

Article Correlation Analysis of Landscape Structure and Water Quality in Suzhou National Wetland Park, China

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Abstract: The newly issued "Guideline of General Planning of Wetland Parks", China, reclassified the functional zoning of national wetland parks into three categories: conservation areas, restoration and reconstruction areas, and rational utilization areas. Therefore, the country is facing a new round of revision and compilation of the general planning of national wetland parks. The purpose of this paper was to provide information to guide wetland park functional zoning and to formulate the water pollution prevention and control strategy. In this study, 53 sampling points of 6 national wetland parks in Suzhou City were selected. Pearson's correlation analysis, multiple stepwise regression analysis, redundancy analysis, single factor, and comprehensive water quality identification index methods were used to analyze the effects of wetland landscape types and landscape configuration on water quality. (1) Lakes and rivers in the wetland park had positive ecological effects and should be distributed in each functional zone. (2) Grassland ecology is fragile. Grasslands should be distributed in conservation areas and in restoration and reconstruction areas. (3) Woodland and cultivated land have both ecological and economic benefits. They can be used as ecological buffer and entertainment zones, which are respectively distributed in the restoration and reconstruction areas and in the reasonable utilization areas. (4) Built-up land is highly disturbed by humans. It should only occur in the rational utilization areas and far away from the conservation areas.

Keywords: Suzhou; China; national wetland park; landscape structure; water quality; correlation analysis

1. Introduction

Wetlands are an important component of many cities and have multiple ecological functions, such as mitigating the urban heat island, conserving water sources, and maintaining biodiversity and the sustainable development of the human ecological environment [1–6]. However, with the rapid development of human society, a large number of wetland ecosystems have been altered, and many have disappeared completely. How to protect and restore wetlands has become a worldwide scientific problem [7–10]. At present, the construction of wetland parks has become a new form of wetland protection, which has been widely and rapidly employed. The water quality of wetlands is affected by a variety of environmental factors. Among them, landscape pattern affects the hydrological processes and nutrient migration within a wetland and can alter the pollutants entering surrounding waterways [11–17]. Therefore, identifying relationships between landscape structure and water quality could guide scientific decision-making for wetland landscape planning and water quality improvement [18–20].

Recent improvements in landscape ecology theory, the maturity of 3S (RS, GIS, and GPS) technology, the application of FRAGSTATS (Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR,



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Copyright: © 2021 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). USA), and the increased availability of land use data all provide tools for the quantitative analysis of landscape patterns [21–26]. The relationship between landscape structure and the aquatic environment has become an essential topic of discussion in the sustainable development of water and soil resources [27-31]. Landscape structure includes composition type, spatial configuration, and their mechanism of influence on water quality at different spatial scales [32]. Chen Liding first introduced the "source and sink" theory into landscape research and developed the concept of "source and sink landscapes" [33]. Landscape composition type refers to the configuration of source and sink patches within a region [34]. Landscape spatial configuration refers to the distribution of patch characteristics within an area and can determine the energy flow and nutrient cycling in waterways [35]. The rational optimization of landscape structure is an effective method for protecting the ecological environment. Current research focuses on large-scale systems such as river basins, sub-basins, and riparian buffer zones, providing scientific ideas for the control of non-point source pollution [36–38]. Previous studies have shown that the relationship between landscape structure and water quality is significant, but no consensus has been reached on which landscape structure has the greatest impact on water quality. Some studies have shown that the basin-scale landscape pattern is the greatest determinant for good water quality [39–41]. Some studies show that the river buffer scale landscape can better predict water quality than the river basin scale [42,43]. The complex relationship between landscape pattern and wetland water quality caused by regional heterogeneity and differing spatial scales is still a major research challenge [44] and needs to be studied further. At present, there are few studies on the correlation between small-scale landscape structure and water quality, even though wetland parks usually consist of small-scale wetland patches. This study identified correlations between wetland park landscape structure and water quality to provide a scientific basis for the optimization of wetland park landscape design and the improvement of water quality.

In 2004, the State Council of China issued the "Notice on Strengthening Management of Wetland Conservation", which stated, "Wetland protection and management can also be enhanced by building wetland parks and other forms in wetland areas that do not meet the conditions for the planned construction of nature reserves." In 2005, China established its first national wetland park and promulgated the "Guidelines for Planning and Design of Urban Wetland Parks". Since then, the construction of wetland parks has gradually received attention, and related laws and regulations have been continuously improved. By the end of 2020, China had established 898 national wetland parks and countless provincial and municipal wetland parks. The previously decreasing trend of urban wetland areas has been effectively curbed.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Study Area

Suzhou $(30^{\circ}45'-32^{\circ}2' \text{ N}, 119^{\circ}55'-121^{\circ}22' \text{ E})$ is located in the southeast region of Jiangsu Province $(30^{\circ}45'-35^{\circ}7' \text{ N}, 116^{\circ}21'-121^{\circ}56')$, Eastern China. The region has a subtropical monsoon climate with an average annual temperature of 15.7 °C and average annual precipitation of 1100 mm yr⁻¹. Taihu Lake is the third-largest freshwater lake in China and an important water source for the Suzhou National Wetland Park. Suzhou now has 21 national, provincial, and municipal wetland parks, and 102 municipal-level important wetlands (Figure 1). Suzhou National Wetland Park can be divided into four types of landscape structures: block-like uniform, multi-layer cofferdam, multi-pond structure, and block-shaped agglomeration (Table 1). Each year can be divided into four periods, consisting of a dry season (December–February), two normal seasons (March–May, September–November), and a rainy season (June–August).



