

INCLUSIVITY OF PUBLIC SPACE:
CHANGING INCLUSIVITY OF AN URBAN PARK, GENÇLİK PARKI, ANKARA

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ABSTRACT

INCLUSIVITY OF PUBLIC SPACE:
CHANGING 'INCLUSIVITY' OF AN URBAN PARK, GENÇLİK PARKI,
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Public spaces are the fundamental elements of urban space. Their quality significantly enhances the quality of urban life. Despite their inevitable significance, the 'inclusivity' of public spaces has been threatened, especially in contemporary cities, primarily by the neoliberal policies, globalization and the recent advances in communication technologies. Besides, the declining 'inclusivity' of public spaces is also resulted from the provision and management policies, leading to exclusive places, rather than creating inclusive spaces for all. Public spaces are no longer inclusive spaces, melting pots of the urban arena. They are rather spaces of exclusion due to exclusionary design and management policies.

This research aims to examine the notion of 'inclusivity' of public spaces and to identify the attributes, which describe this notion. It focuses on Gençlik Parkı in Ankara – one of the biggest urban parks in Turkey and one of the most important open public spaces of the Republican regime. It examines the changing 'inclusivity' of this urban park from its construction to nowadays under four historic periods regarding four types of 'access': *physical access, social access, access to activities and discussions, and access to information*. Based on the findings, it discusses the factors and urban design strategies for the improvement of the 'inclusivity' of Gençlik Parkı. It also makes more general recommendations for the enhancement of the 'inclusivity' of public spaces in the city center of Ankara and other Turkish cities.

Keywords: Public space, open public space, urban park, inclusivity, access

ÖZ

KAMUSAL MEKANLARIN TOPLUMSAL DAHİL EDİCİLİĞİ:
KENTSEL BİR PARKIN DEĞİŞEN 'TOPLUMSAL DAHİL EDİCİLİĞİ',
GENÇLİK PARKI, ANKARA

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Yüksek Lisans, Şehir ve Bölge Planlama Bölümü, Kentsel Tasarım

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Kamusal açık alanlar, kentsel mekanın temel unsurlarıdır. Açık kamusal alanların kalitesi, kentsel yaşam kalitesini önemli düzeyde artırır. Tüm vazgeçilemez önemlerine rağmen, çağdaş kentlerin kamusal mekanlarının 'dahil ediciliği', öncelikle neoliberal politikalar, küreselleşme ve iletişim teknolojilerindeki ilerlemeler tarafından tehdit altındadır. Ayrıca, kamusal mekan sunum ve yönetim politikaları, kamusal mekanların 'dahil edicilikleri'ni azaltarak, herkesi kucaklayan mekanlar olmak yerine dışlayıcı mekanlar haline getirmektedir. Kamusal alanlar, artık, herkesin aynı potada eridiği, herkesin dahil edildiği alanlar olmaktan çıkmıştır. Dışlayıcı tasarım ve yönetim politikaları nedeniyle dışlanma alanları

haline gelmiştir. Bu araştırma, kamusal alanların dahil ediciliği kavramını incelemeyi ve bu kavramı belirleyen özellikleri tanımlamayı amaçlamaktadır. Türkiye'nin en büyük kentsel parklarından biri ve Cumhuriyet rejiminin en önemli açık kamusal alanlarından biri olan Ankara'daki Gençlik Parkı'na odaklanmaktadır. Bu parkın değişen dahil ediciliğini kuruluşundan bugüne kadar dört ana tarihi dönem altında dört farklı 'erişebilirlik' türüne (*fiziksel erişilebilirlik, sosyal erişilebilirlik, aktivitelere ve tartışmalara erişilebilirlik, bilgiye erişilebilirlik*) bağlı olarak incelemektedir. Araştırma bulgularına dayanarak, bu çalışma Gençlik Parkı'nın dahil ediciliğini artırıcı faktörleri ve kentsel tasarım stratejilerini tartışmaktadır. Aynı zamanda, hem Ankara kent merkezindeki hem de Türkiye kentlerindeki kamusal mekanların dahil ediciliğini geliştirmeye yönelik daha genel öneriler sunmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kamusal mekan, açık kamusal alan, kentsel park, toplumsal dahil edicilik, erişilebilirlik

To my Family

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. DEFINITION OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

Public spaces are the indispensable components of urban settlements. They are the main tools, which enhance the urban quality. They function as the democratic stages for social relations, facilitators of urban image and identity and catalysts for creating a sense of locality. By definition, they are spaces open and accessible to whole society in principle, though not necessarily in practice (Neal, 2010a). Briefly put, they are ideally non-exclusive spaces. Public spaces are also the arenas, ideally owned by the public and managed under public interest (Madanipour, 1996; cited in Landman, 2010, p.132).

The 'ideal public space' ought to be freely accessible and open to free actions of the society deriving from its ontological attributes. However, those attributes have been facing threats since the last three decades (Akkar Ercan, 2007). The threats on public space, its neglect and disappearance have been the major concerns of urban studies. The earlier scholars, such as Jane Jacobs in her book titled "The Death and Life of Great American Cities" in 1961 and Richard Sennett in his book titled "The Fall of Public Man" in 1977, discussed the decline and even death of public open spaces. The recent literature on public space, however, underlines the declining

'publicness' and 'inclusivity' of public spaces, especially in post-industrial cities (Akkar, 2005b; Akkar Ercan, 2007).

The declining 'publicness' of public open spaces can be grounded on various factors, such as rapid urban growth, changing economic structures led to the privatization, commercialization and commodification of public spaces (thus, the creation of quasi-public spaces), changing needs and preferences of the society, cities becoming "agglomerations of atomized individuals" parallel to social transformations, and changes in mobility (Gehl, 2007;Worpole, 2007; Madanipour, 2010a; Neal, 2010b). Beside these commonly discussed factors, the declining 'publicness' and 'inclusivity' of open public spaces are also resulted from the provision and management policies, which exclude the public from the physical spaces and the design, development and management processes of public spaces, rather than creating inclusive spaces for all (Rogers, 2010; Low et al., 2005; Akkar, 2005a; 2005b; Neal, 2010a; Public Research Group n.d.). Therefore, decreasing 'inclusivity' of open public spaces is one of the prominent reasons behind the declining 'publicness' of the open public spaces.

The 'publicness' of open public spaces in Ankara has been in decline due to various factors, some of which are common with the predefined factors above. Gençlik Parkı in Ankara, which is one of the biggest urban parks in Turkey and yet a unique case of Republican ideology which does not resemble its counterparts, has been suffering from its insufficient accessibility to the whole society. Gençlik Parkı was developed in the early-1940s to spread modernization efforts of the new secular, democratic and western-model regime of Turkey to a wider section of the population and to access and contact a variety of groups from different social classes. This public space would enable the members of different classes within the society interact and see each other, and share the same space (Demir, 2006). During its heydays between the mid-1940s and the 1970s, a variety of social groups used the park to socialize, have fun, walk, relax, and entertain. It was the main public

space of Ankara, including various cultural, social and recreational activities. The park, however, were neglected by the municipality for a while from the 1970s to the 2000s, and it became a deteriorated site because of this neglect of the local authority, as well as the increasing use of low-income groups, homeless and unemployed people. Nevertheless, the metropolitan municipality renewed the park between the years 2005-2009. Although the recent renewal project can be considered as a positive attempt of the local authority towards the revitalization of the park, some professionals and researchers argue that the park's 'inclusivity' has been decreasing tremendously, following the recent scheme. Based on this argument, this study has opted to examine the changing 'inclusivity' of Gençlik Parkı as one of the most important public open spaces of Ankara and Turkey.

1.2. AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS OF THE STUDY

The main aims of this thesis are to investigate the notion of 'inclusivity' of open public spaces, to define the attributes, which describe the 'inclusivity' of open public spaces and to find out the ways of improving and enriching the inclusivity of open public spaces. Based on these aims, the main research questions of this study are:

- What is the 'inclusivity' of a public space?
- What are the attributes of an 'inclusive' public space?
- How the 'inclusivity' of a public space can be assessed?
- How the 'inclusivity' of urban open spaces can be improved and enriched?

To answer the first three questions, this research reviews the literature of public space, and seeks to find answer to provide a theoretical framework for this

research, while it seeks to answer the fourth question by using the examination of Gençlik Parkı in Ankara. Based on the literature review on public spaces, this research argues that the inclusivity of public spaces can be assessed regarding four types of 'access': *physical access, social access, access to activities and discussions, and access to information*. By employing a case study method and using Gençlik Parkı as the unit of analysis, this research examines the changing 'inclusivity' of Gençlik Parkı regarding *physical access, social access, access to activities and discussions, and access to information*. The investigation on Gençlik Parkı's inclusivity is carried out under four historic periods; i) The period between 1928 – 1950, ii) The period between 1950 – 1970, iii) The period between 1970 – 2009, iv) The period after 2009.

Revealing the changes in the 'inclusivity' of Gençlik Parkı, this research seeks to discuss the factors and urban design strategies, which can be used for the improvement of the 'inclusivity' of the public open space.

1.3. STRUCTURE OF THE THESIS

This thesis consists of five main chapters including introduction and conclusion. Chapter 2 summarizes the main discussion issues in the literature on public spaces in general and examines the notion of 'inclusivity' in particular. It defines the roles of public spaces in cities, the right to access to public space, examines the definitions of public space and ontological attributes giving a space its 'publicness'. After explaining threats on public spaces in the 21st century, it seeks to define the notion of 'inclusivity' of public spaces, and the attributes of inclusive public spaces. Chapter 3 explains the research method used by this study. Chapter 4, first, investigates the history of Gençlik Parkı regarding four historic periods: 1928 – 1950, 1950 – 1970, 1970 – 2009, and 2009 – 2012. Then, the second part of this chapter examines the inclusivity of Gençlik Parkı in each historic period according

to four types of access; i.e. *physical access*, *social access*, *access to activities and discussions*, and *access to information*. Chapter 5 gives a brief explanation about the findings of the research and provides recommendations about how the inclusivity of Gençlik Parkı can be improved regarding urban design policies. It also seeks to make more general recommendations to improve the inclusivity of the public spaces in the city centre of Ankara and other Turkish cities. Appendices A and B provide the questions of the questionnaire conducted by this research in both Turkish and English, respectively.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter seeks to examine the main discussion issues in the literature on public spaces in general and to study the notion of 'inclusivity' in particular. The first section focuses on the prominent debate issues on public spaces. It seeks to define the roles of public spaces in cities, and the right to access to public space in relation to the recent debates on 'right to the city'. It also tries to examine the definitions of public space and ontological attributes giving a space its 'publicness'. Second, this chapter explains threats on public spaces in the 21st century, and third, it seeks to define the notion of 'inclusivity' of public spaces, as well as its degrees. The fourth section explains the attributes of inclusive public spaces regarding the notion of 'accessibility', while the last section provides a summary of the issues discussed in the chapter.

2.1. DISCUSSIONS ON PUBLIC SPACE

2.1.1. THE ROLES OF PUBLIC SPACE

Public spaces play fundamental roles in cities. They are the sites of sociability. Their quality is often measured as the quality of urban life (Cattell et al., 2008). According to Cattell et al. (2008), they are not only physical entities that provide

activities, but they also possess meanings that pass over time and they create identity for cities and a sense of place.

One of the main roles of public spaces emerges from the need for sociability, which is a basic human need. In addition, they are the brick stones of democracy and the key issue fostering the feeling of locality.

Neal (2010b) defines three further functions of public spaces as the '*facilitators of the civic order*' by providing interactions between society, the '*sites for power and resistance*' and the '*stages for art*'.

According to Carr (1992; cited in Miller, 2007), public spaces address basic human needs within public life by being responsive, democratic and meaningful. They are democratic places as they are accessible to all groups, and they provide people with freedom of action protected as a right by the public agencies.

Likewise, public spaces provide stages for individuals and social groups to meet and intermingle; they provide democratic spaces for them to come together and express their views in an inclusive way without any private interests shaping the environment (Low & Smith, 2006; Watson, 2006 cited in Magalhaes, 2010). As they are stages for the social relations within the community and they fulfill the need for democratic stages, they provide each member of the society with the opportunity for self-actualization. By echoing Arendt's definition of public spaces as "the space of appearance", Greenberg (2009) explains the relation between self-actualization process of the individuals and public spaces as follows:

Seeing and being seen in public says something important about our place in the universe as humans and the connectedness of things. Encountering the 'other' has something fundamental to do with self-actualization, and when we do not find it close to home, we seek it elsewhere. (Greenberg, 2009, p. 33)

Another important role of public spaces is that it fosters the sense of locality, which is a fundamental need for urban developments. Trancik and Gehl (1986, 1987; cited in Zamani 2010) discuss the function of public spaces in the socialization processes of urban citizens and its impact on feeling for locality as follows:

The public open spaces of many societies have played a major role in the urban environment at the neighborhood or urban level, being meaningful settings of our social existence not only in terms of being physical entities per se but also as objects affecting the quality of our social relations and feelings towards our locality. (Trancik, 1986; Gehl, 1987; cited in Zamani 2010, p. 172)

To sum up, public spaces play various roles in cities and urban life. These roles, defined by many urban researchers, can be summarized as: to provide democratic stages to interact inter-public and intra-public so that we can define ourselves and others, to create social bonds in order to have a feeling of locality and to create a sense of place. As far as the literature on the decline of public spaces is examined, one can note that ideals, like democracy and liberty, are threatened and the opportunity to legitimate identity is lost.

2.1.2. RIGHT TO PUBLIC SPACE

The right to the city is far more than the individual liberty to access urban resources: it is a right to change ourselves by changing the city. It is, moreover, a common rather than an individual right since this transformation inevitably depends upon the exercise of a collective power to reshape the processes of urbanization. The freedom to make and remake our cities and ourselves is, I want to argue, one of the most precious yet most neglected of our human rights. (Harvey, 2008, p. 1)

Harvey (2008) has defined, echoing Lefebvre, the right of access to city as a collective right. In addition to this, he (2008) explains that this access does not mean its simplest form, but rather a more comprehensive meaning, such as not

only accessing the city space but also having the access to transform it through collective action. Similarly, Stickells (2011) argue that the right to access city space is more than a visiting right. He (2011) claims that access right is more of a right to transformed and renewed right to urban life.

According to many international NGOs, such as UNESCO and UN-HABITAT, access to public space is considered as a human right, like affordable housing, services and infrastructures, and environmental or social justice. Briefly put, access to public space without exclusion, in other words, a “truly inclusive public space” that is accessible to all is a ‘right’ rather than a ‘privilege’.

2.1.3. DEFINITIONS ON PUBLIC SPACE

Public space has been one of the main concerns of the urban studies due to its fundamental roles in cities and urban life. The reason for its existence is put clear; however, the definitions on public space vary widely. A number of researchers have tried to define public space and its ontological attributes. Neal (2010a, p. 1) defines it as “all areas that are open and accessible to all members of the public in a society, in principle though not necessarily in practice.” Likewise, Lynch (1992; cited in Zamani 2010, p.173) defines public spaces as “open spaces (*that*) are all those regions in the environment which are open to... freely chosen and spontaneous action”. Young (1990; cited in Cattell et al., 2008, p. 544) also defines public spaces as “places ideally accessible to everybody and a space for negotiation for differences”.

Madanipour (1996; cited in Landman, 2010, p.132) defines public space as the “space that allows all the people to have access to it and the activities within it, which is controlled by a public agency, and which is provided and managed in the public interest”. He (2010) also argues that public spaces are variations on the same

essence and the differentiation derives from degrees of accessibility and control over space.

Miller (2007) defines public spaces not just as physical entities, but rather constellations of ideas, actions and environments. He extends the idea of public spaces as being accessible for the whole society and free actions from the society:

We tend to think of public space as having certain essential and obvious characteristics. We believe it is 'publicly owned', the opposite of private space. We believe it is open and accessible to everyone, where no one can be turned away. We imagine it as the setting for important civic events, where large groups of people come together to celebrate, protest, and mourn. We see it as somehow part of democratic life – a place for speaking out and being heard. (Miller, 2007, p. ix)

Kingwell and Turmel (2009) define public space in a similar way: spaces owned by the public and managed under public interest, which varies according to their purposes. They (2009) claim that, as being freely accessible spaces, they have the role of encouraging encounters in-between society and generate a stage for communal actions, such as gathering, protesting, which are essential for the democratic society. Parkinson (2009) define public spaces as freely accessible places, where everyone has free right of entry or informational access, unlike places with control mechanisms that limit access to and use of space. According to Cunningham (2009), openness and anonymity as the most important characteristics of open public spaces. In order to be accessible to the whole society and open for communal actions, public open spaces should be non-exclusive and demographically open (Cunningham, 2009). Thus, people can enjoy public spaces, which are not populated by people who are similar and not threatening and frightening. Likewise, such public places are made use by variety of people different in age, class, occupation, and ethnicity and by people having different worldviews and values (Cunningham, 2009).

Asriany et al. (2011) define real public spaces as spaces open for safe pluralistic interactions, which are the main need for a healthy settlement offering more than economic transactions.

UNESCO (n.d.) defines public spaces as open and accessible to all, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or socio-economic level. Public spaces should be well connected with the public network, such as public transport, and they should be accessible to public buildings for cultural and religious practices. Thus, they need to be integrated through inclusive planning practices (UNESCO, n.d.).

Therefore, it is clear that the main definition of public space comes from its *'openness and access'*, which are the main ontological requirements of the so-called public space. *'Being publicly owned and managed in the public interest'* are also important for public space; however, those are not enough for the fulfillment for the creation of a true public space. Public spaces have the basis on the equality of access to it and distribution of it. To provide stages for social interactions to create a democratic society and a space for self-actualization, public spaces should be inclusive; that is, they should be open and accessible to all the groups within the society. In addition, they should provide stages for free actions not only theoretically, but also in practice.

According to Madanipour (2010a, p.1), along with being the mirror of the social fabric, public open spaces have the power to steer it. He (2010, p.2) suggests that accessible and inclusive public spaces can overcome the problem of fragmentation and serve large groups of the society rather than being exclusive. The ontological requirements of the 20th and 21st-century public spaces are threatened and result in their disuse, decline and even death (Sennett, 1977). However, the provision of inclusive public open spaces where users feel like *'legitimate recipient of services'* can steer up social change towards a more collective and democratic urban social life (Madanipour, 2010b, p. 130).

Public space can be extended to all communal and non-private arenas of social life, like public goods and services. All governmental spaces, local service areas, parks, squares and streets are public spaces with varying degrees of access to, and within them. The scope of this study, however, is limited to open public spaces, especially urban parks. The arguments put forth by this research are only related to the publicly owned public spaces.

2.1.4. ONTOLOGICAL ATTRIBUTES GIVING A SPACE ITS 'PUBLICNESS'

Mitchell (2008) defines 'publicness' in terms of public right. He (2008) defines it as the existence of public power on the '*ordering of the space*', rather than private power. Therefore, in ordering of the space, it is about inclusion rather than exclusion (Mitchell 2008).

Madanipour (2003; p. 112-113) argues that 'publicness' of a public space depends on three factors: a) *rights of access*; b) *rights of use*; and c) *ownership and control*. Similarly, Low and Smith (2006) define the 'publicness' of a public space according to *ownership, accessibility and intersubjectivity*:

There are ontological attributes, essential qualities that give public space its specificity, its publicness. Those can be listed generally as ownership, accessibility and intersubjectivity. (Low and Smith 2006; cited in Magalhaes 2010, p. 562)

According to Magalhaes (2010), what gives a place its publicness comes from the degrees of *access, control over space and actions within it*. It also derives from *who benefits from it and whose interests it supports*. He (2010) adds that it is about the *consuming patterns within it*. Finally, he (2010) claims that publicness of space is about *ownership*, which is the key determinant of ability of users to have rights of use, operations that will take place on that space and monitoring regulations.

Openness is another variable giving a space its publicness. Openness is, in fact, very much the same with the *access to a space* and within that space regardless of any difference:

The publicness of public space derives primarily from its openness. That is, individuals and groups are free to come and go, are free to use the space for its intended purpose and are free to be either active participants or passive spectators. Use of public space is not conditional upon membership in a particular group like a political party or religious community, upon one's income or education, or upon demographic characteristics like age or sex. (Neal, 2010a, p. 2)

Justice Byron White (1983; cited in Neal, 2010a) have written the "three-tiered legal conception of public space known as the public forum doctrine" defined by the English court. Doctrine puts forward three levels of public space that differ by their intended purpose and the extent of their openness:

1. *The quintessential public forum*, includes places like 'streets and parks which have immemorially been held in trust for the public and... have been used for purposes of assembly, communicating thoughts through citizens, and discussing public questions. These places are, and always be, open and accessible to all, with expressive activity limited only in very narrow cases.
2. *Non public forum*, which includes "public property which is not by tradition or designation a forum for public communication". Who may use these public spaces, and how they may use them, can be restricted to specific groups and activities. For example; Post offices.
3. *Limited public forum*; this includes public property that, unlike streets and parks, is not traditionally open, but 'which the state has opened for the use of the public as a place for expressive activity'. Ex: Public School gymnasium. (White, 1983; cited in Neal, 2010a, p. 3)

According to this classification, public open spaces are a type of quintessential public forum and thus open and accessible to all with narrow limitations through the acts of the users.

All these interrogations on the literature of public space reveal that the ‘publicness’ of a public space can be determined regarding:

- public power on the control and management of the space in the public interest.
- access to a space and within a space (openness)
- ownership

That is, public open spaces are ideally controlled, managed and regulated under the public power in the public interest (Akkar, 2005a). This control power over the space is mainly maintained by ownership. In other words, public open spaces are public, as they are owned by the state or public authorities (Akkar, 2005a). Public spaces are also ideally open to and accessible by everybody (Akkar, 2005a). Therefore, they should be inclusive places. Yet, access to public space and within it has never been truly obtained.

