

**A QUALITY OF LIFE PERSPECTIVE TO  
URBAN GREEN SPACES OF ANKARA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

### **A QUALITY OF LIFE PERSPECTIVE TO URBAN GREEN SPACES OF ANKARA**

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Urban green spaces are one of the layers of urban pattern. The urban environment is created through the complex relationships between natural, social, economic, and political dynamics. Similar to the urban environment, as a produced landscape, characteristics of urban green spaces vary according to the social, economic, cultural and ecological context of urban society.

In the last few decades, the “quality of urban life target” included in the sustainability approach, has become an important touchstone to increase the quality of urban environment in today’s world; with its tendencies of covering of perpetual subjective values and in addition to objective conditions to identify “individual’s satisfaction” as a target the by, of keeping its evaluation scope broad and holistic, and of deriving supporting the daily life practices which derive from participatory processes.

Among the quality of life perspective, urban green spaces are interpreted in a holistic and broad framework in boundaries of their contributions to the inhabitants’ well-being through their physical, social, economic and ecological links with life in a broad scale spectrum ranging from individual level to city scale.

In today’s urban environment, Ankara’s urban green spaces are planned by the responsible agents within a narrow framework; separated from urban and urban life, lacked of this multi-scale and multi-dimensional perspective, stucked in the sectoral targets of institutions. At this point, the study identifies the priorities and conditions to re-establish a well-functioned planning process for the green spaces of Ankara with a particular attention to quality of life.

Key words: Quality of life, green space planning, Ankara, leading agents

## ÖZ

### **ANKARA’NIN KENTSEL YEŞİL ALANLARINA BİR YAŞAM KALİTESİ PERSPEKTİFİ**

BİNGÖL, Ebru

Yüksek Lisans, Şehir ve Bölge Planlama Bölümü, Kentsel Tasarım  
Tez Yöneticisi: Supervisor: Doç. Dr. Melih PINARCIOĞLU  
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Kentsel yeşil alanlar kent örüntüsünün birer katmanıdır. Kentsel çevre, doğal, sosyal, ekonomik ve politik dinamiklerin arasındaki karmaşık ilişkiler tarafından üretilmektedir. Kentsel çevreye benzer olarak, üretilmiş bir peyzaj olarak kentsel yeşil alanların karakteristikleri kentsel toplumun sosyal, ekonomik, kültürel ve ekolojik bağlarına göre çeşitlenmektedir.

Son birkaç on yıldır, sürdürülebilirlik yaklaşımının içinde yer alan “kentsel yaşam kalitesi hedefi”, “bireyin tatmin derecesi”ni hedef olarak ortaya koymak için objektif değerlerin yanında algısal-subjektif değerleri de dikkate alması , değerlendirme alanını bütüncül ve geniş kapsamlı tutması ve katılımcı süreçlerden türeyen planlama yaklaşımıyla günlük yaşam pratiklerini desteklemesi eğilimleri ile günümüz dünyasında kentsel çevrenin kalitesinin artırılmasında önemli bir mihenk taşı olmuştur.

Kentsel yaşam kalitesi perspektifi ile kentsel yeşil alanlar, birey düzeyinden kent ölçeğine kadar değişen farklı ölçek spektrumlarında yaşam ile fiziksel, sosyal, ekonomik ve ekolojik bağlarını kentte yaşayan sakinlerin refah/mutluluğuna katkıları dahilinde bütüncül ve çok değişkenli bir yaklaşımla yorumlanmaktadır.

Bugünün kentsel çevresinde, Ankara’nın yeşil alanları, planlama alanında farklı sorumlu aktörlerce bu çok-ölçekli ve çok-boyutlu perspektiften yoksun bir şekilde, kurumların sektörel hedeflerinde sıkışmış, kentten ve kentsel yaşamdan kopuk olarak, dar bir çerçevede ile planlanmaktadır. Bu noktada, bu çalışma, Ankara’nın yeşil alanları için iyi-işleyen bir planlama sürecini yeniden kurmanın önceliklerini ve koşullarını yaşam kalitesi özelinde ortaya koymaktadır.

Anahtar kelimeler: Yaşam Kalitesi, yeşil alan planlaması, başlıca aktörler

To My Father...

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Problem Definition

Urban green spaces constitute one of the most important elements of urban landscape. They have various benefits to the urban life varying from ecologic, economic, biological, technical, and structural to social and psychological benefits. Much of the studies consider the benefits of urban green spaces from the point of their ecologic benefits to urban landscape rather than their benefits to urban life. It can be claimed that, yet, not much attention is given to various contributions of urban green spaces to the lives of the inhabitants and the improvements they make on the quality of life opportunities in the city. However, urban green spaces need urgent attention in terms of their multi-scale contributions ranging from urban physical pattern to urban life and their multi-dimensional contributions to the urban life in the cities as well. Therefore, this study takes urban green spaces as one of the urban components which add to the flavor of city life. To this end, the quality of life perspective establishes the main backbone of the study with its holistic, multi-scale, multi-dimensional evaluation of urban green spaces which re-establishes the relationship between urban green spaces and urban life on clear grounds.

Urban green spaces are important elements of cities as they are the open structures of the city, urban greenery in the hard-scaped cities and key components community life and interaction. Yet, as not much attention is not given to urban green spaces, these areas are evaluated as vast, void and inessential areas during the planning process. Therefore, urban green space planning has always remained as an ignored and excluded part of the planning process. Briefly, *current green space planning approach in Ankara does not have a multi-dimensional and multi-scale framework, based on coordination and cooperation of the responsible institutions*. At this point, this study investigates the grasp of the practical know-how of the leading agents' evaluations of variables of urban green space planning, their attitudes and values in this area of expertise.

## **1.2. Aim of the study**

Throughout the study, the rationality and the legitimacy of urban green space planning processes in Ankara are investigated by identifying the intensions and priorities of green space planning among leading agents.

In the current context of urban green spaces, quality of life seems to be a convenient ground to identify current multi-dimensional problems. The evaluation of urban green spaces in the perspective of quality of life has positive impacts to the research and practice. It will enable to appraise the urban green spaces in relation to their holistic contributions to the city and to its urban life. At this point, the study investigates the urban green spaces within the boundaries of quality of life by redefining the green spaces according to their social, physical, ecological and economic contributions to the inhabitants' life.

To sum up, the study tries to define appropriate conditions to re-establish a well-functioned planning process for Ankara's urban green spaces with particular attention to quality of life. A well-functioned planning process is directed through appreciation of local potentials of a city by improvement of quality of life in city scale, neighborhood scale and in individual level and by specific contributions of physical, social, ecological and economic dimensions. The study attempts to shed light on the process, analyzing what extends urban green space planning process of Ankara define their boundaries, how they define their legitimacies, grounded on which priorities and intensions identified through the in-depth interviews. To this aim, the research reflects upon Ankara's planning priorities to trace different, and to some extent conflicting opinions/rationalities among professional actors from private and public sector, and demands of NGOs by using variables of quality of life perspective.

## **1.3. Scope of the Study**

The scope of the study is restricted to the urban green space planning process of Ankara with particular attention to quality of life perspective. Ankara is selected as the case study due to its planning problems. The flow of the study is:

- Conceptualization of the "quality of life" construct on urban green spaces

- Distillation of urban green space planning process- planning instruments, legal context of green space planning, responsible institutions- in Turkey, and distillation of planning priorities of responsible institutions for green space planning of Ankara by means of some of the plans, plan decisions and plan reports prepared for the common area of Southwest Ankara Region
- Identification of the priorities and intentions of leading agents about green space planning process of Ankara identified through in-depth interviews with the planning professionals from private and public sector (central and local governments) and, some of related NGOs
- Offering suggestions to construct a planning strategy for Ankara's urban green space planning by referring to the interviews, plans, and determinants influencing the planning process.

#### **1.4. Method of the study**

The method of the study is based on to code the identification of the intentions and planning priorities of leading agents and how they formulate the urban green space planning process. Accordingly, the study is based on in-depth interview method to identify the boundaries of green space planning process defined by the leading agents of planning of Ankara. The method is a sensitivity-centered approach investigating the activity positions of the actors, their viewpoints and their influence on the subject.

This work puts forward a well-functioned planning process for healthy and efficient urban green spaces which will improve the quality of life of Ankara inhabitants. This process has three general stages:

1. A summary of Holistic and Multi-Dimensional Urban Green Space Approach of Quality of Life
2. Surveys and Their Analysis
3. General Planning Guidelines.

The first stage includes the theories on urban green spaces which construct the relations between quality of life perspective and urban green spaces. In the end of this stage, the multi-scale, multi-dimensional requirements of green space planning

are listed which are advised to increase the quality of life of the inhabitants. As the outcomes of these general information, main keywords of the green space planning principles in city scale, neighborhood and individual scales are utilized in the case study to testify the intensions of the leading agents. By this way, it is displayed that new meanings of these keywords in the local context of Ankara is gained.

The survey/case study stage includes two main sources of information for the city Ankara;

- General information on urban green space planning of Turkey and Ankara and urban green spaces Ankara
- in-depth interviews carried out with leading agents from responsible institutions which have influences on planning of Ankara and partially urban green space planning

General information on urban green space planning of Turkey and Ankara and urban green spaces of Ankara are distilled to identify legislative and management processes, urban green policy and its legal context, planning instruments, and responsibilities within the planning process as the common background of planning, development and management of urban green system.

The in-depth interviews are held with the leading agents who are working in the private and public institutions which have responsibilities for preparation of plans for Ankara and respondents from NGOs. As a method of intensive qualitative research, the main intensions, priorities and rationalities of urban green space planning of the respondents are identified.

As a result of these two-staged analysis, Ankara's urban green space planning rationalities of the leading agents are displayed. In the last part, a planning guidance on how to improve the condition and status of urban green situation is developed. By doing this, the thesis aims to define the appropriate conditions of urban green space planning of Ankara to re-establish a well-functioned planning process. The primary goal is to establish the links between green space planning and improvement of inhabitant's quality of life.

To this aim, the study conducted in four chapters. In the second chapter, the study points to the historical transformation of urban green space approaches which will

later construct the grounds of theory of quality of life perspective on urban green. The first part of the study introduces the terminology of the study: “urban green space” which is produced as a result of the conceptual terms: ‘urban green spaces’ under the headings of ‘urban green space as an extension of nature’, ‘urban green space as a public space’, ‘urban green space as open space’. Secondly, a brief information on the historical transformation of urban green space approaches under three main waves of humanity: industrialization, modernization and post-modernization is considered. Urban green spaces have been evaluated by taking into consideration of various functions they serve according to the requirements of societies. As a result, urban green space studies have intersected in different fields. In the industrialization period they have been considered through their regulatory functions against bad living conditions of 19th century. In modern era, urban green spaces have been one of the instrument to transform society via physical planning studies of utopian planning initiatives. Later, they have taken place in the recreation literature with the dictum of organization of spare time and spare space. After the Second World War, the globe experienced the dominance of welfare and distributional studies. Accordingly, urban green spaces considered under the issue of environmental justice which will modify its focus to accessibility of the green areas in the neo-liberal studies later. Lastly, in the postmodern era, urban green spaces are redefined within the theological holistic theories of ecology, local-based studies of quality and participatory planning initiatives. As a result, it can be inferred that all of these studies constitutes the various contextual bases of holistic framework of “quality of life”.

As shown in chapter 2, the concept of quality of life, has many extensions in fields, professions which are feeded from different conceptual backgrounds. In the third chapter, ideological framework of quality of life perspective has investigated through its main concepts and components varying among the fields, scales and research methods. After 1990s, most of the fields re-define their goals, methods and tools for the sake of improvement of quality of life in a humanistic manner. One of the research area as to define the good life is environmental planning, environmental design and architecture vis-à-vis the environment. These fields focus on the environment (natural and man-made, etc.) that provides the reference point as well as the yardstick for the individual's evaluation of his quality of life. After drawing the background of quality of life theory, the issue of environmental quality of life is focused for its spatial dimensions. Later, quality of life perspective and urban green

space relations have constructed on a holistic framework by covering cover complex functions of urban green spaces in the urban landscape. Accordingly, multi-scale contributions ranging from city scale to individual level, and multi-dimensional contributions including economic, social, ecologic and physical planning dimensions are considered which will constitute the backbone of the surveys of chapter 5.

In the fourth chapter, the issue of urban green space planning in Turkey with its technical instruments, legal contexts and boundaries of responsibilities of planning is summarized in addition to a short summary to the urban green spaces and urban green space planning of Ankara. The scope and the intentions of green space planning of the responsible institutions are distilled over the plans prepared for the common area of Southwest Ankara Region.

The fifth chapter discusses the intensions and the multi-scale and multi-dimensional planning priorities of leading agents about green space planning is analyzed the planning process and produce a guidance to re-establish the planning process on the grounds of quality of life.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **RECENT APPROACHES ON URBAN GREEN SPACES AS A BACKGROUND TO CURRENT TENDENCIES**

#### **2.1. The Term Urban Green Space**

The urban environment is created through the location of urban elements in relation to one another. It is one of the realities that form the physical pattern of the city. As urbanity increases, urban green spaces have gained various complex relations with the other physical and social elements of the city. As one of the urban physical elements, they provide open spaces as a challenge to the dense urban settlements. In relation with their natural character, they create breathing spaces to the humans and non-human living organisms. In relation to the urban life, they provide interaction places to the inhabitants of the city. As an outcome of their biological physical, and social contextual bonds, terminology of urban green space varies through urban green as an extension of nature, urban green as public space, urban green as open space.

##### **2.1.1. Urban green as an extension of nature**

The idea of evaluation of urban green spaces as an extension of nature grounds on the sciences of biology and ecology. It can be inferred that these approaches considers urban green spaces merely as a part of natural sciences for being natural phenomenon. They focus on the nature preservation issues, wildlife and habitation continuity in the rural or urban areas. In the perspective of ecologic approach the urban green spaces are evaluated “as pieces of nature saved in the fate of urban development” (Cranz, 1989:138). Urban green spaces are healthy antidotes to the crowd and polluted cities. Accordingly, urban green orients itself to the image of nature by mirroring nature.

On the other hand, currently, urban green spaces are demanded not only for biodiversity and wildlife desires, but also for human health. Historically, urban green spaces are, first of all, defined within their natural roots. Auguste Comte and Herbert Spencer epistemologically and ontologically define urban environment in relation with their biological relations. The first rejection of this biological determination originates from Durkheim and Weber which consider the diversified interaction of societies and their environment by separating them from their natural origins. Karl Marx, Ferdinand Tönnies, Giddens and Gorz are the ones who moved the subject into social issues and evaluate socialized nature created by modernity. Later, environmental destruction, environmental degradation and other environmental related problems come to the focus as the consequences of modern world.

### **2.1.2. Urban green as public space**

As Madanipour (1999) defines, public space is ‘a space provided by the public authorities, concerns the people as a whole, is open or available to them, and is used or shared by all members of a community’. The archetype of public space takes its roots from the ancient Greek meetings in agora and market place where the meeting places of ceremonies and spectacles were performed. (bios politikos)

Public spaces have always political bonds as spaces where domain of upper classes felt. They have always mentioned in relation with “political significance”, “symbolizing the power of the state” and signs of authority or bourgeoisie (Madanipour, 1998). Thereby, control of public space and the hegemony in the public space have been essential in the studies of public space as the power balance in a particular society.

Through displacement of democracy to the power of representatives, public space as the space of civil action has left its place to social context of public space based on individual design rather than political contact of public space. Currently these spaces have urgent features for enabling spaces of interaction sociability, and activity. Today, their collective character of “the stage upon which the drama of communal life unfolds” (Carr et al., 1992:3) determines the current trends. According to current trends, urban green spaces are demanded to increase individual’s self-efficiency and collective ends. Similarly, urban green spaces are a kind of public

spaces where interaction with the public on goes and the public benefit from these urban resources.



Figure 2.1. Urban green spaces as public space. Source: [www.urge.com](http://www.urge.com).

### **2.1.3. Urban green as open spaces of the city**

In the morphological sense, open spaces are opposite of built-up areas. Specifically, the term open space identifies the urban green spaces, which are publicly accessible, unbuilt areas such as parks, plazas, streets, community gardens, and greenways preserving public life in it.

In fact, the term open space is a production of city planning discipline categorizing the urban elements by zoning as built-up areas, commercial areas, industrial areas, agricultural areas and open spaces. (Carr et al, 1992; Lynch, 1972). In the public-private dimension, they are usually perceived as accessible spaces most often used with public connotation. On the other hand, open spaces differentiated from public spaces with their unloaded official pomp and democratic ideals. At this point, open spaces symbolizing common rather than public (Lindholm, 2005).

In consumer society, private use of open space entered into the public policies and “accessibility” has overwhelmed civil action context of public spaces. Hence, urban green spaces generally interpreted within their physical qualities and started to be evaluated under the issue of “open green spaces”. After then, urban green spaces started to be mentioned as open spaces of the city dominating the term of public green space. Similarly, the class struggle in the urban public spaces turn into struggle for the urban green as Garnier summarizes:

“... in a city, the environment is the quality of water, the air, the food, the sound level, the urban landscape, the length of the journey to and from work, the presence or absence of green spaces, both for their role in the struggle against atmospheric pollution and for the contact with nature that they provide.’ Garnier, 1970).

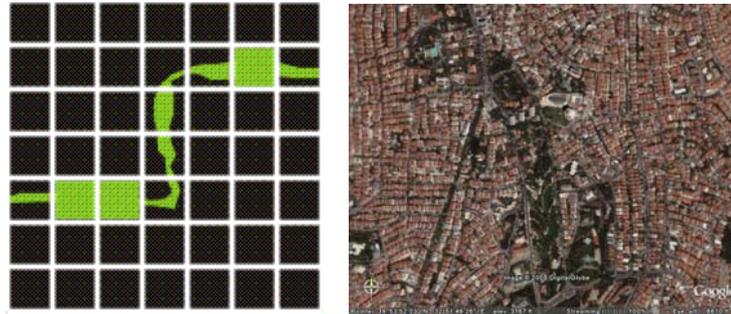


Figure 2.2-2.3. Urban green space as a part of open spaces of city.  
Source: [www.googleearth.com](http://www.googleearth.com).

#### **2.1.4. The urban green consensus: Re-defining the green in urban landscape**

Urban green space gain new contextual relations in the urban scene considering their cultural features as well as their natural features. According to this fact, it can be claimed that urban green spaces have multi-dimensional contexts in the urban landscape. The study tends to evaluate urban green spaces from a multi-dimensional perspective which surpasses its greenery character by covering the relationships between urban green and urban inhabitant.

Essentially, urban green spaces are a product of culture in the urban space. It is the nature re-formed. As Berrizbeita (1999) claims urban green spaces are, now, have multiple meanings which are understood through the accumulation of reiterative experiences in time and space that of which points to its social character. These spaces are the “*second nature*” created by modern urbanism involving transformations in the relations between the habits of the day-to-day social life and the milieu in and through which they are ordered (Goldblatt, 1996), by influencing social values and influenced by social values in the dynamics of urban landscapes.

Thereby, these spaces need to be considered not merely as an extension of nature or a physical entity of open spaces, but rather re-created urban landscapes within

the social, economic, politic, and cultural context of a society. They are both a part of open spaces of city, the interaction spaces of inhabitants and regulators of urban environments. This perspective enables assessment of urban green spaces through their physical, social, ecologic, and economic bonds considering multi-functionality of urban green spaces as the space of events, space of diverse and flexible range of uses.

## **2.2. Development of Urban Green Space Theories**

It can be said that the issue of urban green spaces intersect with many fields such as planning, geography, political economy, ecology, urban history, environmental psychology etc. It can be observed that the conceptualization of the urban green has likely to change among the field it is evaluated in, the social situation of the time, aspects of social life and meaning assigned to green spaces. One of the reasons of this diversity in research is its interdisciplinary character which stems from the fact that green spaces are a part of natural sciences for being natural phenomenon and they have spatial contents comprising physical, social and aesthetical bonds. During history, the researches about urban green spaces differentiate, according to the social, physical and economic relations in society and urban green spaces partially located in various research areas. As a result, various functional typologies are emerged to supply “their good” in their own definition of environmental desires. Here, a brief overview to historical development of theories of urban green spaces is summarized. The reason behind this historical overview is to constitute the theoretical roots of “quality of life and urban green space” researches. The overview is expected to introduce the basis of holistic green space planning perspective.

### **2.2.1. Early Industrialization - Sanitary Functions**

Before 18th century, the classical concept of green is prevailed in which nature has a picturesque beauty to restore a sense of passive, still scenery, and quiet solitude environment. These areas are especially the parks in the property of royalty.

After industrial revolution, dense urban patterns and bad life conditions started to occur. Started in Great Britain, the rapid economic growth of the industrial revolution

brought about a large amount population move from the countryside to the larger industrial cities. This ended with enormous housing problems, crowding, pollution of water, soil and air in cities and health problems. It is starting point of consideration of “public health” and public hygiene concept under the theme of town planning where major concerns existed regarding the health of the working classes.

In the nineteenth century the movement of “dynamic nature” introduced by English Landscape Gardening School bounced to USA as “public park movement” based on public health, morality and economy. It is the starting point of public park movement that advocates public access to urban parks as a search for a healthy place in the chaotic situation in industrial cities. The movement offered great parks, sunlight, fresh air, open air, trees as a remedy to the crowded urban life. Urban green is expected to be cure for the ills of the city via purifying air, stop disease, introducing light and air, improving soldiering and morale. As a result, large parks started to be designed with a romantic look natural view, carrying the notions of nature while they are artificially produced with the expectation of parks to “ameliorate the social as well as physical defects” that nineteenth century’s industrialized city (Vernes, 1984).

Later, ideals of Public Park Movement were diffused in City Beautiful Movement advocating elevation of urban citizenship, fulfillment of human needs in transportation, residential environment, broad avenues and vistas, recreation and great public parks and beautiful and healthy cities combining beauty and utility in cities. The “public park movement” also proposes a collective environment of town park and recreation ground as a challenge to parks merely in the property and access of royalty. It transfers English aristocratic picturesque parks into municipal parks to public use. As such, early parks of urban life emerged as “pleasure grounds” (Cranz, 1989) organized around passive uses comprising outdoor activities.

During 1920s, the small scale of urban green design turn into a greening of the city movement through holistic planning concepts held with municipality policies. It is also the beginning of the “municipal park movement” concerning the provision of urban green within the overall spatial structure of the city including models of green rings, radials, fingers or belts. It is an extension of “efficient city” approach focuses on the problems of health, housing, transportation in the practical side. The starting point was the Burnham’s large-scale urban beautification. As an extension of the

movement of beautification of cities, Frederick Olmsted and Jens Jensen established the counteraction of “visual antithesis to gridded streets and rectangular houses”(Cranz, 1989) configured by romantic and native presentations of urban green. Frederick Law Olmsted advocated the aesthetics of romantic idealism and adapted a naturalistic approach to his designs. He designed pastoral parks against the ugliness, unhealthfulness and stress of the cities influenced profoundly by the English style also in belief with naturally prevailed environments providing social imperative.

Olmsted parks were the revival of ‘picturesque’ beauty of medieval times prompting “pure wilderness which would provide the best and the sharpest contrast with civilization” stimulating within a city’s boundaries. The activity of walking and resting in the pleasant paths with amid agreeable surroundings were in curved circulation paths of an arabesque, releasing under the activity of *promenade* as the major pastime. This also the time when recreation concept emerge and the meaning of green simultaneously change (Wilson, 1980).

As a result, institutionalization of the scientific approach to urban green spaces initiated in the field of urban planning and management. It introduced sanitary function of urban green spaces and public access to these areas. The movement also initiated comprehensive planning studies which combine urban green projects with city planning departments in municipalities. With the municipal awareness on large scale urban green, they became a political tool to present greatest usefulness to the public. –large scale urban beautification-

After decades later, the sanitary improvements in city initiatives will turn into clean air legislation, measures on sewage control and clean water supply in urban politics. In the 20th century, the emphasis of healthy environment has revived within the dictums of air, water, soil quality and biodiversity as a new type of scarcity (URGE, 2004).

### **2.2.2. Constitution of Modern Discourse - Re-organization of Nature**

Modern era brought the idea of ‘breaking with the tradition’, ‘rejection of the past’, ‘vision of the future’ and ‘reorganizing for the new’ concepts to the social sciences,

professions, and to all parts of life. It is a kind of tabula rasa project proposing a new vision of the future in which all realms of past-traditional life abandoned. Rational thought and positivist scientific researches also constituted its basis and entered in the researches in modern era. Accordingly, natural dynamics of urban green spaces replaced by re-organization of nature.

Modern planning relationship with urban green spaces can be found in two main issues: utopian way of planning and the concept of recreation.

### **2.2.2.1. Re-organization of Life through Urban Form - Utopian Planning Approaches**

The first part of the 20th century is the era when of grand narratives and comprehensive planning issues live its triumph. The comprehensive planning approaches are usually propose new physical and social, economic organizations in urban life via utopias. The comprehensive utopian plans considered urban green space with a range of concepts concerning the provision of urban green within the overall spatial structure of the city as a part of presentation of new life style. As a result, during the 1920's green space development was strongly connected to the realization of different architectural and town planning concepts representing the ideal urban physical structure which bring order to social and economic bonds, and to life patterns.

Utopian plans also presented an alternative to the sanitary emphasis of urban planning: utopian plans' space of form. In general, the utopian planning represents two opposite approaches on the relationship between urban green and the city. At the one side, anti-urban utopia utilizes urban green as a separating element between the city and the suburb. At the other side, urban green is a connecting element glorifying development of the city and nature together in a compact city. While they both offer new way of life, they are essentially opposite in concept and planning of urban green. Mumford explains the contradictory characters of utopian planning as:

“At the beginning of the twentieth century two great new intentions took form before our eyes: the aero plane and the Garden City, both harbingers of a

new age: the first gave man wings and the second promised him a better dwelling-place when he came down to earth.” (Mumford, 1945).

The opposite characters of two contradictory utopian planning stems from their base approaches to relationship of city and landscape.

#### **2.2.2.1.1. Garden City Approach and Broadacre City: Urban green as a separating element**

Ebenezer Howard, founder of Garden City movement, influenced from radical economic doctrine from Kropotkin to Henry George urged the unification of town and country (Evans, 1978). Howard’s Garden City eclectically combines from various traditions. It includes a rural belt, a promenade, a cottage garden of the village. And he combines the democratic tradition of agora and village green with Georgian elegance and Victorian philanthropy, setting at the heart of his Utopia, the town park. (Evans, 1978:100). As Kühn (2003) points out, the city walls, city Gates, city laws and tollgates of middle ages as the origin of the concept of green belts. Greenbelts between cities and countryside are established as a planning notion since the breaking-up of most European city walls in the 18th and 19th century. As a synthesis, Howard transferred the ring-concentric form of middle-aged cities into growing industrial city regions by his influential and popular model of Garden Cities (Kühn, 2003).

The garden city approach differentiates from the earlier concepts with “concrete qualities of landscapes and open spaces as well as abstract notion of good city from” (Kühn, 2003) and its uniqueness lay in this concept of nature carrying specific roles and functions (Kühn, 2003; Jorgensen, 2005).