Figure 1. Spatial distribution of waterways in the Suzhou Wetland Parks.

| Table 1. The four t | types of wetland | landscape structure. |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|
|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|



Water, 📖 Land.

2.2. Data Collection

2.2.1. Landscape Data

Image data were sourced from the Gaofen-2 satellite (China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, Beijing, China), the ground information was collected using ArcGIS10.6 (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., RedLands, CA, USA), and the vector data of wetland park landscape type maps were obtained by visual interpretation. Based on the current land use classification (GB/T21010–2017), this paper divides the land cover of wetland parks into water area, woodland, garden plot, grassland, cultivated land, and built-up land (Figure 2). Water quality was sampled at 53 sites that were selected according to different functional zoning (Table 2; for names of the parks see Figure 2).



Figure 2. Landscape types and distribution of sampling points in the Suzhou National Wetland Parks: (**a**) Taihu national wetland park (TH), (**b**) Shajiabang national wetland park (SJB), (**c**) Hubin national wetland park (HB), (**d**) Sanshan Island national wetland park (SSD), (**e**) Tianfu national wetland park (TF), (**f**) Tongli national wetland park (TL).

| | | Functional Zoning | | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Wetland Park | Landscape Structure | Conservation | Restoration and Reconstruction | Rational Utilization | | |
| Taihu | | 8, 9, 10 | 1, 2, 3, 5 | 4, 6, 7 | | |
| Shajiabang | Block-like uniform | 1, 2, 3 | 4,6 | 5,7 | | |
| Hubin | Multi lavor coffordam | 7, 8, 9, 10 | | 1, 2, 3,4, 5, 6 | | |
| Sanshan Island | Wulti-layer collectant | 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 | 1 | 2,3 | | |
| Tianfu | Multi-pond structure | 1, 2, 4, 6, 10 | 3,5 | 7, 8, 9 | | |
| Tongli | Block-shaped agglomeration | 2, 5, 8 | 3,4 | 1, 6, 7 | | |

 Table 2. Distribution of sampling points in Suzhou National Wetland Park.

2.2.2. Water Quality Data

Total nitrogen, total phosphorous, dissolved oxygen, chemical oxygen demand, and biological oxygen demand were measured from water samples collected from each study site. Samples were collected monthly from February 2019 to January 2020 at times when the weather was sunny with low wind speed and no recent heavy rain. A plexiglass water sampler was placed vertically in the water, and samples were collected from 0.5 m and 1 m below the water surface and transferred into bottles. The sampling depth was calculated by combining the water depth of each sampling point. Dissolved oxygen was measured in the field. All other samples were transported to the Tianfu National Wetland Park laboratory, and water quality variables were measured using methods outlined in Table 3. All variables were measured in triplicate and an average determined for use in the analysis.

Table 3. Water quality parameters and experimental methods.

| | Parameter | Unit | Measurement Methods | Instrument Model and Manufacturer |
|-----|-----------------------------|------|---|---|
| TN | Total Nitrogen | mg/L | Ultraviolet and visible spectrophotometry | 759S, Lingguang Technology Co., Ltd., Shanghai, China |
| TP | Total Phosphorous | mg/L | Ammonium molybdate spectrophotometry | JH-TD02, Jinghong Environmental Protection Technology Co., Ltd., Qingdao, China |
| DO | Dissolved Oxygen | mg/L | Portable dissolved oxygen analyzer | JPB-607A, Yifen Scientific Instrument Co., Ltd., Shanghai, China |
| COD | Chemical Oxygen Demand | mg/L | Potassium dichromate method | STAEHD-106B, Shengtai Electronic Technology Co., Ltd., Jinan, China |
| BOD | Biological Oxygen Demand | mg/L | Incubator dilution and inoculation | HWS-150B, Deshi Technology Co., Ltd., Beijing, China |

2.3. Indices Analysis

2.3.1. Landscape Pattern

FRAGSTATS4.2 (Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, USA) developed by Dr. McGarigal was used to calculate landscape indices [45]. Eight commonly used indices were selected from patch level, class level, and landscape level to represent landscape fragmentation, aggregation, dominance, and diversity. At the patch level, we used the index PLAND. At the class level, there were six indices, including NP, PD, LPI, LSI, and AI. At the landscape level, there were three indices, including CONTAG, SHDI, and COHES (for abbreviations and equations, see Table 4).

| Lan | dscape Index | Unit | Calculation | Significance |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| NP PD LSI | Number of Patches Patches Density Landscape Shape i | PCS PCS/100ha None | $\begin{aligned} NP &= n_i \\ PD &= \frac{n_i}{A} \times 10^6 \\ LSI &= \frac{0.25E}{\sqrt{A}} \end{aligned}$ | Landscape fragmentation |
| CONTAG | Contagion | % | $ \begin{bmatrix} \text{CONTAG} = \\ 1 + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} [(P_i)(g_{ik})] [\ln p_i(g_{ik} \sum_{k=1}^{m} g_{ik})]}{2 \ln m} \\ 100 \end{bmatrix} \times $ | Landscape aggregation |
| AI | Aggregation index | % | $AI = [1 + \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \frac{P_{ij} \ln P_{ij}}{2 \ln m}] \times 100$ | |
| COHES | Patch Cohesion index | None | $\begin{array}{c} \text{COHES} = \\ \left[1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m} P_{ij}}{\sum_{j=1}^{m} P_{ij}\sqrt{a_{ij}}}\right] \left[1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{A}}\right]^{-1} \times 100 \end{array}$ | |
| LPI | Largest Patch index | % | $LPI = \frac{max(a_1,,a_n)}{A} \times 100$ | Landscape dominance |
| PLAND | Percentage of landscape | % | $PLAND = P_i = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij}}{A} \times 100$ | Landscape dominance |
| SHDI | Shannon's Diversity Index | None | $SHDI = - \mathop{\Sigma_{i=1}^{m}}(P_i \ln P_i)$ | Landscape diversity |

Table 4. Landscape index selection.

 n_i is the total area of landscape parameter i, A is the total area of all landscape parameters, E is the total length of all patch boundaries, P_i is the proportion of a specific patch type i within a landscape, g_{ik} is the number of adjacent patches of type i and type k, m is the total number of patch types in the landscape, P_{ij} is the perimeter of the j-th patch in type i landscape, a_{ij} is the area of the j-th patch in type i landscape.

