioneering Farmland City

Small parks have been built along Chianan Canal and waterfront facilities will be also be constructed along the canal to position Xinying as a green garden city with a comfortable and friendly environment. The "Green and Touching Chianan Pioneering Farmland City" project aims to make Xinying a marketing enter for local



Diag. 19

Xinying District / Sugar Industry Railway / Stripped Urban Garden

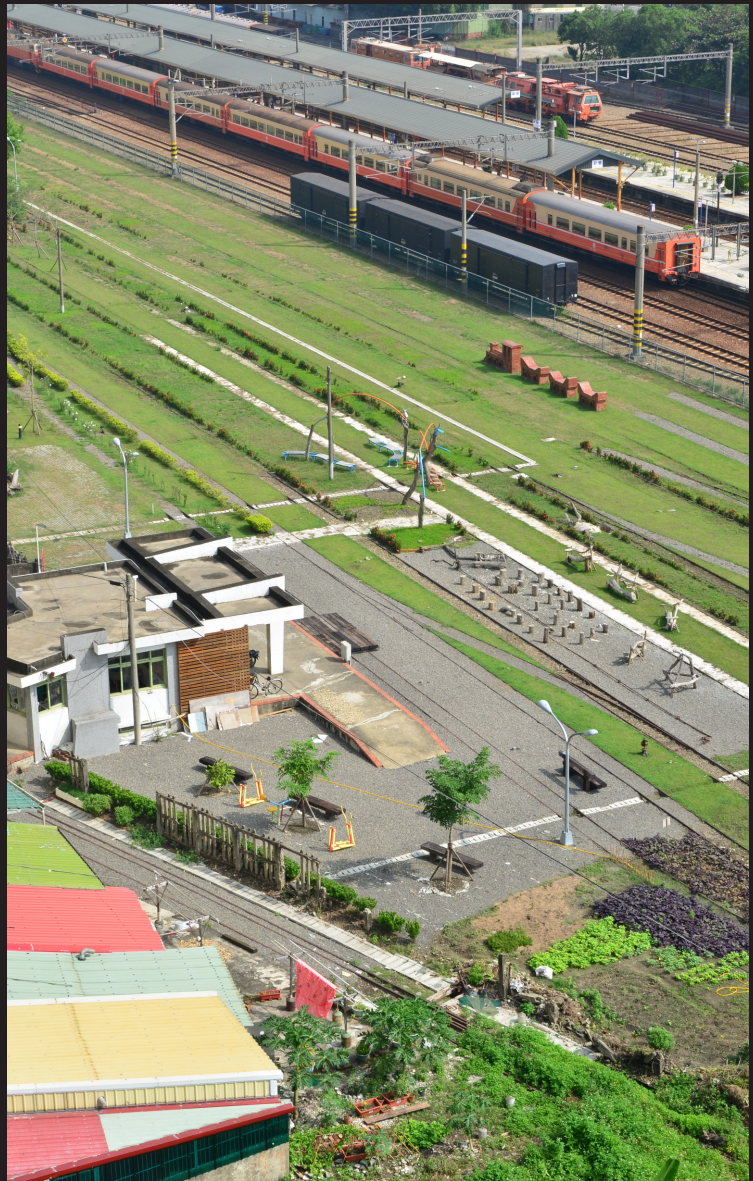
agricultural products grown with irrigated water supplied by the Chianan Canal thereby creating a "garden vegetable belt." The steel shaped park on the riverfront near Xinming Elementary School is used for the layered planting of vegetables into a "green energy tower" and bike lanes will be built around the vicinity of Xinying. The project includes three schools with cleaning and building work already completed. Artists and art students were invited to design public art work to be placed throughout the city. Through the reutilization of idle spaces, a blue and green belt cultural space will be created.

6.2 Crossing the important blue and green belts with bicycles

Urban planning area of Xinying is crossed by two main traffic lines- Sugar Railway and Water Canal green belt. In order to pass down industrial cultural landscape, the planning also uses these two lines as the axis to build Xinying's network. Due to the change of sugar industry, the short-term planning focuses on the rejuvenalization and renewal of railway. Through the railway and train station repairing, railway landscape and green landscape are built for tourism and community development for local benefits.

The railway can be divided into three zones: north platform, East Tazi platform, and core area of sugar factory. At present, three zones were initially planted and used. The north platform is planned as community building engineering park that serves as the pioneer of organic industry of plant dyeing; East Tazi platform is developed as railway citizen farm garden due to its unique landscape of "Xieyentai" based on railway, platform cart and local life; and core area of sugar factory connects the nearby dairy farm products by using Wu Fan Cart for passenger transportation to develop tourism industry.

At the advanced stage, community building and empowerment will be further strengthened. Community residents will be more connected to railway resources of the three major zones. Under the planning, railway as the theme is constructed into living landscape and when the railway is revitalized, communities will be grown with more power. To achieve long-term goals, local self evident awareness and features shall be re-shaped.



Diag.21
Xinying District / Integrated Site of Railway Park

Canal green belt is the collection of art origin and aesthetics. The beautiful landscape brings beautiful life to community residents. At current development stage, complete plantation along the canal has been completed and public art works have been installed. The residents can access to the waterfront to enjoy the scenery and it further helps to develop comprehensive aesthetics life and literacy of waterfront.



Diag. 22

Xinying District / Dahung Li /Creative Water Wheel of Willow Waterfront

Through its community building plans, Xinying has organized its local non-profit organizations to work towards creating a model community based on the actual needs and desires of its residents. By relaying our efforts as we continue on towards our goal, we hope that our experiences can help other communities anywhere in the world as they strive to realize their aspirations and dreams.