Garden city approach bases on the “three magnets” which are town, country, town-country. The paradise world of Garden city accumulates both the advantages of country such as active life, social amenities and beauty and delight of country. The third magnet, presenting the ideal of *marriage of town and country*, will combine the “source of all life, of happiness, of wealth and of power” (Osborn, 1970:46). The Garden Cities, strictly limited to growth, have the settlement pattern of satellite towns around a main city surrounded by an agricultural and recreational zone, called

a Greenbelt. The greenbelts, by separating the typical characters of city and suburb, functions to control further urban growth. The concept of Garden Cities was believed to be a solution for the problems of crowded cities.

Aim of designing green belts have two main roles. First of all, green belts carry the notion of protecting the physical boundaries of city, surrounding countryside from encroachment and preventing neighborhoods from merging. Secondary role of green belts are providing access to open countryside for recreation and outdoor leisure pursuits. As the third role the recreational facilities will also prevent countryside (Herington, 1990).

After Ebenezer Howard, Camillio Sitte, Olmsted were all figures advocating the picturesque version of urban green. During 19th century many European cities, the familiar concept of the green belt based on city boundaries and limit growth has dominated the urban tendencies by concentric towns surrounding with urban elements such as city walls. In the 20th century a community modeled residential areas with a network of private and public green spaces at the peripheries of cities come to the forth. After 1970s, environmental degradation problem and environmental movement, redefined green belts with regard to their conservation, ecologic equilibrium and regeneration function with the revitalization of the belief of greenbelt is a solution to the problems of crowded and big cities.

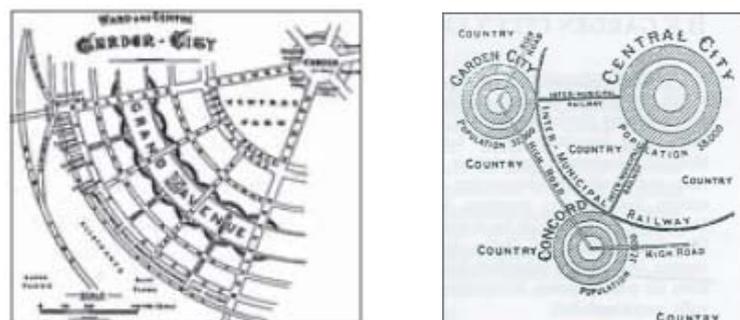


Figure 2.4.-2.5. Ideal Structure of the Garden City. Source: [www.urge.com](http://www.urge.com).

Another decentralized disurbanist type of utopian planning advocator was F. Lloyd Wright proposing Broadacre City to *back to the nature* inn the configuration of a low density pattern. His plan points to great urban settlements providing 57 acre land

per individual spreading to the total area of 10 km<sup>2</sup>. The one storey buildings locating on broad land were the center of the design. The sporting areas, small farms, and gardens surrounding the garden was a representation of integrated life with nature. The nature was presented as a solution to cultural, social and psychological problems of the urban life for creating possibilities of production of self-nutrition. Broadacre City was family life- centered organization as the virtue of the nature contrary to distributive character of automization in cities.

Although Wright's plan of 'Broadacre City' was in accordance with Howard's planning's main idea, they are essentially supporting opposite political choices. Wright's approach includes technological considerations focusing on the automobile-addicted daily life as the way of transportation in and between Broadacre Cities. Evaluation of the nature in the Wright's utopia was a infinite resource responding the needs of the inhabitants and ready to be consumed and controllable. In this image of life, nature was the scene of "Arcadia" myth where people live happily (Zelef, 2000).

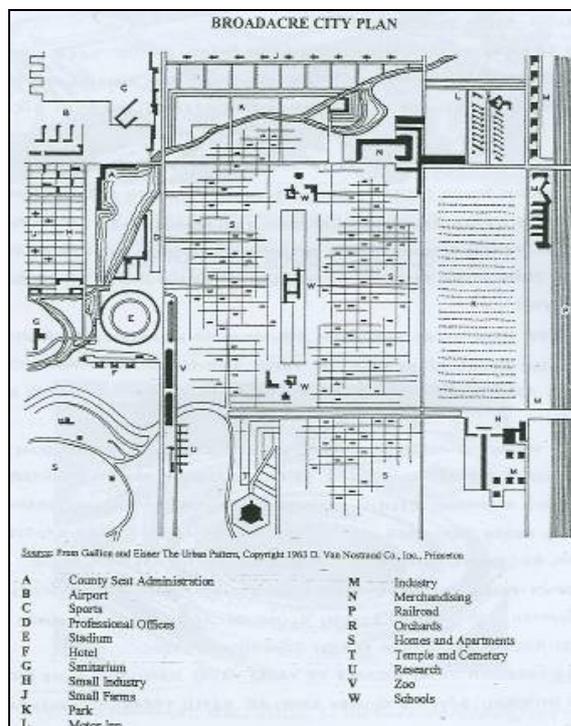


Figure 2.6. Structure of Broadacre City Plan.

### 2.2.2.1.2. Le City Radiant

As a challenge to Howard's Garden City, Le Corbusier, the eminent figure of utopian planning, established his theory on the ideology of Le City Radiant as a configuration of "new way of life" and "technological development". Le Corbusier's urban green in the City Radiant is the green in accordance with technologically over-developed buildings. Nature and city lives together and glorifying each other.

Le Corbusier evaluates the buildings and cities as modern machines to live in - the 'House Machine'- where high technology perfectly utilized. In Tony Garnier's whole residential areas, there is an unfenced open space, and his roads are groves. Le Corbusier follows Garnier and goes further by uplifting the buildings and leaving the open space undisturbed: the natural and man-made complementary, but separate. (Evans, 1978:100).

In Corbusier's words the city is composed of a Great Park, skyscrapers and open spaces:

"...suppose we are entering the city by way of the Great Park. Our fast car takes the special elevated motor track between majestic skyscrapers: as we approach nearer, there is seen the repetition against the sky of twenty-four skyscrapers; to our left and right on the outskirts of each particular area are the municipal and administrative buildings; and enclosing the space are the museums and university buildings. The whole city is a Park". (Jacobs, 1961:21).

Le Corbusier's settlements are totally urbanized, intense and concentrated patterns with high rise buildings in the core of the city as counter to the countryside. The urban green space of Le City Radiant is the place where blocks were inserted. The reason of the building up so high was to remain ground open. He elevated all the man-made structures and the ground left to a continuous park for the pedestrians. Because of the building up so high that 95 percent of the ground could remain open in Le Corbusier's City Radiant. The skyscrapers would occupy only 5 percent of the ground. The high-income people would be in lower, luxury housing around courts, with 85 percent of their ground left open. (Jacobs, 1961:22).

He supports opposite ideas on structure and function of urban green spaces apart from Howard's. The invasion of the ground is the main point which Le Corbusier criticizes Howard's Garden City. As Jacobs (1961:22) claims: "The garden city is a

will-o'-the-wisp. Nature melts under the invasion of roads and houses and the promised seclusion becomes a crowded settlement. The solution will be found in the 'vertical garden city'."

Le Corbusier's city tries to re-define the relationship between open green space and buildings. It creates large quantities of open green space to respond modern needs and aesthetic reasons without regarding historically created public open spaces. Mechanical production of city and its elements were proposed as the glorification of the technological developments and rupture from the nature. As Davey points:

"Moderns of the heroic period were happy to suggest simply juxtaposing their buildings with natural landscape, and where natural landscape did not exist, with artificial ones made to look as natural as possible" (Davey, 1997:31).

Thereby, Corbusier's modern thought's man-nature relationship was affection for artificial naturalness (Davey, 1997) and urban green takes place in the complementary role of the image of machine-oriented life style. The city lays over the created urban green such as a city laying on a park representing coherence with the idealized life of rational order.

In addition to city scale considerations of urban green, Le Corbusier also proposed neighborhood scale innovation of urban green in his architecture. Mass production and repetition in architecture, as the outcome of new technologies, is advocated by Le Corbusier. Le Corbusier added the garden idea to his mass production house. In the serial production houses of Le Corbusier, "freehold maisonette", courtyard type maisonettes are preferred. In the maisonettes, there is a main courtyard with tennis courts over the roof of underground parking, in addition to the hanging gardens of modules including group of 50 m<sup>2</sup> housing and 50 m<sup>2</sup> garden. Le Courbusier's maisonettes were, in fact, a critic to the garden city approach's excluded sport areas from the daily life and to inefficient private agricultural areas. As a response, Le Corbusier proposes sporting areas surrounding the houses and highly efficient industrialized agricultural areas in front of the houses. At this point, he also makes an assignment from housing unit to the urban planning by designing the city as a self-organizing structure with its agricultural and industrial production.

Another point of Le Corbusier's new approach was about the perception of outer space. The outer space of his design was urban space created by modern man

which is created with the aim of watching of the spectacular. Outer space is not a part of nature; and not a space to spread on the vertical level as did the 19th century romantics. It is rather a harsh urban space lifting on the horizontal level to be watched by mankind. The relationship between inhabitants and urban green was passive just for watching or uplifted production of cultivation at balconies or upper streets.



Figure 2.7.-2.8. Le Corbusier's Villa Houses. Source: Le Corbusier, 1999.

### 2.2.2.1.3. Extensions of Utopian Planning Concepts

Regarding the relationship of city and the green, extension of utopian planning ideals have resulted in two main – even opposite- positions: While Le Courbuiser's landscape comprises the urban green and development by considering green as a "connecting element in the city regions, integrating them to regional cities" (Kühn, 2003), main goal of the green belt ideology was protection by considering green as "a separating element of city and suburbia to prevent compact and small urban form" (Kühn, 2003). The idea reinforces that it is the urban growth which occupies the places of rural beauty of forests, valleys and wetlands as the enemy of nature.

The most important and never ending arguments on green space planning such as conservation, urban growth, marriage of town and country etc. aroused in this first half of 20th century as an extension of these main ideas of urban utopias. Extension of conservative ideologies of garden city tradition on nature, pursued its traces in various studies. Lewis Mumford, Clarence Stein, Henry Wright, Patrick Geddes, Catherine Bauer were the advocators of conservatist garden city ideals from different disciplines. Patrick Geddes search on planning of human settlements and

their relationships with environment via environmental science. Ernst May, proposed to taken into consideration the site's topography and the harmony with form of the landscape. Camillio Sitte also advocated medieval town shaped organic urban design structures provide human scale to neighborhood design. Besides, all these attempts were extensions of a conservatist anti-urban Utopia. In the field of city planning, the green belt ideal revised under the headings of extended cities, green cities, suburbanization, new-urbanism, and with the environmental concerns called 'garden city of Wales', 'a unique living and working environment', 'the city of trees', 'a town in the countryside', 'the industrial garden town', 'where the town and country meet', 'the open country', 'the city for all seasons' etc.

While the urban green considerations of utopian planning differentiate, they constitute the main basis of comprehensive green planning principles considering the relationship between the urban form and green spaces in the following years. As a result, the comprehensive planning brought the approaches of land use, zoning and classifications to urban norms. The norms, later, specialized on urban green spaces by making definition of functions, standards and pre-requirements to achieve successful urban green spaces. While the functions vary in the range of separating, zoning, integrating, etc. main pre-requirements classified under availability, proximity, accessibility etc.

The zoning tradition of modern city planning is proposed to ensure the functional quality for the various areas of the city as an extension of great emphasis on "function" of modern movement. The tendency of zoning proposes to "use the open space system to separate neighborhoods and zones, sometimes in such a way that schools and their playing fields were included in a continuous system dividing the town into sectors, with drifts of greenery between the built areas" (Evans, 1978:100). In the logic of zoning, with a more liberal position, urban green space is an over-spill element to separate settlements in a city region (Elson, 1986; cited in Kühn, 2003). The functions devoted to the urban green spaces in the zoning planning were buffer spaces between roads, different functions and zones. Since the publication of the 'Buchanan Report' there had been an interest in noise associated with traffic, and in screening by planting and other means. The proposals thus embody to an outstanding extent the use of open space and major routes as 'barriers' and 'edges' instead of 'seams' as Jane Jacobs emphatically advised. (Evans, 1978:101).

In the meanwhile, to achieve the requirements of accessibility and proximity some standards have defined. Britain's CIAM group –MARS- criticized the situation of green spaces in cities for their insufficiency, their accessibility and their location away from the city center and their inconnectivity to the residents and urban life. Accordingly, CIAM proposed basic assumptions in for planning and design of green areas, one of which becomes the most important and recurring themes in town planning: 'everyone should live within walking distance of the countryside'. As a result CIAM construct the basis of continuity, integrity, and systemized of green with their assumption of neighborhood green connected with residents.

Later, the requirement of accessibility is advocated to be achieved by the objective of 10 minutes maximum walking time to open space, free from vehicular traffic. A hierarchy of open space – from 'tot-lot' to sports centre and green belt, is now a common characteristic of most recent proposals. (Evans, 1978:100-101).

The approach of evaluation of urban green as an anti-thesis to the logic of city, has for a long time dominated in urban planning field. In the following years, a challenge to this separation function of green is released; Jane Jacobs was the personality who brought the approach of integration function of urban green to the majority. In Jacobs' terms, it is the spatially and socially segregated world – traffic, working and housing and in the center of them green and concrete barriers exists (Jacobs, 1961) to bring an order to the city. Similar to Le Corbusier's connecting green, landscape started to seen as a connecting element in city regions. As a strong impact, today, "Sustainable Cities: Thematic Strategy on Urban Environment COST 11" study of European Union Study focuses on the integration of urban green with urbanity by considering "total green structure, private or public, is regarded as an integrated part of the urban fabric, and as a "tool" for urban development". (COST Action C11, 2005.) By the way, COST C11 Study focuses on the role of green structure within urban planning. The physical configuration of this proposal is a compact city form penetrating green structures into the city, in which green structure functions as a technical infrastructure.

The physical configuration of the two approaches was large high-rise housing estates on the urban scene in the bigger cities and open front development with enclosed and divided garden plots as the traces of back to utopianism and the village vernacular. Currently, in the postmodern view of landscape, the boundaries

of opposite concepts of integration/separation, compact city/decentralized city are blurred. “Hierarchical model of concentric grade in density from city center to suburbs glorifying compact green” is giving up and “patchwork-structures, disintegration and fragmentation in urban regions” is advocated (Kühn, 2003).

#### **2.2.2.2. Recreation – Re-organization of spare time**

Another impact of modern era on urban green spaces is organization of leisure time under the name of recreation. The term recreation originated in the modern period from the realization of requirement of rehabilitation of humankind in chaotic situation of industrial cities as deforestation, parcellation, monoculturation, mechanization. In the modern age, recreation is assessed as a requirement against the “mental and physical breakdown from the natural environments and deterioration of environmental conditions in over-developed metropolitan or in poor over-populated regions”. (Mumford, 1971).

In its essence, recreation includes the “actions which are made with instinctual presses in spare time without any desire of reward and produces and creates force source” (Cranz, 1989:207). According to Mumford, recreation is, first, a “biological need, an ingredient of the rhythm of life: effort – relaxation, toil – leisure, routine – adventure. (Mumford, 1971:19) and it is required for the harmonious conduct of urban life –a proper dimension of cells in which individual, family, and social life can take place-, creation of a spatial rhythm of life - securing of organic relations and transitions among different levels of human association – in the house, the town the region, and the country (Mumford, 1971).

The emergence of the phrase “recreation” has close links with modernization; as an outcome of the larger incomes, shorter working hours brought up to daily lives by modernization. As a response, modernism era produced the solution of organization of spare time of the life part. It proposes completely organized and controlled form of spare time and spare space. Similarly, in America, parks were established to confront the problem of increased leisure time due to the Great Depression occurred in 1929 to respond to the increasing leisure time and to control of spare time in the boundaries of organized activities (Cranz, 1989). As Cranz (1989) pointed organization was the key to getting the most out free time responding to the

increasing hours of spare time with scheduled uses and the emergence of the concept of recreation also points to the change in the meaning assigned to urban green space: “nature shifted from a romantic and aesthetic attitude to a functional view related to health and recreation” (Tjallingii, 2005:23). The activity of the facility overwhelms the passive components of pastoral landscape.

In the time scale, it can be observed that the term recreation and the functions assigned to the recreation transformed in time according to the social, political and economic demands of society and the state.

Years between 1900 and 1930 the term recreation had defined new ideological positions in parks. The idealistic efforts to use parks as an instrument of social reform. Urban parks were the places where all of the citizens (special emphasis on working class) meet and demand their desires. It is the reform park movement which evaluates “park as a way to reform the city socially” (Cranz, 1997).

In 1960, the term “open space” had been used in park documents in Chicago. The term recreation was held under the issue of physical and social planning issues in those days with their “open character”. The phrase open space brings into the forth “wide areas with the connotation” where anything goes such as natural preservation areas were not built spaces, but left open (Cranz, 1989:138). Secondly, they were fluidity areas where “park flow into the city and city into the park” (Cranz, 1989:138). Park became representing areas of urban life within their pattern and activities.

Later in 1960s re-definition of recreation emerged with the park movement in America in modern times. The original purpose of the association was to help “communities develop and effectively administer broad neighborhood and community recreation programs in the localities where the people lived and where their day-to-day recreation needs had to be met. (Cranz, 1989:172). The ideology of reform and contact with nature functions of urban green replaced with active recreation facilities full of commercial and entertainment commodities. It is also loss of idealism in park design.

Correspondingly, later the recreation concept gone into popularization and the idea of using parks for social reform abandoned. Parks became recreational facilities, the term ‘facility’ being equally neutral and all-encompassing, and all outdoor activities in

these facilities (Cranz, 1989:105). Park departments were threatening as commercial producers of entertainment commodities. Parks were also designed for their essentiality for human life. Commercial activities started to occur in the parks and parks turned into “shop where all sorts of business and games may be carried on” (Cranz, 1989) regardless of the reflections against it. After a while, cultural institutions such as museums, exhibitions, zoos, and amazing activities added to the commercial activities of restaurants, beer gardens, taverns, buffets responding to a broader client. And the pleasure ground defeated against amusement design of urban green.

### **2.2.2.3. Urban green as Distributor of Justice and Wealth**

During the 1960s the issue of social justice and environmental justice were in the agenda of policies and in the researches of fields. Social justice is an extension of welfare studies considering distributional mechanisms in society as the indicator of main structure of the society.

Urban green spaces are urban services classified under public goods that have to be provided by public authorities via planning decisions and policy means. After the emergence of municipality movement, services like environmental services initiated to be evaluated in the policies and laws to supply green space. In the second half of the 20th century distributive character of open spaces came to the forth and efficiency of urban green spaces started to be questioned within the concept of “all the public services contribute to comfort level and wealth of citizens” (Lineberry and Welch, 1974). At this point, urban green space evaluated as a scarce resource which reflect the distribution of the resources in society. Distribution of urban green services are closely related to welfare economics for keeping the welfare of the society.

Regarding urban green space, territorial justice is demanded in environmental justice movement. Environmental justice is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies (Bullard, 2002). The environmental justice movement, integration of distributional equity and recognition comes in the

form of the demand for more public participation in the development, implementation, and oversight of environmental policy. In a sense, the movement argues that procedural equity is a way to both distribution and recognition. Through public participation, activists and communities may accomplish both more equitable distribution of environmental risks, and the recognition of various communities, cultures, and understandings of environmental health and sustainability. (Schlosberg, 1999).

On the other hand, as a challenge to distributional studies, in the field of politics, public choice theory evaluates urban politics as “politics of spatial allocation of advantages and disadvantages, where public service decisions are “fundamentally redistributive mechanisms” or “hidden multipliers of income” (Lineberry, 1977). The choice based approach searching for accessibility of spatial allocation of services. Due to this accessibility pattern, territorial justice gain importance to equalize service on a geographical basis (Erkip, 1997). For being locational facilities and their dependence to land, the problem of equality and accessibility of urban services tried to be solved at the level of locational problems for environmental facilities. To overcome the problems of distribution and equality in environmental services some urban models city forms such as compact and decentralized city models were proposed with the claim of equal and just distribution of services and goods and efficient and accessible location of urban units. The physical configuration of this accessible urban environment elaborated with interconnected green networks and parkways rooted in the Olmsted’s plans.

By 1990s, social justice and distribution studies return to geographical agenda scrutinizing territorial or geographical investigations of the environment considering local inclinations. At this point, conditions (for use) of urban green spaces at the local, gain attendance. *As a result, accessibility, proximity, safety of natural open spaces have gained a central value in later studies.*

### **2.2.3. Postmodern Trajectories**

Postmodernism is characterized through the fragmentation and diversification in which none of the identity, code or argumentation departed from others or dominates over them (Preda, 2002). In the era of diffusion of the distinctions, urban green space theories found two new reflections. One of them is ecologic studies and

the other one is quality and participative theories.

### **2.2.3.1. Back to the Theological Considerations - Ecological Perspectives**

Green space studies have always had its roots from the theories of human-nature relationships. There is a concern for polarity between nature and culture. The recipratory relationship between human and nature has its roots in the arguments of whether concern for nature ought to be rooted in values connected to culture (anthropocentrism) or nature (biocentrism and ecocentrism), with similar doses of skepticism of one for the other (Proctor, 2002).

During the 1960s, ecologists and culturalists have developed new theories based on interactive processes between two against this hyperseparation of nature and culture. In the era of environmental change and rupture from nature, hyperseparations of culture and nature dissolved; postmodern fragmentation and diversification brought the complementary unification of the two concepts diffusing into each other. Since the World War II, it is released that world is a product of sum of complex interrelated relations and interactions as Gaia hypothesis advocating life on Earth is part of a self-regulating system that binds the atmosphere to the continents and oceans in a quasi-physiological process (Lovelock and Margulis, 1975).

The ecological perspective brought the mission of urban conservation for the continuity of the species and the ecosystem and it ends with the dictum of sustainability obligation to societies. Although sustainability aims to achieve a harmonious balance between societal, economic, and environmental systems, it was an alternative to the conservativist ecology approaches for proposing alternative and integrative methods with the claim of development.

According to ecologic approach, the city has always been considered one of the disturbing factors for an eco-system, by which has always been meant a national ecosystem (Archibugi, 1997). At this point green spaces in the city have become a representation of natural ecosystem in the boundaries of urban life. Green parts of

cities have carry the roles of prevention of wildlife in itself and penetration of species in the city within the green wedges, belts or fingers.

The ecologic view have reflected in the field of design and planning under the titles of organism planning and ecological design. Organism planning which was developed by the American regionalist L. Mumford during the 1930s. "Organism" city planning was also familiar during 1950s in Germany and other western European countries. In this period, cities were favorably understood as organism, consisting on blood vessels, lungs, cells and a heart. (Kühn, 2003).

Later, the term admitted all over the world and found reflections in environmental design as "*ecological design*" involving understanding of the regional context in which humans live, a recognition of natural limits and capacities, and an ability to build at an appropriate scale (Steiner, 2002). The ecological view of landscape architecture espoused by McHarg and others during 1960s and into the 1980s essentially atemporal, laying claim to a perpetual validity (Corner, 1999:32) developed a theory of design combining ecology and town planning.

#### **2.2.3.2. Urban Green as Quality, Locality and Ground for Communication**

The other initiative of 20th century was qualitative turn in production processes which lead to evaluation of products in terms of quality rather than quantity. Generally, quality can be defined as the "the character in a logical proposition of being affirmative or negative" (Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, The Collins English Dictionary, 1992). The efficiency based approach of design-build-use processes started to dominate design disciplines in the 21th century (Altaş, 2002). Currently, in the planning and design studies, qualitative methods are proposed for their suitability for exploring attitudes and values about open space grounding in the contexts of people's daily lives (Burgess et al., 1988).

At this point, quality of urban green comes to the forth in urban green space planning. The qualitative character of urban green has its roots in environmental psychology field exploring urban green space preferences. The researches encounter qualifications such as wild, lush, serene, specious, common, imaginative, festive and essential. Urban green spaces defines in terms of their legibility,

coherence, complexity and mysteriousness. Those characteristics are important for evoking sense of place, attachment to place etc.

Qualitative properties of urban green spaces supported in the context of social interaction for enhancing the sense of community and attachment to community. Perception of place by the inhabitants effects satisfaction with the social and physical attributes of place and nature. And this situation effects the proximity to valued public amenities. (Witten et.al, 2003). These researches try to measure the personal satisfaction of the individual from his/her relationship with physical (natural) environment in the model of person-environment fit model.

On the other hand they are extensions of anti-comprehensive, small scale design inclination of late 20th century. It is supported that local environment is the pre-eminent physical sphere to achieve the quality. Local environments advocated not only because of their narrower scales but also the social interactions constituting a community. As Hummon (1992), commends feelings of place comes from the local peculiarities of the environment.

Traditional urban planning initiatives are comprehensive defined within the boundaries of 'expert opinion' and failed to create the desired quality communities. In the recent years, there is an increase in the awareness of active involvement of people in planning and decision-making in urban green projects with a bottom-up approach to planning. The ideal of public participation in planning takes its roots of theory, concepts and experience from the field of political science and sociology.

With this concern, public is all persons who directly or indirectly are likely to be affected by the project. The participatory planning process includes a systematic mutual cooperation process to work together with the public mentioned, their representatives and technical specialists, to create a plan which combines and reflects their values, knowledge, experience and best judgmental the time in a democratic manner (Hendricks et.al, 1975:577-580).

As a result of participatory process of planning, urban green is now differently considered under the theme of urban renaissance. The focus is on the interactive processes in a city forming the quality of green structure. It is the new type of green

space production aiming public orientation and support with public commitment for a good functioning network of green areas.

To sum up, the sanitary functions of urban green spaces are a part of public health approaches of the current studies. The utopian planning approaches constitute the basis of the physical dimensions of green space planning. The arguments of green networks, green belts, green fingers etc. are extensions of utopian planning initiatives. Similarly, the recreation studies and requirements related to recreation networks, vitality, use of green areas constitutes the social dimension of green space planning. The ecologic considerations of biodiversity, green and urban assemblage, green fragmentation are ecologic attributes of green space planning. Lastly, quality of place, quality of environment attributes, participative green space planning initiatives constitutes the social dimension of green space planning. All of these dimension of green space planning constitutes the main basis of quality of life perspective.