2.3.2. Water Quality

(1) Single factor identification index

The single factor water quality index (F_i) of the ith water quality parameter consisted of a one-digit integer with two or three significant figures after the decimal point [46]:

$$\mathbf{F}_{i} = \mathbf{X}_{1}\mathbf{X}_{2}\mathbf{X}_{3} \tag{1}$$

The value of X_1 is the water quality class of the ith water quality parameter. The value of X_2 is the position of the ith water quality parameter within the range of the X_1 water quality class, which is calculated and determined according to the rounding principle. The value of X_3 is the result of the comparison between the measured class of water quality parameter with the target class.

If the class of water quality parameters was better than the limits value of class V, the values of X_1 were determined according to Table 5. The larger the value of DO, the better the water quality. The larger the value of TN, TP, COD, and BOD, the worse the water quality. Therefore, the calculation of the value of X_2 was divided into DO and non-DO parameters. The calculation formulas are shown in (2) and (3).

Table 5. Class limits for different water quality parameters (unit: mg/L).

| Pa | rameter | Class I | Class II | Class III | Class IV | Class V | Inferior to Class V |
|------|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| | TN | $0.2 \leq$ | $0.5 \le$ | $1.0 \leq$ | $1.5 \le$ | $2.0 \leq$ | >2.0 |
| | тр | Moving: $0.02 \leq$ | Moving: $0.1 \le$ | Moving: $0.2 \leq$ | Moving: $0.3 \leq$ | Moving: $0.4 \leq$ | Moving: >0.4 |
| If | 11 | Still: $0.01 \leq$ | Still: $0.025 \le$ | Still: $0.05 \le$ | Still: $0.1 \leq$ | Still: $0.2 \leq$ | Still: >0.2 |
| | COD | $15 \leq$ | $15 \leq$ | $20 \le$ | $30 \le$ | $40 \leq$ | >40 |
| | BOD | $3 \le$ | $3 \le$ | $4 \leq$ | $6 \leq$ | 10 | >10 |
| | DO | Saturation rate of 90% or \geq 7.5 | ≥ 6 | ≥ 5 | ≥3 | ≥ 2 | <2 |
| Then | X ₁ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

Values denote the lower limit for DO and the upper limit for all other parameters.

DO:
$$X_2 = \frac{\rho_{DO,upper \ limit} - \rho_{DO,measured \ value}}{\rho_{DO,higher \ limit} - \rho_{DO,lower \ limit}} \times 10, X_1 \in (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)$$
 (2)

Non – DO :
$$X_2 = \frac{\rho_{i,\text{measured value}} - \rho_{i,\text{lower limit}}}{\rho_{i,\text{upperr limit}} - \rho_{i,\text{lower limit}}} \times 10, X_1 \in (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)$$
 (3)

If the class of water quality parameters was inferior to or equal to the limit value of class V, the values of $X_1.X_2$ were calculated as a whole. The calculation of the value of $X_1.X_2$ was divided into DO and non-DO parameters. When the water quality was very poor, DO may not have been measured. If the correction coefficient m was not introduced, $X_1.X_2 = 6$ would occur; that is, DO was equal to the lower limit of class V, which was inconsistent with reality. The calculation formulas are shown in (4) and (5).

DO:
$$X_1 X_2 = 6 + \frac{\rho_{DO,lower limit} - \rho_{DO}}{\rho_{DO,lower limit}} \times m$$
 (4)

Non – DO:
$$X_1 X_2 = 6 + \frac{\rho_i - \rho_{i,upperr limit}}{\rho_{i,upperr limit}}$$
 (5)

 X_3 was the second digit after the decimal point, and its value was determined by comparing the measured class and target class of water quality parameters. If the class of the measured value was better than or reached the class of the target value, $X_1 \ge f_i$, then $X_3 = 0$. If the class of the measured value was worse than the class of target value, $X_1 < f_i$. The calculation formulas are shown in (6) and (7); f_i is the target class of water quality.

$$X_3 = X_1 - f_i (X_2 \neq 0)$$
(6)

$$X_3 = X_1 - f_i - 1 (X_2 = 0)$$
(7)

(2) Comprehensive identification index

The comprehensive identification index (I_{wq}) consisted of X_1 , X_2 , X_3 , and X_4 . Where $X_1.X_2$ was the average value of the sum of the single factor identification indices, X_3 was the number of water quality parameters inferior to the class limits of the target value. X_4 was the result of the comparison between the measured class and the target class, and it was determined by the number of non-zero X_3 in the single factor identification index (PI) [47]. The formula is as follows:

$$I_{wq} = X_1 X_2 X_3 X_4$$
 (8)

 $X_1.X_2$ consisted of a one-digit integer and the first digit after the decimal point, and $X_1.X_2 = \sum (P_{1'} + P_{2'} + \wedge + P_m')/m$. m were the numbers of water quality parameters. $P_1', P_2' \dots P_m'$ are the single factor water quality indices of 1st, 2nd, ..., mth water quality values. The judgment criteria for the comprehensive water quality classes are shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Determination of water quality class by comprehensive water quality identification index method.