The question of ‘inclusivity’ of public space with a total access is the major concern of this research. Within the scope of this study, the notion of ‘inclusivity’ (or ‘openness’ or ‘accessibility’) of public spaces is discussed in depth and in detail in Section 2.3. However, before investigating the notion of ‘inclusivity’ of public space, it is important to understand the current problems, threats and challenges of the 21st-century public spaces.

2.2. THREATS ON PUBLIC SPACE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

2.2.1. CAUSES OF THREATS ON PUBLIC SPACE

The threats on, and the decline of public open spaces have become the major concern of the urban studies over the last three decades. There are various reasons fostering the decline of the public spaces. Neal (2010b) argues that the decline in public space also threatens the public realm, as public spaces are the key elements

for cross-class and multi-cultural contact. Public spaces are regarded as the mirrors of urban societies, as well as those of the social and cultural processes that take place within these societies. Over the last three decades, the social bonds in-between the society have weakened and cities become the “agglomerations of atomized individuals” (Madanipour, 2010a, p. 1). As a result, public open spaces have become fragmented parts of the urban space, rather than being dissolved in its fabric (Madanipour, 2010a, p. 1).

Apart from the weakening social bonds within the society, there are many other reasons for the decline of public spaces: i) the rise of privatization of the public space and privately-owned public spaces which are unequally distributed and controlled by the private actors, ii) increasing mobility resulting in dispersed land uses with suburban developments without public spaces which are accessible to a large group of people, iii) internet and digital social media which create an illusion of social interaction and decrease the need for one-to-one contact, iv) abandoned public spaces due to neglect because of being non-profit resources, and v) the changing social infrastructure and ‘individualistic and inwardly focusing public’ (Neal, 2010b).

Besides, Rogers (2010, p. 60) argues that, most of the time, the decline of the open public spaces is due to hegemonic processes that undertake the economic interest of the dominant agencies in control which are commercial stakeholders. This change in concerns more on commercial needs results in change in the character of public spaces. Public spaces’ character changes from being ‘expressive’ spaces into ‘instrumental’ places for the gain of a privileged group (Madanipour 2010c, p.238).

Gehl (2007) claim that the transformation in the social and economic life of urban environments has caused the decline of the public open spaces. They emphasize on the transformation of the necessary public life of the industrial society into an optional public life of leisure-focused and consumer society. They also declare that,

due to this change in necessity of public space in everyday life, the importance of quality of public space become vital for the survival of those places (Gehl, 2007)

On the other hand, Low et al. (2005) argue that today's threat on public space is not one of disuses, and they claim that this threat is due to "patterns of design and management that exclude some people and reduce social and cultural diversity":

In some cases this exclusion is the result of a deliberate program to reduce the number of undesirables, and in others, it is a by-product of privatization, commercialization, historic preservation, and specific strategies of design and planning. (Low et al., 2005, p.1)

Echoing William H. Whyte, Public Research Group ¹ (n.d.) argues that the decline in open public spaces is caused by the decline in access and control of these spaces, and this negatively affects the quality of those spaces resulting in misuse.

...The social processes that turn spaces into places are through the conflicts over access and control of the space and the values and meanings people attach to place. (Public Research Group, n.d.)

To conclude, the recent threats on the 'publicness' of public spaces are resulted from various factors, such as social changes, changes in mobility, priority of dominant agencies, commercialization, privatization and economic interest. Yet, none of the effects of these factors is as strong as the effect of exclusionary provision and management policies of public spaces, which directly influence the access and control over the space. The main reason behind the decline is grounded on decreasing inclusivity of open public spaces beyond the provision of it. It is also important that this current situation is also harmful for an active public realm.

¹ Public Research Group constitutes of doctoral students at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY), which was founded in New York City by Setha Low.

2.2.2. EXCLUSIONARY PROVISION AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC SPACE

Although public spaces are open and egalitarian by definition, most public spaces do not support this ideal in reality. The existence of large public space that is theoretically open to public does not mean that large groups can meet in that space and use the space freely for their intended purpose. This is caused by the conflicts between those who claim the space for their own use and those who feel excluded (Neal, 2010a, p. 5).

Mitchell (2008), referring to Lefebvre's idea that everyone has 'the right to city', claims that all people are principally entitled to use public space. Similarly, Low et al. (2005) argue that public spaces should be open to all citizens, and claim that these spaces should offer a variety of ways for recreation regarding unique habits of people.

On the contrary, public spaces have been dominated by carefully selected homogenous groups due to power, standing and respectability. Thus, they lost their function as the places of free and unmediated interaction for the whole society (Mitchell, 1995).

Marginal groups, such as woman, young people and homeless, were never truly included in the public space; or their rights to use those spaces were hardly considered based on customs and economics. This ignorance leads to the mis-occupancy of those groups in the public sphere.

The problem of public spaces, not being open and egalitarian, finds its roots back to the ancient periods. Agora, as the starting point of the public space phenomenon in history, was in principle public; however, the openness of the space was quite narrow. "It was open only to a small segment of the population – male citizens-, though non-citizens and lower class females could be found in servant and

shopkeeper roles” (Neal, 2010a, p. 6). The ‘commons’ in England was not socially or civically vibrant as the Agora, and nonetheless served the function of public space as a mediator in between different classes of the society. The ‘commons’ were usually physically closed with fences and hedges according to the enclosure laws and usually their use was restricted to private owners (Neal, 2010a, p. 7).

Cultural practices are also effective restraints on the provision of ideal open and accessible public spaces. Due to “informal rules” of the society, the level of inclusivity (openness or accessibility) of public spaces and to whom or which groups have the right to public space may vary accordingly. This situation mostly turns out in favor of the “tax-paying public” (Neal, 2010a, p. 2). In addition to the cultural practices, the organization of the physical environment also affects the ideal level of openness or accessibility of public space. Even though a space is technically open and accessible to all, its level of accessibility may be low because of its spatial organization. Thus, the physical or spatial organization of public space significantly affects its accessibility and openness. For example, a public space with poor lightning would not give its users a feeling of security and safety, and thereby decreasing its access for single visitors. Likewise, public spaces with no street furniture (benches, canopies, etc) would be used to pass by rather than to sit down and spend time in that space. Thus, all these aspects related to the design of public spaces affect their level of ‘openness’ and ‘accessibility’.

Currently, urban planners bring front the security issues for public spaces rather than the issues of social interaction. They also lead to the creation of public spaces for entertainment, rather than places for politics where democracies are built (Mitchell, 1995). ‘Disneyfication’ is the most common way of transforming public spaces into totally controlled environments. Such public spaces are built and used to become entertainment places, in spite of the places for unmediated social interaction. There are also smaller scale physical restraints on full access of the public open spaces. Restrictions over the space by prominent signs, CCTVs and

private security guards, designation of 'appropriate' uses and activities, imposed rules, which limit and condition the users' behaviors, have resulted in 'highly regulated public spaces' (Mitchell, 1995).

To sum up, depending on the level of exclusionary design and management policies rather physical or cultural, it is possible to define or assess 'exclusivity' or 'inclusivity' of public open spaces. Thus, the threats on open public spaces decrease or increase accordingly.

2.3. 'INCLUSIVITY' OF PUBLIC SPACE

2.3.1. DEFINITION OF 'INCLUSIVITY' OF PUBLIC SPACE

Rishbeth (2001) claims that public spaces should not be designed with the lowest common denominator, but with a wide range, which enriches human experience, in order to be fully inclusive. There is no single definition of inclusive public space. There are many factors or variables, which are taken into account, while defining it. Onaran Incirlioglu and Tandogan (1999), for example, define 'inclusive public space' regarding *people who can enter to a public space, and activities that can take place in a public space*. In other words, a public space is inclusive as long as anyone can take part within the activities offered in a public space; these activities address public at large scales; and entrance to the public space is not limited to a class, occupation or status; i.e., it is provided free of charge. Here, the term 'inclusion' refers to three types of 'inclusivity', as explained below:

- *Political or class inclusion*, which means that all groups should be evenly welcomed to a space. For example, poorly dressed people are excluded from many public spaces, not by enforcement but by social repression due to crime prevention;

- *Economic inclusion* means that public spaces should be provided free of charge, even the activities that might be paid should be in a range that is affordable by large groups;
- *Cultural inclusion* means that every minor group should feel welcomed to public space. For instance, the right of use for immigrants or women should be kept as a priority (Onaran Incirlioglu and Tandogan, 1999).

Therefore, genuine public spaces ideally should be politically, economically and culturally inclusive.

According to the studies of Asriany et al. (2011), inclusivity of a space depends on several factors, the prominent of which are: 1. *location*, 2. *accessibility*, 3. *infrastructure and facility availability*, 4. *user groups*, and 5. *types of activities*. Akkar (2005b) argue that the inclusivity of a public space depends on its accessibility. She (2005b) defines four types of 'accessibility' to generate an ideally inclusive public space. These are: a) *Physical access*, b) *Social access*, c) *Access to activities and discussions, or intercommunications*, and d) *Access to information*

2.3.2. DEGREES OF 'INCLUSIVITY' OF PUBLIC SPACE

Inclusivity of open public spaces is mandatory for its existence. However, unique characteristics of every public space may identify its own degree of inclusivity. In other words, inclusivity of a public space may vary according to its function, size or context.

Montgomery (1998) defines space regarding '*activity*', '*form*' and '*image*', as shown in Figure 2.1. Based on these three variables, '*exclusive space*' and '*inclusive space*' can be defined as a spectrum. 'Inclusive space' is a vital space, which serves different needs and preferences with various activities. Also, it is a space large

enough to serve for large groups. It is a physically and visually permeable space, and well connected with its surroundings. The landmarks are well distributed (or, well positioned) and recognized by large groups. Additionally, inclusive space is legible, and has a clear image for the whole people. Its psychological access is not limited. In other words, it is highly safe, despite its capacity to accommodate marginal groups. While *'exclusive space'* is hardly legible, it is psychologically hard to access due to fear of crime or exclusion by social conjuncture. It has limited variety of activities, which are referring to a small scale of people. *'Exclusive spaces'* tend to have high degrees of lost and neglected inner spaces (See Table 2.1).

Table 2.1: Change in 'exclusivity' to 'inclusivity' within space with regard to definition of space with activity, form and image by John Montgomery (1998).

	ACTIVITY	FORM	IMAGE
EXCLUSIVE SPACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Less diversity of activities (even in mono-functional spaces) ▪ Lost and neglected spaces without vitality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scaled for small user groups ▪ Loose organization ▪ Less permeable space organization ▪ Lack of landmarks, representational symbols of small groups ▪ No connections with the surrounding systems (sidewalks, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Image, hard to recognize ▪ Low legibility ▪ Low psychological access due to exclusionary management and design policies ▪ High fear of crime and low safety
SPACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diversity ▪ Vitality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scale ▪ Intensity ▪ Permeability ▪ Landmarks ▪ Masses ▪ Space systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Symbolism & Memory ▪ Imageability ▪ Legibility ▪ Psychological access ▪ Fear of crime
INCLUSIVE SPACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Various functions according to different needs and preferences ▪ Vital spaces through time & space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scaled for large groups ▪ Intense organization ▪ High visual and physical permeability ▪ Well-distributed and recognizable landmarks by large groups ▪ Well-connected with the surrounding systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clear image for the whole society ▪ Legible ▪ Psychological access is not barred ▪ Low fear of crime and high safety level without exclusion of the marginal groups

Asriany et al. (2011), after conducting a study in Makassar -a housing settlement in Panakkukang-, define three degrees of 'inclusivity' of a space depending on the pattern of users flow through that space. These are:

1. *INCLUSIVE SPACE*: Users coming from different directions with a radius of 500 m. The users are not only the locals, but also outsiders. It is open and easily accessible, as it is located near to the main roads.
2. *SEMI-INCLUSIVE SPACE*: Users are mainly from the nearby communities. The space is semi-open, as its location is exclusive and it is bordered for access.
3. *EXCLUSIVE SPACE*: Users come from different directions with a radius of 100 meters. Users are from the same region. Place is located closed in the region and have clear boundaries. (Asriany et al. 2011)

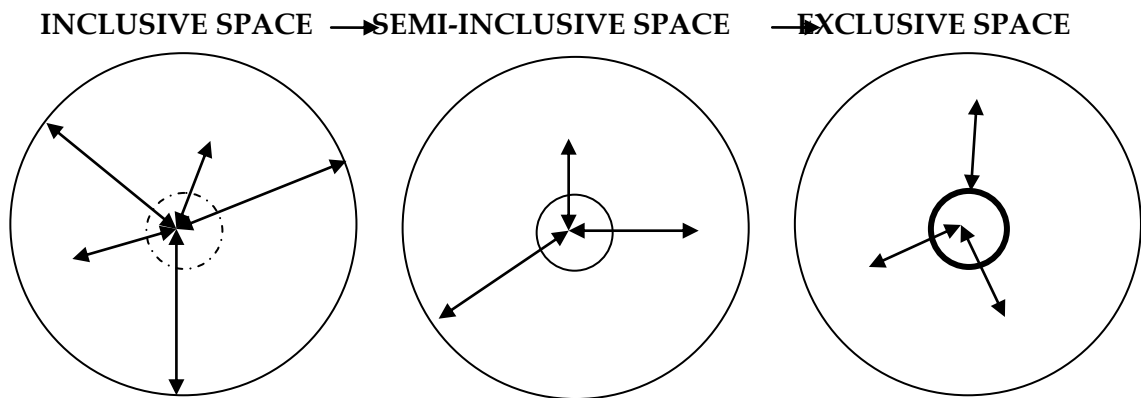


Figure 2.1: The three types of 'inclusivity' of space (Asriany et al. 2011)

Like Asriany et al. (2011), Flusty (1997; cited in Carmona et al., 2003) define five types of space according to degrees of exclusion or inclusion:

1. *Stealthy space*, which corresponds to spaces that are embedded and lost within the landscape due to interfering objects or level changes.
2. *Slippery space*, which cannot be reached due to distortion or missing paths of approach.

3. *Crusty space*, which cannot be accessed due to physical barriers, such as walls, gates or checkpoints.
4. *Prickly space*, which cannot be comfortably occupied, such as ledges sloped to prevent sitting
5. *Jittery space*, which cannot be utilized due to hard or soft surveillance mechanisms.

All these types of space show that their inclusivity is limited through the limitations imposed to the accessibility of space. Montgomery (1998) identifies and defines the variables or factors, which affect the level of inclusion (or exclusion), of a space, while many researches reveal that a space (*public or private*) can have a variety level of inclusion.

Change in the level of inclusivity can be dependent on many factors as discussed earlier. Another vital determinant affecting the inclusivity of a space is time. The degree of inclusivity is conditional on time, corresponding to day or night, winter or spring. Extending the inclusivity of public spaces through time is important for the quality of the space rather than creating safety ghettos for a temporary time for small groups.

There are many programs developed by local authorities in order to increase the night access to open public spaces in Europe. Those can be exemplified as 'round the clock use of city centers' in Italy, '24 hour-city in Manchester' and 'reclaim the night' initiation by the feminist activists all through Europe. A successful example to increase the access of open public spaces at night can be shown as the "Estate Romana" project by the Rome City Council. The project consists of open-air facilities, which take place in open public spaces during summers, and provide various types of activity, such as open-air cinemas, theatre plays by small groups of Rome, temporary transformable/transportable constructions for shopping and

eating functions. The project has been ongoing since 1977. A reporter describes the 1979 Estate as follows:

... At mid-night thousands of people wander around the beautiful parks, unusually open and illuminated, and through the Renaissance streets around Via Giulia, decorated with torches... They walk, dance, eat, watch films, ballet and plays, listen to music of all kinds, meet, talk, form transient relationships... People meet at Villa Ada to have a go at studiously old-fashioned dance styles; ladies in their fifties, in sequinned dresses, mix with youths in Fiorucci outfits later a good half of them will move to a completely different part of town to watch a couple of horror movies. (Petrone, 1979; cited in Bianchini, 1995, p. 121)

Increasing the night access to open public spaces is important to increase the accessibility of groups who work late or live far from city centers. Additionally, night-use of the city centers creates its own sub-cultures, such as young people or followers of cultural events.

Accomplishing the night access is hard because of many reasons. The mono-functionality of the nighttime activities, unfriendly environments for pedestrians due to underpasses and high-storey car parks, which become unsafe especially at nights, poor provision of public transportation and increase in the fear of crime are among these reasons. Bianchini (1995) suggests some policies which are essential to overcome the mono-functionality, such as (i) dividing the night into segments for different functions regarding the user profiles, (ii) provision of cheap and frequent public transportation running late, (iii) preparation of exciting urban calendars with cultural events addressing large groups, (iv) provision of routes with illuminated facades for pedestrians, and v) provision of car parks for events. He (1995) also adds that shopping functions should not be regarded primarily in order to increase the attraction of the cultural events, because shopping is not considered as a primary activity before attending cultural events.

The successful examples in Europe have shown that the night access of public spaces can be regulated through the essential policies in cooperation with the city's own initiations. The degree of inclusivity also depends on the weather conditions that can act as constraints on the access of the open public spaces.

2.4. ATTRIBUTES OF 'INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPACE': ACCESS

The main attribute of inclusive space is 'access'. Access to, and within the space defines the degree of inclusivity of a space. Carr (1992, p. 150) states that "By the degrees of accessibility, physical, visual, social... a space defines who is free to enter that space and who has control over 'the right of access' that defines the inclusivity of the space in a broader sense."

In classical economics, a public good means a good that is accessible to everyone, it is not limited due to ownership and everyone is available to access its benefits without hindering others right to it (Kingwell, 2009). Briefly, public goods are non-rival and non-excludable (Kingwell, 2009). In this sense, access to social goods (including public spaces) by everyone is not a privilege, but a right (Wong, 2007).

Access is the main prerequisite of a truly public space, as stated by Lynch below:

Access is the prerequisite to using any space ...Without the ability to enter or to move within it, to receive and transmit information or goods, space is of no value, however vast or rich in resources. (Lynch, 1962, p. 193)

Neal (2010a) describes 'physical' and 'social' accessibility of a public space, by claiming that a public space is both physically and socially accessible. Physical accessibility means the accessibility of a public space, which is not limited to one's with physical or mental disability; and social accessibility refers to the accessibility which is not limited by language barriers or limited to the ones with less geographic mobility (Neal, 2010a).

Lynch (1984) claims that a good environment should provide access to people, activities and information in a moderate variety, although there may be physical, social or psychological barriers to it. He argues that a good environment may not possess a total access, but it should have a moderate variety of access types for preserving local privacy and control of the environment at the same time. Achieving this moderate variety without losing its privacy and control depends on ingenuity in shaping the physical environment and institutional patterns. Such ingenuity might be achieved by providing new modes of access, reducing barriers and modifying the management and control systems, which would increase its accessibility (Lynch, 1984). This would also increase the sense of the environment by attracting different groups and thereby creating a sense of belonging to that area (Lynch, 1984).

2.4.1. CLASSIFICATIONS ON 'ACCESS'

Lynch (1984) classifies access in an urban level according to which access is given and to whom it is given. He (1984) suggests five type of 'access':

- access to other people, equity of access for different groups
- access to certain activities, diversity of things given access to
- access to certain resources
- access to places, control of the access system
- access to information.

This classification also works for public spaces, as they are simple models of complex urban environments. Lynch (1984) also classifies modes of access in a smaller scale as *physical*, *visual* or *aural*.

Neal (2010a) suggests a classification of access, which covers two main types: *physical* and *social access*, which should not be barriered by any kind of interference.

Carr (1992) also defines three types of 'access': *visual access*, *symbolic access* and *physical access*. *Visual access* is defined as the visibility and judgment of the space from the entrances; *physical access* refers to the ability to enter and use the space, while *symbolic access* refers to the perception of the users of that particular space and elements and facilities of that space that determine the kind of users (Carr, 1992).

Akkar (2005) also defines ideal inclusive public space as possessing four types of access, which are:

- Physical access
- Social access
- Access to activities and discussions, or intercommunications
- Access to information

She (2005) claims that those four major types of access is mutually supporting each other, rather than being single headings. This thesis is opted to focus on four types of access for a public space: *physical*, *social (symbolic)*, *access to activities and to information*, all of which are explained in detail in the following sections.

2.4.2. TYPES OF 'ACCESS'

2.4.2.1. PHYSICAL ACCESS

Lynch (1984, cited in Carmona et al., 2003) defines *physical access* as the availability of a space for the users to enter and use without exclusion and being open to their freely chosen and spontaneous actions. This kind of access might be threatening for control and power over space; however, it is an essential value for the accessibility of the space.

Carr (1992) states that the ability to enter a space is a basic requirement for its use; and this should not be prohibited or discouraged by fences or guards. In addition, he (1992) claims that those limitations on physical access should not be against some particular groups. For example, sunken plazas that must be approached by way of stairs exclude people with wheelchair or carriages and the elderly. Also, the dominance of automobiles on urban environment can also be seen as a barrier for entering the space in a comfortable and safe way (Carr, 1992). Physical barriers and controls on places, such as the fences and security checks, in order to increase safety are the most perceivable forms of limitations on physical access to public spaces (Miller, 2007).

According to Lynch (1984), *physical access* can be improved by shifting the modes of access. It is important to provide a variety of modes of access that will address even more people. Encouraging the use of public transportation modes, such as bus or railway systems, by the majority of population is important to increase the physical accessibility of public spaces. However, private car owners cannot be neglected and their needs of space should be supplemented. Therefore, physical access to public open spaces must be supported in all modes and in a variety of levels.