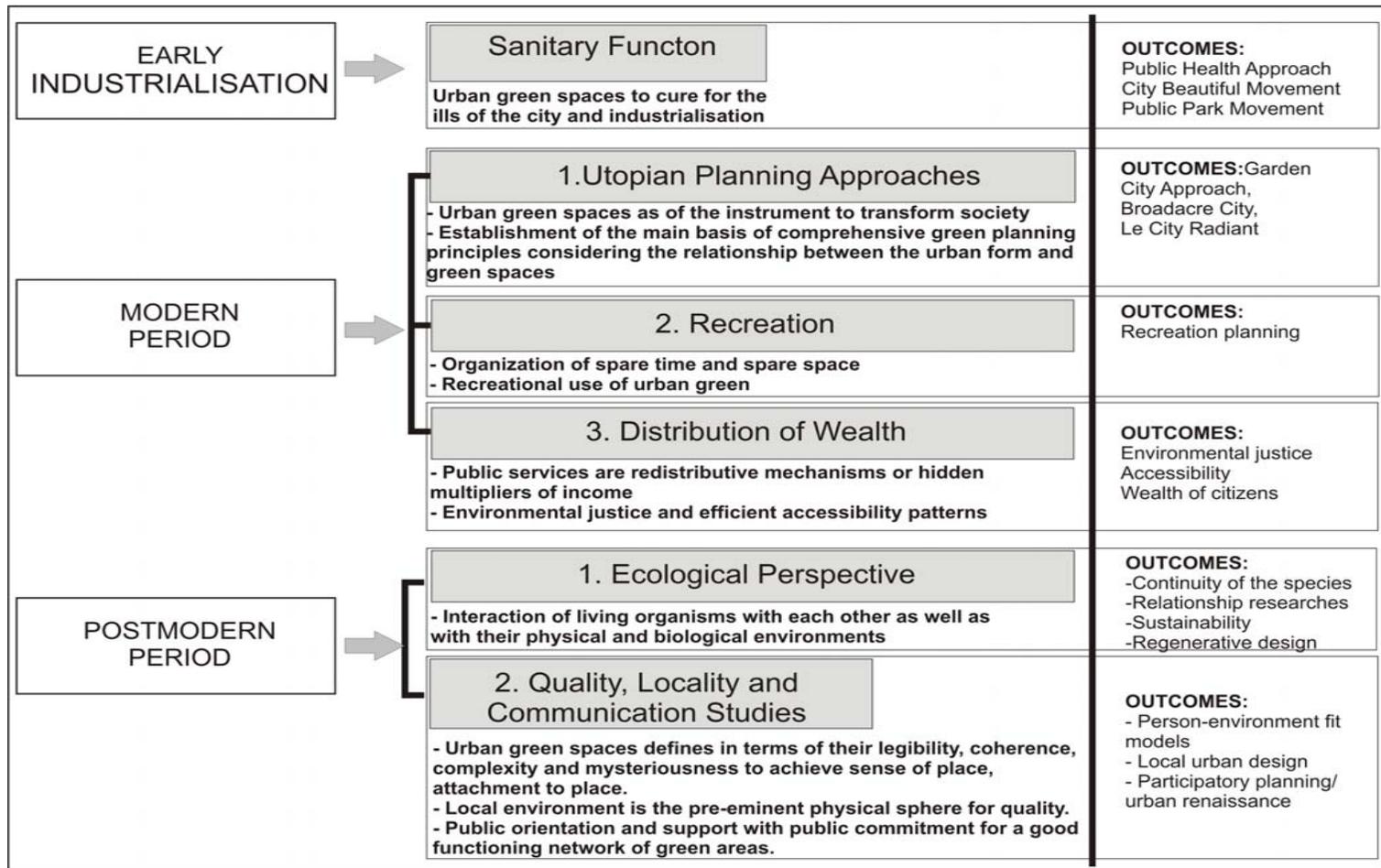


Figure 2.9. Historical development of urban green space theories

## CHAPTER 3

### THE THEORY OF QUALITY OF LIFE

The concept of “quality of life” originates from the opinion of providing people better lives by increasing their material and immaterial wealth. Today, quality of life measurement stands at a point which a new welfare measurement instrument replacing its measurement unit as individual in the globalized world that is referring individual-citizen. It is normally taken to mean the general well-being of people. In the current socio-politic environment, quality of life theories become the main target of policies of governments, public policy institutions, international organizations, NGOs in recent years.

#### 3.1. Development of Quality of Life Concept

Starting with 1930s, welfare studies when started to consider the socio-economic life in the nations, measure and compare them. After the Second World War, economic indicators are main determinants on welfare of citizens; it is the GDPs and GPDs indicating nation’s performances and their citizen’s welfare. During 1950s, in the era of welfare state, the concept of gross national product (GNP) is used to describe welfare of the nations as the national economic-health indicator. Lowdon Wingo is the first personality who eliminated the concept from the classical economy’s macro economy theories and considers the normativeness of the concept with his words of “quality of life is in part a function of the extent to which the real world departs from the economist’s ideal” (Wingo, 1973). After 1960s, importance of social indicators are released with the problem of international measurement of standard of living and quality of life and started to consider social capital (health indicators are a product of it).

1970s are the years of distributional politics, poverty which put the ‘need’ concept to the core of the study and conceptualize quality of life with satisfaction of basic needs referring to Maslow’s “hierarchy of need concept” (Maslow, 1970). During 1970s,

many of the international research organizations and governmental organizations like European Commission, World Values Study Group have carried out many surveys to monitor societal progress via various domains. They were country base researches and were about the distribution of welfare in a society. After 1980s, with the undermining of welfare economics by the growth of multi-tiered global city networks, Keynesian economics overwhelm the development theories and comparative cross-sectional, cross-national surveys that comparing between different countries. In addition to international activities, many national surveys emerged to monitor social change in a country. The international and governmental researches classified are repeated cross-national and cross-sectional surveys, cross-national and cross sectional one-time surveys, repeated national cross-sectional surveys (Hudler and Richter, 2002). This type of studies usually includes comparative studies of countries prepared by international organizations or government reports considering national development and welfare measurements by means of comparative or noncomparative methods. The country scale studies lead to the inter-change of some concepts such as quality of life, well-being and sustainability.

During 1990s, welfare measurement indicating welfare of society replaced by well-being approach to redefine the individual's satisfaction with a more multi-dimensional definition which is not directly proportional to the national processes. Lastly, the capability concept, as an active individual-centered concept of opportunities (object-the inhabitant-), has taken the place of resource based utility approaches of quality of life studies. Accordingly, UNESCO defined the quality of life as; "a complex social phenomenon which may be simply referred to the individual's state of life, reflected in his levels of needs and satisfactions vis-à-vis his environment and it is "the individual's environment's capabilities that respond to the needs and satisfactions". (UNESCO, 1981).

The capability approach which constitutes the root of current quality of life perspective originates from Amartya Sen's studies. According to Sen, a person's advantage is concerned with evaluating it in terms of his or her actual ability to achieve various valuable functionings as a part of living. The capability of a person reflects the alternative combinations of functionings the person can achieve, and from which he or she can choose one collection. At this point, functionings represent parts of the state of a person-in particular the various things that he or she manages to do or be in leading a life. (Sen, 1993). Central elements of Amartya Sen's quality

of life approach schematized in the Figure 3.2. As it can be observed from the figure, quality of life of inhabitants determined by their *capabilities* generated by achievement and freedom to achieve the *functionings* (*can do/can be*). Functionings determined by access to commodities (resources) and it enables the *subjective feelings* (*happiness or sadness*) - evaluative space specified by values. All of them determines the promotion of well-being and the pursuit of the person's overall agency goals. As a result happiness is generated by person's ability or potential to do, to be or to achieve something chosen by the person from the various alternative combinations of preference of life spheres. Concerning the objective dimensions of quality of life, it bases a view of living as a combination of various 'doings and beings' and quality of life have to be assessed in terms of the capability to achieve valuable functionings.

Briefly, current meaning of quality of life, based on individual satisfaction with domains of life, reveal an instrument for welfare measurement at the second part of twentieth century.

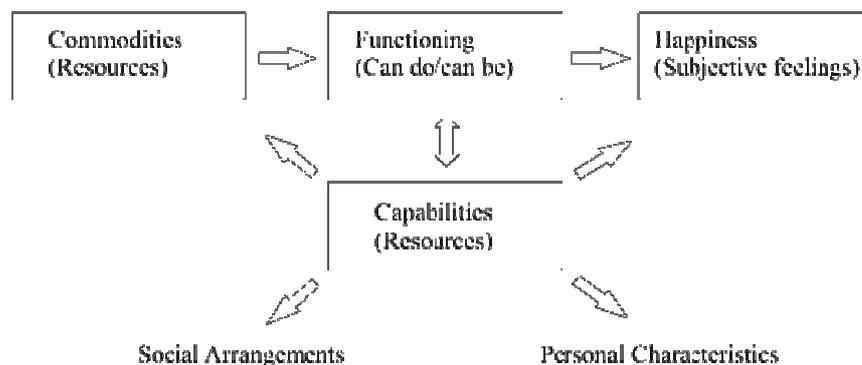


Figure 3.1. Central elements of Sen's quality of life model. Source: Lercher, 2003

Today, with the goal of heightening the quality of life, governments, institutions and organizations develop some indexes consisting of dimensions and variables which formulate the good life conditions enabling the humans satisfaction with their life. These indexes includes of multi-dimensional structure whose variables can be set as life dimensions such as health, education, environment, income, social cohesion etc. Those variables can be evaluated on the basis of their conceptual frameworks, because the variables and indicators derive from their conceptual frameworks and vary due to the conceptual framework.

### 3.2. Main Components of Quality of Life Concept

The quality of life theory originates from the opinion of providing people better lives by increasing their material and immaterial wealth. As the key point of the quality of life theory, a person have to get the feeling of “satisfaction with life” in the various domains of life to achieve high quality of life. The most general definition of quality of urban life best corresponds with Wish’s definition: “ A situation or condition that is perceived by an area’s residents and translated by them into varying degrees of sense of well-being”. (Wish, 1986).

It can be claimed that quality of life concept involves many innovations some of which are challenge to rational science. First of all, the QOL concept includes both subjective and objective indicators which mean that the concept does not focus only on the measurable, rational calculations of quality of life. For being a study on a direct reference to daily life patterns, make the study to express subjective values as well as objective ones. The word of quality of *'life'* also requires touching on some untechnical issues. While old policy concern with business rating, economic indicators, and now can quality of life concept would replace this tendency by also concerning with perpetual dimensions.

Secondly, it is a citizen centered study rather than the expert center studies of the past. Old studies make researches with the aim of developing a policy. With this aim, analytical map of needs is prepared, the average citizen is determined and the optimum life quality represented to the people. But now, on the determination of indicators and their weightings, there are many efforts to base on the citizen's inclinations.

Thirdly, it is negotiation based model. It proposes negotiation to determine the high quality of urban life.

Based on the satisfaction with domains of life, quality of life theory considers different descriptions and measurements effected by values, objectives, culture, style and socio-economic circumstances. These social definitions of the concept make it more speculative. There is presently no general agreement on the definition of quality of life, its components. For being such a multi-dimensional concept, assumptions, definitions and requirements of quality of life vary according to time and the field it is defined in.

According to some authors it is not really possible to define these multi-dimensional concepts like describing an onion. As Rybczynski explains; “it appears simple on the outside, but it’s deceptive, for it has many layers. If it is cut apart there are just onion-skins left and the original form has disappeared. If each layer is described separately, we lose sight of the whole. The layers are transparent so that when we look at the whole onion, we see not just the surface but also something of the interior” (Rybczynski, 1986; cited in van Kamp, 2003).

Based on such a multi-dimensional context, quality of life theories differentiate according to the fields such as:

1. *Economic quality of life measurement*; that considers production of wealth enhancing welfare. It bases upon the rational objective measurement methods evolving around economic definitions and indicators focuses on economic characterization of well-being as an indicator of quality of life. Economic quality of life studies generally try to classify and quantify the quality of urban life to reach universal factors and indicators.

2. *Demographic quality of life measurement*; concerning migration and urbanization.

3. *Psychological quality of life measurement*; that a better quality of life generates less stress.

Psychological measurements of quality of life studies generally focus on the subjective means of quality of life. It argues psychological well-being -including personal happiness, stress, and life satisfaction.

4. *environmental quality of life measurement*; in relation to the space, quality of life theory found new formulations under the heading of “environmental quality of life” in which it finds reflections in the fields of design and planning with the objective of efficient planning and design approved by the satisfaction of the inhabitants. It takes the good environment as the basis of their study and to cover the living environment by considering different aspects of environment: provision of public services, community quality, crime, safety and civility, housing and habitat, townscape and urban design, physical environment pattern.

### **3.3. Environmental Quality of Life: A Conceptual Analysis of the Living Environment**

#### **3.3.1. Dynamics of Human-Environment Interactions**

As an extension of development theories, quality of life theory has also found reflections in planning and design disciplines. Environmental quality of life is about evaluation of the components of the environment which help to evoke the sense of satisfaction with life. It takes the good environment as the basis of their study and to cover the living environment by considering different aspects of environment: provision of public services, community quality, crime, safety and civility, housing and habitat, townscape and urban design, physical environmental pattern.

It can be claimed that the environmental quality of life includes many normative actions in it. To define the environmental quality of life, the question of what place ought to serve a good life have to be responded. In environmental quality of life measurement, the *conditions of the good environment* in which people live is the yardstick. In search of a good city, Elgin (1987) makes general definition of quality of life with a connection between the satisfaction of the population and the city. He suggests that a city offers a better quality of life if it contributes to the "conditions appropriate to a selected population and the subjective attitude toward those conditions held by persons in that population." Here, the external conditions and satisfaction with the external conditions determines the environmental quality of life. Briefly, according to the environmental quality of life, it is the environment (physical, social, natural, economic environment etc.) that provides the reference point for the individual's quality of life.

Moreover, the actual conditions of environment (appraisals) and desired conditions (goal state) of the inhabitant determines the level of satisfaction with the environment. Cutter (1985), identifies the goal state and appraisals state as: "The goal state is subjective, culturally biased, and based upon collective image of what a place ought to be. The appraisal state measures the actual environment -what is actually there." Thereby, experience of quality of life is conceived as a gap between aspirations and actual conditions (emphasis by Myers, 1987). The relationship between appraisal state and goal state in quality of life is summarized in the Figure 3.2.

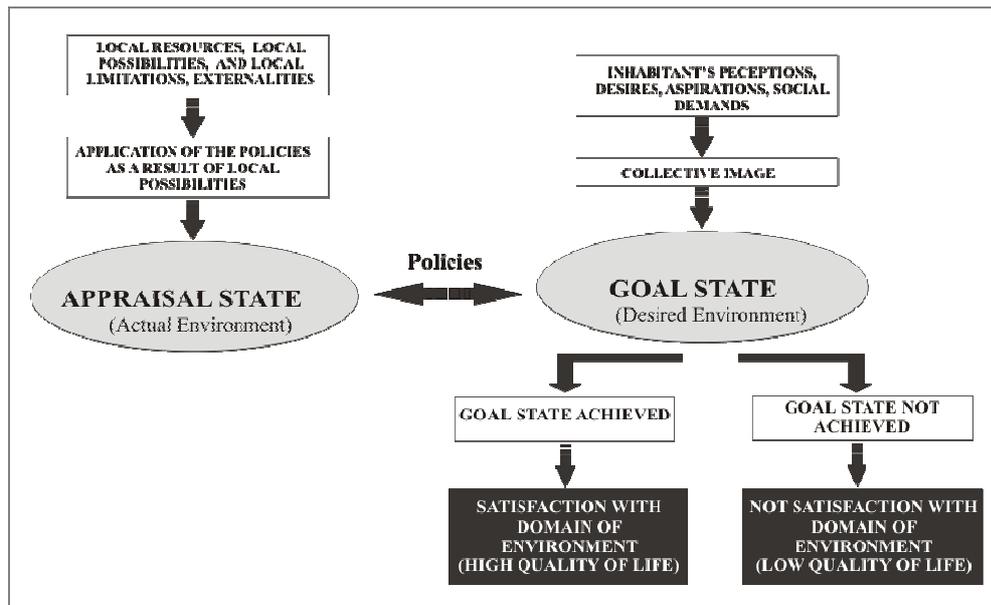


Figure 3.2. General logic of operation of quality of life within the relations of appraisal state and goal state.

The environmental quality of life studies also varies in itself according to the level of scale of the assessment. The scale-level differentiations are related to the existence of *different geographical scale of analysis*. Quality of life is assessed in sub-local level (city scale and neighborhood scale), national level and global level. National scale analyses are non-spatial and carry the problem of “ecological fallacy problem” which attributes the average conditions in an area to the entire population (Pacione, 1986). At this point local level quality of life constitutes real human-scale under the categorizations of city scale, neighborhood scale and individual level quality of life.

### 3.3.1.1. City scale measurement of quality of life

As an extension of development theories of quality of life claiming welfare to citizens, quality of life theory also found reflections in urban professions. It engages with evaluation of the components of the city environment which help to create the sense of satisfaction.

Quality of *urban* life is intended to refer to the conditions of the environment in which people live (air and water pollution or poor housing for example), or to some attribute of people themselves (such as health or educational achievement (Pacione, 1982). It takes the good environment as the basis of their study and to

cover the living environment by considering different aspects of environment: provision of public services, community quality, crime, safety and civility, housing and habitat, townscape and urban design, physical environment pattern. The multi-dimensional domains of (human) livability and (environmental) quality-of-life are shown in Figure 3.3.

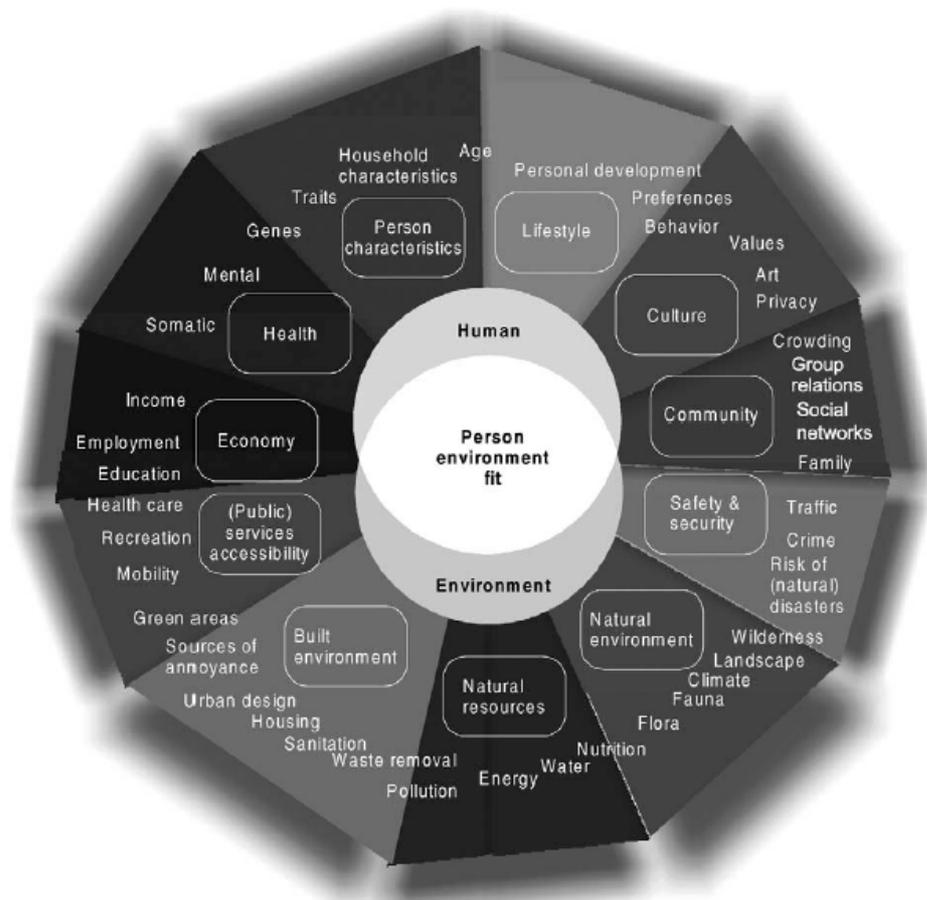


Figure. 3.3. Domains of (human) livability and (environmental) quality-of-life. Source: van Kamp et. al. 2003.

Quality of life with concern to place to live in, have close relationships with good city and good life theories. City scale measurement of environmental quality of life is named as “quality of urban life” which defines the quality of life of inhabitants in a city vis-à-vis the city. These types of studies usually consider and compare the performance of cities among the livability and life quality they present. Quality of urban life surveys evaluate positive or negative aspects decreasing or increasing quality of life in cities and which describes the optimal city conditions for urban policy regulations. The most eminent of these studies is EC’s Urban Audit Programme.

Most general definition of quality of urban life best corresponds with Wish's definition: "A situation or condition that is perceived by an area's residents and translated by them into varying degrees of sense of well-being". (Wish, 1986).

Focus themes of quality of urban life studies can be classified as follows:

1. First type of the quality of urban life studies focus on *community trends approach*; which locates quality of life issues within a system of on-going development processes and relates its measurement to local political factors (Grayson and Young, 1994). The major focus is on the opportunities and advantages through accessibility to services, facilities and amenities in terms of access to collective consumption facilities which affects each citizen's well-being. Proximity to the facilities is key factors in these studies.
2. Second type of the studies focus on *market/resident approach*; economic vitality and social and environmental equity of the living environment in which housing price and/or wage differentials are seen as expressing quality of life.
3. Third type of the studies concerns *livability comparisons approach*; which compares different regions or urban areas according to a number of objective indicators which are assumed to reflect differences in the quality of life. (Grayson and Young, 1994).

### **3.3.1.2. Neighborhood Scale Measurement of Quality of Life**

Neighborhood scale measurement of quality of life studies includes measurement of environmental quality of neighborhoods both by objective and mostly by subjective indicators of perception of neighborhood environment. Those are preferred in urban design and architecture professions guiding the human-environment relationship based perceptual design of place through human-environment-fit models.

As an outcome of neighborhood scale quality of life studies, some visions of quality and need principles are distinguished to fulfill a qualified environment. As Smith et al (1997) summarizes the quality principles preferred in the neighborhood researches are livability, character, connection, mobility, personal freedom and diversity. All of

which is to provide community quality. The model showing relationships between objective conditions, subjective responses, and neighborhood satisfaction is briefly schematized in the Figure 3.4.

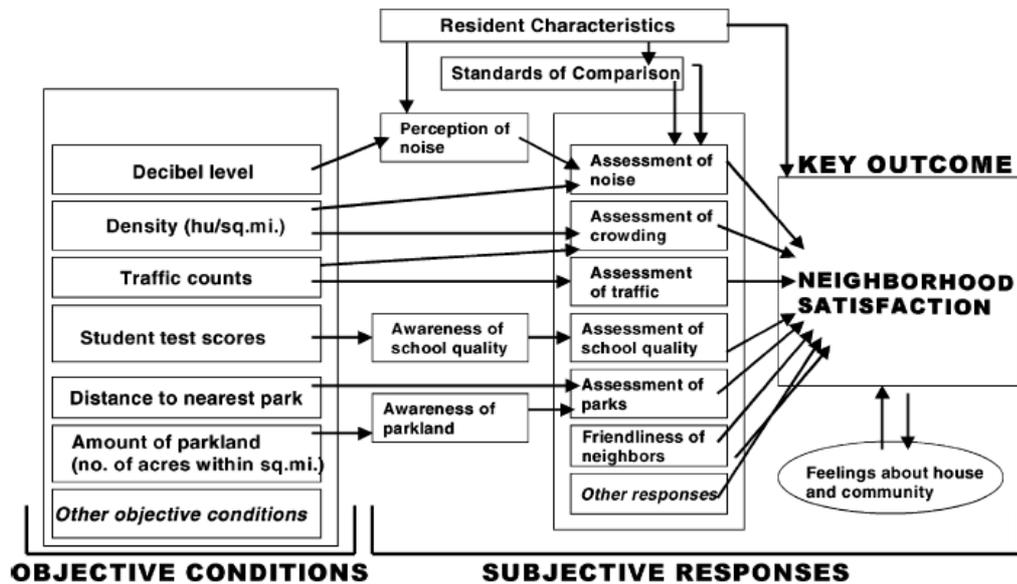


Figure 3.4. Model showing relationships between objective conditions, subjective responses, and neighborhood satisfaction. Source Marans, 2003.

### 3.3.1.3. Individual Level Quality of Life

In the direction of complex human-environment relationships, satisfaction with the environment generated by two main processes: first, at a personal level where each person assess their own level of satisfaction by internal psychological mechanism and, second, an evaluation of the components of the external conditions, mostly city environment, which trigger the internal mechanisms that help to create the sense of satisfaction (Grayson and Young, 1994). At this point, satisfaction with life is not achieved only by objective conditions of the living environment; it also related to the perception of the environment. Thereby, quality of life studies seek the measurement of actual conditions by both *objective and subjective data*.

The individual level satisfaction with life derives as a result of individual's subjective desires, aspirations, senses and perceptions. The objective conditions of the environment perceived, evaluated, compared and consequently evoke or not evoke satisfaction with the domain (environment) which will provide satisfaction with life.

Here, personal characteristics and coping and adaptive behavior are the factor which influence the life satisfaction. As a result, quality of life -environmental quality of life- functions not only at community level but also at personal level. Figure 3.5. identifies these relationships between objective, subjective attributes, domains of life and satisfaction with life.

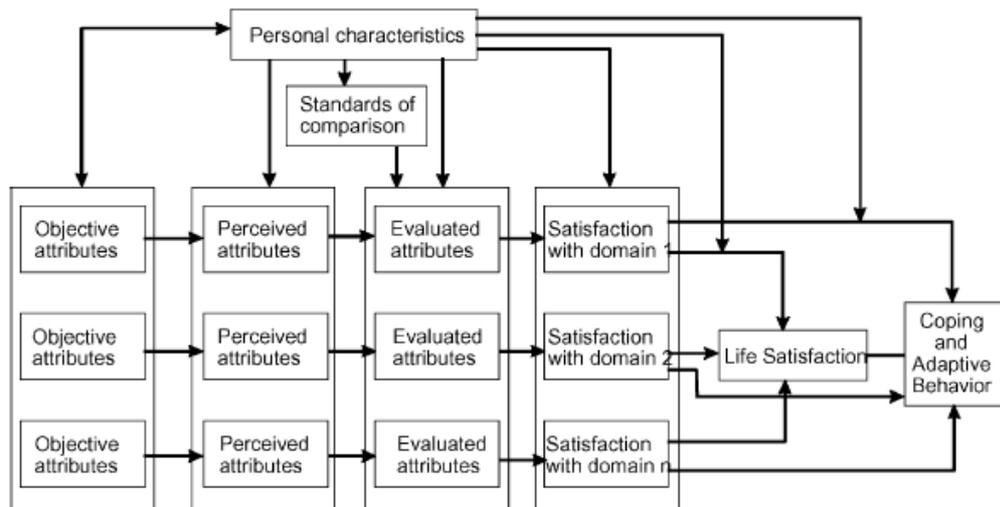


Figure 3.5. Model showing relationships between domain satisfactions and life satisfaction (QOL), (Campbell, Converse and Rogers, 1976, cited in Van Kamp, 2003).

### 3.4. A Quality of Life Perspective to Urban Green Spaces

Urban green spaces are complex phenomenon locating both in natural sciences for including bio-physical processes of green spaces and in social sciences for their evolution relationships with human culture. The biggest innovation of quality of life perspective to urban green spaces is its interdisciplinary research as a common ground communicating and bridging the divides between human and natural sciences. Such a perspective considers human-environment relationship in a unitary and holistic framework by considering the inhabitants' relationship with green spaces and their satisfaction with these environments in an urbanized world.

### 3.4.1. Green Spaces in the Urban Environment

Urban green spaces in the urban landscape have some additional characters which is inclusively considered in quality of life studies as a differentiation from the earlier formulations of urban green:

- First of all, urban green space gains new definitions in the urban scene considering their cultural features as well as their natural features. But, it is essentially a product of culture in the urban space. It is the nature re-formed. According to Alex Wall (1999), “the term landscape, accordingly urban green spaces, no longer refers to prospects of pastoral innocence but rather invokes the functioning matrix of connective tissue that organizes not only objects and spaces but also the dynamic processes and events that move through them. This is the landscape as active surface, structuring the conditions for new relationships and interactions among the things it supports.” (Wall, 1999:233).
- Urban green areas are read as a living and dynamic organism closely linked with its localities, historicalities and its multi-dimensional contexts. For the cities that passed over the urbanization process, the urban green space of the city is also the result of a historical-geographical process of the urbanization of nature. For this reason, they continually represent the human activities on it. As a result, their evolutionary physical looks and social notions generally determined by the human- cultural influences of people, their desires, expectations, and administrative influences of planning and management experiences which are a part of social context of society.
- Cities are container of human variety, various users of urban green spaces that diversify with types, class, and culture. Urban green spaces are the crucial elements of cities covering various parts of life. Thereby, the functions, notions and programs attained to these spaces tend to modify in very short period of time. At this point, quality of life perspective regards multi-functionality and diversity with a human-environment relationship base holistic and multi-variable research.
- After the decline of environmental sources in crowded and dense cities, urban green spaces gain importance for providing the scarce resources such

as open air, healthy environments etc. As a response, equal access to the environmental services in the name of quality of life and sustainability come to the forth. At this point, urban nature has values as a provider of social services essential to the quality of human life, which in turn is a key component of sustainable development (Chiesura, 2004). Briefly, urban green spaces contribute to well-being of the inhabitants.