| Judgment Criteria | Class of Measured Value |
|---------------------------|--|
| $1.0 \le X_1.X_2 \le 2.0$ | Class I |
| $2.0 < X_1.X_2 \le 3.0$ | Class II |
| $3.0 < X_1.X_2 \le 4.0$ | Class III |
| $4.0 < X_1.X_2 \le 5.0$ | Class IV |
| $5.0 < X_1.X_2 \le 6.0$ | Class V |
| $6.0 < X_1.X_2 \le 7.0$ | Inferior to class V but not black smelly |
| $X_1.X_2 > 7.0$ | Inferior to class V and black smelly |

2.3.3. Correlation Analysis

Pearson's correlation analysis of landscape indices and water quality parameters was performed using SPSS23.0 (IBM, Armonk, NY, USA). A one-sided test was used to test the significance between the landscape indices and the water quality parameters, and the index with a significant correlation coefficient (P < 0.05) was selected for further analysis [48].

Multiple stepwise regression analyses were then used to explore the response relationship between landscape indices and water quality parameters.

$$y = b_0 + b_1 x_1 + b_2 x_2 + \ldots + b_k x_k$$
(9)

In the formula, y was the dependent variable and represented the value of the water quality parameters. x_1 , x_2 ,..., x_k as independent variables represented the landscape indices. b_1 , b_2 ,..., b_k were influence coefficients and b_0 represented a constant.

The comprehensive relationship between landscape indices and water quality parameters was determined by redundancy analysis. In the sequence diagram, the length of the landscape index arrow reflected the impact of landscape indices on water quality parameters. The longer the arrow length, the greater the influence.

3. Results and Analysis

3.1. Landscape Structure Characteristics of Suzhou National Wetland Park

Taihu (TH) and Shajiabang (SJB) were block-like uniform type wetland parks, and the landscape patches were distributed in a balanced manner, with woodland accounting for 35–40% of the area. Hubin (HB) and Sanshandao (SSD) were multi-layer cofferdam type wetland parks, and the landscape patches were distributed in circular and zonal patterns, with the maximum proportion of water accounting for 70% to 90%. Tianfu (TF) was a multi-pond structure type wetland park, and the landscape patches were distributed in the shape of tweezers. Cultivated land and woodland were the main areas, each accounting for 20–35% of the space. Tongli (TL) was a block-shaped agglomeration wetland park, and the landscape patches were distributed in clusters, with the maximum proportion of water accounting for 50–70% (Figure 3).

The block-like uniform wetland parks had the highest fragmentation, the lowest aggregation, a low degree of dominance, and high diversity. Multi-layer cofferdam wetland parks had the lowest fragmentation, the highest aggregation, the highest dominance, and the lowest diversity. Multi-pond structure wetland parks had a high degree of fragmentation, low aggregation, the lowest dominance, and the highest diversity. Block-shaped agglomeration wetland parks had low fragmentation, high aggregation, high dominance, and low diversity (Table 7).

| Table 7. Mean value of landscape index of Suzhou National Wetland Park with different landscape struct | tures. |
|---|--------|
|---|--------|

| Landscape | Daules | | Fragm | Fragmentation Aggregation | | gation | Domina | | ninance | e Diversity | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------|--------|--------|---------------|------------|-------------|--------|--------|---------|
| Structure | rarks | NP | PD | LSI | Value | CONTAG | AI | COHES | Value | LPI | Index | SHDI | Value |
| Block-like TH uniform SJB | TH | 422 | 0.97 | 21 (0 | Highest | (1 55 | 08 50 | 00.62 | Tananat | 10 (0 | T | 1.07 | High |
| | SJB | 432 | 432 0.87 | 21.60 | riignest | 61.55 | 98.36 | 98.56 99.65 | Lowest | 19.68 | Low | 1.37 | riign |
| Multi-layer HI cofferdam SSI | HB | 67 0.05 | 0.05 6.41 | Lowest | owest 81.02 | 99.25 | 00.05 | 99.96 Highest | 81.01 High | Highest | t 0.62 | Lowest | |
| | SSD | | | | | | 99.96 | | | Ingriest | | | |
| Multi-pond structure | TF | 476 | 0.43 | 26.28 | High | 52.02 | 98.54 | 99.80 | Low | 11.07 | Lowest | 1.63 | Highest |
| Block-shaped agglomeration | TL | 238 | 0.15 | 12.46 | Low | 70.22 | 99.47 | 99.86 | High | 69.04 | High | 0.94 | Low |



(c) Multi-pond structure wetland parks

(d) Block-shaped agglomeration wetland parks

Figure 3. The proportion of land cover classes of: (**a**) block-like uniform wetland parks, (**b**) multi-layer cofferdam wetland parks, (**c**) multi-pond structure wetland parks, (**d**) block-shaped agglomeration wetland parks.

The difference in landscape pattern index between block-like uniform and multi-layer cofferdam wetlands was the largest. The difference in landscape pattern index between block-like uniform and multi-pond structure wetlands was the smallest. The indices for block-shaped agglomeration wetlands were more balanced (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Differences in landscape pattern indices in Suzhou National Wetland Park.