Likewise, pedestrians should be primarily considered. Public spaces should be accessible for pedestrians from the nearer settlements, for those who travel with public transport and private car owners. Despite being accessible by all modes, public open spaces should be at most accessible to pedestrians. Because, according to the surveys, this mode is the most common visitation pattern for public space users. "Any survey of urban park use indicates that the majority of users want to come by foot and will only do so on a regular basis if the park is within 3–5 minutes' walk of their home or work-place" (Kaplan and Kaplan, 1989; Comedia/Demos, 1995; Godbey et al., 1992; cited in Kazmierczak and James, 2007). Coles and Bussey (2000; cited in Kazmierczak and James, 2007) have observed that, for most people, distance between 500 m and 1 km is the furthest they would walk to a park.

Physical access through public transit modes is also an important issue, as the users of this mode are usually the ones who are the least mobile due to income (lack of private car, unemployed) or age (children or elderly) and the disabled people who need most access to urban open spaces and an opportunity for sociability in a safe outdoor setting (Ward Thompson, 2002).

According to TUIK statistics (2002), 12.7 % of the people living in cities in Turkey are disabled. Physical access for disabled people is therefore another issue that should be considered widely for physical accessibility. Regarding the inclusion of disabled people in social life, a US architect, Ron Mace, has put forth the concept of 'universal design', and he defines it as designing environments usable by all people without the need for adaptation or specialized design (Story, 1998).

Barriers are not the only limitations to physical access to a space. Thus, in order to be fully accessible, it is important that the space is well connected to paths of circulation, such as adjacent sidewalks (Carr, 1992). Besides, the physical accessibility of a public space is affected by the amount and availability of entrances. According to Carr (1992), limiting the entrances of a space without

connections to the paths of circulation is a design policy to reduce the use of these spaces. Therefore, the connection between main pedestrian flows, and the location and number of entrances are vital for the physical accessibility to, and use of the public spaces.

2.4.2.1.1. VISUAL ACCESS

There is another kind of physical access defined by Carr, which is *visual access*. Visual access or visibility is about the vision of the space, while entering, which effects peoples' will to enter, and feeling free to enter that space. It is important for potential users to see into the space from outside and judge if that they can enter safely and feel welcomed (Carr, 1992).

The ability to judge places with its pros and cons before entering is quite essential for the potential user groups. There should be clear views at street level from the entrance points. If the potential users get a positive idea of the space before entering, they are more likely to enter that space. But, it is also important to keep the balance between creating private spaces for more passive uses and small groups and creating an open view for the potential users for a sense of security with a sensitive design. Because, if one of them is not provided, this will affect the accessibility of that space (Carr, 1992).

2.4.2.2. SOCIAL (SYMBOLIC) ACCESS

"What attracts people most, it would appear is other people" (Whyte, 1980, p. 19). The users of the open and accessible public spaces generally expect to encounter and hear from those who are different regarding their social perspectives and to

attract, support and express themselves (Young, 1995; cited in Cattell et al., 2008). This expectation is often distracted by limitations on access and control over space because of various reasons, such as fear of crime. Due to these limitations, the user group variety is never at a moderate level for an open public space. Those limitations are mainly over access of the space, as many users do not feel comfortable and safe in public spaces with the “undesirables” (such as, homeless people, bag ladies, noisy teenagers, some minority groups like Black and Latino people). However, as Whyte (1980, p. 63) clearly states, “the best way to handle the problem of undesirables is to make a place attractive to everyone else”. It is clear that the neglected parks tend to attract most of the anti-social behaviors.

Carr et al. (1992) defines ‘*symbolic access*’ as the access, which involves the presence of cues, in the form of people or design elements, suggesting who is and is not welcome in the space. Tiesdell and Oc (1998, p. 648) claim, “individuals and groups perceived as threatening, or comforting or inviting may affect entry into a public space”.

Human and non-human factors affect the social accessibility of public spaces. *Non-human factors*, such as certain facilities or design elements, may act like cues about who is and who is not desired within the place. Some settings may signal that a space belongs to a particular group and others are not welcomed (Carr, 1992). With his idea of ‘defensible space’, Oscar Newman suggests that by providing an identity to a space, some (undesirable) groups can be discouraged to use that space (Newman, 1996; cited in Carr, 1992).

According to Madanipour (2010c, p. 238), the main reasons behind exclusion of some groups from open public space are:

- Public spaces tend to develop particular characters resembling dominating groups and interests, and cause difficulties for other groups to have a feeling of space attachment.
- Fear of crime/ Mistrust of others

- Social polarization

Therefore, public open spaces should be designed and managed in a manner that they do not comfort only a small group, but they create safety and comfort for all. Low et al. (2005) emphasize on aspects on design and management techniques, which can be identified as ways of enabling access for many social groups to public open spaces as follows:

- People tend to use spaces where they are represented with symbols. If they are not represented or their histories of that space are erased, they will not use that space. All the sub-groups within the society should be represented and their histories about that space should be preserved to sustain diversity of users.
- Access is as much about economics and cultural patterns of park use as circulation and transportation. In order to provide access for all social groups, income and visit patterns should be considered while giving decisions about that space.
- Providing safe and adequate territories for enhancing the interaction of diverse groups within the larger amount of space of the overall site is important.
- Accommodating the differences in the ways different social groups use and value the space is essential while making decisions in order to sustain cultural and social diversity within the users.
- While preservation is taken into account, not only restoring the scenic features but also the facilities and diversions that attract people to park are important.

- Symbolic ways of communicating cultural meaning are an important dimension of place attachment that can be fostered to promote cultural diversity.

To sum up, representing and protecting people's history of that space, safety, adequacy for different habits of use, preserving scenic features and also facilities that attract people and using symbolic ways to create space attachment are considered to be the techniques for making a space accessible to all social groups.

In their report prepared by Seijo (2004) about the project developed by SAUL (Sustainable and Accessible Urban Landscapes) for Burgess Park in London and Noorderpark in Amsterdam, she (2004, p.1) describes the conditions for a space to be socially inclusive, thus accessible, as follows:

- The space can be used flexibly
- The space can serve many individuals needs
- A place that all individuals feel comfortable in – no security issues
- Local people feel protective of the space – its regarded as theirs and they feel pride and actively enjoy the fact that it is also visited by people outside of the area
- Used regularly and by many people – increased feelings of safety and enjoyment
- This kind of space brings people together for a common goal and they agree on that goal. Therefore, it needs to provide a range of community focused facilities and attractions.

Therefore, SAUL also points out similar issues as Low et al. (2005): addressing many users' needs, having flexible spatial organization, being safe, enjoyable, comfortable, creating the 'sense of place' and 'sense of attachment'. Different from Low et al. (2005), SAUL suggests that, to be fully accessible, public open spaces

should provide a range of community-based facilities and attractions that will maintain collective actions (Seijo, 2004).

Symbols that are used within an open public space can exclude some groups, while including others. According to Rishbeth (2001), landscapes have symbolic aspects that are recognized by the users as familiar or alien, welcoming or excluding. The visual preferences of different groups in the society vary due to demographic reasons (Rishbeth, 2001). However, environmental perception studies suggest that scenes similar to native environments and specific places lead people to relate themselves with their personal or collective history; and such environments make them feel familiar and welcoming (Rishbeth, 2001). In order for an open public space to be socially accessible to a moderate number of different groups in the society, it should not accommodate symbols of a specific political, religious or gender group.

Social access can also be improved through the formation of social bonds between the society and open public spaces. Those bonds can be formed through collective or personal histories. The strength of those bonds will not only increase the accessibility of those places to the society, but also provide a sense of connectedness to the place and sustainability of that space. Such emotional bond between individual or groups and environments is called 'place attachment' (Altman and Low, 1992; cited in Rishbeth, 2001). This sense of attachment is shaped by the life experiences of individuals, and lead to the generation of the symbolic meaning and cultural importance of that space (Riley, 1992; cited in Rishbeth, 2001).

2.4.2.2.1. ACCESS FOR MARGINAL GROUPS

Despite being defined as open and freely accessible places, open public spaces usually retreat this ideal. They become exclusive not only because of the presence of the so-called 'marginal groups', such as homeless people, young people, sex industry workers or security reasons, but also, due to cultural customs most of the time. Deutsche (1990; cited in Mitchell, 1995) objects the exclusion of marginal groups from open public space as stated below:

Failure to recognize the homeless as the part of the urban public; disregard of the fact that new public spaces and homelessness are both products of redevelopment; the refusal to raise the questions about exclusions while invoking the concept of an inclusionary public space; these acts ratify the relations of domination that close the borders of public spaces no matter how much these spaces are touted as 'open and freely accesible to the public for 12 or more hours daily'. (Deutsche, 1990; cited in Mitchell, 1995, p. 119)

"Women profess feeling more unsafe than men particularly in public space after dark" (Perkovic, 2007, p. 2). However, every user, in fact, feels the same risks regardless of differences of gender, social or economic status, while accessing public space.

Young people need to use open public spaces for their individual development and their need of engagement with the public domain. In other words, free and unmediated spaces are necessary for young people in their physical, social and mental development, the development of their self-reliance and creativity, experiment their identities while developing their own notions of morality and empathy (Aitken, 2001; cited in Perkovic, 2007). However, young people are generally excluded from the open public spaces by other members of the society because of their unusual and unmediated actions (Travlou, 2007). One should note that young people are the key facilitators in creating lively and viable

environments, and this is crucial to develop more attractive and pleasant open public spaces for their users. Thus, it is very important to provide the access of young people to the open public spaces.

To sum up, although open public spaces are defined as freely accessible environments, the users' right of access should not be limited by the attitudes of other members of the public against marginalized groups.

2.4.2.3. ACCESS TO ACTIVITIES

Madanipour (2003) defines public space as a mediator between private spaces and used for a variety of purposes both functional and symbolic that are often overlapping. As explained before, open public spaces should be designed and managed regarding the using habits of all groups within the society and their rights to use that space flexibly. To protect this right of use and flexibility, open public spaces should accommodate a moderate number of activities that will attract as many different groups as possible.

Risbeth (2001) argues that the provision of facilities is the main factor of inclusivity. Facilities in public space do not only differentiate between users or separate users to specific areas, but they also bring them together.

According to Madanipour (2010b, p.130), public spaces can be in their best use when they are flexible; i.e. they can be used for many purposes. The reason behind the misuse of open public spaces is their mono-functional characters within highly differentiated societies where needs vary widely. As the society become highly differentiated and the distance between social groups have widened, the need for multi-functional open public spaces have arisen. As Low et al. (2005, p. 11) claim, "Parks that originally served relatively homogenous, white, middle-class or

working-class neighborhoods must now provide recreation, educational and social programs, and relaxation for an increasingly multi-cultural and multi-class population". The more variety of facility the public open spaces accommodate, the more inclusive they are. Such public spaces do not create segregation among their users. In contrast, they provide arenas for the creation of a multi-cultural society.

2.4.2.4. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Access to information is a rather important and current issue because of the Internet, which allows large groups to plan and organize events. As a result, the use of open public spaces by large groups has increased (Ward Thompson, 2002). Access to information is not only important in terms of the access to information about event and activities taking place in public open spaces, but also the access to information about the planning decisions which lead to the transformations of the space.

Access to information should not be hindered by language. There should be multi-lingual information available within the space. The multi-languages that would be used in the space should be identified regarding the minority groups of that locality.

Definition of inclusive open public spaces connotes to their production and management through inclusive processes. Even though various agencies may have conflicts during this process, and this tension may result in a negative atmosphere; it is the best way to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the transformation decisions (Chen, 2010, p.82).

Participation is the key issue for a socially inclusive park. Good participation makes public space sustainable, as it fosters protectiveness, ownership and pride of

various generations, which are involved through the planning processes (Seijo, 2004). Madanipour (2010c, p.238) defines the advantages of developing open public spaces by including many agencies as follows: “The inclusive and participatory development of a common good such as public spaces can help combine instrumental and expressive concerns creating places that people use and can identify with while reinvigorating society through collective action”.

2.5. CONCLUSIVE REMARKS

This chapter defines the public spaces and their wider roles in society. After explaining the recent threats on the public spaces, it investigates in depth the notion of ‘inclusivity’ for public open spaces. Based on this wide literature review, it is possible to define four major types of accessibility to define the inclusive public space. These are: *physical access*, *social access*, *access to activities* and *access to information* (See Table 2.2) *Physical access* can be defined according to the physical attributes, which allow a variety of user groups to access the space, the access of public space through different modes, and their connection to the paths of circulation. Regarding disabled groups, universal design is an important variable of physical access. A major determinant of physical access is visual access, which means the safe and welcoming vision of the park from the entrances.

Social access can be defined as the provision of equal access to various social economic groups. Different visitation patterns should be regarded in order to achieve equality. Users should feel welcomed in the spaces without regarding age, gender or income. Another important variable fostering social access is the preservation of personal or collective histories and physical constructs that made those histories. Safety and comfort are also important variables. Safety is important for the access of the site by families or women while comfort is for elderly.

Access to activities means access to moderate variety of functions addressing various user profiles. Availability of the space for communal action is also a key determinant for social access.

Access to information can be explained further as the availability and accessibility of the information about the ongoing events and the decisions on the site. Accessibility to information about the planning decisions on the site is vital for the construction of a participatory planning period.

One should note that a public space is neither totally inclusive nor exclusive (Akkar, 2005b). There are degrees through which the public spaces' inclusivity can be described (Akkar, 2005b).

Table 2.2: The types of accessibility on open public space.

ACCESS TYPES (PRIMARY VARIABLES)	SECONDARY VARIABLES	EXPLANATION OF SECONDARY VARIABLES
PHYSICAL ACCESS	PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrances (number, location, connection with paths of circulation) • Fences, checkpoints & guards • Ability to use space. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cars are barriers for pedestrians to use space ○ Stairs are barriers for disabled or people with carriages.
	UNIVERSAL DESIGN	Design regarding the accessibility of disadvantaged groups (disabled and elderly people, parents with young children, etc.)
	PHYSICAL ACCESS BY DIFFERENT MODES	Design regarding all transport modes (i.e., public transport means, private cars, or by walking)
	CONNECTIONS	Connection with the paths of circulation nearby
	VISUAL ACCESS	Safe and welcoming appearance of space for potential users
SOCIAL	SYMBOLS &	• Users feeling welcomed or not, familiar or

Table 2.2 (Cont'd)

ACCESS (SYMBOLIC ACCESS)	REPRESENTATION	alien. This may be influenced by type of people dominating the space, type of shops or physical representations of symbols of smaller groups.
	SPACE ATTACHMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users' sense of belonging and protection of space • Preservation of personal or collective histories not only by image but also with diverging facilities and diversions that attract people
	SAFETY & COMFORT	Safe and comfortable spaces without excluding marginal groups
	ACCESS FOR ALL SOCIAL GROUPS	Regarding different visitation patterns and income
ACCESS TO ACTIVITIES	MULTI-PURPOSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate variety of activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation - Educational - Social programs - Relaxation • Availability for communal activities
ACCESS TO INFO	EVENT AND ACTIVITIES	Information availability about events and activities taking place
	PARTICIPATION	Information and participation through the planning and decision making processes
	LANGUAGE	Information should not be a barrier regarding minority groups.

The following chapter explains the research method of the study. The methods used to investigate each variable defined above, are explained further in that chapter.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter is about the research method that was used by this study. It explains the scope of the research, the investigation method, the reasons behind choosing the case study (i.e., Gençlik Parkı in Ankara) for the investigation of inclusivity of an open public space, the method followed by this research to assess the changing 'inclusivity' of Gençlik Parkı. The chapter also explains the sources of evidence used by this research, and clarifies how the research tools were used to investigate the attributes of 'inclusivity' of the public space. Finally, it explains the rationale behind the questions prepared for questionnaire, which is used for this study. It also explains the way the questionnaires was conducted and presents the demographic analysis of the same groups under investigation.

3.1 SCOPE AND EXTEND OF THE STUDY

This research aims to examine the changing inclusivity of an urban park. It employs a case study approach as an investigation method. The unit of analysis of this research is Gençlik Parkı, a historic park developed at the edge of the historic city centre of Ankara in the 1940s to present the public space of the newly founded Republic. The park as one of the biggest urban parks in Ankara has always been popular among different social groups. The park, however, went through a

declining stage especially after the 1980s and it was renewed very recently by Ankara Metropolitan Municipality.

The main reason behind the selection of Gençlik Parkı as a case to be examined is to investigate how far the park's inclusivity has changed in time, and to understand which social groups were included and excluded with respect to these changing designs and conditions of the park. The research also seeks to find out the recent changing inclusivity of the park against different social groups. Following the recent renewal project, the park has had a rapidly changing user profile in parallel to the changes in its spatial organization.

The scope of this study, therefore, is to investigate the changes in the inclusivity of Gençlik Parkı before and after the renewal project in 2009. This research identifies four main phases that the park has gone through. Since its very early years to today, the park's inclusivity has changed. In this sense, it is worthwhile examining the changes in the inclusivity of the park regarding the four periods, which are: i) the period between 1928 - 1950, ii) the period between 1950 - 1970, iii) the period between 1970 - 2009, iv) the period between 2009 - 2012.

The first part of the analysis investigates the history of Gençlik Parkı regarding each of the periods indicated above. The second part of the analysis examines the inclusivity of Gençlik Parkı in each historic period according to its types of 'accessibility'. As explained in Chapter 2, the inclusivity of a public space can be examined according to four types of accessibility, which are:

- *Physically accessibility of a public space*: physical attributes of the public space which improves or hinders its access, universal design features which improves the access of disadvantaged groups, the modes of transportation increasing or reducing the access of the public space, connections among the circulation paths;

- *Visual accessibility of a public space:* design and management elements/policies, which make a public space visually more welcoming and attractive, therefore, appealing, for the outsiders, or those which make a public space visually less welcoming and more repellent, for outsiders, therefore enhances its exclusionary character;
- *Social accessibility of a public space:* the free-use possibility of a public space by a variety of user groups, the level of feeling of safety and comfort in a public space, feeling of attachment to a public space and preservation of the memories about a public space;
- *Accessibility to the activities of a public space:* the competence of the variety of functions (the presence of multi-functionality) and preferences on activities;
- *Accessibility to the information about a public space:* access to information about the events and activities ongoing in a public space, access to information and participation of the public through planning and decision-making processes, awareness of the public about the changes/modifications/projects on a public space and their will to access to information. (Table 2.2)

Thus, this research investigates the four historic phases of Gençlik Parkı based on these types of accessibility above.

3.2 SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

This research uses quantitative and qualitative data, which are based on the five major sources of evidence. The first source of evidence includes *archival documents* which constitute written reports, books, articles, researches, formal studies or evaluations of the same site under study, articles appearing in the media

and websites related to Gençlik Parkı. Particularly this source of evidence is used to investigate the inclusivity of the first three historic periods of Gençlik Parkı. Beside verbal information, visual documents, such as photos, maps, and plans, are the major source of evidence to investigate the first three historic periods.

The second source of evidence is *direct observation*. The case study area was visited several times to observe the users profile, their frequencies, the current spatial organization and features of the park, as well as its management and operation. Also, photos were taken to identify the issues, which are investigated in relation to the accessibility of the park.

Third, the park is analyzed through *urban design analysis* tools, such as the entrances, the pedestrian circulation systems, etc. Spatial analyses were made in order to indicate the effects of physical changes into accessibility. Maps were prepared regarding the physical accessibility and access to activities within the park.

The fourth source of evidence is the *survey* held with the users of Gençlik Parkı. (Table 3.1) 180 questionnaires were conducted with the user groups of the park. The details about the questionnaires are explained in Section 3.2.1. Questionnaires were conducted on a sample group of users of the park. Questionnaires were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) program. *Descriptive statistics of biodata*, which give summary tables of the collected data, *frequency analysis*, which gives numeric information about the data collected *and missing data analysis*, which gives information about the respondent frequencies of each question were carried out.

Table 3.1: Summary of the data collection for the questionnaires.

Data source	When collected	How analyzed	Used For
Sample group from users of the park	10.04.12 (13:00-17:00)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptive statistics • Frequency analysis • Missing data analysis 	To collect information on accessibility of the park after renewal project.
	09.05.12 (10:00-12:00, 13:00-17:00)		
	10.05.12 (10:00-12:00, 13:00-17:00)		
	12.05.12 (13:00-17:00)		

Finally, *interviews* were carried out with the security guards of the park. The questions were mainly asked in order to develop an idea of the visiting patterns of the users. They were asked about the visiting frequencies of the park and its change according to time and season. In addition to this, they were asked about the types of acts, which are forbidden for the users.

Table 3.2: Research tools regarding the access types.

ACCESS TYPES	SECONDARY VARIABLES	RESEARCH TOOLS
PHYSICAL ACCESS	PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of the main modes of access and entrances. • Direct observation of the entrances. (Photography) • Comfort of the transportation modes. (Questionnaires)
	UNIVERSAL DESIGN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct observation. (Photography)
	PHYSICAL ACCESS BY DIFFERENT MODES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps showing different modes • Questionnaires on comfort of the modes
	CONNECTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps showing connections
	VISUAL ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photographs • Questionnaires for defining the factors affecting.
SOCIAL	SYMBOLS &	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaires to determine the level of

Table 3.2 (Cont'd)

ACCESS (SYMBOLIC ACCESS)	REPRESENTATION	<p>feeling of welcomed to the space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photographs of the symbolic elements
	SPACE ATTACHMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaires to determine users' sense of belonging & protection of space • Photographs and questionnaire to understand preservation of personal or collective histories.
	SAFETY & COMFORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaires to examine users' sense of safety and comfort.
	ACCESS FOR ALL SOCIAL GROUPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of the pre-made researches of the user profiles.
ACCESS TO ACTIVITIES	MULTI-PURPOSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps showing the variety of functions and their relations.
ACCESS TO INFO.	EVENT AND ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper articles from the archives or multi-media announcements about the ongoing events.
	PARTICIPATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaires to determine whether the users participated throughout the process and their will to do.
	LANGUAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct observation of the communication tools.