- Lastly, quality of life perspective evaluates cities as infrastructures, network flows, or ambiguous spaces responding to dynamic ways and polymorphous conditions in cities (URGE, 2004) and the older functionalist approaches remain insufficient to cover these dynamics. Thereby, the theory considers the provision of the urban green spaces not only according to their functions; but also according to the inhabitants' desires and their respects simultaneously.

Briefly, these are the realities linking the relationship between the urban, urban life and green spaces investigated to enhance the community's quality of life which will ensure the sustainability of a city.

### **3.4.2. Conceptual Evaluation of Urban Green Spaces in Quality of Life Studies**

As Chiesura (2004) claim, urban parks and open green spaces are of a strategic importance for the quality of life and contribute to the ideals of sustainable urban development in our increasingly urbanized society. Because, as a response to their relation with urban and urban life, quality of life perspective engages in the variable contributions of these areas to urban life and to inhabitant's (individual) satisfaction with these environment.

In the urban landscape, qualified and well-designed urban green spaces have environmental, economic and social benefits which will play essential roles in enhancing the quality of life, livability of cities and enabling sustainability of urban environments (Figure 3.6.). Their wide range of functions vary from cultural to ecological, from social to technical, from structural to psychological. These are also multi-scale contributions ranging from urban physical pattern to urban life in multi-dimensional ways. This is the ground of the conceptual basis of the fact that urban green spaces improve quality of life.

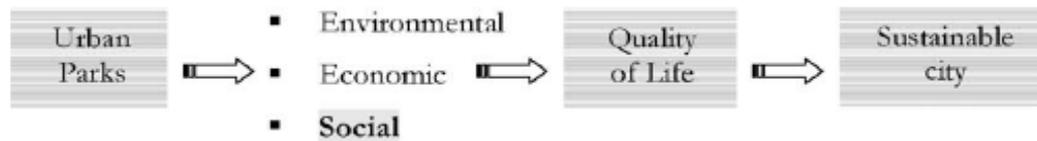


Figure 3.6. Urban parks and city sustainability. Source: Chiesura, 2004.

To specifically enumerate, urban green spaces, to some extent, determines the physical form of cities which will affect the life in the city. These areas reverse urban sprawl, reduce transport demand and make cities more attractive to live in by giving special character and image to the city and its neighborhoods (Ridder et al., 2004). Ecologically, these areas are regulating air quality, positively affecting microclimate by reducing dust - absorbing pollutants from the air and providing humidity, acting as a windbreaker, absorbing the surface water and reducing surface water run-off in urban areas by entering it to the drainage system, besides creating habitus for diversity of species, improving biodiversity, enabling the wildlife to penetrate in cities and make the cities more healthy and livable. In the urban scene, green spaces not only considered in terms of their ecological regulatory functions about improving the abiotic and biotic aspects of urban life, but also consider their social benefits related to daily life, satisfaction, and perceptions. Socially, these areas influence human psyche and well-being, counteracting urban stress, hence, heightening the sense of ownership. (Thomas, 2003:34). Additionally, they provide places to respond the recreational needs of citizens while creating open spaces for human habitation and interaction, all of which constitute important elements of local identity (URGE, 2004). They provide interesting and diverse places for walking, cycling, informal recreation and social interaction. They also have an important role to play in education, promoting healthy living and well-being (Anonymous, 2005). Economically, not only in regional parks, but also neighborhood recreational facilities retain property values, values of houses and lots in the near vicinity of the areas because of a perceived better quality of life. As a result, they play as economic generator for undeveloped or underdeveloped areas or as guiding patterns of neighborhood and regional growth. Offices, businesses and commercial areas select their places with the important demand of greenery area. These multi-variable functions of urban green spaces are shown in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1. The multi-variable benefits of urban green spaces.

<b>FUNCTIONS OF URBAN GREEN SPACES</b>	
<b>Sanitary Functions</b>	improving the living conditions in cities and in neighborhood patterns.
	regulating air quality, positively affecting microclimate
	absorbing the surface water
	act as a windbreaker
	counteracting urban stress
<b>Ecological Functions</b>	creating habitus for diversity and continuity of species
	ecologic benefit
	prevention of wildlife in itself
	penetration of species in the city within the green
<b>Physical Function</b>	greenbelt; as a separating element between the city and the suburb propogating anti-urban utopia
	zoning
	limiting the urban growth; settlement pattern of satellite towns around a main city
	a connecting element glorifying development of the city and nature together in a compact city.
	green as a "connecting element in the city regions, integrating them to regional cities
	provides a low density pattern
	provides healthy environment against chaos of city
<b>Economic Function</b>	reflects the distribution of the resources in society
	making urban areas more attractive to live in
	heightening the sense of ownership
	retaining property values
	play as economic generator for undeveloped or underdeveloped areas;
	guiding patterns of neighborhood and regional growth
	Provides "employment capacity" and the activities that generate income and achieve self-sufficiency of the urban green
	enhance attractiveness to live, investment and tourism
<b>Social Function</b>	recreation function
	provides ground for communication
	provide main locations for human habitation and interaction
	forming important elements of local identity
<b>Aesthetic Function</b>	provides rural beauty

Urban green areas provide environmental, economic and social benefits to a community and enhance the community's quality of life which will ensure the sustainability of a city. To development of an holistic evaluation method about what variety of "green space" best satisfy people's needs, quality of life perspective covers a multi-dimensional, multi-functional and multi-disciplinary research comprising ecologic, social, physical, economic dimensions of urban green spaces to make the basic steps for development, planning and management processes of urban green spaces responding to multi-dimensional problems of cities.

### 3.4.2.1. Multi-Dimensional and Multi-scale Relationship between Urban Green Spaces and Quality of Life

When the contributions of urban green spaces are considered, it can be observed that urban green spaces conducted with urban life in three main ways: first, the upper scale (city-scale) contributions of green infrastructure, or green network to the city and to the urban life related to urban green and macroform relations, urban green networks or structures, ecological considerations, urban metabolism, microclimate, biodiversity etc. which are investigated through planning studies to make the cities more healthy and livable. Secondly, neighborhood level contributions to urban life related to living comfort and human health, local identity, sense of ownership, neighborhood quality, quality of the landscape which make places more likeable, influence human psyche and well-being, improve community life and economically, retain property values. Thirdly, at a personal level, in which individual sense of satisfaction with urban green space depends on induction of sense of happiness, stillness, counteraction of urban stress, provision of diversified social and cultural environment, improvement personal living conditions, provision of various individual lifestyles and requirements of social and cultural life.

Network of open and green spaces, integration of all kinds of green and ecological dimensions of green spaces such as biodiversity, fragmentation, dispersion are closely related with upper scale - city scale contributions of green spaces to the quality of the city and quality of life. In the neighborhood scale, urban green spaces have physical, social and economic contributions to the quality of life as community places which generally function at the neighborhood scale and individual level.

#### 3.4.2.1.1. Physical Planning Dimensions

In the current urban developments, as a result of migration and industrialization, urban settlement patterns turned into fragmented urban structures with isolated urban green spaces and unbalanced distribution of these areas in the city.



Figure 3.7. Spatial transformation in cities. Source URGE, 2004.

As a response to this fragmentation, most of studies on green space planning offer a green physical structure which is expected to orient development of urban green which can enhance the social, ecological and economic value of the city and its positive effect on inhabitants (URGE, 2004).

Exactly, every city has involves its own unique dynamics and displays its success in different physical structure. Thereby, rather than general proposals for average cities, some physical-social priorities are investigated through physical dimensions. The common physical admittances of a well-functioned urban green space planning defined in researches are:

- “Green Network idealization”,
- “Recreation network idealization” and
- “Physical Integration of private-public green”.

According to the quality of life perspective, the concept of Green Network, Ecological Network or Recreation Network should be adopted by planners and public administrators. According to “Green Network” or “Ecological Network” concept; the green receive the physical attributes of unfragmented urban green space and large patches of urban green to enable sustainable urban habitations. This urban green structure should have a system involving and co-coordinating all kinds of green resources and potentialities, existing in a city” (URGE, 2004). While the Green Network concept proposes physical continuity of urban green, “Recreation Network” concept is a more activity based continuity required.

Secondly, “the strategy of integration and coordination of public and private green spaces” is also expected to be achieved within the administrative boundaries of the city. The strategy demands on the integration of private green areas with public green by enabling of accessibility of private green by the public through the planning and administrative processes.

The detailed list of contents of physical dimension is illustrated in the Table 3.2.

Table 3.2. Contents of Physical Dimension. Adapted from URGE, 2004.

		REQUIREMENTS
PHYSICAL DIMENSION		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involvement of private green in the urban green system for adding extra spaces to insufficient public spaces of the city. Integration of private green should be achieved to play private green to the benefit of the public.</li> </ul>
	<b>Integration of Private Green of Public Interest with Urban Green</b>	Improvement of the quality of private green directly visible from public areas
	<b>Internal Integrated System (Green Network)</b>	*** promotion of suitable instruments such as conventions, fiscal incentives, and for instance the possibility to undertake economic activities, leaving the areas free of constructions in private green rather than reserved green areas
	<b>Recreation network</b>	Green should have a continuing system involving and co-ordinating all kinds of green resources and potentialities, existing in a city
		Green should have a continuing system involving and co-ordinating various kinds of recreation to ensure multi recreational outputs.

### 3.4.2.1.2. Ecological Dimensions

The primary role of the discipline of ecology in the assessment is to evaluate the sustainability and biodiversity of a city's green space and the strategy for its management and any direct ways in which urban green affects city dwellers' well being. (URGE, 2004).

According to ecological perspective:

“...natural and artificial corridors such as green wedges, streams and rivers, railway connections, canals, highways and transmission lines the city is connected to rural areas. These corridors greatly influence the migration and perpetuation of wildlife in cities” (Frey, 2002).

Ecological dimensions, first of all, tries to evaluate the ecosystems and urban habitats occurred in city and how to preserve them. Quality of the landscape which is provided through species diversity and unisolated large green areas are the ecological requirements to heighten the quality of life.

Ecologically, urban green spaces are the places where habitats and species continue to live, sustain themselves and the species diversity and penetrate the wildlife into the city by migration between the patches of urban green. Within this framework high quality urban green spaces have *unfragmented/unisolated structures* with large patches. The criteria of isolation focuses on the fact that “a high degree of isolation decreases which have inherently poor dispersal ability, and thus has a negative impact on species richness” (URGE Manual ICC, 2004:4). To enhance the possibility for dispersal of those species and taxa, on the larger context, to reach ecological benefit, urban green spaces should enable *continuity of the species* and quality of landscape.

The detailed list of contents of ecologic dimension is illustrated in the Table 3.3.

Table 3.3. Contents of Ecologic Dimension. Adapted from URGE, 2004.

		REQUIREMENTS
<b>ECOLOGICAL CRITERION</b>	<b>Fragmentation</b>	Unfragmented urban green corridors supply connectivity of species
	<b>Size</b>	large patch indicates ecological quality
	<b>Shape</b>	wide breadth
	<b>Isolation</b>	Unisolated green spaces enable interpatch migration
	<b>Connectivity Elements</b>	Suitable connectivity elements upgrades ecological benefit by increasing the possibility for dispersal of the species in the city
	<b>Protection</b>	High amount of protected areas as a refuge for species
	<b>Biodiversity</b>	diversity of species, diversity of the habitats
	<b>Air Quality</b>	vegetation, water surfaces and unsealed soil surfaces improves air quality
	<b>Naturalness</b>	Natural, unmodified habitat is the ecological benchmark
	<b>Noise</b>	Green is a barrier for noise

### 3.4.1.2. Economic Dimensions

Urban green spaces and economics intersects in the area of welfare economics; economic valuation method is based on welfare theory. The aim of the economic dimension of urban green spaces is to evaluate the development, layout and management of green spaces in cities and urban areas with relation to economic efficiency. (URGE, 2004). The financial dimension of the urban green areas are related to the way of financing urban green and the importance of urban green to the local authorities. At this point, urban green space productivity for using their economic potentials for self-sufficiency of their maintenance is an important input.

The self-sufficiency of urban green areas would provided by financial support or location of economically profitable activities on green areas. The financial dimension contains the public authorities budgets allocated for green areas. The finance function of urban green spaces is necessary, since money is needed to develop and maintain urban green spaces. There are different ways to finance an urban green area such as sponsoring, public-private partnerships, entrance fee etc. On the other hand, self-sufficiency would be supported by the profitable economic activities (contemporary or temporary activities) such as conventions, festivals etc. which will generate income.

The efficiency of these areas are not only measured by the economic inputs but also by socio-economic dimension in relation to the utilization of urban green. The reason behind this consideration is the direct and indirect use value of urban green spaces. Urban green spaces are developed in the urban areas. They are used and

appreciated by the users. This is the direct use value of an urban green area. These are important properties on generation of using and visiting of urban green. The underlying idea is “urban green spaces have a higher use value if they can be used for different purposes” (URGE, 2004). Additionally, when an urban green area not maintained; no expenses made for the development of the area, it will deteriorate in time. The deterioration affects the amount of use of the areas. This is the indirect value of urban green spaces.

The socio-economic dimension comprises accessibility, production (products extracted from urban green), employment (employment capacity of urban green - number of jobs or employment involved in urban green spaces) and education functions all of which have an direct or indirect impact on the utilization of the green areas. These economic dimensions of green space planning are also in relation with the planning-management-design processes of urban green spaces.

The detailed list of contents of economic dimension is illustrated in the Table 3.4.

Table 3.4. Contents of Economic Dimension. Adapted from URGE, 2004.

		REQUIREMENTS
<b>ECONOMIC CRITERION</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>	For using and visiting the urban green as a development tool accessibility of a green area is required. Equal distribution should be achieved in city wide.
	<b>Availability</b>	The larger the area of usable urban green space available to the household is required
	<b>Multi-functionality</b>	Urban green spaces have a higher use value if they can be used for different purposes
		*A qualified space has to include diversity of primary and secondary uses
		*Existence of evening and night-time activity
	<b>Production Criteria</b>	*Should promote and enable watching activities
	<b>Employment</b>	"urban green space productivity" - amount of products that can be extracted from the urban green area- should be high
	<b>Education</b>	"urban green space employability" - number of jobs involved with urban green spaces- should be high.
	<b>Regulation</b>	The higher the amount of students and researchers in the city that are educated in "green" is required
	<b>Preservation</b>	Less pollution has a positive effect on the quality of urban life
	<b>Aesthetic Criteria</b>	Presence of urban green and the future savings of costs for protection of specific urban wildlife and Presence of botanical gardens/children's farms
	<b>Substitution</b>	"neighbourhood amenity": Houses and business locations around urban green spaces will be more expensive and will attract higher income-groups to this part of the city
	<b>Barrier Criteria</b>	Urban green spaces can be seen as an alternative for shortcomings in; alternative for houses, people without a car, low incomes.
	<b>Safety Criteria</b>	Barrier against noises from the street or from certain activities, or a visual screen, or a windbreak or a physical barrier between two districts, has a positive effect on the quality of urban life.
<b>Public Authorities</b>	Urban green spaces could have both positive and negative effects on people's safety	
<b>Finance Criteria</b>	The more attention (Number of hours planned/spent on urban green policy) is paid to urban green spaces in urban policies, the more budget will be released for urban green spaces	
		The more budget available to maintain urban green, the higher the quality of urban life will be

#### 3.4.1.4. Social Dimensions

The social criteria are derived from observing how users actually interact with green spaces and concerns with the ways in which urban populations and particularly urban communities use urban green spaces as part of their everyday lifestyles. Thus

they concern the evaluation of interaction between user and space. At this point, the social dimension focuses on to identify what factors are positive and contribute to use, and what factors are negative discourage use (URGE, 2004).

“To increase the use of urban green spaces by inhabitants will improve the maintenance and support of these spaces” is the dictum of social dimension of green spaces which will resist the transformation of these areas into dark void areas. As known, today, one of the main problems of urban green areas is the deterioration problem of these areas both physically and socially. As a result of this deterioration, urban green spaces become insecure and dark spaces of cities and not preferred to be used by the inhabitants. As an ongoing cycling process, the green areas continue to deteriorate because of leaving and un-use.

The requirements to improve use of urban green is availability of multi-functional recreational use, safety, accessibility, sociability, everyday local lifestyles, local identity, community ownership, social inclusion etc. which will enable a high order of social interaction in green areas. Additionally, as a planning and social dimension, governance and citizen’s involvement in public administration should be realized. Planning process should support of public involvement in the formulation of urban green. These dimensions are more closely related to landscape design-planning processes.

In the next chapter, green space considerations of leading agents are considered. The study investigates the urban green space priorities of the leading agents through the multi-scale and multi-dimensional contributions of urban green spaces to the quality of life.

The detailed list of contents of social dimension is illustrated in the Tables 3.5.

Table 3.5. Contents of Social Dimension. Adapted from URGE, 2004.

	REQUIREMENTS	
<b>SOCIAL CRITERION</b>	<b>Promoting High Quality Living and Working Conditions</b>	Users can access spaces and derive pleasure from doing so. Policies and guidance have to ensure the identification, protection and access of socially significant urban green spaces.
	<b>Daily Recreational Needs</b>	Citizens should be free to choose when to visit a range of local green sites
	<b>Life Strategies</b>	Users should have access sites according to their wishes and lifestyle aspirations
	<b>Physical &amp; emotional well-being</b>	the local level. Should be promoting by specific policies for local health initiatives, access to a green network
	<b>pace of urban life</b>	Ensure that urban dwellers can learn from, and interact with the natural world as part of daily living.
	<b>Exploration of the natural world</b>	Allow citizens to more fully understand how urban environments function
	<b>Urban green environments</b>	Urban green should allow citizens to more fully understand how urban environments function
	<b>Educational resource</b>	To ensure that resources in the form of green spaces are available locally to schools and other groups and are appropriate for use
	<b>Optimise local use</b>	social use is supported; local authority policies for implementing social outputs
	<b>Location</b>	Implement the basic user/location relationship as a primary requirement
	<b>Community ownership</b>	Enhance the potential for interaction between site and user community
	<b>Local identity</b>	Locale should Retain/enhance urban identity, reflect identity, and reinforce sense of belonging due to cultural, historical or other ties.
	<b>Fear of crime/safe use</b>	Understand negative and positive aspects of sites, be sensitive to user concerns, avoid Professional bias.
	<b>Social inclusion</b>	To ensure full social inclusion and to remove deterrents to use; who wish to access urban green spaces can do so without hindrance irrespective of age, gender, status, background or income.
	<b>Recreation network</b>	Recreation network ensures multi recreational outputs.
	<b>Sports facilities</b>	Sites provide choice of venue and facilities; multipurpose use
	<b>Family/community events</b>	Green should provide facilitate local activities, assist in family and community cohesion such as fetes, religious festivals, fairs, car boot sales, markets
	<b>Management regimes</b>	To ensure that social outputs are understood and that mechanisms for their realisation at policy and site levels are in place.
	<b>Support and Training</b>	staff are up to date and aware of social outputs and familiar with the principles of their provision
	<b>Financing</b>	Identify appropriate funding mechanisms for social outputs

## CHAPTER 4

### URBAN GREEN SPACES AND URBAN GREEN SPACE PLANNING OF ANKARA

#### 4.1. Planning, Development and Management of Urban Green Spaces in Turkey

General character of the urban green spaces determined by the planning and management processes in cities. The production of urban green spaces in Turkey is a part of urban planning processes.

In the Turkish planning system, urban development is generated by *development plans*, which combine different land uses within suitable urban development. Development plans are ordered with upper scale plans such as 1/25.000 scaled environmental plans. Development plan aims to look after public health and guarantee social and cultural necessity, good quality of life standards and working circumstances, and safety. Furthermore, its aim is to find out the most possible explanation for some urban functions similar to residing, working, resting and traveling (Coşkun, 2004:31). They determine the land uses of education, housing, health, social religious, administrative and sport areas. As open green spaces, the development plans consider parks, playgrounds, sporting areas, groves, and resting and walking areas. Development plans include 1/5000 scaled master plans and 1/1000 scaled implementation plans.

1/5.000 scaled master plan includes general land usage forms like housing, trade, industry and green spaces with their main regions, densities, future population, development path of houses, development principles, and transport routes.

1/1.000 scaled implementation plan, as the last situation of land to be implemented, includes detailed characteristics as city blocks, density and block system of these city blocks, percolations, roads, application stages and other information.

For effective planning there should be sufficient planning instruments at various levels, clear, complete, and qualified with short and long term objectives which enable efficient support of the authority. Planning instruments are legal context technical standards, ownership and responsibilities.

#### **4.1.1. Planning instruments 1: Urban green policy and its legal context**

As known, appropriate urban green policy and its legal context is required for connection of urban green planning at the various administrative levels; at national, regional and local levels, considering various aspects, green typologies and instruments.

In Turkey there are some laws concerning management and protection of green spaces. In the report of Our Common Future, the responsibility of protecting environment is given to states with the dictum of 'states have to use and protect environment and the natural resources in the benefits of the current and future generations. They are the responsible authorities rather than users. It is supported by the Constitution Law act number 56 with the dictum of *'Everyone has the right of living in a healthy and well-balanced environment. Development of the environment, protecting the environmental health and preventing from the environmental pollution are in the responsibilities of state and citizens'*.

*Environmental law*, which is under the law of health rights transferred to human right, points that the one who polite the environment offend against urban. A determination on man-made environment is *'right of being urbaner'*. The right of being urbaner is assessed in Habitat II Conference in 1996, pointing to the rights of urban inhabitant such as rights of use of city center, obtain housing, access to urban green etc. As the mediator of transformation of cities, other considerations on natural environment in law are: Mainlaw number 169, "Protection of forests is the duty of the state"; 168. article, "Natural amenities and resources are in the possession and saving of state"; 43. article, "Coasts are in the possession and saving of state". Public good is considered for the benefit from sea, lake, river and coastal zones"; 45. article, prohibits the utilize of agricultural areas by other usages, lawns and meadows"; 46. article, gives the authority of expropriation to state and public corporates for the sake of public good; 57. article includes some

commitments on housing-environment relations; 63. article aims preservation of historical, cultural and natural heritages.

#### 4.1.2. Planning instruments 2: Land Ownership

Type of land and land ownership are important tools to guide the urban development. In Turkey, property of urban land differentiates as public and private lands listed in Figure 5.2. *Ownership* of urban land is one of the most important phenomena for production, management, protection and use of urban green spaces in Turkish planning system because urban green spaces produced or protected have to locate on the public lands. Accordingly, the private areas determined to be as green areas in the development plans are created through land development tools. Procuring of urban green spaces are achieved through legal instruments of public land development by transferring the private land to public one. There are two main ways to get public land:

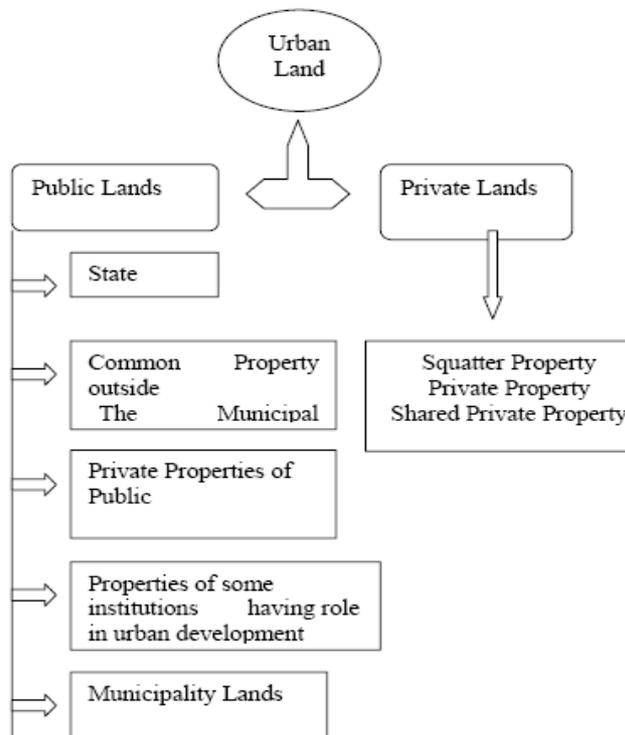


Figure 4.1. Public and private lands in Turkey.  
Source: Tekeli 1986, cited in Yildirim ,2004.

- Expropriation

Expropriation is a mechanism aims to support public good and public property of an urban facility against market mechanism. Expropriation transfers possession of an immovable in private possession to public possession supported by law 1982 Constitution Article 46. By this way, the instrument enables the production of green spaces in the plans by transferring the private land to the public land. But before it has to take and approve the public interest decision.

Land Office, Real Estate Bank and The Ministry of Public Works have the right of expropriation, purchasing or supplying land for urban land development and protection. In addition to the central government's units, municipalities could also purchase or supply urban land. Urban green spaces have to be in the ownership of the responsible institution which will provide the service.

- Land and Vacant Lot Readjustment (Article 18 of Development Plans)

Land and Vacant lot readjustment applied in the newly developing areas to provide the space standards of planning. The vacant lot arrangement arranges road, square, park, green area, car park and mosque by transferring 35% of arranged land to public usage.

#### **4.1.3. Planning instruments 3: Green Standards**

As the technical instruments, planning process have to obey some practical and technical rules, principles and standards to develop or protect determined land use. In Turkey, the main Standard of the urban green space is about its quantity in the urban land. According to 1957 Development Law" numbered 6755, the amount of green spaces per individual should be minimum 7 m<sup>2</sup>. It also supported by Urban Physical Development Law Coded 3194. In 1999, the law has modified and increase the amount of green space per inhabitant from 7 m<sup>2</sup> to 10 m<sup>2</sup> per inhabitant with the law number 3194. It is obligated to obey the standard during the preparation of 1/5000 scaled master plans.

On the other hand, the law enables the plan revisions defined in the mercy of municipalities. 13. article of the law enables the transformation of general service

areas and green spaces into other land uses by means of the development plan revisions prepared by municipalities. Law number 2981 permits “Improvement Plans” which enables plans organized in very small areas implemented as locational implementations.

#### **4.1.4. Planning instruments 4: Responsibilities in Green Space Planning**

Urban green space planning is one of the most important tool for determination of arrangement of urban green spaces, their locations in the urban macroform, their distributions in the urban land and public spaces designations for urban life. The efficiency of decision making, determined by responsibilities at the administrative and professional levels within the authorities, by the description of tasks and internal hierarchy of administrative, planning and management units.

In Turkey, urban green space planning is held under physical planning issues of responsible institutions’ plans. The authorities of developing environmental plans, master plans and implementation plans are local governments, some of the ministries of central governments, private planning offices. Additionally, NGOs whose notions intersect with urban land and particularly with urban green space issues create pressures on these institutions via their demands on urban green spaces. There upon, it is the responsibility of different institutions to acquire adequate resources for research, to develop implementation models and handle the problems occurred during the execution phase of green space planning.