3.2. Water Quality Characteristics of Suzhou National Wetland Park

The single factor identification index method was used to arrange the pollution degree of TH water quality parameters from highest to lowest and revealed that BOD > COD

> TN > TP > DO. Sampling sites number 1, 2, and 4, located in the north of the wetland park, upstream of the water system, and close to the urban residential area, had the highest parameter values under the influence of human factors. Sampling sites 8 and 10 were located downstream of the river system and had the lowest parameter values. The ranking of SJB water quality parameter values from highest to lowest was BOD > COD > TN > TP > DO. Sampling site number 6, nearest to the entrance, and number 5, in the central tourist area, were most affected by human interference. Sampling site number 4 was originally a mulberry fishpond, and although it has been abandoned for many years, the TP was still high. The ranking of HB water quality parameter values from highest to lowest to lowest was BOD > TN > COD > TP > DO. Sites 7, 8, 9, and 10, which were farthest from the shore, had the best water quality parameter values. Sites 1, 3, and 5, which were closest to the shore, had the worst water quality parameter values due to the human disturbances that occur urban residential areas.

The ranking of SSD water quality parameter values from highest to lowest was BOD > TN > TP > COD > DO. Large scale ecological floating islands in sampling sites 1, 2, and 3 had a remarkable effect on water purification, while the water flow velocity of sampling sites 4, 5, and 6 was fast and the water quality was poor. The ranking of TF water quality parameter values from highest to lowest was BOD > COD > TN > TP > DO. Sites 1 and 4 were close to urban built-up areas and located downstream of the water system with poor water quality. Sites 7, 8, and 10 were separated from the main body of the wetland park by the East–West railway, were less affected by external interference, and had better water quality. The ranking of TL water quality parameter values from highest to lowest was BOD > TN > COD > TN > COD > TP > DO. The water quality of the sampling sites in the east and downstream of the wetland park was better than the upstream sampling sites because TL was the more recently built, the total capital investment was the least, and the external water system has a considerable impact on the water quality (Figures 5–10).



Figure 5. Average P_i value of TH sampling point.



Figure 6. Average P_i value of SJB sampling point.



Figure 7. Average P_i value of HB sampling point.



Figure 8. Average P_i value of SSD sampling point.



Figure 9. Average $P_{\rm i}$ value of TF sampling point.



Figure 10. Average P_i value of TL sampling point.

The water quality of wetland parks ranked from good to bad was SSD > TH, SJB, HB > TL, TF. The results show that SSD water quality was class III for the whole year, while TH, SJB, and HB water quality was class IV in the dry and normal seasons and improved to class III in the rainy season. The water quality at TL also improved during the rainy season but remained in class IV throughout the year. TF water quality was class IV in the dry season and normal season, but it decreased to class V during the rainy season (Figure 11). Comparative analysis of water quality in different functional zones revealed that the pollution at TH, SJB, HB, and TL was greatest in the rational utilization area, followed by the restoration and reconstruction area, and lowest in the conservation area. Changes in the comprehensive identification index ranged from class III to class IV. The pollution at SSD was greatest at the restoration and reconstruction area, then at the conservation area, and at the rational utilization area. The rational utilization area was class II, which was the best among all wetland parks. The worst water quality in TF wetland conservation area was class IV, and water quality in rational utilization area was better than in the restoration and reconstruction areas, both of which were class III (Figure 12).



Figure 11. Analysis of water quality in different seasons by comprehensive water quality identification index method.



Figure 12. Analysis of water quality in different functional zones by comprehensive water quality identification index method.

3.3. Correlation between Landscape Structure and Water Quality

3.3.1. Correlation between Landscape Types and Water Quality

The areas of different landscape types in the Suzhou National Wetland Park were compared with water quality parameters in different seasons. The PLAND of cultivated land did not conform to the normal distribution (P > 0.05). The order of water purification effects of landscape types from best to worst was water area and woodland > garden plot and grassland > built-up land. The larger the PLAND of the water area, the better the water quality, especially for TP, DO, and COD. The effect of the PLAND on water purification for the garden plot and woodland was not clear. For example, the garden plot had a positive ecological effect on TN and COD but a negative one on DO and BOD. Woodland had a positive ecological effect on TN but a negative one on TP and DO. The larger the PLAND of grassland and built-up land, the worse the improvement in water quality. For example, grassland had a negative ecological effect on TP and DO but had no clear correlation with other indices, and built-up land had negative ecological effects on TN, TP, DO, COD, and BOD.

The impact of patch area on the water quality index in the rainy season appeared to be the most important factor, with both positive ecological effects of water area and woodland patches, and the negative effects of the garden plot and built-up land patches being significant. The impact of patch area on the water quality index in the normal season was the second most important factor, with the positive ecological effects of water area and garden plot patches and the negative ecological effects of grassland and built-up land being significant (Table 8, Figure 13).

Table 8. Multiple regression analysis between proportion of landscape area and water quality index.

| Period | Index | Multivariate Regression Model | R ² | Adjusted R ² | Р |
|---------------|-------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| Dry season | DO | 10.505 – 0.284 grassland | 0.801 | 0.735 | 0.040 |
| Normal season | TP | 0.123 + 0.010 grassland | 0.689 | 0.611 | 0.041 |
| | DO | 9.404 – 0.322 built-up land | 0.920 | 0.893 | 0.010 |
| Rainy season | BOD | 7.430 + 1.175 garden plot | 0.965 | 0.956 | 0.000 |



Figure 13. Redundancy analysis ranking diagram of landscape area percentage and water quality index in (**a**) dry season, (**b**) normal season, (**c**) rainy season.

