

Pasay City in General

Ecological

Geography

Pasay City, known as the *premiere gateway* to the Philippines, is located at the western coast of the National Capital Region. Its boundaries are: on the western side, Manila Bay; northeast, Makati; southwest, Paranaque City. Looking at its area, it is the third smallest city among the cities in the four districts of the National Capital Region. Though it is relatively small, it has an area of 1805.11 hectares. Pasay City is further subdivided into 121 Barangays. Such Barangays occupy the biggest portion of the land which is 1,399.50 hectares. The rest are allocated to the reclamation areas and Cultural Center of the Philippines. The Barangays which are covered by SHEC are 152, 156, 157, 165 & 184.

Topography

Generally, the Pasay is characterized by coastal plains along the Manila Bay. However, just a slight slope feature of areas is seen in the southern part. Since it is along the Bay, its elevation is more or less only two meters from the sea level. This extends all along the sea sides. Those Barangays covered by SHEC are generally along the creek sides.

Land and Soil Characteristics

There are two main characteristics of the land and soil components. They are called active tidal flats and passive tidal flats. Both of which are coastal landscapes. The former has poor drainage system. For this, the land is susceptible to flooding and erosion in some parts. The latter is formed from marine deposits. Its capacity to allow permeability of water is very slow. Thus, when there is overflow of water, flooding usually follows.

These types of soil are found in the areas where SHEC is located. As years pass by, soil is becoming loose. It is very noticeable that some houses along the creek are already leaning. This is obviously seen in the Barangays of 156, 157 and 184.

Water Characteristics

There are three points here: surface waters, ground water, and water quality. Regarding the water surfaces, it has two main creeks namely:

Tripa de Gallina and Maricaban creeks. The catchments area is found along the Bay. This is fed by nearby river basins which come from Paranaque City and Las Pinas Zapote Rivers. Due to their low level conditions, it always results to flooding.

Since Pasay City is situated along the sea, its water is mostly affected by the salty water. That is why it is not suited for drinking. Due to high level of salinity, it cannot be simply used. It needs to be processed.

According to the study made by DENR, the major rivers in Metro Manila like those in Pasay are biologically dead. This is brought about by the wastes that are emitted by the domestic, industrial and agricultural operations. They are not being treated properly.

The Barangays in which SHEC operates are situated along the Tripa de Gallina and Maricaban Creeks. Thus, flooding is always experienced in these areas especially in Barangay 165 and 180.

Air Quality

Due to congestion, Pasay is suffering from air pollution. This is also due to the inadequacy of the control devices which reduce the degrading quality of air. The following table presents how the pollutants are measured and analyzed. This is from the National Ambient Air Quality and Noise Standards.

Table 2.1: National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Source Specific Pollutants

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[1] Everything about the Ecological Environment is taken from the Socio-Economic Profile of Pasay, 2000