## **4.2. Planning, Development and Management of Urban Green Spaces of Ankara**

### **4.2.1. Urban Green Spaces of Ankara**

Urban green spaces are one of the urban components, which have reciprocal transformative forces on urban landscape, urban macroform and urban life. Considering urban green spaces both as a component of urban landscape and as an urban service improving inhabitant’s life, currently urban green spaces are evaluated as infrastructure elements and introduced in three layers. First layer is the ground layer of ‘natural conditions’, the second layer is infrastructure of network

layer and the third layer is the occupation layer of land-use functions (European Commission European Spatial Development Perspective, 1999). Accordingly, urban green spaces are more than the sum of green spaces and implies drawing attention to the implications of planning, design and management activities. ([www.msu.edu/~jaroszjo/greenway/green](http://www.msu.edu/~jaroszjo/greenway/green)). This is the key component of improvement of quality of life of inhabitants through urban green spaces.

Urban green spaces of Ankara should be classified into three main layers. The first and the basic layer of green structure is inherited from the pre-urban landscape; hilly topography and valleys of Ankara, water basins and flat lands, all of which have a unique effect on urbanization of Ankara and modification of its macroform. The second layer is the historical infrastructure network such as republican period's green elements which still play an important role in public spaces of Ankara. The third layer of the urban green is the park services, recreation areas, playing fields and sporting areas produced as a service by municipalities.

#### **4.2.1.1. Natural Urban Green Areas of Ankara**

Before the republic era, Ankara has an rural town romantic scene with "Ankara Flat, 3335 feet upper from sea height taking its windy breath from all sides. The city Ankara located 500 feet upper from the flat. A brook is falling just below Ankara which rotates many mills while irrigating many gardens. It is Elmadağ (Apple Mountain) in the east side of Ankara bringing clean water to the city" (Şimşir, 1988:31). After declaration of the republic, and assignment of Ankara as capital, it started to transform from rural town into a metropolitan city.

Within the context of quality of life, Ankara has many special amenities which gain special attendance for being site-specific domains affecting the local life. The city is a city of valleys, hills and plains. The valleys of Ankara are special topographic elements presenting different ecologic properties such as Çubuk, Hacıkadın, Hatip, Incesu, Kavaklıdere, Nenek, Zir, İmrahor, Hatip and Çankaya valleys and some arranged valleys like Dikmen Valley and Portakal Çiçeği Valley. Nenek, Zir, İmrahor, Hatip valleys have special importance for shaping a large continual open corridor contributing to the open green space system of Ankara. The hills of Ankara are Çubuk Valley Hills, Keçören-Kalaba Hills, Şentepe, Dededoruk, Dikmen. Other

natural amenities are water resources such as lakes, streams and brooks of Ankara. These are Gölbaşı, Mogan, Eymir Lakes, Çubuk Brook, Hacı Kadın Stream, Hatip Brook, Kıbrısköyü Stream, Boğaziçi Valley, Bentderesi, İmrahor, Bademlik Stream, İncesu, Kavaklıdere, Ankara Brook, and Kirmir.

Whereas these areas are significant areas at the upper scale with their strong relationship with Ankara's urban macroform and open space relations with air corridors and greenery respiratory systems, currently, most of the valleys of Ankara are occupied by settlements and most of the streams, dams, and water bodies were over-closed and turn into urban interroads (Cengizkan, 1994).

#### **4.2.1.2. Historical Green Infrastructure of Ankara**

The historical green structures of traditions or of infrastructure are important green elements of Ankara today. These historical green elements of the city are mostly inherited from Republic Period and the Period's modern planning experience of Jansen's plan of Ankara.

After the establishment of Turkish Republic and declaration of Ankara as capital city, the republic government swiftly started to construct a modern city representing the new prosperity, power and modernity of the new country to the whole world. In the urban scene, this modernity project had reflected on the land, as transformation of public life (Senyapili, 1998). Urban open spaces became one of the instruments as a mechanism of social reform. During the period, the green spaces of Ankara has imposed the ideals of modern society and introduced urban culture to rural society by means of these meeting, recreation and interaction areas.

The idealistic notion of park design firstly occurred in design of Youth Park as the diffusion of the republican ideal to the daily lives through a urban public space. Youth Park is a model for representation of dominance over nature symbolizing the power of the new republic with exaggerated areal land of the park and a 35.000 square meters large pool, in the middle of arid climate of Ankara. Later, other large amount open green spaces of today – Atatürk State Farm, Hipodrom, Güvenpark, Kale Park, Kurtuluş Park, Gençlik Park, Hacettepe Park, Kurtuluş Park, Zafer Square, Abdi İpekçi Park are produced as outcomes of the first planning experience of the Republic Period - Jansen's plan of Ankara. While their historical contexts are

transformed in time, today, these areas have become important public areas of the inner city area of Ankara, after the decline of the public spaces in the inner city areas after 1940s (Figures 4.1-4.2.)



Figures 4.2-4.3.Views from Zafer Monument and Zafer Park. Source: Personal archive



Figures 4.4.-4.5.Views from Güvenpark. Source: Personal archive.

In addition to the historical green spaces, there are also some infrastructure green elements which do not provide active use but create ecological corridors in the Ankara's urban landscape. These areas are the public and private green areas such as National Assembly's Garden, military areas, public institutions' large open areas, assembly gardens, METU Forest etc which constitute important green potentials of the city.

#### **4.2.1.3. Land-use Functions and Green Service Productions in Ankara**

1940s were the years when spontaneous, irregular developments and low quality urban settlements started to occur in Ankara. With the influence of II. World War, the state start to sell the treasury lands with low costs (Tekeli, 1996) which will became an important input for the budgets in the following years and a result of loss of great public land. In the meanwhile, the municipality's strategy was to invasion of urban green spaces to provide the required public lands to other land uses (Ateş, 1985). During the years 1940s and 1950s, the population boom resulted with rapid urban sprawl and uncontrollable development of squatter settlements. The main victim of these unplanned developments was open green spaces which are mostly exposed to occupation by squatter houses. As a result, the amount of green areas decreased gradually beginning from the 1960s, not only in relative size to the city but also in total area (Erkip, 1997).

As a response to these spontaneous developments, speculative pressures and urban densification, municipalities and responsible central institutions have produced urban green projects and implementations as a response to these negative evolutions in the city.

Altınpark was a product of design competition "Altınpark Arrangement Competition" organised by the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality. Abdi İpekçi Park in Sıhhiye was a product of a policy proposal in 1977, History-Green-Culture-Recreation Network at the heart of historical parts of Ankara to form a conceptual axis connecting with history and culture axis of Ankara. The significance of urban public spaces have been emphasized and the movement of "expropriation of urban land" has been advocated during 1970s. As an outcome of these public policies and AMAMPB's plan Atatürk State Farm and METU lands has added to the open spaces of Ankara in these years. On 24 December 1982, General Directorate of Forestry and Ankara Greater Municipality together handled the afforestation the public land in the corridor scheme, due to the its named project of "Ankara Green Belt Project" covering Çubuk, İmrahor and Hatip valleys to improve the green belt of Ankara.

In 1990s, Great Municipality of Ankara produced the projects of "Beautiful Ankara" and "Green Ankara", focusing on development of city entries, city's spine, hills and valleys with the aim of heightening of quality of life to international standards. Valley rehabilitation projects of Botanik Garden, Seymenler Park Dikmen Valley and

Portakal Çiçeği Valley Projects are a part of “Beautiful Ankara” Project in which urban green spaces are appreciated through their decorative functions.

Starting with 1980, with the influence of private sector in public management’s spatial governance of entrepreneurial models, the urban renewal projects have become a large part of urban reproduction policies in Turkey. The renewal projects are based on the idea of transformation of housing, infrastructure, transportation, recreation, under the name of “Urban Transformation Projects” in Ankara. These projects are mixture of urban land exploitation and redevelopment projects with financial attribute of entrepreneurial models of public-private partnership (Dündar, 1997). Subsequently, by 1990s, “Urban Transformation Projects” as a planning strategy have become an important tool to re-arrange the lost open green spaces occupied by squatter houses (Nalbantoğlu, 2000). Arrangements of Dikmen Valley and Portakal Çiçeği Valley Projects are a part of this kind of renewal projects.

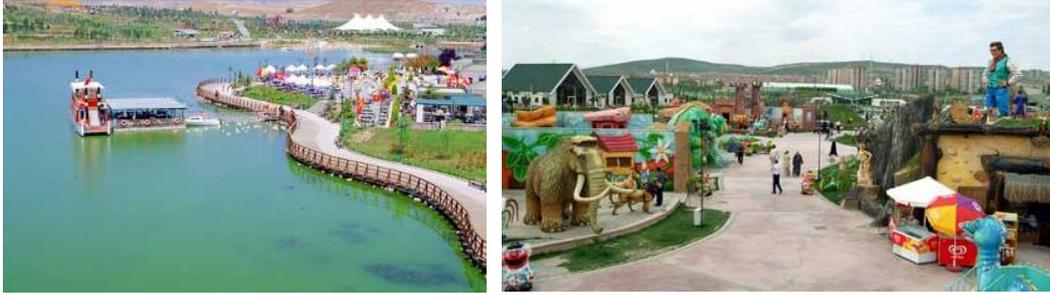


Figures 4.6-4.7. Views from Dikmen Valley Recreation Area and Seymenler Park.  
Source: Personal archive



Figures 4.8-4.9. A view from Kuşulu Park and new arrangements in İzmir pedestrian street. Source: Personal archive

In addition to large-scale urban transformation projects, urban rehabilitation projects and local neighborhood parks, in the last few years, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality produces large-scale periphery parks which are generally amusement and entertainment parks full of design elements rather than a still, pastoral landscape. The new large scale periphery parks are Bayındır Dam, Harikalar Diyarı, Göksu Lake, Mogan Lake etc.



Figures 4.10-4.11. New arrangements, Göksu Park and Harikalar Diyarı. Source: <http://www.goksupark.com.tr>, <http://www.harikalardiyari.com.tr>

For detailed summary of historical background of evolution of urban green spaces in Ankara, see Appendix A.

## **4.2.2. Scope and Intentions of Green Space Planning of Ankara**

### **4.2.2.1. Historical Background of Green Space Planning of Ankara**

For a better understanding of the current green space planning, a brief history of planning experiences of Ankara and their green space concerns are summarized. Because, historical background of planning experiences determines today's spatial structures.

The first official and comprehensive plan of Ankara directing the development of city for at least 20 years is *Jansen Plan*. The plan has a strong green system, decorating the city with green belts and axes were suggested. Balance between open green spaces and building solids, amount of open green space per person, equal distribution of open green spaces in and outer spaces of city, land uses convenient for ecologic conditions, aesthetic and functional outer space planning, and clear and

efficient use of all these functions can be observed in Jansen's plan (Öztan, 2004). The basis for the system of green spaces is to meet the needs of air circulation as well as the recreation requirements of the city. These green corridors opened to a green belt around the city. In addition to this comprehensive network system of urban green, there were patches, green fingers which were placed on the main axis of the city with a large central park in the middle of the city. Recreation activities proposed in the plan are planning of İncesu Valley as resting environs, Bent Deresi, Rome Hamam and Çubuk Çayı Valley as swimming and other sporting activities with open air cafes, Hacettepe Park and Youth Park as big urban park areas, Agriculture Faculty, Stadium, Hipodrom and İncesu Valley (İnönü Stadium) as sporting areas, hills of Hacettepe, Timurlenk and İsmetpaşa as vista points.

In addition to his physical and land use perspectives on nature, Jansen plan also strongly indicates on social characteristics of open green spaces such as public health. Jansen's proposals of Ankara Plan was an endeavour of creating healthy, diffused, anti-urbanist (corresponds with new-urbanism movement glorifying human scale, pedestrian walkability in design) type of life including open system of green belt continuing both at the inner and outer city with organization of valleys, ridges and green spaces. In the neighborhood scale, Jansen's proposition was two or three storey, detached low dense housing fabric offered in the East, at Cebeci and in the west between Vekaletler and Tandoğan. Jansen's Ankara was formed of neighborhoods of houses with gardens.

The second plan of Ankara is *Yücel -Uybadin plan*, approved in 1957, which is prepared as a requirement for a regulation mechanism to spontaneous land development occurred after 1940s. The differentiation of the plan from the earlier attempts was its support of existing chaotic situation and legitimizing it rather rearrange it. Yücel-Uybadin Plan designed a city has homogenous texture with Jansen Plan but it has higher densities than the previous one. The main outcome of the plan was generally vertical densification right along with the horizontal expansions.

Regarding the open green spaces, the plan report evaluates green spaces under the headings of sporting areas, entertainment and recreation areas. While the inner structure of the plan reflecting garden city tradition with a continuity of green belt ideology of garden city tradition (Günay, 1992:34), there are some new, fragmented decisions on urban green spaces in the Plan Notes. A zoo around İncesu Dam, an Olympic Complex on plains of Atatürk Forest Farm-AOÇ, is proposed in addition to

Jansen's plan greenery. Transportation/relocation of the Hipodrome to AOÇ land was another proposal of the plan. Moreover, sites of riding club and golf club were pointed in Söğütözü. The site of civil airport in Tandoğan is reserved for civil aeronautics clubs (Ankara İmar Planı İzah Notları, 1957). On the other hand, negative assumptions on urban green also exist that damage Jansen's green system of the inner city. The place of Lunapark was proposed in Kurtuluş Park, a Municipality Building was proposed in the place of Abdi İpekçi Park, the site opposite to Faculty of Language and History is allocated for high-rise apartment blocks and alternative roads proposed against Atatürk Boulevard.

As the third planning experience, *Ankara 1990 Master Plan* which is approved in 1982, is a result of urban studies held in the years between 1970-75 by metropolitan planning bureau which was established in February 1969 with the cabinet decision to accomplish the tasks of preparing development plans in three big cities.

The plan is a structure plan, for the prospect city of Ankara of 1990. It is based upon a corridor scheme, which has proposed expansion and suburbanization of the city with self-sufficient decentralized settlements along the main corridor to the west. In between the corridors -between Sincan and Eskişehir highways, and Eskişehir and Konya Highways- broad vast natural areas and agricultural areas preserved as buffer green and the parts adjacent to housing areas developed as well-kept green spaces to protect the air circulation corridors of Ankara. The suitable lands for agriculture and recreation were kept free from development allocated for agricultural and recreational purposes. The main recreational development proposed on the large lands of Atatürk State farm, METU and Beytepe Campuses. The plan is the second plan proposing establishment of the relation of open spaces and the city at the core by penetrating the green areas into the built-up areas in the form of wedges.

1990 plan was promoting macro-scale protections of urban green including the principles of urban ecology including the issues of prevention of erosion, forestation, prevention of local vegetation, conservation of dams ve streams, prevention of the valleys as wind corridors. (AMAMP,1977:380). Similar with ecological planning approach, the green belt ideology of 1990 plan was the idea of preventing inversion and air pollution. Open green space configuration in AMAMPB Plan has special importance for the serious air pollution problem occurred in severely during 1970s originating from wrong land use decisions and developments. As a solution, valleys, dams, and water bodies were protected from urban development for their regulatory

functions. Valleys of İncesu-İmrahor, Dikmen, Hatipçayı and Macun to green areas to keep wind corridors open to airflow.

Later, Ankara 2015 Plan, prepared to METU Study Group between the years 1984-1989, and Ankara 2025 Plan, prepared by the Greater Municipality, were prepared which were not officially approved but influenced the future developments. Ankara 2015 Plan is a structure plan foresees future urban sprawl by decentralization along Eskişehir and İstanbul roads with green corridors creating air circulations, suffering from air pollution. Ankara 2025 Plan advocates new growth nodes, axes and corridors with decentralized settlements, (public institution areas, military areas and industry areas) and urban regeneration at the inner city. The plan discards the green belt ideology of Ankara and left its place to equally dispersed network like open green structure in the whole city. The plan is also the beginning of long judicial disagreements and partial plan revisions. For a detailed summary of planning experiences of Ankara and their green space proposals, see *Appendix B*.

Currently, the partial plans of the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality and regional and sectoral plans of the Ministries mostly orient the current developments in the city. The green planning of the city Ankara is under the responsibilities of the governmental and non-governmental institutions. Accordingly, the responsible agents directing the current urban green evolution are can be numerated as planners from private sector, planners from central government institutions of Ministries (Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Ministry of Public Works and Settlement), planners from local governments (Ankara Metropolitan Municipality and Special Provincial Government of Ankara), and NGOs.

#### **4.2.2.2. Responsibilities in Green Space Planning of Ankara**

Urban green space planning of Ankara is handled under physical planning issues by different responsible institutions. The responsible institutions directing the green space planning of Ankara are ministries as central government's institutions, municipalities and Ankara Special Provincial Government as local government institutions, private planning offices, and NGOs for creating demand for green spaces.

- Central Governments

Firstly, central government's ministries have rights to prepare plans for the areas in relation to their notions. The Ministry of Tourism and Culture, and Ministry of Public Works and of Settlement and the Directorate of Private Environmental Protection Institution of Ministry of Environment and Forestry are responsible institutions for physical planning of Ankara.

The General Directorate of Investment Development and Planning under Ministry of Tourism and Culture has the right to prepare Environmental Plan, Master Plan and Implementation Plans in the tourism regions. Tourism Regions are determined by the declaration of the area as "Culture and Tourism Protection and Development Region and Tourism Center" by the Council of Ministers based on the Law of "Improvement of Tourism" no. 2634.

The General Directorate of Technical Research and Implementation of Ministry of Public Works and of Settlement has been established on 08.06.1984 through the 209/12 numbered decree law. The directorate of the ministry has the right of development of national, regional or sub-regional scale macro-spatial strategy planning from upper scale to implementation scale.

The Directorate of Private Environmental Protection Institution under Ministry of Environment and Forestry is the only institution in the ministry which have right to prepare plan. On 09.08.1983, the law number of 2872/9 have declared the responsibility of determination of Specially Protection Areas which have nationally or internationally ecologic importance, determination of their use-protection balance, and preperation of plans for these special areas by Ministry of Environment. Later, on 19.10.1989, the Directorate of Private Environment Protection have established based on "the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean" to protect the environmental values of Specially Protected Areas, to remove the environmental pollution problems of these areas, to determine the use-protection balance in these areas through plans, plan revizations and plan decisions and to improve these plans.

- Local Governments

Ankara Special Provincial Government under Ankara Province and Ankara Metropolitan Municipality and District Municipalities are the local governmental institutions which have the rights to prepare plans. Ankara Special Provincial Government has rights to prepare environmental plans via the law of “Law of Special Provincial Government”, with law no.of 5302.

As one of the most important local government institution, Metropolitan Municipalities have the responsibility of preparation and approval of master plans from 1/25.000 scale to 1/5.000 scales based on 5216 numbered “Law of Greater Municipality”. Preparation of 1/5000 scaled master plans and 1/1000 implementation plans are in the responsibility of local governments to provide urban services such as green areas. In Turkey, both metropolitan municipalities and district municipalities have responsibilities for the planning and provision of urban public services, including parks and recreation areas. While parks larger than 30.000 m<sup>2</sup> are planned and maintained by greater municipalities, planning of neighborhood parks with the area of smaller than 30.000 m<sup>2</sup> are in the responsibilities of district municipalities.

Planning of urban green spaces from upper scale to lower scales is the mission of Directorate of Urban Physical Planning of Ankara Metropolitan Municipality. On the other hand, urban green space production and projects of recreational services, parks, cemeteries, green spaces, monuments and historical structures, refuges are handled under the Directorate of Environmental Protection of Ankara Metropolitan Municipality. The organization scheme of the two directorates of Ankara Greater Municipality is schematized in the Figure 4.6.

- Private Planning Offices

In addition to planners from various public private institutions, planners from private sector have rights to prepare plans for the cities. As a result, they are agents who direct the formations of urban green spaces of Ankara.

- NGOs

NGOs, which have direct or indirect engagements in urban green spaces, have sensitivities, judgements and demands on Ankara’s green spaces. Their demands

create pressures on the responsible institutions' planning decisions. As a result, they have influences on Ankara's green space planning process.

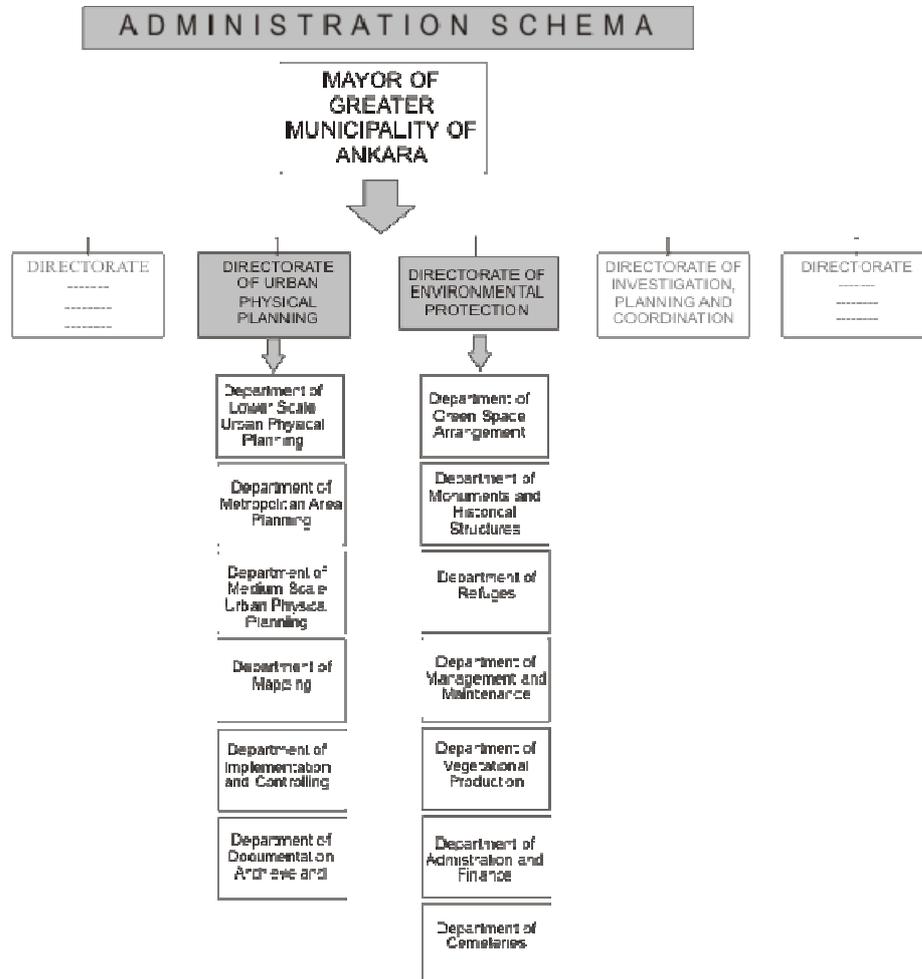


Figure 4.12. The organization scheme of the Directorate of Urban Physical Development and Directorate of Environmental Protection under Ankara Greater Municipality.

#### 4.2.2.2.1. Examples from Plans of the Responsible Institutions

To deeply understand the above mentioned institutions' viewpoints on green space planning of Ankara, some of their plans, plan decisions and plans reports are summarized in this part. The characteristics of the considered plans are twofold: strategic plans or physical plans. While strategic plans underlines the institutional targets related to the planning of all Ankara, the selected physical plans are the plans generally focus on the planning of Southwest Region of Ankara. The reason behind the focus of Southwest Ankara Region is for being the common area where

all of the responsible institutions have prepared plans for the area. The plans, plan decisions and plan reports are briefly summarized to underpin the intentions and the planning priorities of the responsible institutions as a background to the interviews held with the managers of the planning departments of the responsible institutions.

#### **4.2.2.2.1.1. Strategic Plans of Local Governments**

The strategic plans indicate the visions and strategic goals of related local governments about planning. The thesis has taken into consideration the available Strategic Plans of the local governments which have rights to prepare plans for Ankara, to analyse the planning approaches of the institutions as a background for interviews.

"The Provincial Strategic Plan of Ankara and Institutional Strategic Plan of The Ankara Special Provincial Government" and "Ankara Metropolitan Municipality 2007-2011 Strategic Plan" has taken into account to trace the visions of these local governments.

The Special Provincial Government of Ankara has prepared a strategic plan to point out the institution level and Ankara level goals of the institution to be realized in the following years. Strategic Plan of the Institution have been developed after some participative meetings held with planners, institutions, municipalities, members of municipality commission, politicians, NGOs and inhabitants.

The targets about green space planning occur at various parts of the plan. Some actions related to green areas are defined under the main strategic goals such as:

- **Strategic Goal 1.** *Improvement of urban service quality*

**Action 2.**Preparation of the questionnaire survey of satisfaction with urban services  
**Action 3.**Arrangement of design competitions for urban furniture design which are convenient to Ankara's local peculiarities.

- **Strategic Goal 2.***Provision of sustainable urban development through the principle of hierarchical coordination of plans*

**Action 1.**Development of a upper scale plan through participatory processes which will guide the development of metropolitan area

**Action 2.**Development of use value based transformation plans, programs and projects to regenerate deteriorated urban centers

**Action 3.**Prevention of water basins, valleys and ecologic living areas from settlements and urban development

**Action 4.**Decreasement of urban density in the lands newly opened to development

- **Strategic Goal 5.** *Improvement of forestry and greenery areas of Ankara*

**Action 1.** Enhancement of green and planted areas in city centers

**Action 2.**Protection and planting of Atatürk State Farm

**Action 3.**Plantation which are barrier against noise and air pollution to the convenient areas

**Action 4.** Plantation of convenient fruit plants through a income yielding plan

**Action 5.** To foster of income yielding planting and viniculture

- **Strategic Goal 7.***To eject environmental responsibility to the Ankara inhabitants*

(Special Provincial Government of Ankara, 2006).

It can be observed that the Strategic Plan has a comprehensive framework including physical, social, and economic basis of green space planning. The quality of life approach in relation with green spaces are qualified urban development, development of inhabitant-green concern and protection of water basins, valleys and ecologic living areas. On the other hand, whether the execution of the plan is achieved or not could not be determined yet.

As the other local government institution, the strategic targets of the Metropolitan Municipality are traced from the “Ankara Metropolitan Municipality 2007-2011 Strategic Plan”. The plan includes opportunities, weakness and strategic targets of its management unit and directorates of the municipality. Since the responsibilities of departments related to green spaces differentiate, strategic targets of responsible directorates of Directorate of Urban Physical Development, Directorate of Environmental Protection and Management Department have considered.