3.3.2. Correlation between Spatial Configuration and Water Quality

The NP of the grassland did not conform to the normal distribution (P > 0.05). The results show that the water area had a positive significant correlation with TP and COD and a highly significant negative correlation with DO. Woodland had a positive significant correlation with TP and COD and a negative significant correlation with DO. The garden plot had a positive significant correlation with TN, TP, COD, and BOD and a negative significant correlation with DO. Cultivated and built-up land both had positive significant correlation with TN, TP, and COD. Built-up land a negative significant correlation with DO. Woodland had a positive significant correlation with DO. Cultivated and built-up land both had positive significant correlation with DO. Built-up land also had a negative significant correlation with DO.

The number of garden plot and cultivated land patches had a greater impact on water quality parameters in the rainy season, where a higher number of patches resulted in worse water quality. The effect of season on the relationships between water area, woodland, built-up land, and water quality remains unclear. In conclusion, the higher the NP, the worse the water quality and the higher the degree of fragmentation of the landscape, which is not conducive to the interception and prevention of pollutants entering the waterways (Table 9, Figure 14).

Table 9. Multiple regression analysis between patch number and water quality.

| Period | Index | Multivariate Regression Model | R ² | Adjusted R ² | Р |
|---------------|-------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| Dry coscon | TP | 0.112 + 0.001 built-up land | 0.753 | 0.692 | 0.025 |
| Dry season | DO | 10.608 - 0.018 water area | 0.908 | 0.878 | 0.012 |
| Normal season | TP | 0.116 + 0.001 water area | 0.796 | 0.746 | 0.017 |
| | DO | 8.901 - 0.018 water area | 0.955 | 0.940 | 0.040 |
| Rainy season | TN | 1.141 + 0.018 cultivated land $- 0.005$ water area | 0.964 | 0.940 | 0.007 |
| | COD | 11.338 + 0.148 water area | 0.682 | 0.602 | 0.043 |



Figure 14. Redundancy analysis ranking diagram of patch number (NP) and water quality index in (**a**) dry season, (**b**) normal season, (**c**) rainy season.

The TP in the dry season, DO in the dry and normal seasons, and COD in the rainy season were greatly affected by PD (adjusted $R^2 > 0.5$). Among them, the water area had a positive significant correlation with TP and a negative significant correlation with DO. Woodland was weakly correlated with water quality at different temporal and spatial scales. The garden plot had positive and negative significant correlations with TP and COD, respectively. Cultivated land had a positive significant correlation with TN, TP, and BOD, a highly significant positive correlation with COD, and a highly significant negative correlation with DO. Built-up land had a positive significant correlation with TN and TP and a negative significant correlation with DO.

The density of patches for cultivated land had a greater impact on water quality parameters in the rainy season than the rest of the year, with a greater density, resulting in worse water quality. The effect of season on the relationship between water area, garden plot, built-up land, and water quality remains unclear. In conclusion, the higher the PD, the worse the water quality and the higher the degree of fragmentation in the landscape (Table 10, Figure 15).

 Table 10. Multiple regression analysis between patch density and water quality.

| Period | Index | Multivariate Regression Model | R ² | Adjusted R ² | Р |
|---------------|-------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| Dry season | ТР | 0.120 + 0.005 built-up land | 0.808 | 0.759 | 0.015 |
| | DO | 10.451 – 0.091 water area | 0.792 | 0.723 | 0.043 |
| Normal season | DO | 8.530 - 0.475 cultivated land | 0.861 | 0.815 | 0.023 |
| Rainy season | COD | 13.196 + 2.407 cultivated land | 0.712 | 0.640 | 0.035 |



Figure 15. Redundancy analysis ranking diagram of patches density (PD) and water quality index in (**a**) dry season, (**b**) normal season, (**c**) rainy season.

Correlation analysis was conducted between landscape shape (LSI) index and water quality parameters in different seasons. The results show that DO in dry and normal season and TP and COD in the rainy season were greatly affected by LSI (adjusted $R^2 > 0.5$). Among them, the water area is significantly negatively correlated with TP and COD and significantly positively correlated with DO. Woodland is significantly negatively correlated with TN and DO and extremely significantly positively correlated with TP. Garden plot is significantly positively correlated with TP, extremely significantly positively correlated with BOD, and extremely significantly negatively correlated with DO. Grassland is significantly positively correlated with TP and significantly negatively correlated with DO. Built-up land is significantly positively correlated with TN, COD, and BOD, extremely significantly positively correlated with TP, and significantly negatively correlated with DO.

The landscape shape of built-up land in the rainy season and grassland in the normal season had a significant negative effect on water quality parameters. The effect of season on the relationships between water area, woodland, garden plot, and water quality remains unclear. In conclusion, the higher the LSI of the water area, the better the water quality. The higher the LSI of garden plot, grassland, and built-up land, the worse the water quality. The higher the LSI of the woodland, the better the TN and COD, the worse the TP and DO (Table 11, Figure 16).

| | Table 11. Multiple | e regression | analysis between | Landscape sha | pe and water o | quality |
|--|--------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|
|--|--------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|

| Period Index | | Multivariate Regression Model | R ² | Adjusted R ² | Р | |
|---------------|-----|---|----------------|-------------------------|-------|--|
| Dry season | DO | 11.120 – 0.151 water area | 0.865 | 0.820 | 0.022 | |
| Normal season | DO | 9.479 – 0.118 grassland–0.081 built-up land | 0.968 | 0.936 | 0.032 | |
| Rainy season | TP | 0.043 + 0.007 built-up land | 0.677 | 0.596 | 0.044 | |
| | BOD | 7.192 + 0.779 garden plot | 0.808 | 0.760 | 0.015 | |



Figure 16. Redundancy analysis ranking diagram of landscape shape index (LSI) and water quality index in (**a**) dry season, (**b**) normal season, (**c**) rainy season.