3.3 PREPARATION OF THE QUESTIONS

The questionnaires aimed to find out valid information about the accessibility of the park according to its current users. In order to achieve this goal, five types of questions were used. These are:

1. Dichotomous Questions (Yes/No Questions)

This kind of questions was used mostly to determine the level of access to information. Such questions examine whether the users of the park are aware of the planned changes or they have information about the ongoing activities within the park or not. These questions are:

- Did you know that the park was renovated in 2005?

- Have you been to the park before the renewal project?
- Do you feel safe in the park?
- While walking in the park, if you see someone polluting or damaging the park, would you warn them and inform the security guards or administration office about this situation?
- Do you think the fun fair is affordable for everyone?
- Are you aware of the Youth and Culture Center in the park?
- Have you used any of those centers?
- Are you informed about the activities that take place in the park?

2. Multiple-Choice Questions

These questions were used when there can be many reasons of a fact. For instance, the reasons behind the feeling of safety/unsafety or comfort/discomfort and the preferred activities in the park was examined by this kind of questions.

- How long have you come and visited to Gençlik Parkı?
- How often do you visit Gençlik Parkı?
- Which transportation mode do you use to access the park?
- Whom do you usually go to park with?
- What was causing the difficulty?
- What are the factors that make Gençlik Parkı different from other parks you have been to?
- What is your purpose for visiting the park?
- Which entrance of the park do you use the most?
- What are the factors that attract you from the entrance?
- What are the reasons that make you feel unsafe?
- What are the reasons that make you feel uncomfortable in the park?
- What are the factors that satisfy you in Gençlik Parkı in general?
- What are the aspects that you do not like about the park?
- How would you like to be informed about the renewal projects and activities that are ongoing in the park?

3. Scaled Questions (Likert Response Scale)

Scaled questions were used in the calculation of the levels of safety, comfort and satisfaction by the improvements in the park. As a result, an overall rating about the park's safety and comfort was obtained.

- If you have to rate between 1 and 5, while 1 being the least difficult and 5 being the most, how difficult was it to access the park?
- According to you, how safe does the park seem looking from the entrance?
- How comfortable do you feel in the park?
- What do you think about the current state of Gençlik Parkı when compared to its previous one?

4. *Open-Ended Questions*

Open-ended questions were used in order to get oral explanations of the users' memories of the park, or their expectations for the future. However, many participants of the survey did not prefer to respond those questions. Later, the common answers about the expectations of the current users were picked up to give a general idea about the users' opinions.

- What other activities would you want to be in the park?
- If you have any memories about the park before 2005, could you tell them briefly?

5. *Demographic Questions*

Demographic questions were located in the beginning of the questionnaire in order to define the user profiles (or, general structure of the samples). Additionally, demographic questions were used to assure a variety of participants be included in the survey of this research.

- Gender
- Age
- Educational Status
- What is your average house income monthly?
- Which neighbourhood do you live in?

3.4 CONDUCT OF THE QUESTIONNAIRES

Questionnaires were conducted, in 10 April 2012 and between 9-12 May 2012, during 10:00 – 17:00 on a sample group of parks users. The sample constitutes of

180 participants who are arbitrary chosen while wandering in the park. The distribution of men and women is 86 to 94 correspondingly. The higher number of women does not mean higher use of the park by women; this is due to the higher tendency of women to participate in the survey.

Before the survey was conducted, I tried to identify a rough daily-user numbers. On average, 1900 people enter into the park within an hour. 49% of the visits are done from the Ulus entrance. The park is open from 06:00 am to 01:00 pm (total 19 hours a day). Thus, the average number of daily visitors of the park is 36.100 (nearly). The sample group of this research consists of 180 people, which is 5% of the daily visitors.

3.5 DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF THE SAMPLE GROUP

The survey findings related to demographic characteristics of the respondents are shown in Tables 3.3, 3.4, 3.5. and 3.6. Accordingly, 47,8% of the respondents is male, and 52,2% of them is female. 52,2% of the survey participants is between the ages of 18 and 25, constituting the vast majority of survey participants (Table 3.4). This is followed by the people between the ages 25-45, which constitutes 23,9% of the survey participants; and the people between 45-65 with 21,7% of the survey respondents. The smallest group is the people over 65 which constitutes only 2,2% of the whole participants.

When the frequencies of education are analyzed, high-school graduates with 43% constitute the majority (Table 3.5). This is followed by university graduates (31,3%), primary-school graduates (22,3%), and finally post-graduates (3,4%). In addition, 55.9% of individuals who participated in the survey have reported income less than 2000 TL, whereas 34,6% of the participants claimed that their monthly income is between 2000-5000 TL. (Table 3.6)

Table 3.3: Distribution of gender within the sample group.

Gender	Frequency	Valid percent
Men	86	47,8
Women	94	52,2
Total	180	100,0

Table 3.4: Distribution of age groups within the sample group.

Age	Frequency	Valid Percent
18 – 25	94	52,2
25 - 45	43	23,9
45 - 65	39	21,7
65 +	4	2,2
Total	180	100,0

Table 3.5: Educational levels within the sample group.

Education	Frequency	Valid Percent
Primary School	40	22,3
High School	77	43,0
University	56	31,3
Higher Education	6	3,4
Total	179	100,0

Table 3.6: Income levels within the sample group.

Income	Frequency	Valid Percent
2000 TL or less	100	55,9
2000 TL- 5000TL	62	34,6
5000 TL- 8000TL	10	5,6
8000 TL or more	7	3,9
Total	179	100,0

Table 3.7: The interval of use within the sample group.

Interval of use	Frequency	Valid Percent
First time	12	8,2
0-6 months	18	12,2
1 – 3 years	32	21,8
3 – 7 years	22	15,0
7 – 10 years	24	16,3
10 – 20 years	14	9,5
20 – 30 years	19	12,9
30 – 40 years	6	4,1
Total	147	100,0

According to the survey analysis, 42,2% of the participants has seen the park after the renewal project was completed. Only 4,1% of the respondents have been visiting the park since the 1970s and the 1980s (Table 3.7). Therefore, the results mainly represent the recent accessibility of the park.

Respondents come from different destinations, including many different neighborhoods. However, the respondents coming from Keçiören, Sincan, which are located on the north part of Ankara and Dikmen on the south, are ahead. Those neighborhoods constitute high amount of urban transformation areas.

Table 3.8: The visiting frequency of the sample group.

Visiting Frequency	Frequency	Valid Percent
Once a year	64	37,0
Monthly	63	36,4
Weekly	46	26,6
Total	173	100,0

In addition to this, the majority of the users claim that they use the park once a year or month. Weekly users of the park constitute the minority (Table 3.8).

Table 3.9: The percentage of users utilizing the park before renewal.

Utilization of the park before renewal	Frequency	Valid Percent
No	85	47,2
Yes	95	52,8
Total	180	100,0

Off the sample group of 180 participants, only 52,8% was using the park before the renewal of the park (Table 3.9).

CHAPTER 4

THE HISTORY OF GENÇLİK PARKI AND ITS CHANGING 'INCLUSIVITY' IN TIME

This chapter examines the changing inclusivity of Gençlik Parkı. First, it investigates the history of Gençlik Parkı regarding four historic periods: 1928 – 1950, 1950 – 1970, 1970 – 2009, and 2009 – 2012. Then, it examines the inclusivity of Gençlik Parkı in each historic period according to four types of access; i.e. *physical access, social access, access to activities and discussions, and access to information.*

4.1. EMERGENCE OF AN URBAN PARK IN ANKARA

4.1.1. REPUBLICAN IDEOLOGY TO PRODUCE ITS OWN PUBLIC SPACES

After the foundation of the new Republic of Turkey and the declaration of Ankara as the new capital city in 13 October 1923, the political authority put all the efforts to create a modern westernized capital city, which would lead the transformation processes of a new secular and westernized country. The development of this city was seen as a model for the development of other secular and modern cities in the country. In this sense, the development plan of Ankara would represent the modernization of the physical environment by its western style while the life established within these planned spaces would represent social modernization process (Demir, 2006). With regard to this, urban planning efforts for the newly emerging capital Ankara were on the agenda in 1928. Three foreign contestants

were invited for the future development plan of Ankara: H. Jansen, L. Jausseley and J. Brix. Among the three plans in the competition, Jansen's plan was selected; and he finalized the drawings of the plan in 1932 (Tankut, 1993).

In order to spread modernization efforts to a wider section of the population and to access and contact a variety of groups from different social classes, a public space was needed. This public space would enable the members of different classes within the society interact and see each other, and share the same space (Demir, 2006). Also, in this period time, public spaces that would be symbols of the new republic were needed. To meet these needs, Atatürk -the leader of the new Republic- suggested two main types of urban parks: *Cultural parks*, which would lead the society in the socialization processes and support cultural enlightenment, and *Youth parks*, which would help the creation of a new, modern and westernized generation. These suggestions can be interpreted as the green revolution for the country (Memlük, 2004). The first attempts, in this sense, were Gençlik Parkı (Youth Park) in Ankara and Cultural Park in Izmir.

In the early Republican era, urban parks, like many other public spaces, became the prestigious urban spaces, which represented the Republican ideology and the new modern lifestyle. This ideology, in fact, sought to restructure the whole society as a Westernized society; and the efforts that were made in the capital city would be the examples for the whole country. This ideology is explained by Uludağ (1998) as follows:

For the re-construction and implementation of the new social life in the Republican Turkey, recreation would be a new social experience. The establishment of a public park could perform this in public sphere. (Uludağ, 1998, p. 110)

These newly planned open spaces also had the purpose of changing the image of Ankara from a steppe rural area to a modern capital. With this purpose, new spaces were planned to create a new image, to increase the knowledge and to raise

awareness of being urban citizens, and to create a sense of community (Özdemir, 2009). Therefore, Gençlik Parkı was built as an urban recreational area, which represented a new modern lifestyle and image. In this regard, Gençlik Parkı had two main attributes: the former came from its publicness and the other from its function for the modernization process (Demir, 2006).

Briefly put, Gençlik Parkı was the first attempt for the creation of an urban park in the early Republican period. According to Uludağ (1998), there were 3 factors affected the development of Gençlik Parkı: first factor was the ideology of the new Republican regime to create a new social order; second factor was the need for the construction of an urban identity for the newly emerging capital and third factor was the need for a social and recreational space for the society.

4.1.2. BRIEF HISTORY OF GENÇLİK PARKI

This section explains and discusses the history of the park under four main phases:

- The period between 1928 - 1950,
- The period between 1950 - 1970,
- The period between 1970 – 2009,
- The period between 2009 – 2012.

These periods are determined according to the massive transformations in the spatial organization of the park and the using patterns of the park.(Figure 4.1) Those phases are also in parallel to the changes in the socio-economic user profiles of the park.



Figure 4.1: Timeline showing the historic periods of the park. (Diagram by the author)

4.1.2.1. 1928 – 1950: THE EARLY YEARS OF THE PARK

The first phase of the park, the time-period between 1928 and 1950, coincides with the first attempts for the creation of the park and its early years. In this phase, the park had a more green and calm structure with many modern recreation facilities, such as skating and swimming (Demir, 2006). In this phase, the park had an alluring image with its high-culture facilities and recreational background.

The idea of developing a park on the location of Gençlik Parkı was first put forth in the first plan of Ankara, called as Lörcher Plan prepared in 1924-25 (Cengizkan, 2004). Open green system was considered primarily in this plan due to Lörcher's sensitivity on the issues of "public health". In this sense, a green spine, including Gençlik Parkı, sought to be developed along Incesu Valley. Lörcher also proposed

the very first idea of an urban park, yet he did not foresee it on the location where Gençlik Parkı is situated now (Figure 4.2). In his plan, two other issues, which were considered, were the preservation of the silhouette of the “Beautiful Citadel” and the creation of axial relationships between the main rail station and the citadel (Cengizkan, 2004). The main proposal on the region where the park is located now was to dry the marshland and to create open public spaces including simple pavilions on the edge. Cengizkan (2004, p. 63) defines those spaces as “... spaces for modern civil society to develop its mature individuals.”

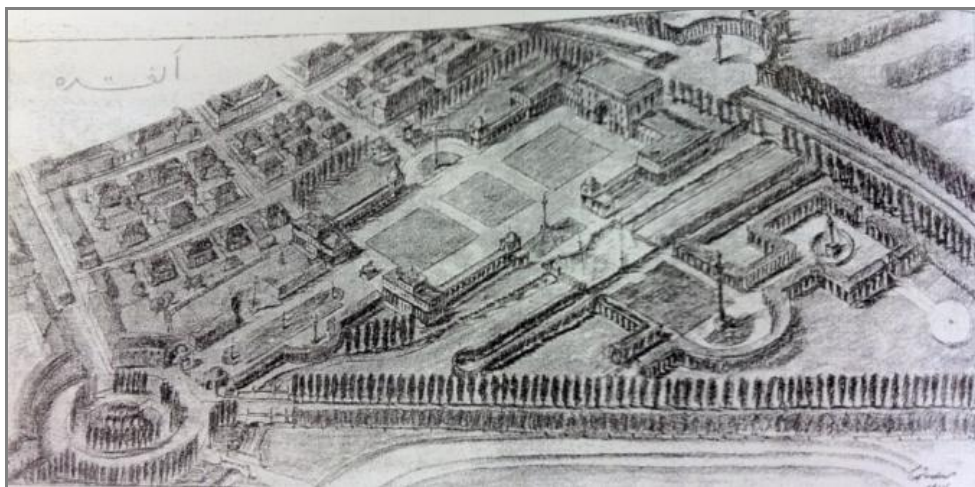


Figure 4.2: Aerial perspective drawing of Lörcher for urban park proposal of Ankara.
(Resource: Cengizkan, 2004)

The ideas stemming from the Lörcher plan were also considered seriously both in the design programs of the development plan competition in 1928 and the Jansen plan of 1932. The design program of Gençlik Parkı included the idea of keeping the citadel as the central node and turning it into one of the major landmarks of the city. Another issue in the program was to develop the area to the east of the boulevard, connecting the main rail station to the new parliament building, to be used for sport functions. Within this part of the city, there would be a big green area so that the dominating scenery of the citadel would be left completely open. Additionally, as the land values in this region would be high, commercial

functions were foreseen along the boulevard, especially in front of the main rail station (Tankut, 1993).

Uludağ (1998) explains the importance of locating the park to the east of the main railway station and conserving the scene of the citadel as an urban landmark as follows:

... the vista of the park would connect with the perspective of the citadel through the old city, thus it would connect the image of the new Republic represented by the public park with the historic values of the city. (Uludağ, 1998, p. 134)

In accordance with these ideas, Jansen prepared the 1928 Plan for the competition. The site between Ankara Station-Cumhuriyet Square and Station-Samanpazari roads was foreseen as a commercial zone with big greenery. Later, in the 1932 plan, Jansen proposed the development of the whole area as Gençlik Parkı (Fig. 4.3).

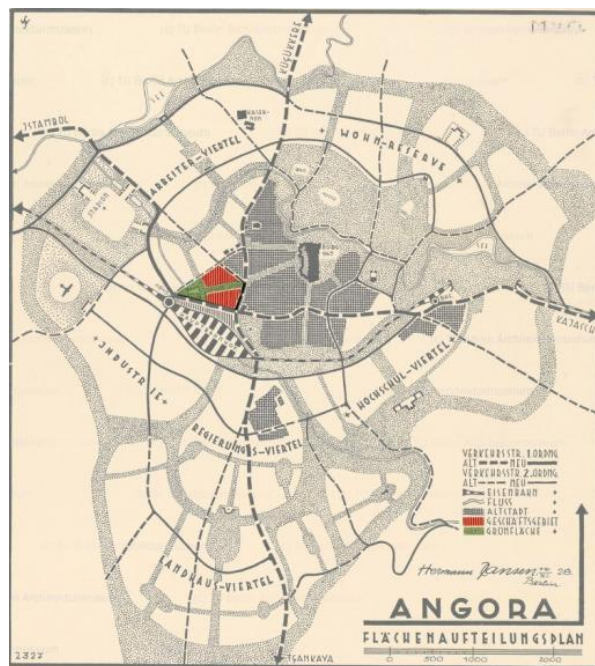


Figure 4.3: Plan of Ankara by Jansen in 1928, showing the location of the park as a commercial zone with greenery. (Resource: <http://architekturmuseum.ub.tu-berlin.de/images/1600WM/22607.jpg>)

The credence of Jansen, echoing Lörcher, that public health and pleasure can be supported by physical environment also led him to propose many green corridors defined with green spaces within and out of the city (Tankut, 1993). Thus, in Jansen's plan of 1928, Gençlik Parkı was a part of a recreational and green spine through Incesu Valley. This spine also included Hippodrome and a series of parks, such as Kore Parkı, Abdi İpekçi Parkı, Kurtuluş Parkı and Gençlik Parkı (Uludağ, 1998). (Figure 4.4)



Figure 4.4: Location of the Incesu Valley. (Resource: Google Earth)

Site selection for the park is rooted from the idea of conserving the image of the citadel and creating a green connection path. Additionally, another concern for the site was to dry the marshlands (Figure 4.5):

The location of the park used to be a swampy, unhealthy land within Incesu Valley used as a football field. That land was a problem area due to health and aesthetic considerations, which needed to be regenerated. (Sağdıç, 1993, p.104)

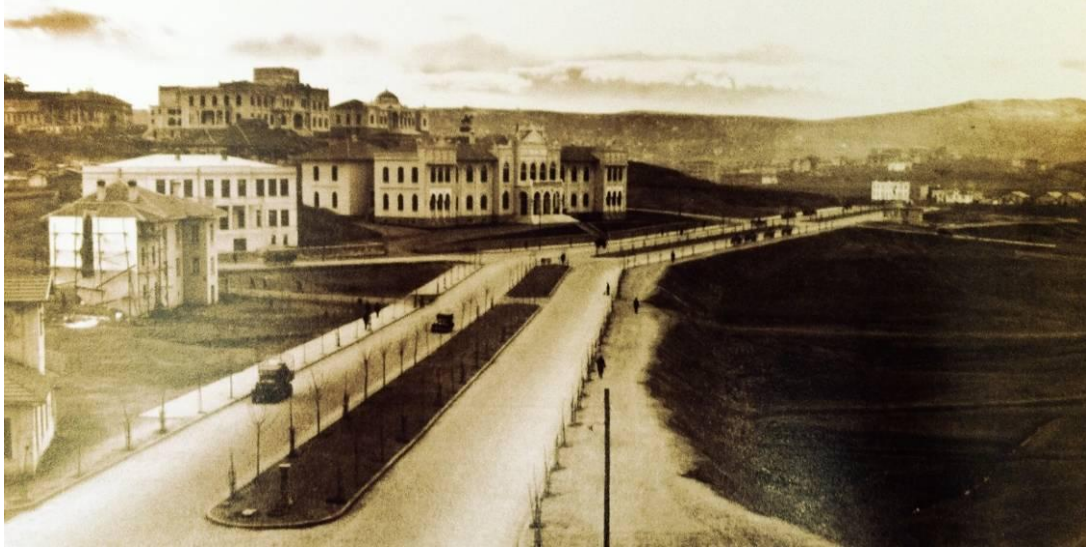


Figure 4.5: Photo of the preliminary situation of the site- Gençlik Parkı.
(Resource: Sağdıç 1993)

The location of the park was also advantageous in terms of giving a good impression for visitors and newcomers of the city when they came out of the railway station, and when they first saw the city, as explained below:

The location of the park near to main rail station was also appropriate in order to create a large beautiful green space in coherence with the city silhouette for a good impression for the new comers of the city and fostering the vista through citadel. (Beser, 1993, p.15)

After Jansen had made the main decisions on Gençlik Parkı, such as its location and main characteristics (pool, connection from the station) in the plan of 1928, he started the initial drawings of the park in 1932, and finalized the whole design and architectural reports in 1935. Jansen envisaged Gençlik Parkı as an “urban park” of 260.000 m² (26 ha). The park was designed to serve the whole city with an estimated population of 300.000 (Jansen, 1937).(Figure 4.6)



Figure 4.6: Ankara plan of Jansen dated 1932, showing the location of Gençlik Parkı within a green trapezoid form.

(Resource: <http://architekturmuseum.ub.tu-berlin.de/images/1600WM/22643.jpg>, <http://architekturmuseum.ub.tu-berlin.de/images/1600WM/22644.jpg>)

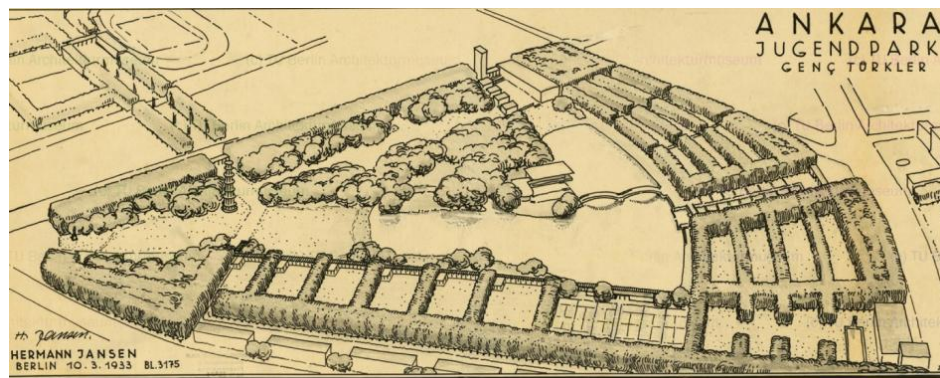


Figure 4.7: Jansen's final drawings on Gençlik Parkı dated 1933.