The Directorate of Urban Physical Development is the responsible directorate of the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality for preperation of plans from Metropolitan scale to 1/1000 scale. Urban green space planning issue is handled simultaneously during the preperation of urban physical plans. The summary of the main strategic goals of the directorate numerated in the plan are:

- To produce healthy, livable environment
- Sustainability of urban natural and cultural values within the protection-use balance
- To overcome the social service inadequencies, to ease the citizen to access to the services
- Urban citizen participation
- To produce living environments eliminated from visual and environmental pollution
- To produce urban planning services in the direction of urban and public good
- To orient the planning with process planning approach of efficient, effective and qualitative approaches

Additionally, when the prospected projects claimed to be prepared between the years 2007-2011 are investigated, it can be observed that the major studies of the Directorate of Urban Physical Development intensified on the preparation of River Basins Development Plans, Development Plans of valleys and transformation projects. It can be inferred that the technical approach of the directorate about green space planning is the protection of the natural structure and air circulation corridors of Ankara such as valleys, water basins etc which is in cohesion with the respondent's definitions

The Management Department of the Municipality defines the "sustainable environment and sustainable urban development" as the main target (Ankara Metropolitan Municipality Strategic Plan, 2006). Configuration of urban green spaces is defined under the strategic goal of "improvement of tourism in Ankara". Some of the green area actions of the strategic goal are;

- The number of theme parks and entertainment parks will be increased through fostering investments of private sector
- Europe's biggest zoo will be constructed.
- In 5 years time minimum 4 large-scale and 10 medium-scale recreation area will be applied in addition to the current 6 large-scale recreation area.

(Ankara Metropolitan Municipality Strategic Plan , 2006).

The other two directorates of Metropolitan Municipality of Ankara which have responsibilities in relation to green spaces are Study Projects Department Presidency and Directorate Environmental Protection. These directorates are

responsible for project-based service production and distribution. The two of the directorates claims to support the social dimension of green space planning and design with the targets of creating modern, livable, environments and of provision of fair and equal services (Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, 2006). In the direction of the strategic plan, it can be inferred that the priorities of the responsible directorates' green space evaluations are seems to be differentiate between the municipality units.

In addition to the strategic plans, some physical plans of the institutions prepared for Ankara have taken into consideration to identify the physical configuration of green space planning.

#### **4.2.2.2.1.2. Physical Plans of the Responsible Institutions**

In addition to the city scale master plans, the institutions have also prepared some plans for regions, sub-regions and districts. The southwest Ankara has a special importance when the plans prepared for this region are dealed. The Southwest of Ankara is the common area where all of the responsible institutions have prepared plans for the area. Additionally, as the second reason, the area displays both similar and conflicting opinions in the plans and legal prosecutions. The plans indicates that South of Ankara Region is a conflict area where different responsible institutions have traced different, to some extent, conflicting opinions on green space planning in their plans, some of which have exposed to the prosecution process. Here, to figure out the physical configuration of the green space intensions of the responsible institutions, the plans, plan decisions and plan report have been summarized.

- **Physical Plans of Ankara Metropolitan Municipality**

As known, after the "Ankara 1990 Master Plan" has completed its valid projection time, partial revision plans have stated to direct the urban developments of the city. As one of the partial revision plan, the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality has prepared a 1/50.000 scaled "1990 Ankara Master Plan Partial Revision Plan of Southwest Ankara". Later, a 1/50.000 scaled "Southwest Ankara Metropolitan Development Plan" has prepared by Ministry of Public Works and Settlement, in cooperation with the municipality, approved in 2004. In relation with the upper scale plan of "Southwest Ankara Metropolitan Development Plan", Metropolitan

Municipality of Ankara has prepared 1/5.000 scaled "Güneykent Physical Development Plan" which is approved in 2002. But, the "Southwest Ankara Metropolitan Development Plan" and "Güneykent Physical Development Plan" have prosecuted by the Chamber of Urban Planners. Güneykent Physical Development Plan has cancelled, and the judicial process of Southwest Ankara Metropolitan Development Plan is going on.

These mentioned plans, plan decisions, plan reports and judicial reports seem to generate a convenient ground for the overview of the viewpoints of the responsible institutions for green space planning.

#### "1990 Ankara Master Plan Partial Revision Plan of Southwest Ankara"

After the Ankara 1990 Plan has lost its influence on directing the growth of the city, 1/50.000 scaled "1990 Ankara Master Plan Partial Revision Plan of Southwest Ankara" prepared by Directorate of Urban Physical Planning. The plan has similar, almost the same, statements with the "Southwest Ankara Metropolitan Development Plan". The main differentiations between the two plan is the higher urban density proposed in the Southwest Ankara Metropolitan Development Plan". The main intentions of the plan are defined in Southwest Ankara Metropolitan Development Plan".

#### "Güneykent Physical Development Plan"

Due to the "Southwest Ankara Metropolitan Development Plan" prepared by Ministry Public Works and Settlement, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality has prepared lower scale plan of 1/5.000 scaled "Güneykent Physical Development Plan" in hierarchical coordination with the Ministry's plan. The development of new housing areas and improvement of urban density seem to dominate the main target of the plan. The municipality claims that the preparation of a master plan for the area would decrease the land prices and prevent land speculation, by the way the speed of urban development will increase which would decrease the infrastructure costs for the public. On the other hand, the Plan has prosecuted by the Chamber of Urban Planners for demolishing of urban macroform, and damaging the distribution of population and urban services (Judicial Report of Chamber of Urban Planners, 2004) and the implementation of the plan is cancelled.

Some of the points of the Judicial report in relation with urban green spaces are:

“...no causal explanation for the opening to urban development of new lands away from 30-50 km to city center without any scientific explanation and without any definitions on cooperation-regionalisation-organization model for the development area which will strogly destroy the service distribution.”

“...the housing settlement at Meşe Mountain which is one of the main green axis of air circulation corridor of Ankara at the west side and has special importance in the maintenance of continuity of green system.”

“...the unsystemised urban green areas where they are allocated to the topographically inconvenient areas. While, the neighborhood area green is coherent and equally distributed in its neighborhood area, it totally ignores the the upper scale content and continuities of the green system.”

(Judicial Report of Güneykent Physical Development Plan, 2004).

As a result, it can be inferred the plan includes some problems in formulation of a balanced urban development and production of systemized urban green spaces.

- **“Ankara Metropolitan Area Recreation Master Plan” of The Ministry of Tourism and Culture**

The Ministry of Tourism and Culture has prepared “Ankara Metropolitan Area Recreation Master Plan” in 1982. The plan includes institutional research on the assessment of the potential recreation areas of Ankara and strategies to develop the these potential areas. According to the plan, Gölbaşı Area is emphasized as a potential recreation area for the city Ankara. In 1981 the Lake’s Environment has declared as “tourism area” and a urban development plan for the area is prepared (Gölbaşı Specially Protected Area Survey Report, 1992) On the other hand, the “Lake’s Environment Urban Development Plan” could not be reached from the archives of Ministry of Tourism. But, the main appointment made in the Ankara Metropolitan Area Recreation Master Plan is to produce a recreation planning policy which will enhance the development and tourism of the potential areas.

- **“Gölbaşı Specially Protected Area Environmental Plan” of Ministry of Environment and Forestry**

In the boundaries of Ankara, there is only one Specially Protected Area: Gölbaşı Specially Protected Area, locating at the south of Ankara. The Directorate of Private Environmental Protection Institution have prepared a 1/25.000 scaled “Gölbaşı

Specially Protected Area Environmental Plan” which has been approved in 1992 and revised in 2004. The intentions of green space planning of Ministry of Environment and Forestry is observed from the plan and the plan decisions. Ministry of Environment and Forestry advocates protection of the naturally special areas or minimum use of the area. Some of the points figured out in the plan decisions are;

“protection of natural beauties, *ecologic balance*, living or non-living organisms of the area, to take the measures about environmental protection, which are foreseen in the international and regional commitments and protocols, establishment of *protection based use* of the specially important areas directed through their natural structures and ecological properties, to realize the planned use of the areas which have *recreational potential* with their nation-wide natural qualities by considering protection based use, to create sensitive areas about natural values which will keep the *air circulation corridors* of Ankara open at the South-Southwest corridor, and provision activities to respond the social needs such as daily life, working and resting by diversifying them as possible as it can..”

(Gölbaşı Specially Protection Area Plan Decisions; 1992).

Additionally, in the plan notes, the Implementation Plans are strictly expected to consider the unity of green areas in the plan and their equal and functional distribution. In the open space arrangements, minimum %40 of the plot size are expected to be remained natural to be designed by planting with local species.

The data collection method of the Ministry also differentiates due to its ecological sensitivity approach. The data and analysis which constitute the basis of the plans of the Institution are gathered from scientific researches on local contexts such as climate, soil groups, geology, hydrogeology, ecosystems, flora, fauna, water systems of streams, lakes, underground waters etc. At this point, planning is defined as the instrument to realize the sustainability and protection of these ecological values (Gölbaşı Specially Protected Area Survey Report, 1992).

As a result, it can be inferred that, in accordance with the sectoral target of the ministry, the priorities and intensions of the institution is ecological planning approach based on scientific surveys.

## **“Southwest Ankara Metropolitan Development Plan” of Ministry of Public Works and Settlement**

The main goals of the 1/50.000 scaled Southwest Ankara Metropolitan Development Plan related with green spaces are:

“...creation of sustainable, livable environments by considering natural, ecologic, environmental, historical and urban values, responding to the development pressures of the housing areas stucked at the Ankara’s south pond by producing healthy living conditions with the condition of providing urban, technical and social infrastructure services to these areas in the planning area: the constitution of an *open and green area system* in the direction of the strategies to create breathing points in the metropolitan sub-district, to generate urban development, to prevent from urban pollution and to meet the basic physical and spiritual needs.”

“...the location of the urban green spaces is determined by on the lands *where inconvenient lands for settlement development* to re-gain these lands for the city’s benefit in accordance with its natural qualities to create microclimates of rainfall, humidity and temperature in the air circulation corridors, and to enable physical balance in buffer zones.”

(Southwest Ankara Metropolitan Development Plan Decisions, 2004)

On the other hand, the plan has been prosecuted by the Chamber of Urban Planners for serving to the distribution of urban rent via the plan as a challenge to legal background of urban development, public good, and principles of urban planning and legalization of partial developments in the city.

The plan is prosecuted for being far from:

“including complementary and holistic planning processes and their technical-statistical basis, including a theoretical approach which determines a vision and pre-requirements for the city, equal distribution of the resources and services in the city based on analysis methods, including scientific analysis of population distribution and urban density decisions in addition to sectoral and specific studies, considering hierarchisation of protection-use balance and of urban density, cost-benefit analysis, taking attention to the urban macroform, balanced distribution of population-service relations”

(Judicial Report of Southwest Ankara Metropolitan Development Plan, 2006).

In relation to urban green spaces the plan criticized for:

“The plan proposes urban development for Meşe Mountain environs which is an important part of urban green axis of Ankara as one of the air circulation corridor of Ankara. Moreover, the plan has not constituted any systemized basis for the distribution of green areas in the newly developing area.”

(Judicial Report of Southwest Ankara Metropolitan Development Plan, 2006).

In the direction of the plan decisions and judicial report of Southwest Ankara Metropolitan Development Plan, it can be inferred that the dominating idea of the plan is to provide new urban settlement areas to the city. On the other hand, the intension of provision of new urban settlement areas and production of an easy applicable plan seem to dominate the planning principles. Accordingly, it can be inferred that the sectoral target of the ministry overwhelms the planning principle of production of balanced urban services and a systemized urban green development.

Briefly, it is observed that the plans of the institutions carry the notions of the sectoral targets of its institution. There is no common ground for the coordination or cooperation of the plans. Additionally, urban green spaces are produced in through plans with a focus on physical planning issue. Since, they are produced in the physical planning process, planning for urban development generates the priorities/rationalities of urban green space planning. Accordingly, the multi-dimensional and multi-scale contributions of green spaces to the city and to the life are eliminated from the planning process.

## CHAPTER 5

### GREEN SPACE PLANNING PRIORITIES OF THE LEADING AGENTS

#### 5.1. Method of the study

The method of the study is based on analysis of the rationalities of green space planning process, extending to management and design strategies, with a survey on the multi-scale and multi-dimensional quality of life perspectives of the leading agents who are responsible for preparation of plans for Ankara. The study is constituted on in-depth interview method, to identify the causal and intentional situations of respondents about green space planning.

The in-depth interview method is an intensive interviewing method which is a sensitivity-centered approach investigating the viewpoints and intentions of agents and their influence on the subject. As a qualitative research, the interviews are not interested in an "on average" view of a population. Rather they seek out to an in depth understanding of the experience of particular individuals or groups - the leading agents from the institutions, which are responsible for green space planning of Ankara. Grounding on this method, the research framework explores the opinions and intentions of the agents who play role in the formulation of green structure of Ankara in terms of various scales (city scale, neighborhood scale and individual level) and various dimensions of planning (physical, social, economic and ecologic dimensions). The interviews are conducted on the identification of "quality of life perspectives of the respondents on green space planning of Ankara" among leading agents from private sector, central and local governments and NGOs. Later, these analysis are used relevant to strategy-making perspective which will later be utilized to constitute a guidance on how to improve urban green planning process with a particular attention to quality of life.

### **5.1.1. The In-depth Interviews**

As mentioned before, in-depth interviews are held to identify the key factors of quality of life which determine the urban green space planning of Ankara. The focus of the in-depth interviews is on to distill what the leading agents from different respondent groups suggest about the green space planning of Ankara. As a method of qualitative research, the survey method aims to capture respondents' own viewpoints, priorities, intentions and perceptions on green space planning. These interviews have been helpful to expose how leading agents from responsible institutions conceptualize urban green planning of Ankara.

The findings of the interviews are discussed throughout this chapter. Yet, here, some general information about these interviews is given. All the interviews were held on a period between September and December 2006. The period of average face to face in-depth interview took around thirty minutes. Throughout the research, 18 people have been interviewed including planners from private and public institutions and NGOs. In the beginning of the survey, respondents have been informative for the purposes of the survey. The interview includes semi-structured and open-ended questions to get a comprehensive coverage of green space planning of Ankara, in-depth exploration of respondents' perspectives of quality of life in different scales. To do so, degree of detail of the interview questions are more general at first few questions to shed light on the strategic targets, planning priorities city scale planning of quality of life (questions no. 1-4). Following questions (question no. 4-13) are directed to move to more specific planning attributes of respondents about neighborhood scale and individual level planning of quality of life.

During the interviews, detailed notes of the answers of the respondents have written to a notebook to be analyzed later. Interesting comments and proposals have been especially recorded to be utilized in the analysis of the interviews. Each interview has been summarized as soon as possible after it has been finished to be analysed later. A blank in-depth interview question sheet has been demonstrated in *Appendix C*.

### 5.1.1.1. The Respondents

The respondents of the in-depth interviews are selected through leading agents who have rights to prepare plans through their professional personalities or through their institutions and leading agents from NGOs who create demands and pressures on green space planning of Ankara. Accordingly, the respondents are the planners from private sector, planners from central government institutions of Ministries (Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Ministry of Public Works and Settlement), planners from local governments (Ankara Metropolitan Municipality and Special Provincial Government of Ankara), and NGOs (Ankaram Paltform, Kavaklıderem Association, KOR-DER, and Chamber of Urban Planners).

The respondents have been chosen by “purposive sampling”, which means that respondents are the *professional or civil agents* who have direct influence on green space planning of Ankara. Moreover, the professional respondents are generally the ones who are the chiefs of planning departments of their institutions and have been participated in the planning processes during the preparation of the upper-lower scale plans of Ankara. As a result, the sample size is determined with reference to the responsibilities of the governmental and non-governmental institutions about planning of Ankara. Therefore, the variety of institutions responsible for green space planning of Ankara, is more important than the sample size. Totally, there are 18 respondents interviewed. 13 of the respondents are main respondents who have answered all of the interview questions. 5 of the respondents are complementary respondents who have partially answered the interview questions in the boundaries of their responsibility to complete the deficient parts of an interview.

- *Respondent Group 1: Respondents from Private Sector*

The respondents from the private sector are selected from the chief planning offices of Ankara, most of whom have prepared a plan for Ankara before. The private sector interviews are held with four urban planners who are the chief of four different chief planning offices.

- *Respondent Group 2: Respondents from Ministries*

The respondents from ministries are selected from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, and Ministry of Public Works and of Settlement and from the Directorate of

Private Environmental Protection Institution of Ministry of Environment and Forestry in the direction of their rights to prepare plans. The respondents are the chiefs of the planning departments of the ministries which means that these respondents are simultaneously the active and efficient agents of ministries on planning issues. Accordingly, one respondent is selected from The General Directorate of Investment Development and Planning of/under Ministry of Tourism and Culture to be interviewed. Two respondents have been interviewed from the General Directorate of Technical Research and Implementation, under the Ministry of Public Works and of Settlement. One of them is complementary respondent and one of them is the main respondent. Two respondents have been interviewed from Ministry of Environment and Forestry, both of the whom are from Special Environment Protection Institution. Main respondent is from the Survey and Planning Department, the complementary respondent is from the Research and Investigation Unit of the institution both of which work coordinately in preparation of the plans.

- *Respondent Group 3: Respondents from Local Governments*

Special Provincial Government of Ankara and Ankara Metropolitan Municipality is the local governmental institutions, which have the rights to prepare plans for Ankara. Special Provincial Government of Ankara, linked to the Province of Ankara, has the right of preparation of environmental plans. Thereby, one respondent from Special Provincial Government of Ankara has been interviewed.

As the other local government institution, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality has the responsibility of preparation and approval of master plans from 1/25.000 scale to 1/5.000 scales. Two respondents have been selected from the Directorate of Urban Physical Planning of Ankara Metropolitan Municipality; one of them is complementary, and the other is the main respondent. The other two complementary respondents are from Directorate of Environment Protection of the Metropolitan Municipality of Ankara and a respondent from Artı Mimarlık for their responsibilities on project base design of urban green spaces. On the other hand, the respondents from the commissions of municipality (Members of Municipality Commission and Members of Physical Planning Commission) did not accept to be interviewed.

- *Respondent Group 4: Respondents from NGOs*

The NGOs selected to interview are Kavaklıdere Association, Ankaram Platform, KOR-DER and Chamber of Urban Planners. One respondent from each organization have chosen as the main respondent because of their sensitivities, judgments, demands and pressures on green space planning of Ankara. The respondents and their institutions are shown in the Table 5.1.

Table 5.1. The summary of respondents and their institutions.

RESPONDENTS	The Name of the Institution	The Unit of the Institution	Number of Main Respondents	Number of Complementary Respondents
<b>Private Sector</b>	Chief Planning Offices		4	
<b>Ministries</b>	Ministry of Tourism and Culture	General Directorate of Investment Development and Planning	1	
	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	Special Environment Protection Institution	1	1
	Ministry of Public Works and of Settlement	The Directorate of Private Environmental Protection Institution	1	1
<b>Local Governments</b>	Province of Ankara	Special Provincial Government of Ankara	1	
	Directorates of Metropolitan Municipality	Directorate of Urban Physical Planning	1	1
		Directorate of Environmental Protection	—	1
		Private design Office of Artı Mimarlık	—	1
		Members of Municipality Commission	—	
Members of Urban Physical Development Commission	—			
<b>NGOs</b>	Chamber of Urban Planners		1	
	Kavaklıdere Association		1	
	Ankaram Platform		1	
	KOR-DER		1	
			13	5

In the following parts of the study, the respondents is coded such as Informant 1, 2,3,..13 for an easy flow of the texts, tables and figures. A list of the match of Informant numbers and the respondents are schematized in Table 5.2. This numeratisation is repeated in the tables throughout the thesis.

Table 5.2. Number of the informants and their institutions.

RESPONDENT NO	RESPONDENT
<b>Informant 1</b>	Respondent from Prive Sector
<b>Informant 2</b>	Respondent from Prive Sector
<b>Informant 3</b>	Respondent from Prive Sector
<b>Informant 4</b>	Respondent from Prive Sector
<b>Informant 5</b>	Ministry of Tourism and Culture
<b>Informant 6</b>	Ministry of Environment and Forestry
<b>Informant 7</b>	Ministry of Settlement &Public Works
<b>Informant 8</b>	Private Admin. of Province of Ankara
<b>Informant 9</b>	Metropol. Municipal.of Ankara (Direc.of Phys. Plann.)
<b>Informant 9c.</b>	Metropol. Municipal.of Ankara (Artı Mimarlık)
<b>Informant 10</b>	Ankaram Platform
<b>Informant 11</b>	KOR-DER
<b>Informant 12</b>	Kavaklıdere
<b>Informant 13</b>	Chamber of Urban Planners

## 5.2. Common Assessment Framework of the Interviews: Levels of Coding of the Interviews

In the analyzing of the mass of data, the ample of data gathered from the interviews have meaningfully reduced and coded to discover the rationalities of green space planning of the respondents. The *first level of coding* is construction of a logical framework by dividing the interviews into topics and sub-topics which constitute the backbone of the green space planning. This analysis and coding method enables the comparison of statements by all the subjects on a particular topic with one another. The main topic is the “rationalities of green space planning” in relation with quality of life. Sub-topics of the main topic are “City Scale Green Space Planning”, “Neighborhood Scale Green Space Planning”, “Individual/Community Level Green Space Planning”. The sub-sub-topics of these topics are the main quality of life strategies in green space planning such as “green network planning”, “ecologic planning”, “economic planning” etc. which derive from theoretically well-functioned green space planning idealizations. This logical framework is schematized in Figure 5.1.

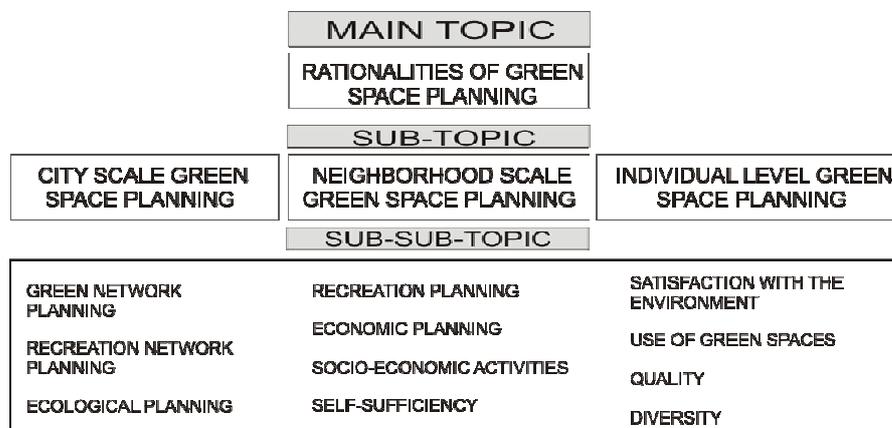


Figure 5.1. Logical framework of the method of the study for coding the interviews

The *second level of coding* is analysis of the interviews by comparison of the suggestions and statements of different respondent groups on the particular topics, sub-topics and sub-sub-topics with one another. The focus of the analysis is on to distill what the different respondent groups have suggested about the green space planning of Ankara. To do so, the problems in formulation of green space planning of Ankara among leading agents are aimed to be identified.

### **5.2.1. Green Space Planning and Quality of Life Perspectives of the Leading Agents**

Green space planning is a comprehensive issue, which necessitates attention to multi-scale and multi-dimensional variables of planning. To identify how the leading agents constitute the relationship between urban green space planning and quality of life, in-depth interviews are held with the leading agents who are responsible for preparation of plans of Ankara. Here, the statements of the respondents about Ankara's green space planning and quality of life have analyzed at the city-scale, neighborhood scale and individual levels; within physical, ecologic, economic and social dimensions of planning.

#### **5.2.1.1. City-Scale Green Space Planning of Ankara**

When the responses have been evaluated, it can be observed that most of the respondents have considered the opportunities, limitations and targets of green space planning of Ankara in relation with the local peculiarities of Ankara. The responses about the relationship between city scale urban green space planning and quality of life include similarities on the issue of evaluation of local potentials, appraisal of valley system and protection of the air circulation corridors of Ankara. To numerate, all of the respondents from private sector and local governments and ministries, except respondent from Ministry of Tourism and Culture, have defined their priority as the appraisal of the valleys system of Ankara in the green space planning process.

- *Respondents from Private Sector*

It can be inferred that planning approach of the respondents from private sector define a "well-functioned green space planning of Ankara" in different manners, based on personal admittances and opinions. They have considered physical, social and ecological aspects of green space planning with differentiating rate of attentions. However, none of the respondents mention the potential economic aspect of the green areas as a contribution to the city.

*The Informant 1*, have emphasized on the social aspects of green space planning. He has proposed a unity of urban green system in Ankara hierarchically continued

from housing gardens through the valleys, Ankara Stream, and extending to the large green areas at the peripheries of the city.

*The Informant 2*, has emphasized the appraisal of “ecological corridors” which is composed of stream-valleys corridor at south, valley-flat land corridor Atatürk State Farm, Etimesgut, AKM, Gençlik Park and hills system of Ankara. The main target of the green space planning of informant was to provide the protection and continuity of the green areas and continuity of species. Informant 2, has pointed to the preservation and penetration of urban green areas to enable the dispersal of wildlife and biodiversity into the city.

*Informant 3*, has emphasized on quantitative and qualitative improvement of green spaces of Ankara, valleys, flat lands and water potentials of Ankara. Similarly, *Informant 4*, has also proposed the improvement of potential of valley system of Ankara and improvement of the recreation potential at the large green areas of Ankara. The focus was on the reciprocal relationship between the macroform development of Ankara and its green spaces which lead to the bounced urban macroform of city.

- *Respondents from Ministries*

All of the respondents from ministries have pointed to the public areas of institutions, campus areas, military areas and Atatürk State Farm’s areas as the main potential for quality of Ankara’s green spaces planning. All of them have considered these areas in the formulation of targets of the green space planning of Ankara.

The respondent from Ministry of Tourism and Culture, *Informant 5*, has proposed a development-based model to the green spaces of Ankara rather than protection based models. The target of Informant 5 have focused on the “use of green areas” and “utilization of the rent of green areas for public use” rather than protection. Accordingly, he has proposed active green areas donated with activities and facilities designed via quality principles and urban design criteria rather static and statist manners of continuity, green belt, and green wedges. Plans evoke public concern and increase land rent which will supply self-sufficiency of the area with a well-defined legal background which would realize an efficient use of the private areas by prevention of the right of private property such as paying for use solutions. Even, quantity of some green areas would be sacrificed to “improvement of the use

of the green area". As a result, plans of Ministry of Tourism and Culture generally support economic benefits of the green space planning with a focus on commercial and economic activities.

On the contrary, the respondent from Ministry of Environment and Forestry, *Informant 6*, has advocated conservation of the naturally special areas. The biodiversity and protection of the species dominates over the human and social aspects of the area. It is the ecological planning approach directing the main rationality and schema of the plans. The respondent has claimed for the physical and ecologic protection of valleys of Ankara without any urban development or low-density development.

The respondent from Ministry of Public Works and Settlement, *Informant 7*, has focused on the improvement of settlements through the plans. The location of the green areas is positioned to the lands where settlement is not convenient geographically and topographically, or to the disadvantageous areas for housing construction. Urban green areas are nodal green areas such as university campuses, hospital areas, public institution's areas rather than a continuity of large green areas. The main target of the plan, pointed by Informant 7, is to prepare a plan which is easily applicable. On the other hand, the respondent has also taken into consideration urban green corridors, air circulation and wind corridors.

- *Respondents from Local Governments*

The *Informant 8*, from Special Provincial Government of Ankara, has introduced the participatory planning approach as an important instrument of green space planning. According to Informant 8, a well-organized participatory planning would benefit for public against rent mechanisms; decrease the rent pressures of market mechanisms on green spaces and increase demand on green. Informant 8 has also focused on the participative planning approach as a generator for the revealing of the real needs and expectations of the citizens surpassing the material expectations. The other requirements defined by the respondent are preparation of plans considering use and use value and prevention of water basins, valleys and ecological sites, which appraise the real potential of these sites.