The TP in the dry and rainy seasons, BOD in all seasons, DO in the normal season, and TN in the rainy season were all greatly affected by LPI (adjusted $R^2 > 0.5$). Among them, the water area had a negative significant correlation with TP and COD and a positive significant correlation with DO. Woodland had a negative significant correlation with TN and DO and a highly significant positive correlation with TP. Garden plot had a positive significant correlation with DO and COD and a highly significant positive correlation with TP. Garden plot had a positive significant correlation with DO and COD and a highly significant positive correlation with TN and TP and a positive significant correlation with COD. Built-up land had a positive significant correlation with TP, and a negative significant correlation with DO, a highly significant negative correlation with TP, and a negative significant correlation with DO.

The maximum plaque of water area and woodland had a significant positive effect on water quality in the normal season. The seasonal effect on the relationship between garden plot and water quality remains unclear. In conclusion, the higher the LPI of water area and woodland, the better the water quality. The higher the LPI of the garden plot, the worse the DO and BOD, but the better the COD. The higher the LPI of cultivated land and built-up land, the worse the water quality (Table 12, Figure 17).

Table 12. Multiple regression analysis between maximum plaque and water quality.

| Period | Index | Multivariate Regression Model | R ² | Adjusted R ² | Р |
|---|-----------------------------|---|----------------|-------------------------|-------|
| Dry season Normal season Rainy season | TP | 0.117 + 0.005 woodland | 0.814 | 0.767 | 0.014 |
| | BOD | 11.930 + 4.944 grassland – 2.549 cultivated land | 0.988 | 0.981 | 0.001 |
| | DO 6.631 + 0.027 water area | | 0.770 | 0.693 | 0.051 |
| | BOD | 11.638 + 2.258 grassland | 0.852 | 0.815 | 0.009 |
| | TN | 1.213 + 0.480 cultivated land – 0.040 woodland | 0.999 | 0.998 | 0.000 |
| | TP | 0.043 + 0.021 built-up land | 0.781 | 0.726 | 0.019 |
| | BOD | 7.991 + 2.530 grassland | 0.759 | 0.699 | 0.024 |



Figure 17. Redundancy analysis ranking diagram of largest patch index (LPI) and water quality index in (**a**) dry season, (**b**) normal season, (**c**) rainy season.

The TP in all seasons and the BOD in the normal and rainy seasons were greatly affected by AI (adjusted $R^2 > 0.5$). The water area had highly significant negative and positive correlations with TP and DO, respectively. Water area also had a negative significant correlation with COD and BOD. Woodland had a negative significant correlation with TN and TP. Garden plot had positive and negative significant correlations with TP and DO, respectively, as well as a highly significant negative correlation with BOD. Grassland had significant and highly significant negative correlations with TN and TP, respectively. Built-up land had a positive significant correlation with DO and was weakly correlated with the other water quality indices.

The effect of season on the relationships between water area, woodland, garden plot, grassland, and water quality remains unclear. There was no significant seasonal difference in the correlation between landscape patch aggregation and water quality. In conclusion, the higher the AI of water area, woodland, and grassland, the better the water quality (Table 13, Figure 18).

Table 13. Multiple regression analysis between aggregation degree and water quality.

| Period | Index | Multivariate Regression Model | R ² | Adjusted R ² | Р |
|---------------|-------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| Dry season | TP | 0.116 – 0.005 grassland | 0.812 | 0.765 | 0.013 |
| NT 1 | TP | 8.530 – 0.475 woodland | 0.862 | 0.811 | 0.021 |
| Normal season | BOD | 10.930 + 4.642 garden plot – 2.458 water area | 0.786 | 0.741 | 0.031 |
| Rainy season | TP | 8.279 - 0.082 water area | 0.719 | 0.649 | 0.033 |
| | BOD | 7.089 + 0.059 garden plot | 0.689 | 0.611 | 0.041 |



Figure 18. Redundancy analysis ranking diagram of aggregation index (AI) and water quality index in (**a**) dry season, (**b**) normal season, (**c**) rainy season.

The TP in the rainy season, DO in dry and normal seasons, and COD in the rainy season were greatly affected by the landscape pattern index (adjusted $R^2 > 0.5$). Among them, the patch cohesion index (COHES) had highly significant negative and positive correlations with TP and DO, respectively. The contagion index (CONTAG) had a negative significant correlation with TP and COD and a positive significant correlation with DO. The Shannon's diversity index (SHDI) had a positive significant correlation with TP and COD and a highly significant negative correlation with DO. In conclusion, the higher the COHES and CONTAG, the better the water quality. The higher the SHDI, the worse the water quality (Table 14, Figure 19).

Table 14. Multiple regression analysis between landscape pattern index and water quality at the landscape level.

| Period | Index | Multivariate Regression Model | R ² | Adjusted R ² | Р |
|---------------|-------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| Dry season | DO | -493.146 + 5.038 COHESION | 0.786 | 0.715 | 0.045 |
| Normal season | DO | 9.750 - 1.828 SHDI | 0.889 | 0.852 | 0.016 |
| Rainy season | TP | 0.073 - 0.056 CONTAG | 0.772 | 0.726 | 0.008 |
| | COD | -174.642 + 113.475 SHDI | 0.748 | 0.711 | 0.001 |



Figure 19. Redundancy analysis ranking diagram of landscape pattern index and water quality index at the landscape level in (**a**) dry season, (**b**) normal season, (**c**) rainy season.