(Resource: <http://architekturmuseum.ub.tu-berlin.de/index.php?set=1&p=79&Daten=158156>)

Jansen's plan on Gençlik Parkı was based on three main principles:

- The first principle was to create shady areas of greenery for the citizens who want to rest in the park. In order to achieve this goal, they attempted to cultivate trees and saplings rather than creating big open areas. In fact, this principle, which was considered primarily during its foundation, was such an appropriate idea for Ankara's terrestrial climate.
- The second principle was to regenerate the beautiful scenery of the city with the help of this new green space. The main reason behind this principle was to create a space that welcomed the new comers of the city from the main train station. The scenery of the castle framed by the newly built Republican buildings and cascades of water ending up in a large pool with flower fields in front of it were designed.
- The third and the most important part of the design was to create a large pool for rowing boats. For this purpose, the pool was designed with a one kilometer in length and enough width. Because of its size, the pool was called 'lake'. The cascades were another important feature of this pool. The last cascade was four-meter in height to create a feeling of a waterfall for the dry climate of Ankara (Jansen, 1937).

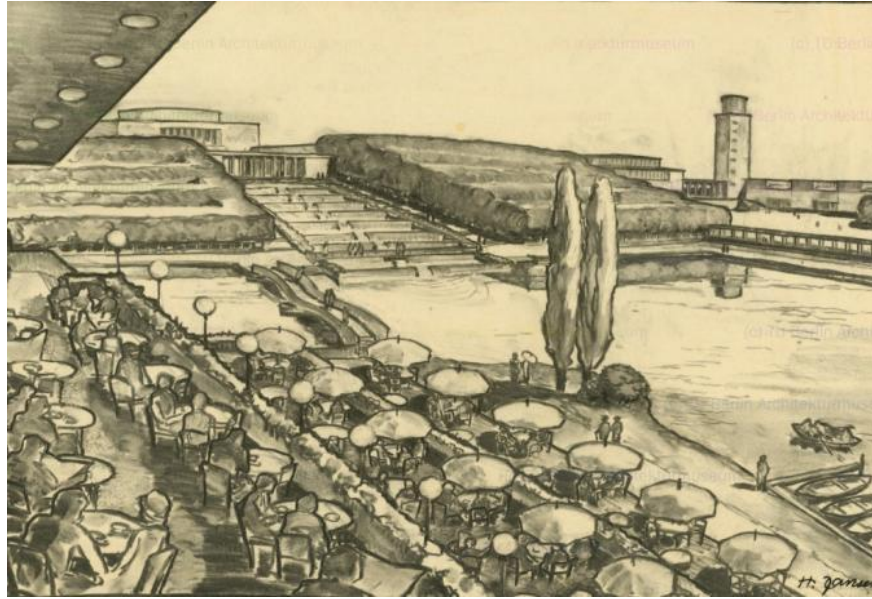


Figure 4.8: Perspective drawing of the cafés around the pool by Jansen dated 1933.
(Resource: <http://architekturmuseum.ub.tu-berlin.de/index.php?set=1&p=79&Daten=158339>)

In 1935, the local government, claiming economic and aesthetical reasons, announced that they would not be able to implement the Jansen's plan of Gençlik Parkı. Instead, Theo Leveau prepared another plan. (Figure 4.9) Although Leveau kept the main design principles of Jansen and the main conceptual diagram of the park, he made some important changes on the Jansen's plan, as described below:

- He added secondary pedestrian paths and he removed the small cafés suggested around the main pedestrian path. Thus, the importance of the main pedestrian path was lost.
- He changed the style of the park. Leveau designed the space by geometrical, axial and symmetrical way that the design resembled the arrangement of French formal gardens, whereas the park in the Jansen's plan used to resemble English gardens.

- He changed the form of the pool and divided it into two, by proposing two islands: one for the café building and the other for the swans' house. The café building was later used as a pavilion and a wedding hall, whereas the swans' house was never built.
- He also removed the pre-proposed watchtower and rose gardens. The part, which was designed for open and closed exhibitions, and which was to connect the exhibition hall to the park, was transformed into a horse-riding pit. (Akansel, 2009)

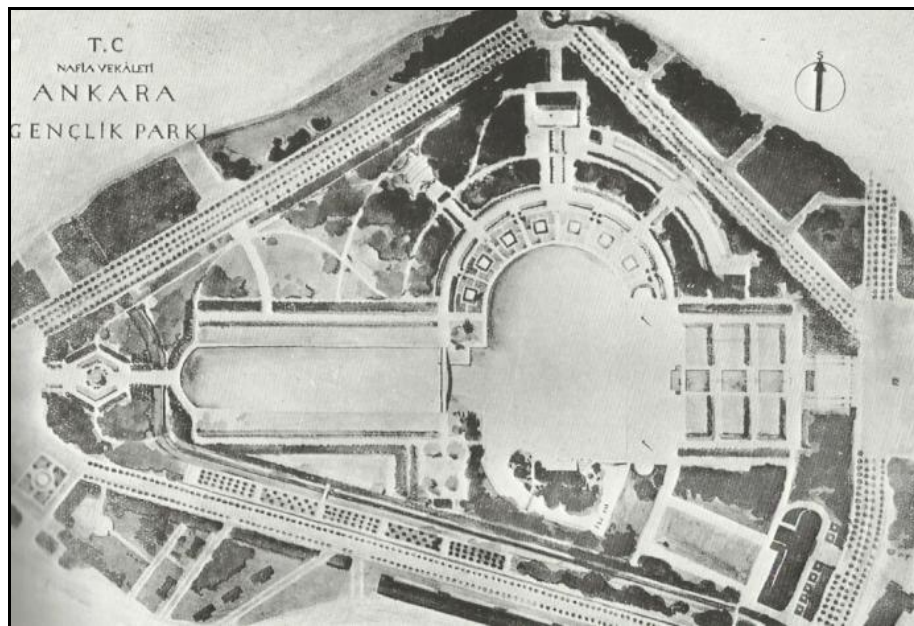


Figure 4.9: Final drawing of the park by Leveau dated 1936
(Resource: Tekcan, 2009)

The construction of the park started in 1938; the construction of the pool was completed in 1940 and the park was opened in 1943. After its opening and in early years of the park, the park offered a calm and relaxing environment. Various activities representing the new, modern life style and needs, such as theater and sports activities, were used together without disturbing each other. The park also had a very safe and decent image, which motivated especially families and women to use it freely.

4.1.2.2. 1950-1970: "GOLDEN AGE" OF THE PARK

The period between 1950 and 1970 is characterized by the policy, which disregarded the landscape and greenery of the park, while bringing entertainment functions to front. This policy led to increase entertainment functions and to dominate the park image, as well as to increase the built-up environment ratio of the park. Increasing construction works is another characteristic of this period. A number of new functions were added to the park, such as kiosks, restaurants, a mini train and an amusement park.

The period between 1950 and 1970 also presented a time-period when consumption patterns in spare time changed. Entertainment-oriented activities started to dominate the spare-time understanding of the society. For example, Göl Gazinosu (*Lake Pavilion*) became the most significant and widely used place in the park. It started to serve mostly middle class.

In 1956, a revision plan came into force, foreseeing new spaces appropriate to the new consumption patterns of the middle class, while diminishing the green spaces of the park (Demir 2005). Subsequently, municipality gave permissions for the construction of new restaurants, teahouses and pastry shops. Demir (2006) calls this period as the "golden age" of the park due to its higher use values. This period, however, can be also interpreted as the "disneyfication age" of the park, which undermined its earlier images as the symbol of modern Republican ideology.

4.1.2.3. 1970-2005: DECLINE PERIOD OF THE PARK

The third phase of the park, the time between 1970 and 2009, refers to the decline of the park, as it loses its attractiveness, popularity and meaning among Ankara citizens. This was primarily resulted from the increasing use of the park by migrants and low-income groups.

The urban population of Ankara rapidly increased and the city grew fast in the 1970s due to the migration. The newcomers of the city started to dominate the spaces. Middle-class citizens moved to the new development areas of Ankara, which offered alternative sub-centers with their own recreational spaces. Central recreational spaces, such as Gençlik Parkı, lost its value, along with the decline of the old city center. Demir explains this process as follows:

...the new comers of the city and the urban poor took the consumed physical spaces without any renewal and started to construct its own 'arabesque' culture and lifestyle on it. (Demir, 2006, p.73)

Another factor accelerated the decline of the park in this period was the change in the after-work habits of the citizens. With the entrance of televisions to houses, most families opted to stay at home, rather than spend time in public and communal spaces. Another reason behind the decline of the park was the dynamism in the political life. The political struggles and gathering of political groups in public open spaces increased the fear of crime and prevented families and single people from using such spaces (Demir, 2005).

There were attempts to regain parks old attractiveness. In 26.09.1980 construction of Atatürk Culture Center, as a part of the celebrations of Atatürk's 100th birthday was stated by a law. Gençlik Parkı was declared as the 3rd district within the plan.(Figure 4.10) The plan had revisions in 1979, 1981,1983,1987,2001 and 2005.

There were minor implications to regain parks old attractiveness, but the main attempt was in 2005 when a new plan for the AKM was prepared



Figure 4.10: 2001 plan of AKM(Resource: ODTU Mimarlık Fakültesi çalışma grubu, 2009)

Even if there were attempts to increase the attractiveness of the park for the public, such as removing the admission fees of the park in the 1990s, this period corresponded to decline period of the park (Demir, 2005). To stop this decline and to regenerate the park, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality took action in the mid-2000s. The municipality closed down the park between 2005 and 2009 for the renewal project to regain its attractiveness and allure.

4.1.2.4. 2009-2012: PARK AFTER THE RENEWAL

The last phase of the park corresponds to the years between 2009 and 2012. In 2005 plan proposals for AKM area were submitted, hence only the renewal plan regarding the 3rd district, Gençlik Parkı was approved. Architect Öner Tokcan was commissioned by Ankara Metropolitan Municipality to prepare the renewal project of the park. Following the completion of the four-year renewal project, the park was re-opened in 30th August 2009. (Figure 4.11) The opening date is similar to its initial opening date, which is a national holiday.

The main aim of the renewal project was to regenerate the park and to add a “modern” visage without damaging its historic texture. According to Tokcan, the main ideas behind the project were to stop deteriorations of the functions and aesthetics of the park, and to revitalize them in a higher quality. For the project, upgrading the functions and improving the quality of the physical spaces would change the public image of the park and help increase its values. Although the project for regaining the park has destroyed its aesthetics and functionality, it has created a park with a more “modern” image (No author, 2009a)



Figure 4.11: The recent renewal plan of Gençlik Parkı prepared by Öner Tokcan (Resource: http://www.ankara.bel.tr/AbbSayfalari/Projeler/rekreasyon_cevre_parklar/cevre/resim_cevre/genclik1.jpg)

The main principles of the renewal project are:

- to increase the number of entrances and emphasis on the design of each;
- to add the Cultural Center and Youth Center in order to create new attraction points;
- to demolish teahouses along the lake;
- to cut down the trees in order to create space for the pedestrians to move freely along the lake; and
- to add canopies in the green spaces in order to create comfort for the users (No author, 2009b)

4.2. CHANGING INCLUSIVITY OF THE PARK DURING DIFFERENT PHASES

4.2.1. 1943 – 1950: THE EARLY YEARS OF THE PARK

4.2.1.1. PHYSICAL ACCESS

In the earlier design of Gençlik Parkı, the main pedestrian flow through the park was to be on the main axis that connected the station to the city center (*Ulus*). So, this axis, as well as its comfort and aesthetical values, was considered primarily. Jansen describes the design of this path as follows:

The pedestrian path, which connects the main rail station to Atatürk Boulevard, was covered with dense trees or passageways in the north direction in order to provide a shady and comfortable walking path, because this path was the shortest distance for reaching the city center from the station. (Jansen, 1937, p. 33)

An important issue for Jansen was to create pleasant paths for the users of the park to stroll. For this purpose, dense rows of trees were planned through the borders of the park in order to prevent the dust and noise coming from the adjacent roads to the park (Jansen, 1937).

Another proposal of Jansen to increase the pleasantness of the pedestrian movement within the park was the construction of pergola on the main pedestrian axis along the pool. Jansen also considered pergola appropriate for the park, as it would provide a shady and comfortable walk for the visitors of the park, regarding Ankara's terrestrial climate.(Figure 4.12)

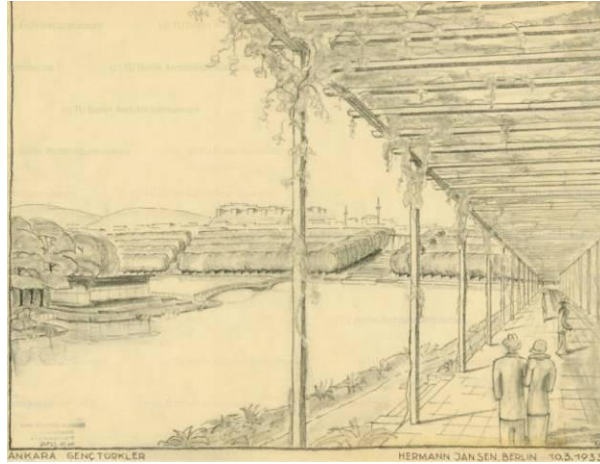


Figure 4.12: Perspective drawing of the cascades view from the pergola on the borders of the pool by Jansen dated 1933. (Resource: <http://architekturmuseum.ub.tu-berlin.de/index.php?set=1&p=79&Daten=158335>)

Jansen also proposed a 40-meter long bridge on the main pool, connecting both sides of the park. Thus, the bridge enabled a continuous pedestrian flow within the park. The bridge also became one of the well-known symbols of the park and Ankara; and it was even used for the postcards and pictures of Ankara, as well as a Turkish Lira banknote. (Figure 4.13)



Figure 4.13: The picture of the bridge on a Turkish-Lira banknote. (Resource: <http://img.webme.com/pic/i/intsangaz/imagescalk047s.jpg>)

There were four main planned entrances: one from the station direction, one from Istasyon Street facing the Stadium, one heading the National Assembly Building and one from the Exhibition Hall. In both Jansen's and Leveau's plans, the main entrance of the park was the same location; i.e., the Ulus entrance on the Exhibition Hall side of the park in order to protect the axial relationship between the train station and the citadel. (Figure 4.14,4.15)

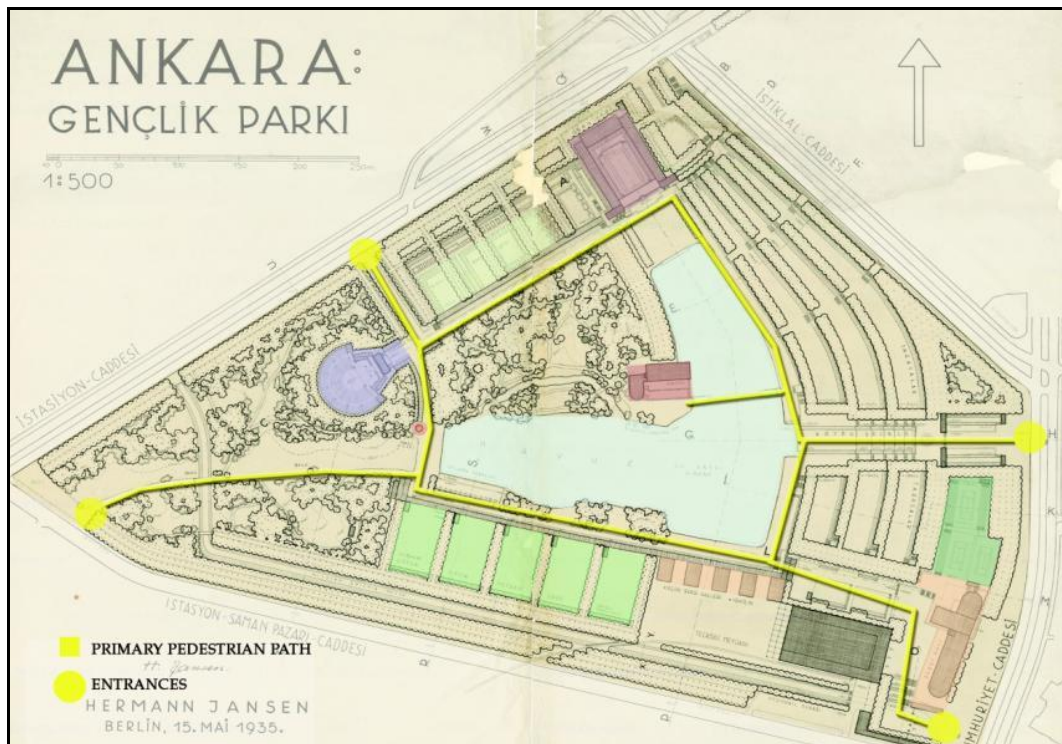


Figure 4.14: Pedestrian paths and entrances on Jansen's plan of 1935 (Diagram by the author). (Resource : <http://www.europeana.eu/portal/record/08535/31964C2B85158D9D6A67AFAF0EB70D048527B53.html?start=9>)

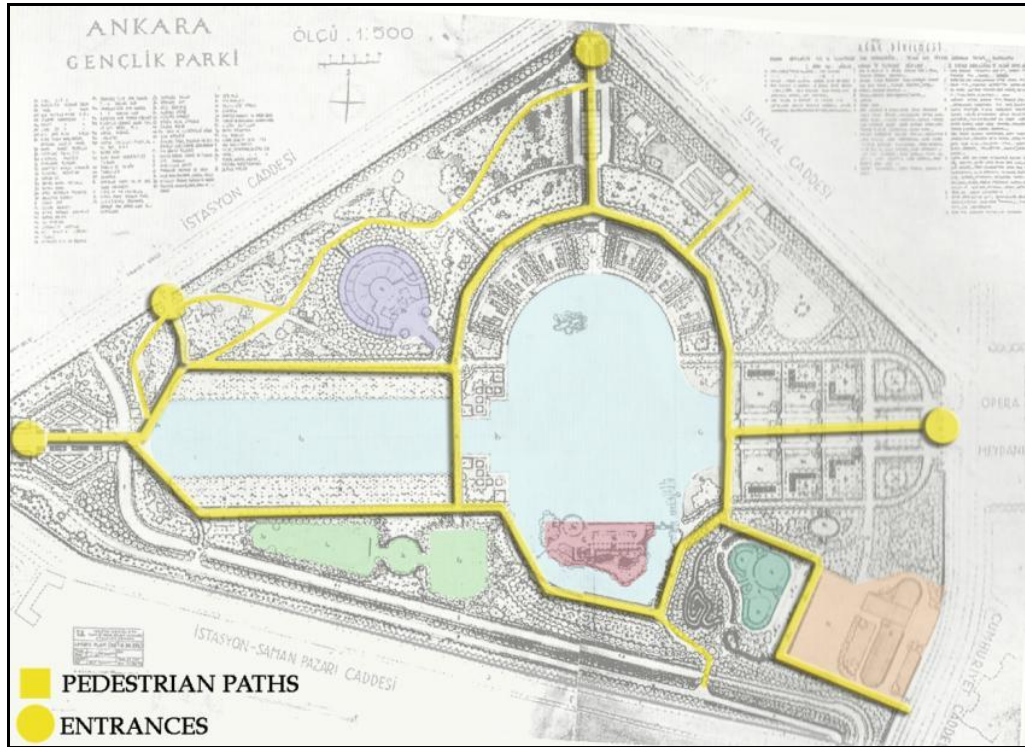


Figure 4.15: Pedestrian paths and entrances on Leveau's plan of 1936 (Diagram by the author). (Resource: Tekcan, 2009)

A significant level of attention was given to the park entrances as the major important issue for the physical access of the park. Leveau prepared special drawings for the design of the main entrance.(Figure 4.16) According to Akansel (2009), this design increased the significance of the entrance; however, it loosened the axial relation between the entrance and the citadel.

On the other hand, the proposal of Jansen and the one of Leveau had a significant relation with the cascades through the lake, that both of them defined an intermediary space between the outside and the park. However, the design of Leveau lost this relationship in such case that it presented a facade view through the outside in front of the space. (Akansel, 2009)

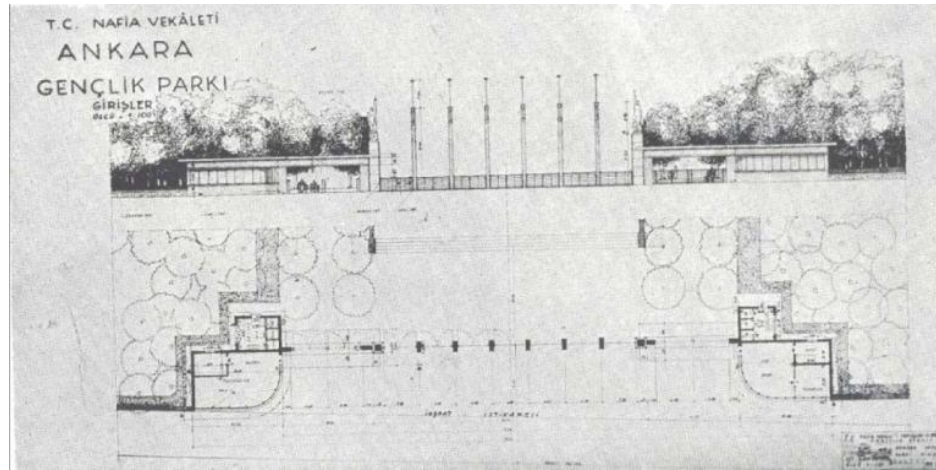


Figure 4.16: Entrance design by Leveau. (Resource: Akansel, 2009,p. 69)

Another important issue, which increased the physical accessibility of the park, was that the park had its main entrances between the old city center and the new center. Thus, the park did not only function as a connection between the old and the new, but it was also welcoming people from both nodes (or centres) as an intersecting point. By the 1940s, regarding the scale of the city, the park was easily accessible for both pedestrians and public transport users (Demir, 2006). Vast majority of the users, however, used to come to the park on foot.