As the most efficient actor directing the current developments of built and natural environment in the city of Ankara, Metropolitan Municipality of Ankara operates its

studies on green spaces through different Directorates. Determination of the general concepts guiding the green space planning through upper scale plans is in the responsibility of Directorate of Urban Physical Planning as a technical problematique of physical planning issues. On the other hand the Management Unit of the Municipality has indirect influences on the general formulation of green space planning. The respondent from the Directorate, *Informant 9*, has defined the viewpoint of the directorate as to realize a green system continuing through the air circulation corridors of Ankara and to protect the areas which will be a part of the air circulation corridors such as valleys, water basins etc. Atatürk State Farm is again defined as the main potential for the city center which constitutes the main axis of the green space planning. Informant 9 has claimed that the production of policies, plans and plan decisions are directed through the minimization the housing and rent pressure on these air circulation areas.

In addition to the respondent from Directorate of Urban Physical Planning, complementary respondents have also been interviewed to complete the project base opinions on green space planning of the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality. The complementary respondent from the Directorate of Environmental Protection has explained the non-existence of their official responsibilities in the current processes, neither in planning nor in design processes, because of the increasing of adjudication process in production of green projects. To gain the knowledge on project based green space production, a complementary respondent from the private design office of Artı Mimarlık which has prepared many of the green space projects in Ankara has been interviewed. The respondent has claimed the design principles of his office as to produce activity based responses to the needs of the inhabitants.

- *Respondents from NGOs*

The main demand of the NGOs on green areas is “provision of more green” in the urban lands of Ankara. The general attribute of the NGOs is evaluation of green spaces as breathing areas for the city and for the inhabitant. The respondents from NGOs have focused on the enhancement of production of neighborhood scale green areas to provide a balanced solid-void development. The main critique point is the destruction of existing green areas in the city center and high density urbanization. Most of the respondents from NGOs have emphasized on the valley system potential of Ankara to realize the green city ideal for Ankara.

The respondent from Ankaram Platform, Informant 10, has strictly emphasized on protection of natural areas, breathing areas and the valleys of Ankara. The main demand of the Informant 11, from KOR-DER was urban development of Ankara without disturbing green and without demolishing the past values. The respondent from Kavaklıderem Association, Informant 12, who has close relations with universities has proposed the physically, socially, aesthetically sensitive production of the green areas of grounded on scientific bases. The main demand was protection of green spaces in neighborhood areas which are specifically planned, designed, maintained, and managed. The respondent from Chamber of Urban Planners, Informant 13, has mainly criticized on the destruction of Ankara's historical green structure produced as a part of its earlier planning experiences. The main demand was on the protection of ecologically important areas and air circulation corridors of Ankara against market demands.

#### **5.2.1.1.1. City-scale Strategy of “Green Network Planning”**

In the city-scale urban green space planning, appraisal of all kinds of green resources and potentialities existing in a city is an important input to attain quality of life. Accordingly, in the city-scale considerations, “Green Network Planning” which evaluates urban green structure with a system involving and co-coordinating all kinds of green resources and potentialities existing in a city, comes to the forth to improve quality of life. The ways of achieving the green network planning is varying such as provision of physical continuity of urban green, activity based continuity of “recreation network”, or “strategy of integration of private green with public green”.

“Green Network Planning” in the configuration of the continuity of urban green spaces have generally supported by most of the respondents. On the other hand, when the motive behind the propagation of “Green Network” is investigated through question no 6-7-8, the results are differentiating. (see Table 5.3).

Table 5.3. The responses on Green Network Idealization about Ankara's green spaces.

	Private Planner				Ministries			Local Gov.		NGOs			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>Green Network idealisation - Continuity</b>													
Support Green Network idealisation - as a physical Continuity	√											√	
Propogating green belt/finger/wedges as a seperating element, as an anti-urban utopia		√				√				√		√	
Continuity is required for functional reasons i.e. air circulation									√				√
<b>Continuity is not a requirement</b>													
Propogating green as a connectivity element for activities - not a physical but activity base continuity proposed - <b>Recreation network</b>				√				√					
Green as a "connecting element in the city regions, integrating them to regional cities or development of the city and nature together					√								
Could not be achieved in the current built environment			√				√						

The distribution of support of "Green Network Idealisation" among institutions is displayed in the Figure 5.2.

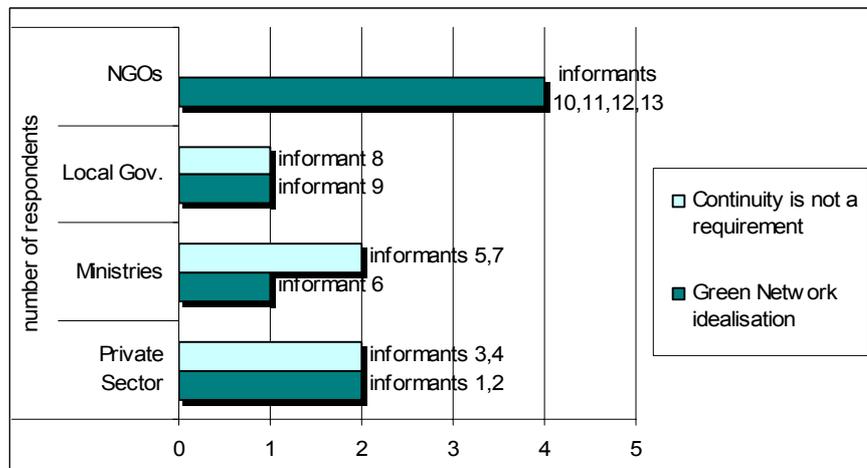


Figure 5.2. Distribution of support of "Green Network Idealization" for Ankara among institutions

When the responses of the ministries considered, it can be observed that only the respondent from Ministry of Environment and Forestry has advocated the "Green Network Idealization". Informant 5, from Ministry of Tourism and Culture, has proposed active green areas donated with activities and facilities designed via quality principles and urban design criteria rather static and statist manners of continuity, green belt, and green wedges. On the contrary, Informant 6, from Ministry

of Environment and Forestry, has fully supported the “Green Network idealization”, as a pre-requirement of urban green space planning of Ankara as both his professional responsibility and his institution’s responsibility. Besides, Informant 7, from Ministry of Public Works and Settlement, has advocated nodal green areas such as university campuses, hospital areas, public institution’s areas rather than a continuity of large green areas. The reason behind this claim was the difficulty of realization of implementation and maintenance of such a structure in the current physical and economic structure of Ankara.

In the local government side, the Informant 8, from Special Provincial Government of Ankara, has advocated recreation and activity based green network (“Recreation Network”) in Ankara’s green spaces rather than physical Green Network idealization. He has pointed that physical continuity could not produce qualified space by evoking the feeling of public ownership as in the Stadium and AKM Project examples. On the other hand, Informant 9, from the Directorate of Urban Physical Planning has claimed for urban green unity and continuity in the air circulation areas of Ankara through his and the directorate’s ecological idealizations. The NGOs have focused on quantitative demands more than the demands on physical attributes. However, the main demand of Informant 13, chief of Chamber of Planners is protection of the green continuity.

The *Green Network Planning* is not only achieved through city-wide physical continuity of green spaces, but also through the encompassing of wide range of landscape elements including all of the public and private potentials named “*strategy of integration of private green with public green*”. While the strategy of integration of public and private green is a priority based on theoretical grounds, the strategy has special and more eminent openings for the city Ankara in the large public lands, which are not open to public use. The public areas, not open to public use, provide an important potential for the improvement of quality of life of inhabitants of Ankara. The amount of green area per inhabitant in the public lands not open to public (public institutions’ areas, Turkish National Assembly Garden, A.O.Ç, Military Areas, President’s Facilities) is 72 m<sup>2</sup> in the year 2005 (Directorate of Environmental Protection, 2005), as nearly seven times higher than the whole urban space distribution per inhabitant.

It can be observed that the responses to the “integration of public-private green” were two-tier. While most of the respondents supported the “strategy of integration

of private green with public green”, they have stated their challenges to the strategy in case of closed public green areas of Ankara. First, all of the respondents have advocated the integration of public and private green areas when the legal and administrative support is supplied. On the other hand, most of them have asserted their challenges to the integration of closed public areas by opening them to public use even if full authority is supplied. The reason behind this challenge is their worries about transformation to these areas into green areas full of rentable uses. The responses to the “strategy of integration of private green with public green” are illustrated in Table 5.4.

Table 5.4. The responses on “integration of public and private green areas” and “integration of closed public green areas of Ankara’ with public green”.

		Private Planner				Ministries			Local Gov.		NGOs			
NUMBER OF RESPONDENT		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTE	<b>Integration of private and public green</b>													
	maintenance and operate private green for the public interest	√	√	√	√	√								
	make private green partially accessible to the public; with limited area and limited activity							√						
	develop facilities or promote activities for the public within private green to enable the integration		√						√		√	√	√	√
	improvement of the quality of private green directly visible from public areas						√							
	strictly oppose to integration of public and private green						√			√				
	<b>Integration of closed public green areas of Ankara with public green</b>													
	maintenance and operate closed public areas of Ankara for the public interest					√								
	make special green partially accessible to the public; with limited area and limited activity	√	√											
	develop facilities or promote activities for the public within private green to enable the integration													
	improvement of the quality of private green directly visible from public areas	√					√							
	strictly oppose to integration of special-public green with public green			√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

When the distribution of support of “strategy of integration of private green with public green” for the closed public areas of Ankara among institutions is considered, it is observed that almost all of the informants were generally against to the integration of private green with public green spaces of Ankara. Intensions of the respondents from private sector again differentiate. But there are some strategies like development of a management strategy by the property owner such as partially open these areas to the public use with limited area and limited activity (Informant

1), a common-use project for the private lands of housing areas (Informant 2) and some management system strategies are proposed. (see Figure 5.3)

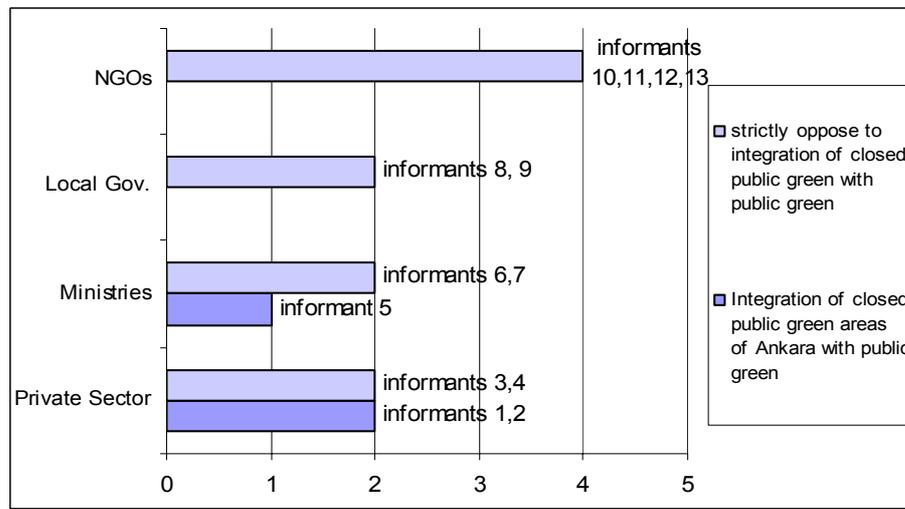


Figure 5.3. Distribution of support of “strategy of integration of private green with public green” for the closed public areas of Ankara among institutions

The proposals of the ministries are determined by the sectoral views of the ministries. For instance, Informant 5, from Ministry of Tourism and Culture has responded again with a well-defined legal background which would prevent the right of private property such as paying for use solutions to realize an efficient use of the private areas. On the other hand, Informant 6 from Ministry of Environment and Forestry, has suggested only physical (physical continuity with the existing green areas and the newly planned green areas) and visual relationships (visual activities) with these areas.

Here, the important point is Informants 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 have strictly warned against the integration of public and private areas of green areas because of the high possibility of transformation of the sites to rentable activities after the public use. This statement seems to be a weakness in green space planning-management processes, which indicates the untrustworthiness to the local government authorities.

### 5.2.1.1.2. City-scale Ecological Planning Strategies

Quality of life perspective considers the ecological attributes of urban green spaces in a city for improving the sustainability and biodiversity in the city. In the city scale considerations, unisolated large green areas where the wildlife penetrates into the city by migration between the patches of urban green are the ecological requirements to improve the quality of life. The problematique of continuity of green spaces have scrutinized in the previous section. However, when the intention behind this suggestion is investigated via question no. 5, it is observed that that the reason behind this continuity proposal is physical and climatic rather than biodiversity demand. The responses about the intensions behind continuity are shown in Table 5.5.

Table 5.5. The responses on ecological attributes of green space planning

		Private Planner				Ministries			Local		NGOs			
NUMBER OF RESPONDENT		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
ECOLOGIC ATTRIBUTE	<i>Preservation of Continuity of Urban Green</i>	√			√		√	√	√	√		√	√	√
	Preservation of Continuity as a Physical Demand	√									√	√		
	Preservation of Continuity of Green spaces in the air circulation corridors				√		√	√	√	√			√	√
	Preservation is required for penetration and dispersal of wildlife and biodiversity into the city by migration		√											
	<i>Preservation of Green is not a requirement</i>			√		√								

During the interviews, Informant 1; Informant 6 from Ministry of Environment and Forestry and two respondents from NGOs made the ecologic emphasis on these proposals. Here, the important point is only one respondent from private sector, Informant 2, has pointed to the preservation and penetration of urban green areas to enable the dispersal of wildlife and biodiversity into the city. *Unexpectedly*, Informant 6, from Ministry of Environment and Forestry, who defend ecological planning principles, has not noticed to the ecologic criterion of connectivity, size and shape of green areas green areas to enable migration of species in green areas. *Accordingly, it can be claimed that most of the respondents are unaware about the ecological benefits and requirements of the urban green spaces.*

### 5.2.1.2. Neighborhood Scale Green Space Planning of Ankara

The neighborhood scale green space planning and quality of life relationship is established under the issues of recreation activities, distribution of green facilities and use of green areas. Neighborhood areas donated with sufficient and high quality green spaces, which are used and appreciated by the inhabitants, improve both the quality of the neighborhood areas and quality of life.

It can be observed from the responses that most of the respondents have established the neighborhood scale relationship between green space planning of Ankara and quality of life such as principles of quality of green spaces, provision of service standards and functional and equal service distribution.

- Respondents from Private Sector

*The Informant 1* has emphasized on the social and psychological aspects of green space planning by considering sporting, playgrounds and community places as social interaction, living and sharing areas.

*The Informant 2*, has focused on the availability of the green areas as social services. Here, maximum benefit should be get from the natural values as social services, i.e. Ankara Stream. The natural parks go on with sporting areas and playgrounds in the neighborhood areas to respond to the *green standards*.

*Informant 3*, has emphasized on quantitative and qualitative improvement of green spaces of Ankara to attain quality of life. The quantitative, qualitative use and distributary performance criterion are the focus of the green space planning.

*Informant 4*, has claimed for the improvement of the recreation potential at the large vast lands of Ankara which will improve the quality of life. Urban green spaces not only considered within macroform relations, but also with their recreation potentials in the neighborhood parks in near greenery. Additionally, these greenery areas turn into urban design elements of public spaces, squares, courtyards, pedestrian streets etc in the city center.

- Respondents from Ministries

The respondent from Ministry of Tourism and Culture, *Informant 5*, has proposed active green areas donated with activities and facilities designed via quality principles and urban design criteria. Even, quantity of some green areas would be sacrificed to “improvement of the use of the green area”. For the sake of promotion of urban rent, the economic benefits of the green space planning with a focus on commercial and economic activities, which would realize an efficient use of green areas, are supported.

In the neighborhood scale relationship between green spaces and quality of life, the respondent from Ministry of Environment and Forestry, *Informant 6*, has evaluated urban green areas as anti-urban entities. The planning priority of the respondent is determined by ecological planning approach, which does not harm the ecological balance of the area. The intention of this proposal is evaluation of urban green areas as an anti-urban entity. The respondent has also supported location of urban space activities in green areas to supply self-sufficiency in case of they do not harm the ecological balance of the area. Accordingly, the protection based use is the main objective of provision of quality of life in the neighborhood scale.

The respondent from Ministry of Public Works and Settlement, *Informant 7*, has also focused on the improvement of solid-void-balanced settlements in the neighborhood scale, which reflect the spatial configuration of *green standards*. The active use of green areas as interaction areas of the city center, not only supported with the permanent functions on the green area, but also with activities on it. The numerical data of natural-thresholds and standards, active-passive green ratios and active use are expected to improve quality of life.

- Respondents from Local Governments

The common points of respondents from Ankara Greater Municipality and Special Provincial Government of Ankara is their local government management strategies about their notion of green space productions as a part of service production and distribution. It can be observed that both of the institutions take into attention the social outputs of the green sites and their accessible distribution.

The *Informant 8*, from Special Provincial Government of Ankara, has advocated the preparation of plans considering use and use value of the green areas. The Informant 8 has claimed for recreation and activity based green network (“Recreation Network”) in Ankara’s green spaces to produce qualified spaces. The main pre-requirement of quality of the green area is evoking of feeling of public ownership. Accordingly, in the planning process, feeling of ownership dominates over the physical and numerical data according to the respondent’s quality of life perspective. As a result, he proposes resting, still areas and he is totally against the green areas of attraction-sensation centers, amusement and entertainment parks.

As the most efficient actor, directing the current developments of built and natural environment in the city of Ankara, Metropolitan Municipality of Ankara operates its studies on green spaces through different Directorates. Determination of the general concepts guiding the green space planning through green projects are in the responsibility of Directorate of Environmental Protection and private design offices which has the right of preparation of urban design projects/green projects as a result of adjudications. The respondents from the municipality have focused on the service production and service distribution issues. The private design office of Artı Mimarlık which has prepared many of the green space projects in Ankara claimed the design principles of their office as to produce activity based responses to the needs of the inhabitants.

- *Respondents from NGOs*

The common points of the demands of the NGOs are on the enhancement of production of neighborhood scale green areas, high amount of green areas and qualitative provision of green spaces of Ankara to provide a balanced solid-void development, environmental quality and quality of life. The specific attributes of the demands of NGOs are determined by neighborhood scale context of green space planning. They claim for high quality green areas and accessible green areas. The respondent from Ankaram Platform, Informant 10, has criticized the high density development demolishing the existing green areas of Ankara in addition to production of grey environments of the urban authorities. The respondent from KOR-DER, Informant 11, has generally pointed to the high density urbanization and high ratio of area of building bases in the neighborhood areas. Informant 12, has proposed the physically, socially, aesthetically sensitive production of the green

areas of grounded on scientific bases. The main critique is the destruction of existing green areas in the city center and high density urbanization. The main demand was protection of green spaces in neighborhood areas which are specifically planned, designed, maintained, and managed.

### 5.2.1.2.1. Neighborhood Scale Economical PLanning Strategies

Urban green spaces have economic benefits to the urban life. First, these areas provide lands for economically profitable function and activities (permanent or temporary) which enable vitality of the site, create extra budget for the area and provide self-sufficiency of the green areas. The economic attributes of the respondents are displayed through questions no. 11-12.

It can be stated that most of the respondents have not admitted the economic aspects of urban green areas and self-sufficiency of green areas which is supplied by economic functions on it. The responses of self-sufficiency criteria of green spaces are demonstrated below.

Table 5.6. The responses on “Self-sufficiency” of green spaces of Ankara

		Private Planner				Ministries			Local		NGOs				
NUMBER OF RESPONDENT		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
<b>ECONOMIC ATTRIBUTE</b>	<b>Self-sufficiency of the Green</b>	√	√			√	√	√		√				√	
	Should be supported by alternative ways of funding i.e. sponsorship, funds etc					√				√					
	Financial support of green areas via permanent commercial activities such as restaurants, cafes	√				√				√					
	Financial support of green areas via temporary economic activities such as conventions, fiscal incentives	√	√			√		√							
	Economic activities should be supported even not harmful to ecologic-natural balance		√				√							√	
	Economic benefit should be supported by partially accessibility of the public by administration and fees								√						
	Economic profit should be supported by local taxes								√						
	<b>Sufficiency should be supported by municipality budget</b>			√	√					√		√	√		√

As it can be observed from the Table 5.6., the intension of economic dimension of green space planning is differentiating. When the distribution of responses of the respondent groups and the underlying thought are considered, it can be observed that two of the respondents from private sector claims self-sufficiency as essential

and two of them are not. Informant 1 has supported self-sufficiency realized through the all kinds of support with the condition of the direct-transfer of this economic benefit for the development of the green area. Informant 2 has admitted the self-sufficiency requirement supported by temporary activities even if they are not harmful to ecologic balance. Informants 3, 4 have claimed that local authorities do not have to deal with self-sufficiency of public services.

The responses of ministries were on the direction of provision of self-sufficiency of the green areas but the ways of provision of self-sufficiency are differentiating. Informant 5, from Ministry of Tourism and Culture, has absolutely advocated the permanent and temporary activities in green space to generate income and to improve environmental quality. Informant 7, from Ministry of Public Works and of Settlement, has claimed for a medium by combining the profitable activities and preservation of natural beauty of the site to enable self-sufficiency of green areas. Accordingly, informant 7 has noticed to the alternative ways of economic benefits such as permanent activities, fees and local taxes. On the other hand, Informant 6 has admitted location of the economically profitable activities in the green areas with the exception of not to harm the ecological and natural balance.

It can be observed that the complementary respondents from municipality have fully supported the self-sufficiency of green areas. Complementary respondents of Informant 9, from Directorate of Environmental Protection of Ankara Metropolitan Municipality and private design office of Artı Mimarlık have demanded for full support of economically profitable activities in these areas. However, the self-sufficiency of the green areas realized through economically profitable functions more than activities or socio-economic configurations. The responses of the two local governments are again contrary. Informant 8, from Special Provincial Government of Ankara warns against the mutual relationship between self-sufficiency and rent initiatives.

Among NGOs only Informant 12 has demanded self-sufficiency initiatives even they do not harm the ecological balance.

Briefly, when the distribution of responses about economic attributes is considered, it can be inferred that responses of the private sector are differentiating because of personal admittances. On the other hand, all of the ministries seem to commit with the economic attributes of self-sufficiency and appraisal of economic benefits in the

green spaces. Similarly, complementary respondents from the municipality have advocated these economic benefits and self-sufficiency. On the contrary, Informant 8, from Special Provincial Government of Ankara and the respondents from NGOs are strictly against the economic value and economic profit based implementations. The distribution of the attributes on self sufficiency among respondent groups is schematized in Figure 5.4.

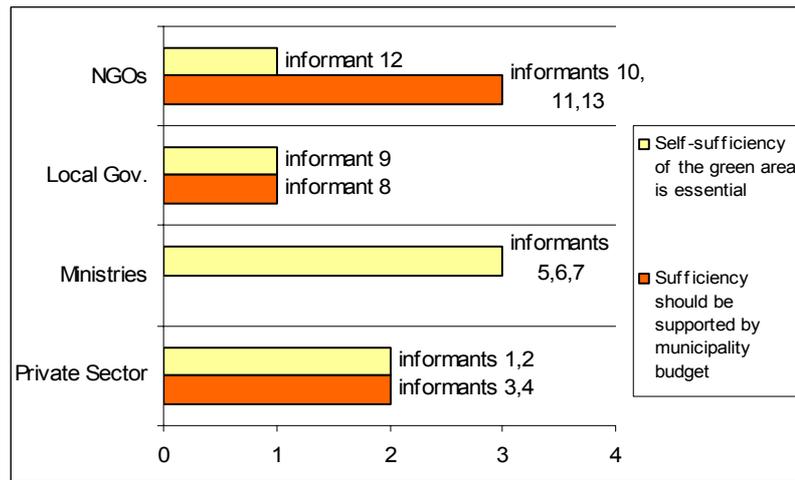


Figure 5.4. Distribution of the attributes on self sufficiency among respondent groups

*Here the important point is* the common and important statements of informants 8, 10, 11, 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 13 about warning against the high possibility of transformation of economic value consideration and self-sufficiency initiatives turning into profit-based approaches to green areas which are never been utilized as a profit for the green area. Informants 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 have claimed that merely activities to respond the needs of the users and inhabitants should be supported in green areas by criticizing the current implementations of the local authorities

As a part of economic attributes, when the socio-economic considerations of respondents evaluated, it can be observed that, there is little attendance to the socio-economic dimensions of green spaces. As illustrated in Table 5.7, while considerations on productivity, education functions are too less (Informant 8, 1, 12) none of the respondents have considered employment function of green. About the socio-economic dimensions of urban green spaces, Informant 8, from Special Provincial Government of Ankara, has taken attention by considering production and education functions and quality and accessibility dimensions of urban green spaces.

On the contrary, the accessibility and quality dimensions commonly mentioned by almost all of the respondents except Informants 2, 5, 6, 7.

Table 5.7. The responses on “socio-economic dimensions of green spaces” of Ankara.

	NUMBER OF RESPONDENT	Private Planner				Ministries			Local Gov.		NGOs			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
ECONOMICATI	<i>Consideration of Socio-economic Dimensions</i>													
	Consideration of Accessibility of the Green	√		√	√				√	√	√	√	√	√
	Consideration of Productivity Function of Green								√					
	Consideration of Employment Fuction of Green													
	Consideration of Education Function of Green	√							√				√	
	Consideration of Quality Dimensions	√		√	√	√			√	√	√	√	√	√

### 5.2.1.3. Individual/Community Level Green Space Planning of Ankara

Individual/Community Level Green Space Planning figures out the social and design attributes of green space planning from the point of professionals. According to the individual level green space planning in relation with the quality of life, there is a special attendance to the user-space interaction under the criterion of *social inclusion, identity, social interaction, multi-functionality, vitality* which will improve *sense of satisfaction with the environment*. When an environment is used and appreciated by the users, it also prevents from deterioration of the site

Today, one of the main problems of urban green areas is the deterioration problem of green areas both physically and socially. As a result, urban green spaces become insecure and dark spaces of cities and not preferred to be used by the inhabitants. As an ongoing cycling process, the green areas continue to deteriorate because of leaving and un-use. According to the theoretical researches on green areas, these problems are generally social-based problems, which derive from, and simultaneously lead to, insufficient interaction between the users and these spaces.

Here, the individual level quality of life of urban green planning is considered through the use-deterioration priorities of the respondents for the city Ankara and through social strategies to improve use, diversity, quality and public health. The attributes of the respondents on social aspects of planning have gathered from the questions about social attributes (question no. 9-10).

The individual level green space planning priorities of the respondents are as in the following:

- Respondents from Private Sector

*The Informant 1*, from private sector, has noticed to the psychological influences and social interaction functions of urban green spaces. He mentioned about the security problems and submitted improvement of use of green areas as a challenge to the security problems of these sites.

*The Informant 2*, has not made any attention another than the naturalness and soft landscape which he prefers as elements in the green areas.

*Informant 3*, has demanded qualitative differentiations such as natural-artificial green areas, sporting-playground areas to respond to the different levels of social groups have to be provided. This strategy reinforces of personal life style in green areas and improves social inclusion in green space planning-design processes of the city Ankara.

*Informant 4*, is the only respondent who mentioned multi-functionality and mix-use in green areas to improve individual level quality of life. The user profile and accessibility are the keywords of qualified neighborhood parks.

- Respondents from Ministries

When the responses of the informants from ministries about the individual level quality of life are considered, it can be inferred that the respondents have generally emphasized on the keywords which are related to their ministries main sectoral goals and their scope of responsibility.