4. Discussion and Conclusions

4.1. Discussion

This paper used the "source-sink" theory to identify landscapes in the Suzhou National Wetland Park that act as a source and a sink for water quality pollution. Different landscape composition types and landscape spatial configurations affect hydrological processes and change the number of pollutants entering a waterway, resulting in the spatial differentiation of wetland water quality (Table 15). It is concluded that the sink landscape was composed of water areas and woodland, where the larger the landscape pattern index, the better the water quality and the more pronounced the positive ecological effects. The source landscape was composed of cultivated and built-up land, where the larger the landscape index, the worse the water quality and the greater the negative ecological effect. Grasslands and garden plots had both source and sink characteristics, which was consistent with the findings from previous research [49,50]. However, unlike previous studies, the sink effect of grassland patches was not obvious because the area of grassland was relatively small [51,52]. The higher NP and PD in water and woodland patches and the increase of LSI in woodland patches were not conducive to the improvement of wetland water quality. As wetland parks are closed water systems, the decomposition of organic material along the bank may cause water pollution through surface runoff. This effect may be of particular concern in dry and normal seasons, when less rainfall, low water levels, and weak self-purification capacity can result in sedimentation and endogenous pollution [53,54].

| | Table 15. | "Source-sink" | landscape | judgment | of Suzhou | National | Wetland | Park |
|--|-----------|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|------|
|--|-----------|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|------|

| | | | Priority of Water Quality Improvement | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|--|--|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Landscape Structure | | | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
| | | | DO | ТР | COD | TN | BOD |
| Composition | PLAND | sink | water | water | water, garden plot | woodland, garden plot | / |
| Types | | source | woodland, garden plot, grassland, built-up land | woodland, grassland, built-up land | built-up land | built-up land | garden plot, built-up land |
| | NID | sink | , | / | / | / | / |
| Spatial Con- figuration | INF | source | water, woodland, garden plot, built-up land | water, woodland, garden plot, cultivated land, built-up land | water, woodland, garden plot, cultivated land | water, garden plot, cultivated land, built-up land | garden plot, cultivated land |

| | | | Priority of | Water Quality Im | provement | |
|---------------------|--------|--|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Landscape Structure | | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
| | | DO | ТР | COD | TN | BOD |
| רוע | sink | / | / | garden plot | / | / |
| ID | source | water, cultivated land, built-up land | water, garden plot, cultivated land, built-up land | cultivated land | cultivated land, built-up land | cultivated land |
| LSI | sink | water | water | water, woodland | woodland | / |
| | source | woodland, garden plot, grassland, built-up land | woodland, garden plot, grassland, built-up land | built-up land | built-up land | garden plot, built-up land |
| LPI | sink | water | water | water, garden plot | woodland | / |
| | source | garden plot, built-up land | cultivated land, built-up land | cultivated land, built-up land | cultivated land, built-up land | garden plot, built-up land |
| AI | sink | water, grassland | water, woodland, grassland | water | woodland, grassland | water |
| | source | garden plot | garden plot | / | / | garden plot |

Table 15. Cont.

When a landscape type has two different landscape properties of source and sink for different water quality indices, the priority degree is adopted for judgment. The larger the number of 1–5, the higher the priority.

4.2. Conclusions

In this study, Suzhou National Wetland Park was selected as the study site to explore the relationships between landscape structure characteristics and water quality. This work aimed to inform a new round of national wetland park planning and the rezoning of functional areas. The main research conclusions are as follows:

- 1. The water quality of Suzhou National Wetland Parks ranked from good to bad was SSD > TH, SJB, HB > TL, TF. The seasonal effect on the correlation between landscape type and water quality ranked from strong to weak was rainy season > dry season > normal season. The purification effect of each landscape type arranged from large to small was water area, woodland > garden plot, grassland > cultivated land, built-up land. The pollutant parameters ranked from high to low were BOD > TN > COD > TP > DO. The landscape structure types arranged from good to bad were multi-layer cofferdam type > block-shaped agglomeration type > multi-pond structure types/block-like uniform type.
- 2. In Suzhou National Wetland Park, the dominance and aggregation index of sink landscapes should be increased, and the fragmentation (except LSI) and diversity index of sink landscapes should be decreased. The aggregation index of source landscapes should be increased, and the fragmentation, dominance, and diversity index of source landscapes should be decreased.
- 3. As sink landscapes with good water quality and less disturbance, lakes can be included in conservation areas to improve ecosystem function. As an ecological corridor connecting the park to surrounding areas, the river should be located outside the core area. Upstream portions should remain some distance from the source landscape to control and manage the invasion of water pollution from internal and external sources. Herbaceous swamps provide habitat, breeding, and foraging places for birds, but as their ecology is fragile, they should be included in conservation, restoration, and/or reconstruction areas. To enhance the landscape heterogeneity and permeability of the wetland park, woodlands and grasslands can be used as buffer zones to separate water areas from garden plots and cultivated and built-up land. These buffers would

also aid in the interception and emission reduction of pollutants through landscape structure adjustment. Areas close to roads and scenic spots in woodlands should be included in rational utilization areas for ornamental and tourist purposes. Built-up land, including residential areas, roads, infrastructures, etc. should also be included in rational utilization areas and kept far away from conservation areas to reduce the intrusion of pollutants (Figure 20).



Figure 20. Functional zoning strategy of wetland park landscape types.

4. The overall water quality in Suzhou National Wetland Park was found to be good, contributing to its original intention for ecological conservation. However, there are still many problems, such as internal and external disturbance, single wetland habitat, and insufficient wetland reserve. Due to the fragile ecological landscape in the restoration and reconstruction area, measures such as setting a buffer zone, defining an interference zone, and controlling pollution sources should be taken. Rational utilization areas are subject to the most human impact and require increased efforts to control pollutants, appropriately reduce area, and realize the spatially intensive layout.

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