4.2.1.2. SOCIAL ACCESS

In the early years of the park, it was appealing to various groups due to its design. A variety of functions was available for different age groups, such as playgrounds for children, open-air theater for the young people and the pleasant greenery for those who come to park for walking, relaxing and recreation. This kind of multi-functionality for various groups created a high degree of social access for different social groups.

Another important feature of the park was the big lake, which satisfied the citizens and the new public office workers who moved to Ankara from coastal areas in the 1920s, longing for water. This increased the attraction of the park and created a special identity for the park, which also fostered a sense of belonging to the park. In other words, having a water attraction increased the feeling of attachment for the park and at the same time made the users feel more welcomed.

In its early years, Gençlik Parkı also provided Ankara citizens with a space to celebrate national holidays after the ceremonies at the Stadium. Gençlik Parkı was opened on 19th May 1943, after the ceremonies at the Stadium. (Figure 4.17) Furthermore, the ceremonies on 30th August 1944 took place in Gençlik Parkı with swimming, sailing and rowing competitions. Thus, the park offered a vivid and healthy open space for communal celebrations. This is a demonstrative example of the sense of attachment created with the park by creating a remembrance of national events at the park.



Figure 4.17: News about Gençlik Parkı's opening ceremony on 30th August 1943.

(Resource: Ulus, 08.05.1943, p.1; Uludağ 1998)

4.2.1.3. ACCESS TO ACTIVITIES

In the 1937 plan of Ankara, Jansen states that the value of the park is in its ability to provide the users with many benefits for different intentions. He (1937) claims that the park provides people with the opportunity of relaxing or entertaining; it serves for both small children and adults at the same time and all these help the formation of this value.

Gençlik Parkı offered many options to create this multiple functionality for various types of users. The park contained various cultural and sports activities as the outcome of the newly founded Republic, which aimed to develop a recreational public space modeled from Western societies.

To serve the needs of various groups, Jansen proposed multiple functions and activities for the park. However, in the plan of Leveau, some of these functions were removed to reduce the construction costs of the park. Nevertheless, the main functions were kept, although some design details which would add to the allure of the park were disregarded. The main activities offered in the first plans of Jansen and the changes made by Leveau can be listed as follows:

- *The Lake*

The development of a big pool was the major design idea for Gençlik Parkı from the very early stages. In the first site plan of 1932 prepared by Jansen, there were two large pools. The surface area of one pool would be 15000 m² (1,5 ha) and that of the other one would be 33000 m² (3,3 ha). However, Jansen changed the earlier design of the pool in 1933, by transforming the nearly rectangular form into a more unique and free form. This new form was created by keeping the part called “the lake” more longitudinal. At the Ulus entrance of the park, he proposed seven-leveled cascades, falling through the pool (Jansen, 1937; Akansel, 2009; Uludağ, 1998).

Yet, Leveau changed the form of the pool and he suggested the pool to be made up of two parts, one of which was the narrower part, called as 'the pool', and the larger part was called 'the lake' (Akansel, 2009). Further, he proposed two islands in the pool: one for the café building and the other for the swans' house. The café building was used later as a pavilion and wedding hall, whereas the swans' house was never built. Jansen also proposed a boathouse to store rowing equipments on the islands. Different from the Jansen's plan, Leveau reduced the number of cascades to three and lowered their height. All these changes in the plan offered a more naïve and economic design for the park.

The lake was designed to create not only a good scenery for the park, but also a sense of water within the terrestrial climate of Ankara. Additionally, the lake also served for many activities, such as ice-skating and water sports in its early years (Figures 4.18, 4.19, 4.21). After the creation of an artificial beach, the lake also gained another important function in 1942 (Figure 4.20).



Figure 4.18: Ice-skating in Gençlik Parkı (Resource: Ulus, 19.12.1945, p.1; Uludağ 1998)



Figure 4.19: Ice-skating in Gençlik Parkı (Ulus, 27.12.1943, p.1; Uludağ 1998)



Figure 4.20: Artificial Beach in Gençlik Parkı (Ulus, 07.07.1944, p.1; Uludağ 1998)

**Gençlik Parkında
dün su sporları
müsabakaları yapıldı**



**Gençlik Parkında
dün yapılan kürek ve
yüzme müsabakaları**

Dün Gençlik Parkı havuzunda yüzmeye, kürek müsabakalarıyla polken gösterileri yapılmıştır. Esimlerimizdeki iddialı kürek müsabakalarına iştirak eden bir boyama, sadık ve yalın gösterileri yapan bir yoldaçı gösteriyordu. Müsabakaların başarıyla diğer spor haberlerimiz kimeki sayısında,

34 METRE SERBEST YÜZME:
Küçükler arasında: I — Ergun arası B. Y. 39.7, II Suha Oktemer . S. 42.7, III — Muharrem Eyuplu B. Y., IV — Tuncer Bülent.

34 METRE SERBEST YÜZME:
Bayanlar Arasında: I — Doroti T.B. 1.06.4, II — Sevim Güverir B.T.B. 1.12.5, III — Türkân def B.T.B., IV — Sevinç Özel T.B.

34 METRE SIRTÜSTÜ "Küçükler arasında": I — Saim Saygılı . Y. 50.7, II — Ömer Düzler . Y. 55.3, III — Muharrem Eyuplu B. Y., IV — Suha Oktemer . S.

34 METRE KURBAĞALAMA:
Küçükler arasında: I — Sayhan il-

ker B. Y. 51.5, II — Faruk Unal F. 52.9, III — Mustafa Söğüt H.S. IV — Saim Saygılı B. Y.

Bayanlar arasında 1200 metrelik kürek yarıştı II kategori:
I — Türkân Sedef B.T.B. 6.24.7, II — Neşe Terek B.T.B. 6.58.8, III — Yıldız eratalay B. T. B. IV — Doroti.

Küçükler arasında 600 metrelik kürek yarıştı: I — Yıldırım Parla S.S.K. 3.19.9, II — Doğan Gökaltık S.S.K. 3.8.1, II — Ziya Özkan S.S.K.

Bayanlar arasında 1200 metrelik kürek yarıştı I kategori:
I — Şükriye Yener M.T.B. 6.7.—, II — Sevim Güvener " 6.16.6, III — Merzuka Akcan "

II kategori erkekler arasında 1200 metrelik kürek yarıştı: I — Kaya Aydar S.S.K. 5.45, II — Aydın Deniz S.S.K. 5.54.5.

Bayanlar Arasında: I — Doroti I Kategori erkekler arasında 1200 metrelik kürek yarıştı: I — Cengiz Ersan S.S.K. 5.06.8, II — Rüçhan Alpanas S.S.K. 5.22.—

Bu yarışta iki kürekçi yol kesdiklerinden diskalifiye oldular. Erkekler arasında 1200 metrelik Skif yarıştı: Üç kardeş arasında olan bu yarışta:
I — İhsan Müstecaplı 5.08, II — Necdet Müstecaplı 5.09, II — Ödhan Müstecaplı 5.14 oldular. Kürek yarışlarından sonra boy gösterileri yapıldı.

Figure 4.21 : Water sport competitions in Gençlik Parkı (Ulus, 18.09.1944, p.1,2; Uludağ 1998)

- *Playgrounds*

The Jansen's plan included many playgrounds for children. This idea was also kept in the Leveau's plan. The location of these playgrounds was selected carefully. They were located in a part of a park where they would not disturb adults using the park for relaxation (Jansen, 1937).

- *Nature Gardens*

In his plan, Jansen proposed nature gardens embellished with specific flowers, such as roses, and an orangery with endemic flowers for the people who were enthusiastic for nature. However, neither flower gardens, nor the orangery was built due to Leveau who discarded these ideas in his plan.

- *Coffee house and Pavilions*

The Jansen's plan foresaw many cafés and pavilions located within the park to provide many spots for people to sit in shade. In the final design of Leveau, however, the coffee houses proposed around the main axis were removed.

Jansen also envisaged a coffee house serving both pedestrians and tennis courts (tennis courts were discarded in the Leveau's plan). Leveau kept the idea of a main coffee house, but moved its location to the island. Later on, in the 1950s, the main coffee house located on the island, which is known as 'Göl Gazinosu', attracted many citizens who came to watch the performances of very well-known singers and artists of the period.

- *Open-air theater*

Jansen designed an open-air theatre to provide an open-air stage for meetings, exhibitions and festivals for nearly 2500 people. The theatre was not located on a slope, but artificial shift on levels. Leveau kept the 'open-air theatre' idea, while changing its orientation (Akansel, 2009).

- *Observation Tower*

Jansen foresaw an observation tower, which would offer an incredible view and function as a landmark. It was unfortunately disregarded in the Leveau's plan.

- *Exhibition hall*

Jansen envisaged an exhibition hall and open-air exhibition area in his plan. As he gave a special importance for this part, including the exhibition hall and its connection with the park, he designed a door in-between them. Jansen also prepared a report regarding the architecture of the exhibition hall; and later, in 1934, it was constructed by Şevki Balmumcu (Jansen, 1937; Akansel, 2009; Uludağ, 1998). In 1946, the exhibition hall was transformed into Opera House that is still in use.

Beside the exhibition hall, Jansen also proposed several open- and closed-exhibition spaces that would connect the building towards the park (Figure 4.22). Despite this intention to connect the exhibition hall with open-air exhibition spaces, Leveau discarded this idea and he proposed a horse-riding pit on these sites (Figure 4.23).



Figure 4.22: Spatial organization of activities on Jansen's plan of 1935 (Diagram by the author).

(Resource:<http://www.europeana.eu/portal/record/08535/31964C2B85158DD9D6A67AFAF0EB70D048527B53.html?start=9>)

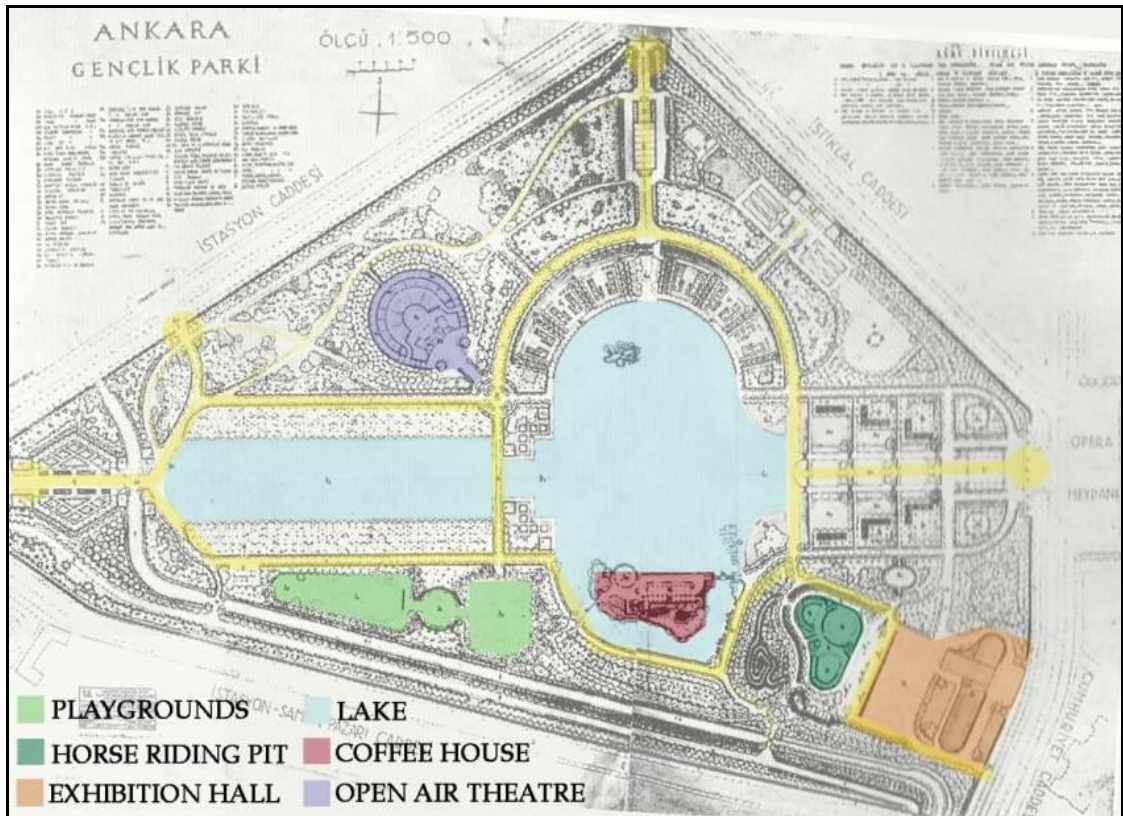


Figure 4.23: Spatial organization of activities on Leveau's plan of 1935 (Diagram by the author). (Resource Tekcan, 2009)

4.2.1.4. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Even though the communication tools were insufficient in comparison with today, the publicity for the social events on-going in the park were much higher. The daily newspaper, Ulus, started its publications on Gençlik Parkı, even before its opening. It roused the public interest to the park, by giving commendations about it through many articles. After the development of the park, Ulus continued informing the citizens with the information about the on-going events and activities, as well as publishing the news praising the park (Figures 4.24, 4.25).



Figure 4.24: News about Gençlik Parkı before opening (Resource: Ulus, 26.03.1942, p.2, Uludağ 1998)



Figure 4.25: News about Gençlik Parkı before opening.
(Resource: Ulus, 20.07.1935, p.1, 29.03.1942, p.2, Uludağ 1998)

4.2.1.5. CONCLUSIVE REMARKS (1943- 1950)

The changes in the levels of access regarding the pre determined variables on access (Table 2.2) during the first period of the park could be summarized as follows;

Table 4.1: Summary of the levels of access (1943-1950)

ACCESS TYPES (PRIMARY VARIABLES)	SECONDARY VARIABLES	EXPLANATION OF SECONDARY VARIABLES
PHYSICAL ACCESS	PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 main entrances: Stadium, Station, National Assembly building, and Exhibition Hall. The main pedestrian path was connecting the station to the city center. It was also well connected with the Stadium since the ceremonies continued in the park. Pedestrian paths were designed as

Table 4.1 (Cont'd)

		<p>comfortable as possible (pergolas and dense rows of trees).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The space was available for free movement of pedestrians totally, not disturbed by cars or anything else.
	UNIVERSAL DESIGN	It is not clearly put that any special universal design criteria were regarded or not. However, different levels were connected more gradually rather than scarped stairs.
	PHYSICAL ACCESS BY DIFFERENT MODES	The main mode of access to the park was on foot. The park was highly accessible for both pedestrians and public transportation.
	CONNECTIONS	Connections: City Center, Station, Stadium
VISUAL ACCESS	VISIONS OF THE PARK	<p>The park had an attractive vision from the entrances. The cascades on the entrance and the designs of Leveau for the entrances were the reasons behind this.</p> <p>The scenery from the station entrance (i.e., Ankara Citadel and the cascades of the lake) also created a welcoming appearance for those coming from the Station entrance.</p>
SOCIAL ACCESS (SYMBOLIC ACCESS)	SYMBOLS & REPRESENTATION	<p>The park was used by various groups of the society, since then none of the social groups felt alien to the place.</p> <p>The place had the republican ideology represented within the space, thus regarding the social composition of the times each member of the society was welcomed.</p> <p>The big lakes within the park become an image for the new public officers coming from coastal areas welcomed.</p>
	SPACE ATTACHMENT	In this period, ceremonies on national holidays took place within the park. Thus the citizens created a social bond with the park
	SAFETY & COMFORT	The high frequency of families and women utilizing the park indicates that safety and comfort was in high levels.
	ACCESS FOR ALL SOCIAL GROUPS	In the design of the park, different groups and their needs were regarded. Thus, equality in the provision of the space was achieved. The separation of different age groups activities was done purposefully, thus not disturbing each other.
ACCESS TO ACTIVITIES	MULTI-PURPOSE	<p>Moderate variety of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation: lake (artificial beach, rowing, ice-skating) Educational: exhibition hall, open-air theatre Social programs: playgrounds (with child care center) Relaxation: green terraces.

Table 4.1 (Cont'd)

		In addition to provision of variety of functions, high frequencies of utilization indicate that the activities were appealing for large groups.
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	EVENT AND ACTIVITIES	The newspaper Ulus informed the public about the events within the park even before the opening of the park. The articles were mainly praising the park.
	PARTICIPATION	There is no such information, whether there was participation during the design processes of the park.
	LANGUAGE	Language was neither a problem since there were neither small groups with different native languages, nor was it regarded.

4.2.2. 1950-1970: "GOLDEN AGE" OF THE PARK

4.2.2.1. PHYSICAL ACCESS

In this period, the main railway station was no longer the only door for the newcomers to the city, because the airport had started to be used since the 1950s. Thus, the importance of the main pedestrian axis connecting the station to the center was no longer of primary importance.

Due to the increasing car-ownership in this period, to give vehicle access to the park and the need for car access to the music hall, a car-parking site to serve the park was on the agenda. Thus, a car-parking area was proposed on the site near wholesale bazaar edge in 1965. So, the parks privileged design for pedestrians was weakened in order to create car access.

In 1957, two mini-trains, which operated on the railways within the whole park area, were built in the park (Figure 4.26). This addition was due to entertainment purposes, but it also fastened the movement between activities and provided a much easier travel within the park for older people, parents with babies and young children and disabled people.

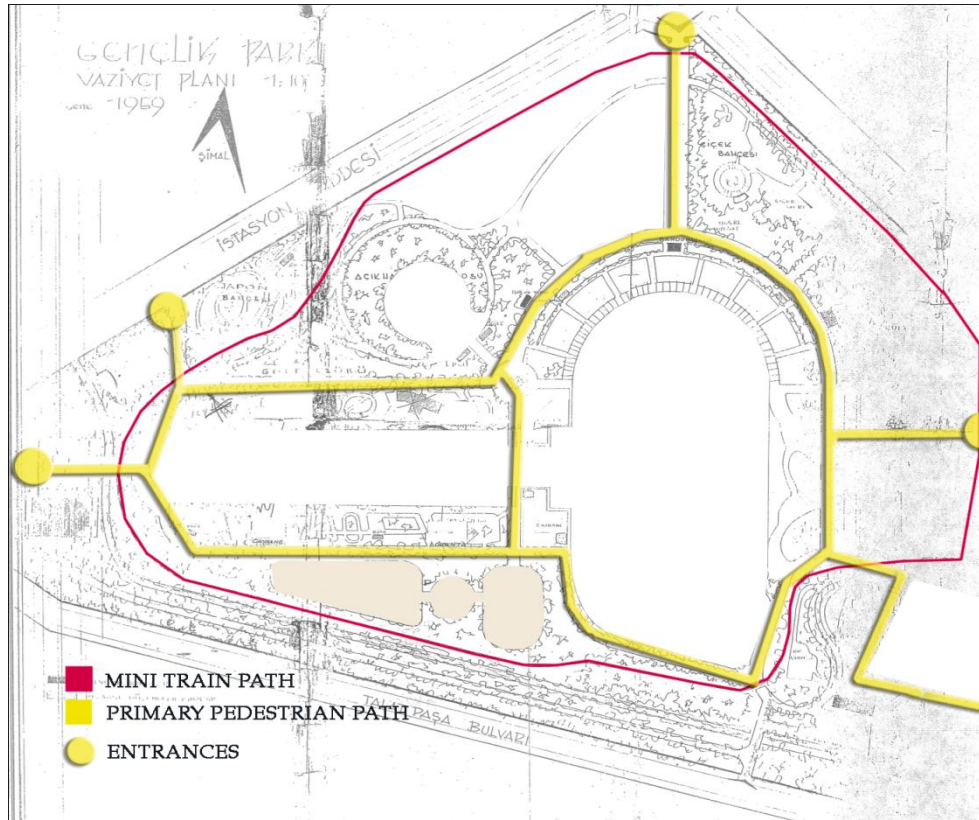


Figure 4.26: Pedestrian paths and entrances on plan of 1959 (Diagram by the author).
(Resource: Uludağ 1998)

4.2.2.2. SOCIAL ACCESS

Towards the evening, many families were going to Gençlik Parkı, which was well known with its landscape, decency and elegance. We used to go for boat trips in the pool with the renting boats, which seemed like an ocean for a child who has been brought up in Ankara...You could hear people discussing the beauty of the voice of Zeki Müren whom is going to perform in Göl Gazinosu that night between the fragrance of tea coming from the tea houses served with tea-urns (semaver). (Uzuner, 1998; cited in Cantek, 2012, p.437)

Like Uzuner (1998) defines in her book, by the 1950s, Gençlik Parkı used to be a frequented place for the middle-income families.(Figure 4.27) The park was well

known with its decency and elegancy. It can be easily assumed that the feeling of safety and comfort, especially for families with children was adequate. Demir also supports this idea as follows:

When we look at the social composition of the park between the years 1950-1960; we can say that mostly the old city dwellers, but also all the social economic groups, used to visit the park. Although the park was shaped by the demands of the middle class, the park was still attractive for different groups in Ankara... Still, it could be easily guessed that, there was social polarization within the park; as different groups were using different spaces according to their income and taste. (Demir, 2006, p. 75)



Figure 4.27: Anonymous picture of families enjoying the teahouses near the lake.
(Resource: From the archives of Yalçın Memlük)

Between the years 1950-1970, there were activities regarding all groups, as well as special organizations of events for all groups (even for marginal groups) to enjoy the park. For instance, in the year 1959, there were special sessions in the theatre for women on Tuesdays and for low-income groups on Sundays. Also, a special attention was paid to women by the small enterprises in the park. "Gazino" performances specific to women used to be organized to enable them to come during daytime without disturbance of men. Additionally, there were patisseries and beer houses for young people. Also, there were many special areas dedicated

to children, such as children's theatre, a site for muppet shows, children's library and psychological counseling center within the children's play area (Demir, 2006).