*Informant 5*, from Ministry of Tourism and Culture, has dealt with the improvement of active use of green spaces in a different manner; improvement of active use of green areas by *attractive* activities to prevent from deterioration and promote the quality of the site. In relation with the mission of respondent's institution inclusion of aesthetic and cultural aspects in green areas as a design strategy and aesthetic aspects of green areas are introduced to improve individual level quality of life.

*Informant 6*, from Ministry of Environment and Forestry, has only stated exploration natural world in the planning-design processes in relation with the mission of respondent's institution.

*Informant 7*, from Ministry of Public Works and Settlement, has not made any statement on the individual level quality of life.

- *Respondents from Local Governments*

The *Informant 8*, from Special Provincial Government of Ankara, is the respondent who has focused on individual level quality of life the most. Requirement of local use, sense of time/sense of place, public support, community ownership, social inclusion in green space planning-design processes of the city Ankara are advocated to improve quality of life. Additionally, use-value based socio-economic functions of green spaces such as education function, accessibility etc has emphasized by the respondent.

The complementary respondent of informant 9, from the Directorate of Environmental Protection has advocated social aspects of green space planning as consideration of distribution and quality of green spaces of Ankara, the social considerations have not mentioned in the specific attributes.

- *Respondents from NGOs*

The respondents from NGOs generally ignored the individual level quality of life. The quality principles emphasized are determined by criticism of current representation of urban life in the green spaces of Ankara. Among NGOs, merely, Informant 12 has emphasized on use of green areas which will prevent from deterioration and Informant 11 has mentioned symbolism and memory.

*The interesting point* about the frequent focuses of Informants 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 frequently repeated keywords of exploration of the natural world, promotion of high quality living conditions through the representation of urban culture, context dependency design and clear design elements. Such that, these considerations overwhelms the popular keywords of urban design such as social inclusion, multi-functionality, psychological accessibility and sense of time/sense of place. The causal intention behind this susceptibility seems to be a response to the current park

production models of municipality which are generally criticized by especially by NGOs, from Special Provincial Government of Ankara and some of the respondents from private sector. On the other hand, it can also be observed that, despite their critics most of the respondents are unaware or ignore the main social aspects of green space planning.

The social attributes of the respondents under the headings of strategies to improve use, diversity, quality and public health which as requirements of individual level quality of life is displayed in the Table 5.8.

Table 5.8. The responses on the requirements of individual level quality of life.

	Private Planner				Ministries			Local Gov.		NGOs			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>NUMBER OF RESPONDENT</b>													
<b>Strategies to improve use</b>													
Everyday accessibility				√					√				
Daily Recreational Needs	√			√					√	√	√	√	
Optimise local use								√					
Community ownership								√					
Symbolism and memory												√	
<b>Recreation &amp; Activity</b>	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	
Resting	√		√			√			√	√	√	√	
Sporting	√				√		√		√		√	√	
Family/community events													
Children activity	√	√					√		√				
Diversity of primary and secondary uses													
Promoting and enabling watching activities	√												
Existence of evening and night-time activity													
Street life, Pedestrian flows and vitality					√								
<b>Strategies to improve of diversity</b>													
Multi-functionality				√									
Social Inclusion			√					√					
Reinforce personal lifestyles			√										
Psychological access			√										
Sense of place/ Sense of time								√					
<b>Strategies to improve quality</b>													
Inclusion of Aesthetic Aspects in Green Areas					√								
Inclusion of Cultural (identity) Aspects in Green Areas			√	√	√		√	√		√	√	√	√
Inclusion of Participation and Public Support in planning & design								√					
Security & Confident site use													
Exploration of the natural world		√	√	√		√	√			√	√	√	√
Representation of urban culture (Promoting High Quality Living Conditions)		√	√				√	√		√	√	√	√
Clear design elements			√	√			√	√		√	√	√	√
Requirement of context dependent design			√	√			√	√		√	√	√	√
<b>Public Health Strategies</b>													
Psychological benefit; Retreat against stress & pace of urban life	√												
Breathing space of the city and inhabitants		√					√	√		√	√	√	

Similarly, too less respondent have pointed to the strategy of improvement of use of green areas to improve quality under the dictum of “use prevents deterioration”. As shown in Table 5.9., most of the respondents (Informants 2, 3, 4, 10, 12, 13) have

directly pointed to the non-maintenance of municipality as the reasons of deterioration of green spaces of Ankara. Merely the Informants 1, 5, 8, 11 have advocated the promotion of use of green spaces and interaction between user and space to prevent deterioration of green spaces of Ankara. The responsible authority about maintenance and improvement of quality of green spaces is the municipalities. The complementary respondent of Informant 9, respondent from Directorate of Environmental Protection has pointed to the low amount of municipality budget as the reason of deterioration in green areas. On the other hand Informant 6, from Ministry of Environment and Forestry has noticed to the lack of legal background for protection in these areas.

Table 5.9. The responses on “reason of deterioration” of green spaces of Ankara.

		Private Planner				Ministries			Local		NGOs			
NUMBER OF RESPONDENT		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>reason of deterioration</i>														
<b>SOCIAL ATTRIBUTE</b>	<b>social reasons</b>													
	lack of public support and participation								√					
	lack of use of urban green spaces which will increase	√				√						√		
	<b>politic reasons</b>													
	non-maintenance of municipality		√	√	√			√			√		√	√
	<b>economic reasons</b>													
	low amount of municipality budget									√				
	<b>legal deficiencies</b>													
	lack of legal protection as a management strategy						√							

As a result, it can be inferred that there is a remarkable weakness in constitution of social context of individual level quality of life in the planning process. Strategies to improve use, diversity, quality and public health which are defined as requirements of individual level quality of life to improve sense of satisfaction with the environment are eliminated from the planning process by the leading agents. While recreation function of green spaces in the neighborhood scale is emphasized by almost all of the respondents, the individual level responses which improves diversity and quality such as family and community events, vitality, diversity of primary and secondary uses, existence of evening and night-time activities have not mentioned by the respondents. The user-space interaction is too less considered, and has little contributions to the planning process. The main of admittance of “use prevents deterioration” dictum is not accepted in relation to green spaces of Ankara. This situation is while charging all the responsibility to the public authorities; it also eliminates the human factor from planning process.

### 5.3. The Evaluation: Changing (the) Meaning in the Ankara Context

Among urban green space theory, there are some main theoretical bases of planning: physical planning, social planning, ecological planning and economic planning. Complementarily, urban green spaces could be conceived in relation with their conceptual ties in various ways; urban green as nature and greenery in cities, urban green as open spaces of urban structure, urban green as public areas of urban life. The comprehensive accumulation of these bases provides a holistic green space planning which improves quality of urban environment and quality of life in all scales and in all dimensions of life. These assessments directly orient the main configuration of planning of green spaces.

The conceptual envisions of the respondents and their theoretical basis of the planning which are inferred from the general atmosphere of the interviews and responses, about these conceptual assessments of the respondents are schematized in Table 5.10. and Table 5.11.

Table 5.10. Conceptual envisions of the respondents about urban green spaces of Ankara.

	Private Planner				Ministries			Local		NGOs			
NUMBER OF RESPONDENT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>Terminological Emphasis</b>													
Emphasis on publicity character of urban green	√				√			√					
Emphasis on openness character of urban green			√	√			√		√				√
Emphasis on natural and greenery character		√				√	√		√	√	√	√	√

Table 5.11. Classification of the theoretical basis of respondents' green space planning proposals for Ankara

	Private Planner				Ministries			Local Gov.			NGOs			
NUMBER OF RESPONDENT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9c.	10	11	12	13
<b>Planning Attributes</b>														
Physical Planning Approach			√	√			√		√					
Social Planning Approach	√						√	√		√	√	√	√	
Ecological Planning Approach		√				√		√	√		√			√
Economic Planning Approach					√					√				

When the theoretical and conceptual basis of the planning approach of the respondents are considered, it can be observed that urban green spaces are merely conceived as natural, greenery areas. The urban planners have focused on the greenery and open space character of green spaces. NGOs mostly consider them with their natural characteristics. On the other hand, the consideration of urban

green spaces as public areas is too less and it is related to the personal admittances rather than institutional links. As a result, it can be inferred that the leading agents directing the urban green spaces eliminate the holistic contributions of green areas to the city and to the urban life.

Additionally, when the theoretical bases of green planning of the leading agents are considered, it can be claimed that there is a problem of holistic viewpoint on green space planning. None of the respondents have simultaneously considered physical, social, ecologic and economic aspects of green space planning. The respondents have generally focused on one or two aspects of planning and eliminated the others. Main emphasis of the planning professionals were on the physical planning approach. Economic dimension of green space planning is the predominantly the excluded one.

When the distribution of theoretical basis of green space planning among respondent groups is considered, it can be claimed that the institutional links and sectoral notions of respondents' institution dominantly determines his/her theoretical basis of green space planning. Respondents from private sector have generally focused on physicality and physical planning approaches of green space planning. This could be explained by their scope of responsibility and mobility about green space planning which is restricted by the classic physical planning projects. On the other hand, while theoretical basis of priorities of Informant 2 withstands on ecological planning approach and considers natural character of urban green spaces, Informant 2 embraces the social aspects of green space planning and its public space character.

When the theoretical bases of green space planning of respondents from ministries are considered, it can be observed that the rationalities of the green space planning are determined by the sectoral viewpoints of their ministries. Informant 5, from Ministry of Tourism and Culture, foresees a development based model green space planning of Ankara which aims to produce economic profit. His conceptual assessment focuses on the green space as a public space. Contrastly, Informant 6, from Ministry of Environment and Forestry, proposes a protection model based on ecologic planning principles for the green spaces of Ankara and his conceptual assessment is on greenery and natural character. Similarly, the respondent from Ministry of Public Works and Settlement develops the green space planning in the direction of her institution's strategy of development of urban settlement in Ankara,

propagates physical and social aspects of green space planning, and propagates natural and open space character of green spaces.

On the other hand, while the strategies of local governments differ, their common social desire is the production and distribution of urban services. In this direction, Special Provincial Government of Ankara strictly declares for participatory planning processes and public character of green spaces by emphasizing the social aspects of green space planning. Ankara Metropolitan Municipality emphasizes different aspects of planning in its different directorates. But, as a result of the directorate's main target, the respondent from Directorate of Urban Physical Planning focuses on ecologic planning and natural character of green spaces and physical and open space dimensions of green space planning. On the other hand, the complementary respondents from Directorate of Environmental Protection and Artı Mimarlık have emphasized on the social and design aspects of green areas and greenery and public space character of green spaces.

The NGOs demands about green spaces of Ankara are generally on the neighborhood level social support of green areas. Accordingly, their conceptual assessments of green areas were in relation with natural and greenery character of green spaces. Priorities of demands were neighborhood level social provision of service of green areas. Additionally, Informant 10 from Ankaram Platform and Informant 13, the chief of Chamber of Urban Planners additional focus were also on ecological principles of planning.

In the direction of the investigation of multi-scale and multi-dimensional planning attributes of the respondents, it can be concluded that main problems of directing the urban green space planning process are:

- the lack of full knowledge and skills on the theoretical and conceptual professional judgements (the leading agents generally ignore the holistic, multi-scale, multi-dimensional aspects of green space planning covering physical, social, ecologic and economic dimensions of planning in city scale, neighborhood scale and individual level.
- lack of a unitary green space planning strategy supported with cooperation and coordination between the responsible institutions.

(the leading agents propose different strategies on urban green spaces determined by their institutional notions and sectoral targets

Finally, it can be inferred that, the conditions of quality of life change its meanings in the Ankara case. Theoretical admittances of self-sufficiency, integration strategies, social contexts of planning gain new meanings in the Ankara context. Accordingly, the planning strategies have to be developed originating from the local context.

#### **5.4. Development of Guidelines for Urban Green Space Planning Ankara**

When the theoretical and conceptual viewpoints of the respondents on green space planning is considered, it can be claimed that the responsible actors of planners do not have a holistic green space imaginations comprising physical social, ecologic and economic dimensions redefined in all scales. As a result, urban green spaces should not improve/contribute the quality of life of the inhabitants in all scales of life and in all dimensions of planning. Additionally, there is a gap between the responsible institutions' green space planning strategies. The sectoral and institutional targets strengths should be benefited to in realize a holistic unitary green space planning strategy. Accordingly, the agents' imagination of urban green space planning on merely physical entities should be surpassed.

In the light of the interviews with the leading agents about the green space planning for Ankara, to improve urban structure and quality of life in Ankara by means of urban green space planning, the following policy guidelines would help recover the green space planning process:

- An integrative and interactive process in planning, design and management of green spaces should be developed by concerning main aspects (concept, data and functions) of multi-scale (city scale, neighborhood scale, individual level of satisfaction), multi-dimensional (ecologic, economic, social and physical dimensions) contexts of green space planning
- An integrated and comprehensive trans-institutional environmental agenda and a sectoral green space plan should be developed for the future green spaces of Ankara by development of strategies, the application of planning instruments, and the implementation of programs both at Regional Level,

City Level, Site Level and Individual Level based on scientific researches and investigations in coordination with other kinds of planning.

- An institution-wide action plan promoted by local, regional and national strategies in between the responsible institutions which will also generate the exchange of experiences between the different planning authorities and at different levels of planning should be developed as an extension of trans-institutional agendas.
- New schemes of organization and responsibilities should be established which accumulate strengths from the sectoral experiences of different institutions.
- The green space planning should be enhanced by the integration of unitary process of planning-management-design processes
- The green space plans should constitute the conceptual relations including public space-green space relations, open space-green space relations and ecologic natural green space.
- To produce long-term assistance solutions to the urban development strategies to be benefited to the city and urban life
- Social targets of green space planning of Ankara should be suited according to the redefinition of the representation of urban culture and meaning, sense of place, and feeling of community ownership as well as of the requirements and diverse needs of local people
- The gap between planning process and execution process should be filled with the social support of planning and technical support of execution process
- The conflicting gap between the current implementations of the local authorities and the other responsible agents should be bridged with common meetings of planning authorities, non-governmental organizations and inhabitants.

- A new multiple funding planning-management strategies improving socio-economic functions of green spaces based on use value of green spaces to ensure the long-term maintenance and existence of urban green spaces should be considered rather than permanent commercial activities and rent-seeking activities.

## CHAPTER 6

### CONCLUSION

Urban green spaces are complex phenomenon locating both in natural sciences for including bio-physical processes of green spaces and in social sciences for their relationships with human culture. To cover such a complex phenomenon, the interdisciplinary research of quality of life presents a common ground communicating and bridging the divides between human and natural sciences. Such a perspective considers human-environment relationship with its interaction, integration and connection processes in all scales within a unitary perspective integrating different dimensions and perspectives of different disciplines. The holistic framework on urban green spaces, quality of life perspective combines ecologic, economic, social and physical planning fields under the same goal in multi-scale formulations ranging from urban physical pattern to urban life.

At this point, quality of life theory includes the usefulness to provide new measures for the enhancement of ecological, social or economic qualities of urban green spaces; synergistic effects by combining ecological, social and economic approaches; dynamic catalyst that can drive urban regeneration; enhancement of participation and public involvement of citizens and local authorities and in planning and management processes by linking regional, national and local strategies and forming a co-ordinated approach of all local authorities and organizations; development of innovative and multiple funding strategies against the unprofitable sector of environment for prudent use of the existing low budget.

In relation with green spaces, quality of life perspective on urban green spaces could provide new positive developments to form strategies in designing the urban future with ideological, social, cultural and physical contexts and in management of urban green areas on these grounds. The roles of urban green spaces on determination on sustainability and livability of cities by influencing (directly or indirectly) on environmental sources, welfare financing and management of cities come to the forth. At this point, quality of life perspective would be a useful concept in researches of urban green spaces for responding the multi-scale and multi-dimensional contexts of urban green spaces in the urban landscape.

Beyond the urban green structures of Ankara followed, it is observed that natural elements of the city provide many opportunities to urban development, urban form and green space planning. The city has special attributes about green spaces originated from natural characteristics such as topography, water resources, climate, and local vegetations, social characteristics of its green space tradition of representation, transformation and manipulation of social norms, and socio-economic functions of education, employment, production, accessibility, and quality to generation of economic benefit. On the other hand, potentials of urban green spaces of Ankara could not be realized through the current green space planning processes. Ankara's urban green space planning process has many problems in their physical, social, economic and qualitative aspects which are, to some extent, originating from the rationalities behind the green space planning process.

The main focus of the study is the urban green space planning perspectives in the case of Ankara with a particular attention to quality of life. Ankara's green spaces are directly generated by outcomes of planning activities. As a result, leading agents of green space planning of Ankara gain special importance as one of the factor orienting the Ankara's urban environment. Accordingly, a deep survey of the viewpoints through interviews held with the leading agents from private sector, ministries of central government, local government institutions and NGOs and plans of the responsible institutions are held to identify intensions and priorities of the urban green space planning process oriented through some unique experiences of Ankara. When the Ankara's urban green space planning process is considered, it can be concluded that the priorities and rationalities of urban green space planning of Ankara is generated through conceptual and theoretical admittances of the responsible actor's professional planning approach, personal sensitivities and judgements of the planner, and sectoral and notional views of the responsible institutions.

The main problems of green space planning are the lack of full knowledge and skills on the theoretical and conceptual professional judgements, and lack of a unitary green space planning strategy supported with cooperation and coordination between the responsible institutions. At this point, a planning strategy of quality of life perspective would provide a holistic framework to enhance urban green spaces of Ankara. Urban green space planning process should be enhanced by an integrative and interactive process in planning, design and management of green spaces which concerns main aspects (concept, data and functions) in multi-scale

(city scale, neighborhood scale, individual level of satisfaction), multi-dimensional (ecologic, economic, social and physical dimensions) perspective of green space planning.

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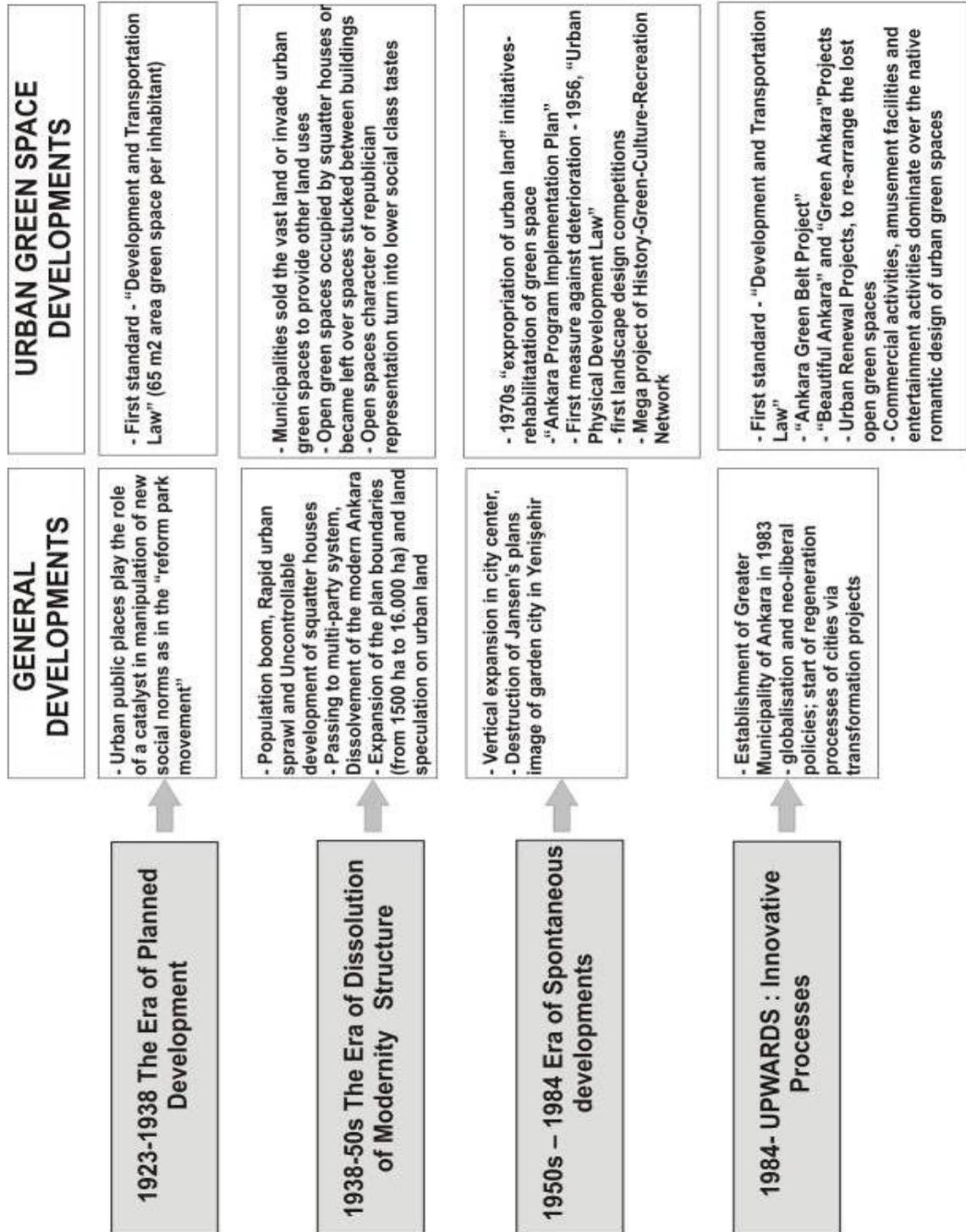
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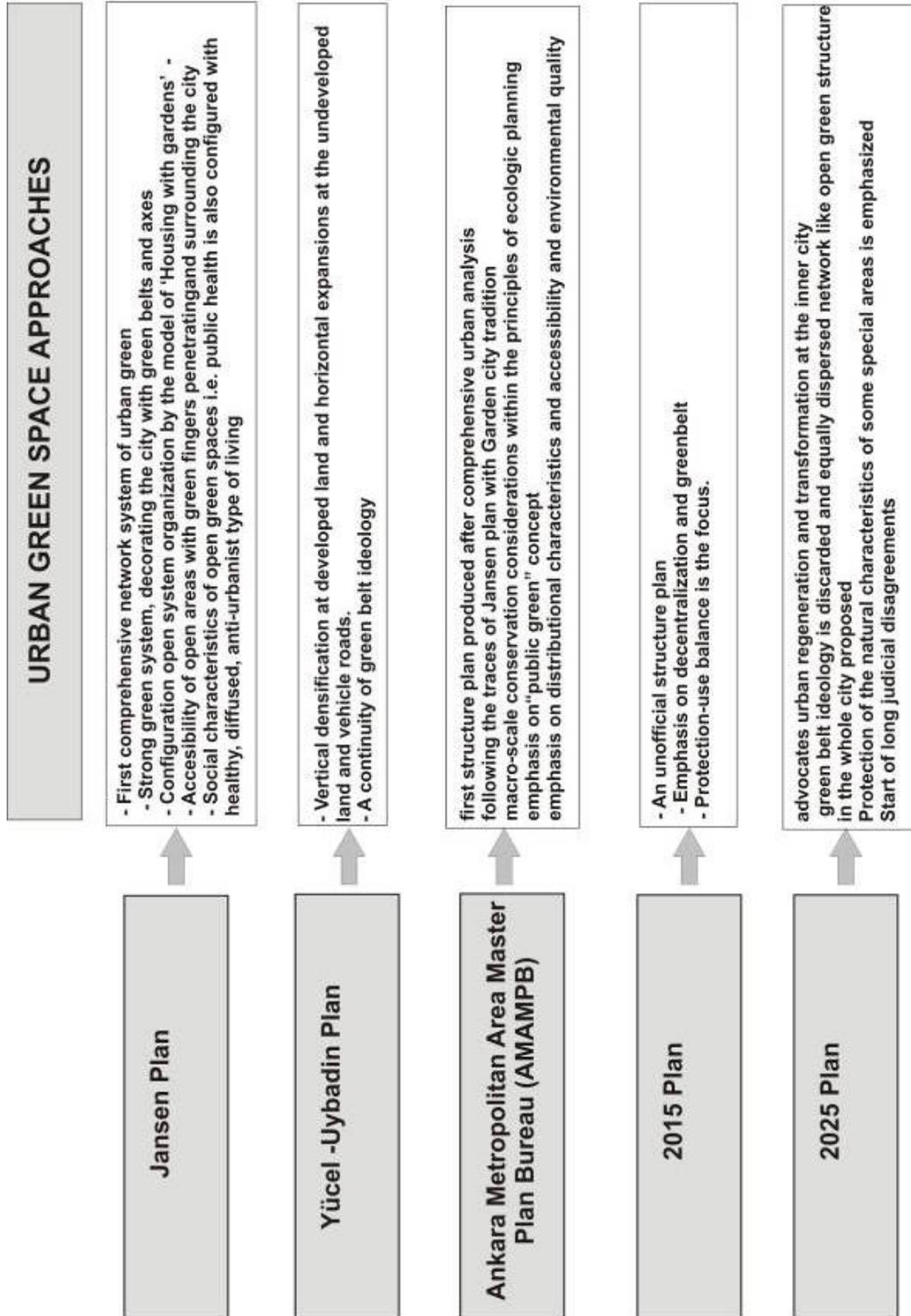
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## APPENDIX A. HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF URBAN GREEN SPACES IN ANKARA



**APPENDIX B. URBAN GREEN SPACE APPROACHES OF ANKARA'S PLANNING EXPERIENCES**



## APPENDIX C. THE IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Date:

Name of Interviewee:

Institution:

Position:

### In-Depth Interview Questions

1. What are the main potentials of Ankara's urban green spaces? How do you define the main targets of green space planning of Ankara in your/your institution's plans?
2. What is your/your institution's intensities and responsibilities in green space planning of Ankara in your/your institution's plans?
3. What are the main performance criterion you/your institution consider in your/your institution's plans to achieve a well-functioned green space planning of Ankara?
4. What does the popular dictum quality of life evoke to you/your institution in relation with green spaces? What do you/your institution think about the contributions of these areas to the urban and urban life?
5. How do you/ your institution commend on ecological planning of green space planning of Ankara? Do you/your institution improve the ecologic inputs and notions in your/your institution's plans? Is it essential?
6. Do you/ your institution improve the green belt of Ankara in plans? Do you/ your institution absolutely try to realise the continuity of green spaces of Ankara? Do you/ your institution think that the admittance of continuity of the green areas of Ankara have to be realised?
7. What is your/ your institution's inclination about the integration of private green areas with public green areas? Does your/ your institution's plans have some intentions to integrate these areas to the green spaces of Ankara?
8. Similarly, what is your/your institution's inclination about the public and private green areas of Ankara such as public institution areas, military areas, assembly gardens, METU forest etc.which are not open to public use? Does your/ your institution's plans have some intentions to integrate these areas to the green spaces of Ankara?
9. What do you/your institution think about the deterioration of green spaces of Ankara? How can you/your institution resist it?
10. How do you/your institution's plans improve the social outputs of urban green spaces? What kind of activity types or land uses do you propose in your/your institution's plans for the green spaces of Ankara?

- 11.** What do you/your institution' think about the economic value of man-made and natural environment? Do you/ your institution support self-sufficiency of the green sites?
- 12.** Do you/your institution improve economic benefit of the green areas in your/your institution's plans? How do you/your institution get economic benefits from green areas by means of planning?
- 13.** What are your/your institution's limitations in preparation/production-implementation process of the plans? Do you/your institution have the full-authority in realisation of the plans?