

City administration has failed at increasing green areas: Expert

The Jakarta city administration has failed to create more green areas for its residents, a landscape expert says.

“In 2000, 9 percent of the city was green areas. In 2010, that had only increased by less than 1 percent to 9.79 percent. Clearly, the administration has been inconsistent in meeting its own target of 13.94 percent [of the city] for public green areas in 2010,” Indonesia Landscape Architecture Study Group chair Nirwono Joga told The Jakarta Post on Sunday.

Nirwono was responding to a weekend statement by Deputy Governor Prijanto that the city’s green areas covered at least 30 percent of the city’s land, both from state-owned and privately owned land.

Prijanto said that Jakarta now has 8.95 percent public green areas and 37.63 percent private green areas.

He said the administration had yet to check whether the 37.63-percent number was correct. “But, even if we halve that number, it would still be enough,” he said.

Jakarta spans 64,895 hectares. Spatial Planning Law No. 26 /2007 mandates that every city set aside 20 percent of its urban land for public green areas and another 10 percent for private ones.

Despite having made no major gains in achieving its initial goal, the city administration has said it aims for 34.51 percent of the city to be green space by 2030 — a major adjustment from the previous target of 13.94 percent.

The city is currently mulling plans for garden roofs, green walls and absorption wells.

Jakarta’s spatial plan for open and green spaces has been amended several times since the 1970s, when the green spaces of the city started giving way to a plethora of high rises, shopping centers, apartments, hotels and office buildings.