There were many spatial features that functioned both as landmarks and as the elements giving the space its identity. Sculptures within the park and the bridge are these features, which used to leave dominated images in the memories of the park users (Figures 4.28, 4.29).



Figure 4.28: Anonymous picture of families taking pictures with the sculptures.
(Resource: <http://maikedi.files.wordpress.com/2008/01/1987ankarac3bc.jpg>)



Figure 4.29: Anonymous picture of families enjoying the teahouses near the lake.
(Resource: From the archives of Yalçın Memlük)

Furthermore, the special gatherings of the schools and special organizations were held mainly in the restaurants facing the pool or in Gazino of Gençlik Parkı (Demir 2006). These special organizations and occasions in the park created opportunities for these small groups of the society to develop a feeling of attachment for the park. Likewise, later on, the transformation of Göl Gazinosu into a wedding hall also resulted in many couples to have memories of the space that also increased the sense of belonging and attachment to the space.

4.2.2.3. ACCESS TO ACTIVITIES

In this phase, new functions and activities, such as fun fair and Ankara exhibition, were built into the park. That is, it started to become more an entertainment-based park, while losing its importance and use for cultural and sports activities. Despite a few people who used some original functions of the park, the majority preferred to use the newly introduced activity areas, such as fun fair. This new identity of the park created a contrast with its original design and identity. For example, from the 1970s onwards, the pool was no longer used for water competitions. Uludağ explains this process as follows:

... the establishment of the Ankara exhibition was a radical change in the history of Gençlik Parkı. The meanings reproduced in the social practice changed the representational space, the codes...Now, the codes were different; the park became an entertainment place with new establishments. The users of the park were now the users of the establishments. (Uludağ, 1998, p. 204)

- *Fun fair*

After the visit of an Italian fun fair that captured big attention from Ankara citizens, the municipality decided to build a fun fair in Gençlik Parkı. The fun fair became permanent in 1952 (Uludağ, 1998; Akansel, 2009). This was the most

significant change in the type of the activities, from cultural and recreational activities to more entertainment-based activities. The area where the fun fair was constructed had been determined as playground for children in the earlier plans. Thus, abandoning the idea of playground led to the exclusion of some groups, especially young children and their parents.

The fun fair was also the first step for the fragmentation process of the park. The area of the fun fair was designed separately from the park; and later, a wall was built to separate the fun fair from the park. As a result, exhibition district became a totally separate part from the park; and the interface between the exhibition building and the park was later turned into a car parking site.

- *Ankara Exhibition*

Another important addition to the activities in the park was “Ankara Exhibition” which was opened in 1956 (Uludağ 1998). The exhibition included opening of a museum dedicated to Ataturk, children attractions, flower exhibition, plays at the open-air theatre and miniature golf. The exhibition was open till 1958. (Figure 4.30)



Figure 4.30: News about Ankara Exhibition
(Resource: Ulus, 22.07.1956, p.4, Uludağ 1998)

In 1956, following the opening of the exhibition, many construction permits for small buffets and coffee houses were granted (Uludağ, 1998). Even a mini-golf site was built in the park to serve the new users (Uludağ, 1998). These scattered constructions created a sense of arbitrariness in the physical environment of the park and distracted the comfort of the park for the relaxation purposes.

In 1959, the planning committee of the municipality prepared a new revision plan. The main concerns of the planning authority were to control the construction actions within the park and to create a more calming and relaxing environment as it used to be. The new plan foresaw the demolition of those arbitrary constructions within the park due to aesthetic reasons. Instead, it envisaged the construction of two restaurants, twelve regular buffets and a theater building. Since the approval of the plan, the council had to deal with the demands of the owners of the commercial businesses to construct some buildings in the park (Uludağ, 1998). Even a “relaxation park” was built in the park for those who would come to park for relaxation purposes, rather than commercial activities (Demir, 2006).

- *Tea houses*

Another installation to the park was the teahouses along the main path, which later became one of the descriptive elements of the park. The construction of the teahouses and cafés along the path also increased the definition of the edge of the pool and determined a new activity along the path (Akansel, 2009).

- *Mini trains*

In 1957, along with the increasing demands on entertainment activities, two mini-trains started to operate in the park. (Figure 4.31) These mini-trains, called as “Mehmetçik” and “Efe”, were initiated by Turkish State Railways, and were used for sightseeing. There were four main stations on the 1750-meter-long railway. These were: *Havuzbaşı station* around the main entrance near İller Bankası, *Yalı*

station near the fun fair, *Köprü station* on the train station entrance and *Esmen station* on the Stadium entrance (Akansel, 2009).



Figure 4.31: Anonymous photo of the mini trains in the park
(Resource: From the archives of Yalçın Memlük)

- *Göl Gazinosu / Wedding Hall*

The coffee house on the island was operated as “Gazino” (pavilion) during this phase. Between the 1960s and 1970s, many well-known musicians, such as Zeki Müren, Behiye Aksoy and Neşet Ertaş, performed many times in Göl Gazinosu (Demir 2006).(Figure 4.32) However, the unique value of the park, Göl Gazinosu on the big island, was transformed into a wedding hall in the 1970s. Some other pavilions were converted into teahouses.



Figure 4.32: A flyer of Göl Gazinosu
(Resource: From the archives of Yalçın Memlük)

4.2.2.4. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

By the 1960s, the billboards within the park were the primary sources of information about the events and organizations of the park. The on-going programs, concerts, performances and events in both the pavilions and Ankara Exhibition were advertised on those billboards. The necessary care was not taken for these billboards, and they started to be considered as the elements, which reduced the aesthetic quality of the park. Although these billboards played very significant roles in terms of attracting people to the park, no efforts were put into improving their quality or using them in a more orderly manner. Later, the billboards on the main entrance of the park were placed by flower pots (Uludağ, 1998).

Another important source of information was the weekly magazine published in 1959 for 20 volumes. Although the magazine was published only for a year, it was important in terms of giving information about the activities, events and organizations within the park (Demir, 2006).

4.2.2.5. CONCLUSIVE REMARKS (1950-1970)

The changes in the levels of access regarding the pre determined variables on access (Table 2.2) during the second period of the park could be summarized as follows;

Table 4.2: Summary of the levels of access (1950-1970)

ACCESS TYPES (PRIMARY VARIABLES)	SECONDARY VARIABLES	EXPLANATION OF SECONDARY VARIABLES
PHYSICAL ACCESS	PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were still 4 main entrances. However, Station entrance lost its importance due to the opening of airport. The entrance from Exhibition Hall gained importance, because of the high number of visitors of "Göl Gazinosu" • The main pedestrian path connecting the station to the city center lost its importance, since the train station was no longer the primary mode to come to Ankara. • The main path became more appealing due to the new tea houses built along it. • The vehicle access to the park increased but it was not a barrier for pedestrians.
	UNIVERSAL DESIGN	It is not clear whether any special universal design criteria were regarded or not.
	PHYSICAL ACCESS BY DIFFERENT MODES	Car access to the park had to be taken into consideration. There were efforts to easy car access, such as modifications on the edge of the park for the easy movement of the vehicles and construction of new car parking spaces starting from 1965.
	CONNECTIONS	The main pedestrian path along the park was no longer used as a connector between the city center and the station.
VISUAL ACCESS	VISIONS OF THE PARK	The park had an attractive and comforting vision from the entrances. Also, the addition of billboards made the entrances more welcoming. The construction of the fun fair also increased the appeal of the park from the entrances. Additionally, the lights of the fun fair at night also increased the appeal of the park when seen from outside at night.
SOCIAL ACCESS (SYMBOLIC ACCESS)	SYMBOLS & REPRESENTATION	Mainly middle class families were using the park. The users were mainly old city dwellers. The activities were also shaped according to the tastes and needs of middle class. It can be concluded that the middle class felt welcomed to the space, while low-income groups were still using the park.
	SPACE ATTACHMENT	Mainly middle class started to develop memories of the park. Since the concert in Göl Gazinosu are still in the memories of the oldy city dwellers.
	SAFETY & COMFORT	The high frequency of families and women utilizing the park indicates that safety and comfort was in high levels.

Table 4.2 (Cont'd)

		Also the park could be used also at nighttime, as long as the pavilions and the fun fair were open.
	ACCESS FOR ALL SOCIAL GROUPS	<p>Still there were users of the park from many social economic groups, however mainly middle class dominated the park.</p> <p>Different groups were using different spaces in the park, so there was a polarization within the space.</p> <p>There were special events in the park regarding marginal groups, such as the special sessions for women and low-income groups within theatre and gazino.</p>
ACCESS TO ACTIVITIES	MULTI-PURPOSE	<p>Moderate variety of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation: lake (rowing, ice-skating) Addition of the Fun fair (1952) is the most significant change in this period. Göl Gazinosu was the mostly preferred activity within the park. Mini-trains, and new small cafés around the main pedestrian path. • Educational: exhibition hall was transformed into opera house, open-air theatre, Ankara exhibition (1956-1958) • Social programs: playgrounds • Relaxation: a relaxation park was added in order to create a calm atmosphere for the ones coming to the park for relaxing purposes. <p>The park was offering many activities. Entertainment functions however started to dominate, while the others were disregarded.</p>
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	EVENT AND ACTIVITIES	<p>The billboards on the entrances were the prior means to disseminate information about the events in the park. The activities within the park, especially the events in the Göl Gazinosu were announced by those billboards. However, the unaesthetical image of the billboards became an issue.</p> <p>Also, there was a weekly magazine for the park in 1959 which was only published for 20 volumes</p>
	PARTICIPATION	There is no such information, whether there was participation during the design processes of the park.
	LANGUAGE	Language was neither a problem since there were no small groups with native language different than Turkish, nor was it regarded.

4.2.3. 1970-2005: DECLINE PERIOD OF THE PARK

4.2.3.1. PHYSICAL ACCESS

By the 1970s, the demand for accessing the park by car increased so fast that the need for a significant number of car parking lots arose for Gençlik Parkı. Following the revision plan in 1975, by converting some park sites, three new car-parking sites –one near the train station entrance, other one at the edge of Istasyon Street and the last one in the main entrance on the edge of the Opera House- were built (Akansel 2009). The conversion of some sites in the park into the car-parking areas increased the physical accessibility of the park by car; however, they started to act as physical barriers against the comfortable access of the pedestrians to the park.

In 1988, Gençlik Parkı was included to the plan of Ataturk Cultural Center within third district. The plan envisaged the widening of the promenades and adding the secondary pathways into the area. This plan, however, could not be implemented. Additionally, the plan also foresaw new designs for the entrances of the park (Uludağ, 1998).

By the 1990s, the vehicular traffic within the park raised to a significantly disturbing level. The owners of the commercial businesses were the major vehicular traffic generators of the park. There were even cars parked on the pedestrian paths and green areas. Thus, the comfort of the pedestrians walking within the park was low; and car access given to a small privileged group abused this opportunity (Demir, 2006).

Another turning point of this phase was the opening of Ankara metro line in 1997. The line's station on Ulus had a direct opening to the park. The line was also connected Ataturk Cultural Center and Kızılay (the city center) to the park, in addition to many neighborhoods, such as Batıkent and Yenimahalle (Figure 4.34). This change increased the physical accessibility of the park incontrovertibly. The

location of the station within the park was the site of orangery proposed by Jansen; however, it turned out to a transportation node.

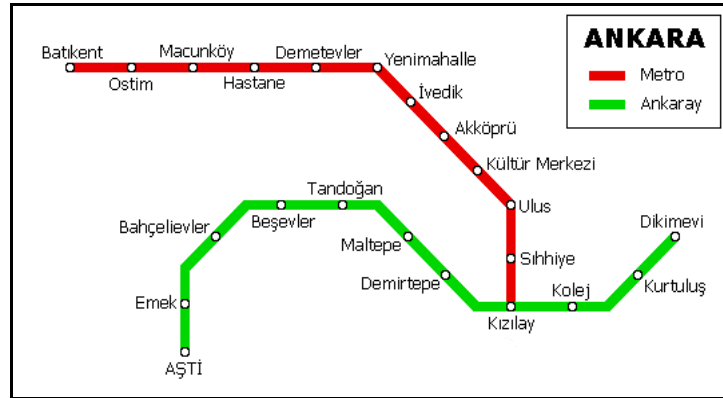


Figure 4.34: Route and stops of the Ankara metro line.

(Resource: http://www.gercekportal.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Ankara_metro_harita.png)

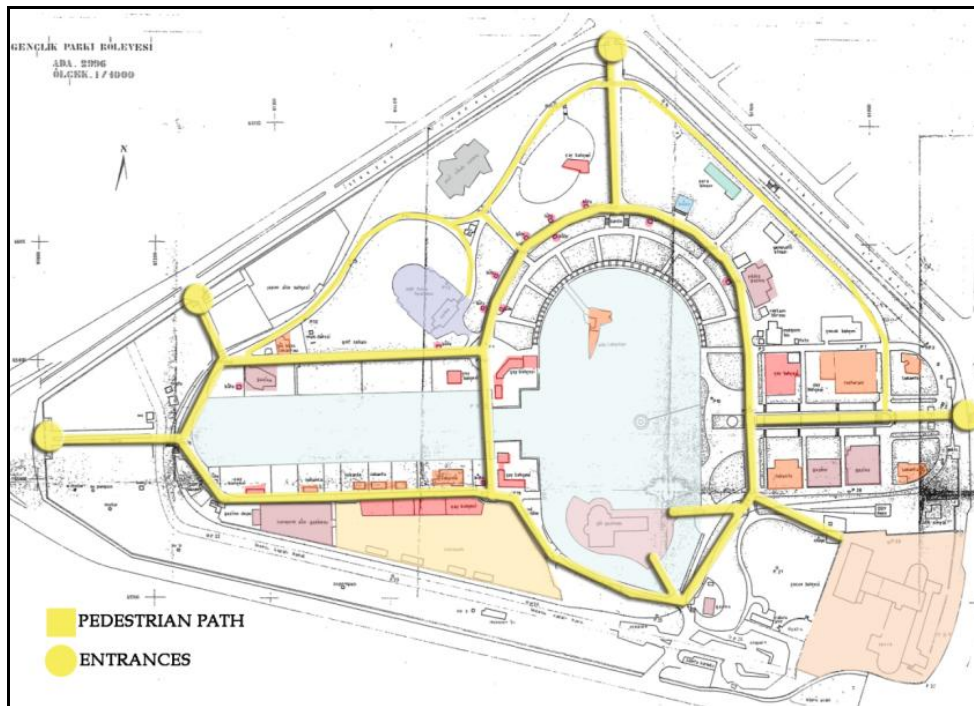


Figure 4.35: Pedestrian paths and entrances on the plan of 1976 (Diagram by the author).

(Resource: Uludağ 1998)

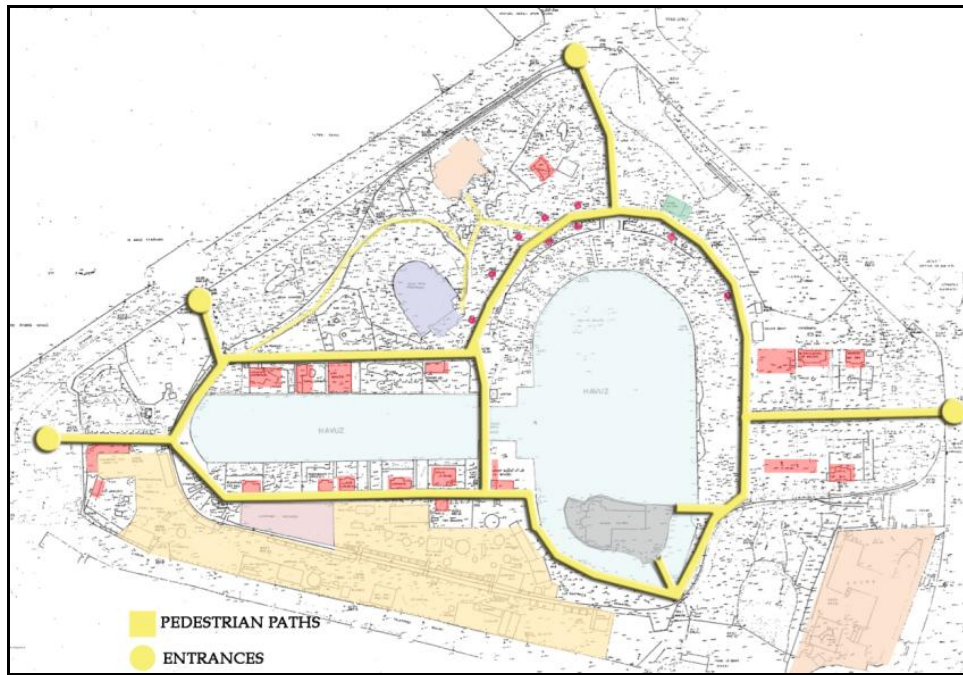


Figure 4.36: Pedestrian paths and entrances on plan of 1987 (Diagram by the author).
(Resource: Uludağ 1998)

4.2.3.2. SOCIAL ACCESS

The park was designed in accordance with the recreation culture and taste of middle-income groups in the 1950s and the 1960s. The operation of the park depended mostly on entertainment activities. However, the image of the park changed in the 1970s due to the dominant use of the newcomers from the low-income groups, such as the migrants to Ankara, working classes, mainly living old historic quarters in Ulus and squatter neighborhoods in Ankara. These new users of the park led to the exclusion of the middle class from the space. Since the 1970s, the park's image had become negative among the middle-income groups, who considered the newcomers of the city as the "others" (Demir, 2006).

In the 1970s, parks were not used by old city dwellers as much as before due to the increasing number of migrant users. The newcomers of the city started to dominate public spaces. These places were attractive for them, as they were freely accessible

and non-commercial spaces where they spent less money. The increasing use of the public spaces by the newcomers, however, created social tensions between different user groups. As a result, the old users – the old, middle-class dwellers – began to use the park less frequently (Demir, 2006).

Besides, Ankara grew very fast between the 1980s and the 2000s; and middle income groups, which used to live in the inner city, started to move to first new sub-centers (Kavaklıdere, Çankaya, Bahçelievler, etc), and later to newly developed suburban neighborhoods (Ümitköy, Bilkent, etc.) that were quite far from the old city center, Ulus. These groups that set up their lives according to their culture and life-style have satisfied all their commercial and recreational needs in these sub-centers and suburban neighborhoods, as explained below:

Middle class was disassociated with the historic city center Ulus and they were not going to this region in case it is obligatory... They were using alternative cultural and recreational spaces located near the streets and commercial areas on the new sub-centers located on the axis of Kavaklıdere-Tunalı Hilmi and Çankaya or other recreation sites that are on the suburbs which are accessible by car. (Demir, 2006, p.76)

According to a research conducted in 1975, 60% of the citizens of Ankara did not go to parks; while 40% of the citizens, who visited parks preferred to go to Gençlik Parkı in the first place (Çakan and Okçuoğlu, 1975). To the same research, Gençlik Parkı was the most preferred park of Ankara with a proportion of 55% respondents (Çakan and Okçuoğlu, 1975). Most users visited the park with a frequency of 'once a month', and this proportion was in inverse proportion with income (Çakan and Okçuoğlu, 1975).

On the other hand, the choice of users of parks was dependent on many variables, such as physical accessibility and scale. For the case of Gençlik Parkı, it was one of the most preferred parks of Ankara. Its use was quite high regarding the visit frequencies of the citizens, although this value is relatively normal, given the scale

of the park, attractive activities in it, and its accessibility by public transport means even from furthest neighborhoods.

Additionally, Çakan and Okçuoğlu's research (1975) shows that low-income groups used the park with higher proportions in the 1970s. High use rate by the low-income groups may not be resulted from their preferences; but it may be due to the habits of low-income groups for traveling longer distances for the services, such as recreation (Çakan and Okçuoğlu, 1975).

Another important barrier, which limited the social accessibility of Gençlik Parkı, was the increase in the street violence because of the 1970s political struggles in Turkey. The violence on the streets and other public spaces in the 1970s turned public open spaces into more frightening, since most gatherings and clashes between the police and the demonstrators and protestors used to take place on these areas.

This violent atmosphere also affected Gençlik Parkı. The park was frequently used by those political groups that created the feeling of fear and anxiety, which led to diminish in the number of families or single people using the park (Demir, 2006). Thus, it became an exclusive place for those political groups and those who did not feel fear and anxious in the park.

The safety and security problem of the park continued throughout the 1980s. According to a research conducted in 1985 by Ankara Planning Bureau, Gençlik Parkı was still one of the most densely used parks in the city in the mid-1980s regarding its scale and physical accessibility (Altaban, 1985; cited in Uludağ 1998). The research also showed that 65% of the citizens used the park in 1985, and most users were from low-middle income group (Altaban, 1985; cited in Uludağ 1998).

The park started to lose its elegance and attractiveness from the late-1980s on. The middle-class citizens lost their interest in the park due to the increasing fear of crime and dominance by other groups. Elements constituting the parks unique

values, such as sculptures and its furniture, were removed. By this time, even the low-middle income groups were not satisfied with the park.

In the 1990s, the metropolitan municipality put the efforts to increase the accessibility of the park. The most important change was the removal of the admission fees of the park and the demolition of the walls around the park to make it accessible from everywhere (Demir, 2006).

According to another study on Gençlik Parkı conducted in 2005, the main user profile of the park was composed of mainly unemployed people or workers from low-income groups. Another result of the study was that 68% of the users were from outside of Ankara and mainly from countryside. 87% of the users came to the park from the neighborhoods on the north, northwest and northeast of Ankara, such as Sincan and Mamak, where low-income families lived. The research also shows that the main reason behind their travelling far distances for Gençlik Parkı was the insufficiency of the green spaces in their neighborhoods, rather than the appeal of the park. On the other hand, the composition of user profile changes on the weekends when many families from different neighborhoods of Ankara utilized the park (Demir, 2005).

4.2.3.3. ACCESS TO ACTIVITIES

In the mid-1970s, the municipality put some efforts to increase the appeal of the park for the public. However, their actions mainly aimed to enhance the commercial activities within the park, whereas a comprehensive set of actions was not taken. By the 1980s, the municipality started to take real actions to resolve the problems of the park. For instance, in 1981, the first “Ankara Fair for Inexpensive Dressing” was organized to create a new, continuous and attractive activity within the park (Uludağ, 1998).

The turning point for the park was 1981 when it was declared that Gençlik Parkı became a part of Atatürk Cultural Center. The Development Plan of Atatürk Cultural Center envisaged the demolition of the fun fair and the creation of a new educational science park in Gençlik Parkı. Nonetheless, the plan decisions regarding Gençlik Parkı were never realized (Uludağ, 1998).

Again, in the same year, there were celebrations of “100th Anniversary of Atatürk’s Birth”, which initiated the proposals for re-introducing cultural activities into Gençlik Parkı. This was an effort to regain the park, its original social meaning and identity (Uludağ, 1998).

In 1989, a series of efforts were made to increase the cultural activities within the park by the municipality. An open-air cinema was opened; and many performances took place in the open-air theatre throughout the summer of 1980 (Uludağ, 1998). Likewise, by the 1990s, the metropolitan municipality introduced new projects to introduce new cultural features to the park, and thereby increasing the attractiveness of the park. Concerts and signature days of the famous authors were organized; an open-air cinema and a theatre were operated in the park (Demir, 2006). Despite these positive efforts, they were not continuous and permanent; and they could not achieve a significant improvement in the inclusivity of the park.

In the same period, the mini-trains, which were one of the major characteristics of the park, were removed from the park. They were highly used especially for the older people, parents with young children and disabled people; and they used to ease the accessibility within the park. The stations of the mini-trains also lost their importance and they were rather transformed into car parks (Akansel, 2009). The benches of the park decorated with the sculptures were also replaced with rather uncomfortable and arbitrary ones. Even this minor modification in the park decreased its appeal for its primary functions, which is seating and relaxing.

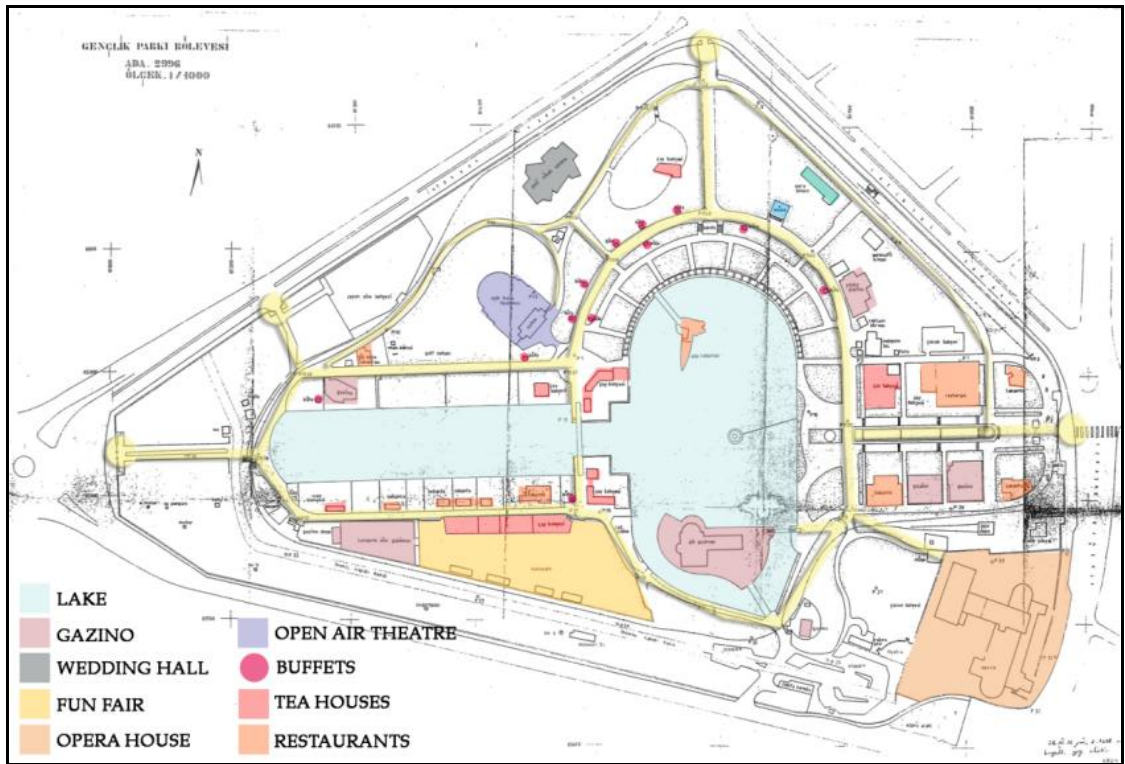


Figure 4.37: Spatial organization of activities on plan of 1976 (Diagram by the author)
(Uludağ 1998)

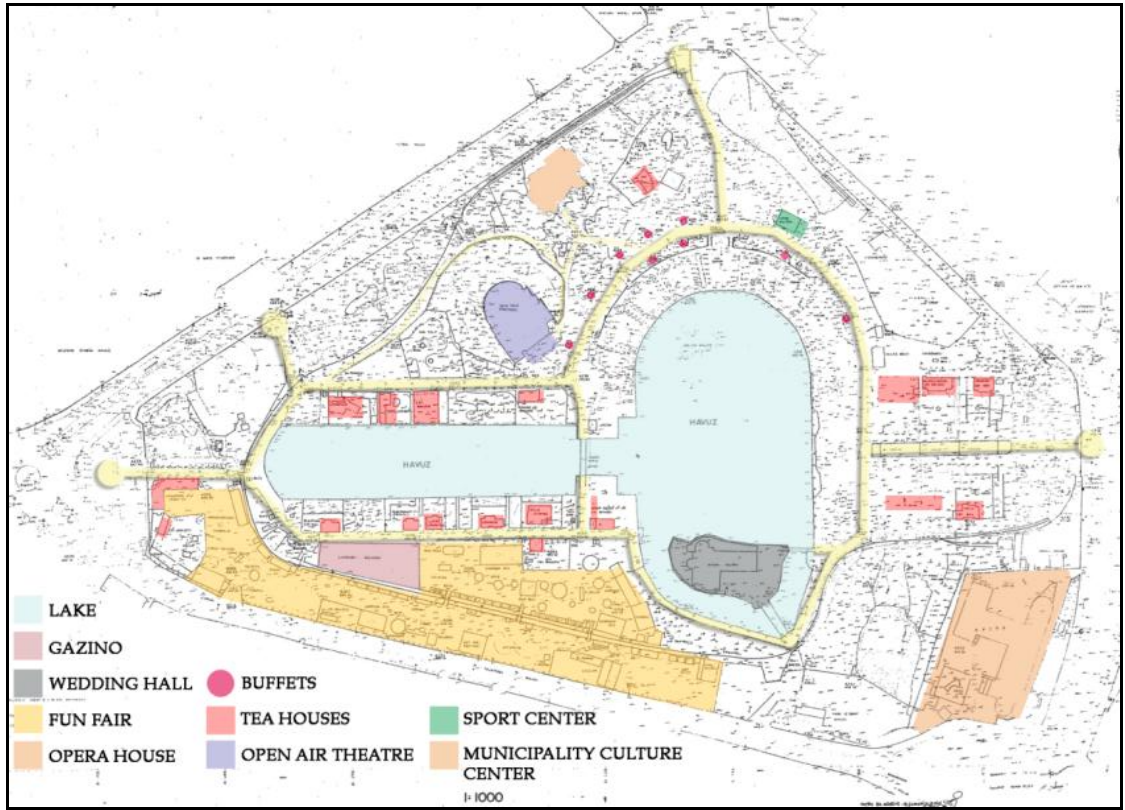


Figure 4.38: Spatial organization of activities on plan of 1987 (Diagram by the author).(Uludağ 1998)

4.2.3.4. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

In this period, the events, organizations and the on-going activities within the park were no longer published effectively via any means of publication. Only the concerts and signature days of well-known authors or artists were announced to the public by the publicity means such as billboards, newspapers, etc or the publicity means of the municipality. Yet, the public was neither informed about the changes carried out within the park, nor participated into the planning process of the park.

4.2.3.5. CONCLUSIVE REMARKS (1970-2005)

The changes in the levels of access regarding the pre determined variables on access (Table 2.2) during the third period of the park could be summarized as follows;

Table 4.3: Summary of the levels of access (1970-2005)

ACCESS TYPES (PRIMARY VARIABLES)	SECONDARY VARIABLES	EXPLANATION OF SECONDARY VARIABLES
PHYSICAL ACCESS	PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrances lost its significance and priority. Access by vehicle was high. Thus, in the 1990s, car dominance within the park was a barrier against the free movement of the pedestrians.
	UNIVERSAL DESIGN	It is not clear whether any special universal design criteria were regarded or not.
	PHYSICAL ACCESS BY DIFFERENT MODES	By 1975, car access to the park was one of the vital issues. In the revision plan many addition of car parks were proposed. Pedestrian access was no longer a priority due to the change in the scale of the city and increase in

Table 4.3 (Cont'd)

		<p>the car ownership levels.</p> <p>The most significant change was the opening of metro line in 1997. A new kind of mode was introduced and it has clearly increased the physical accessibility of the park from the neighborhoods and the city center with its stations.</p>
	CONNECTIONS	<p>The pedestrian connections were loosened and even lost both with the city center and the stadium.</p>
VISUAL ACCESS	VISIONS OF THE PARK	<p>Since the park was no longer dominantly accessed on foot, the visual access from the entrances lost importance. However, the untended outlook of the park and the presence of homeless people within the park were the factors decreasing visual access to the park.</p>
SOCIAL ACCESS (SYMBOLIC ACCESS)	SYMBOLS & REPRESENTATION	<p>Because of the domination of low-income groups, middle class was no longer feeling welcomed within the space.</p> <p>The new image of the park was no longer representing the values of the middle class or the republican ideology. Indeed, the park had no more its unique image.</p>
	SPACE ATTACHMENT	<p>The memory of the old city dwellers was erased from the space. Thus, they were no longer feeling a sense of attachment about the space.</p> <p>Citizens and even the governmental organizations were not concerning or protecting the park.</p>
	SAFETY & COMFORT	<p>Low-income groups dominated the park. Middle-class citizens were declaring the other groups as the “others” and claiming the space as unsafe.</p> <p>By the 1970s, the on-going street fights and protests created an unsafe environment within the park.</p> <p>Another issue was that in the 1990s many homeless people were using the park, thus access for families or women was harder.</p>
	ACCESS FOR ALL SOCIAL GROUPS	<p>Mainly “newcomers” of the city (migrants) were dominating the space. Middle class was excluded from the space, and at the same time they started to use alternative public spaces that have been created recently.</p> <p>It can be concluded that still different groups were utilizing the park, however the dominance of middle class was changed with the low-income groups.</p>
ACCESS TO ACTIVITIES	MULTI-PURPOSE	<p>Moderate variety of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recreation:</i> lake (lake was no longer used for sports functions.), Fun fair,

Table 4.3 (Cont'd)

		<p>Many other kiosks and cafés were constructed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational: opera house, open-air theatre, open-air cinema started to operate. • Social programs: playgrounds, Göl Gazinosu was transformed into a wedding hall • Relaxation: <p>In this period there was no drastic change within the composition of the activities. There were efforts, such as organization of small-scale events. However, none of them was significantly successful.</p>
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	EVENT AND ACTIVITIES	The events and the on-going activities within the park was no longer published effectively.
	PARTICIPATION	There is no such information, whether there was participation during the design processes of the park.
	LANGUAGE	Language was neither a problem since there were no small groups with native language different than Turkish, nor was it regarded.

4.2.4. 2009-2012: PARK AFTER THE RENEWAL

After the recent renewal project, this research conducted a survey with the users of Gençlik Parkı to understand how far the accessibility of the park has improved, or has worsened. The following sections present the results of this survey, as well as the results of the interviews with the security guards of the park.

4.2.4.1. PHYSICAL ACCESS

The survey conducted in the park first questions which modes of transportation the users use to get to the park. The results show that the majority of the visitors (43,9%) come to the park by public transportation means (i.e., bus and dolmuş). Off the visits of the park users, pedestrians constitute a very low proportion

(16,7%), which is close to the access to the park by metro and private car. As a result, the total amount of bus, dolmuş and metro makes a total of %51,2 which is the vast majority of access types. The pedestrians claim that they mainly come from the city center Kızılay (Table 4.4). However, there is a sharp decrease in the number of pedestrians accessing to the park. This indicates the loss of function of the park as a connector path between the station and the city center for pedestrians.

Table 4.4: Modes of transportation to visit Gençlik Parkı.

Mode of transportation	Frequency	Valid Percent
Pedestrian	30	16,7
Public Transport (bus & dolmuş)	79	43,9
Metro	31	17,2
Taxi	4	2,2
Private Car	36	20,0
Total	180	100,0

Another result of the survey is that 51,5% of the respondents have no trouble at all in terms of accessing the park (Table 4.5). Yet, for the participants of the survey, the main issue that creates difficulty while accessing the park is the car traffic (Table 4.6). Especially the respondents claim that car dominance is the main obstacle against the comfort and safety of pedestrians while accessing the park (Table 4.6)

Table 4.5: The difficulty with physical access.

Difficulty with Physical Access		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	1 (not at all)	87	48,3	51,5
	2	51	28,3	30,2
	3	17	9,4	10,1
	4	9	5,0	5,3
	5 (extremely)	5	2,8	3,0
	Total	169	93,9	100,0
Missing	System	11	6,1	
	Total	180	100,0	

Table 4.6: The reasons behind the difficulty of physical access

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Traffic	71	39,4	74,0
	Car dominance blocking the pedestrian movement	25	13,9	26,0
	Total	96	53,3	100,0
Missing	System	84	46,7	
	Total	180	100,0	

In the new renewal plan, there are nine park entrances. These are: five main entrances from the train station, fun fair, Ulus, metro station and stadium, two entrances opening to the fun fair and one entrance dedicated for Atatürk Culture Center and the last one for administrative building (Figure 4.39).

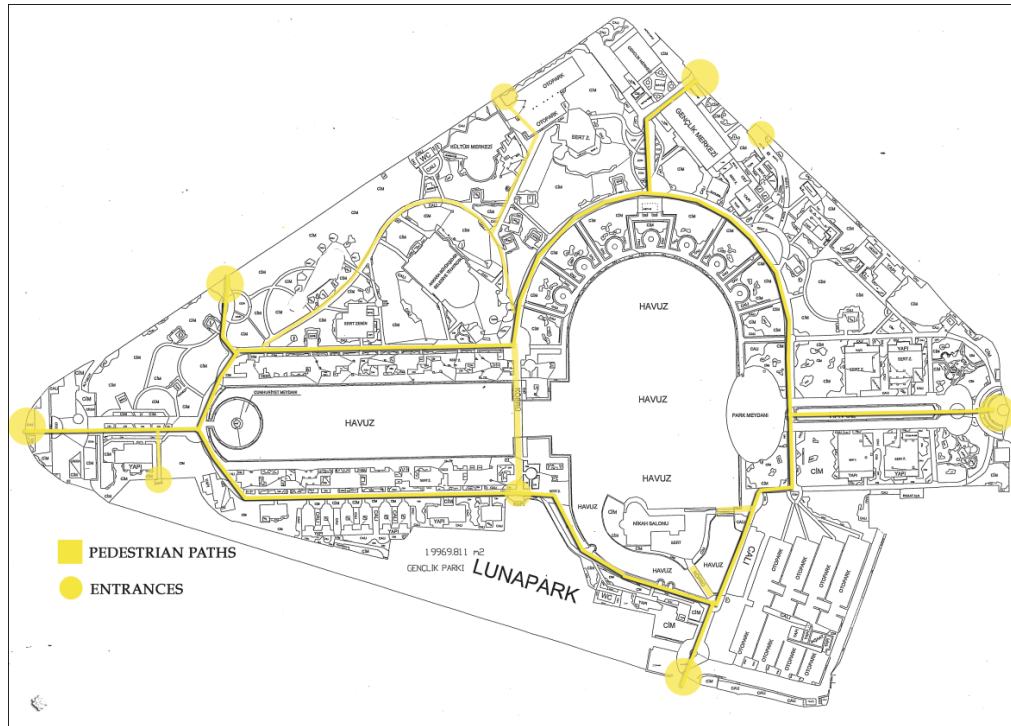


Figure 4.39: Pedestrian paths and entrances on plan of 2009 (Diagram by the author).
(Resource: Uludağ 1998)

According to the survey results, the vast majority of the participants (32,9%) prefer Ulus entrance of the park, as it is very close to the bus and dolmush stops (Table 4.7). The second mostly preferred entrance is the one from the train station (26,7%). It can be concluded that this is due to the place of the car parking on the station entrance. Another mostly preferred entrance is the entrance from the fun fair (17,8%), which is adjacent to the biggest car park. With reference to the interviews done with security guards, Ulus is the mainly used entrance and the use of the Metro entrance is rather substantial.(Figure 4.40, 4.42, 4.43)

Table 4.7: The preference of the sample group on the park entrances.

Preference on Entrances		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Station	39	21,7	26,7
	Fun Fair	26	14,4	17,8
	Ulus	48	26,7	32,9
	Metro	27	15,0	18,5
	Stadium	2	1,1	1,4
	All	4	2,2	2,7
	Total	146	81,1	100,0
Missing	System	34	18,9	
Total		180	100,0	

Especially the design of the main entrance from Ulus was considered as a priority issue.(Figure 4.41) The mayor of Ankara Metropolitan Municipality explains the design of the entrance as follows:

First, we changed the entrance of the park. The entrance on the Ulus side of the park has a unique style, which is a form of a modernized Seljuk architecture. (No author, 2009b)



Figure 4.40: Ulus entrance. (Photo taken by the author , 2012)



Figure 4.41: View from the top of the Ulus entrance.(<http://www.peyzajist.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/17737.jpg>)



Figure 4.42: Station entrance. (Photo taken by the author , 2012)



Figure 4.43: Metro entrance. (Photo taken by the author, 2012)

The recent renewal project introduced new squares on the entrances. Those squares are decorated and complemented by monuments. The newly added squares, however, have destroyed the original form of the pool, while the monuments have restrained the view of Ankara Citadel. The main square designed in the front of the railway station entrance is called “Republic Square” which is bounded by benches around a monument. (Figure 4.44)



Figure 4.44: The view from the Republic Square.
(Photo taken by the author, 2012)

The teahouses along the lake were removed to improve the aesthetic quality of the site, and to create space for the visitors to walk and sit around the pool freely. Although this change aimed to increase pedestrians’ comfortable movements within the park, a number of trees were cut down to create those vast areas for pedestrians, while disregarding their need to be shaded by these trees.

The survey results show that 37,3% of the respondents rate the comfort of the park as a level of 3 (out of 5), which indicates a moderate value (Table 4.8). Only 4% of the respondents claim that they do not feel comfortable at all while visiting the park.

Table 4.8: Comfort rates of the park according to the sample group.

Comfort		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	1 (not at all)	7	3,9	4,0
	2	24	13,3	13,6
	3	66	36,7	37,3
	4	38	21,1	21,5
	5 (extremely)	42	23,3	23,7
	Total	177	98,3	100,0
Missing	System	3	1,7	
	Total	180	100,0	

According to the survey respondents, insufficient number of seatings and insufficient amount of shady areas are rated as the most affecting factors, which used to reduce the comfort of the park, before the renewal project was carried out (Table 4.9). After the completion of the project, the respondents still find these two factors as the most significant ones reducing the users' comfort in the park. However, the ratings of the insufficient number of seatings and insufficient amount of shady areas have increased, after the renewal project. Therefore, the users think that the recent project has improved the comfort of the park, especially by increasing the number of benches and the amount of greenery areas (although we have noted that significant number of trees were cut down). However, they do not notice vast but unshady walkways designed by the recent renewal project.

Table 4.9: Factors affecting comfort

Factors affecting comfort of the visitors	Before Renewal		After Renewal	
	Frequency	Valid Percent	Frequency	Valid Percent
Height of the riser on the stairs	1	1,4	3	2,9
Amount of stairs	5	7,2	11	10,6
Insufficient amount of ramps	9	13	12	11,5
Insufficient number of seatings	56	81,2	73	70,2
Insufficient amount of shady areas	47	68,1	81	77,9

The recent project has proposed an underground car-parking area, located under the metro station entrance of the park with a capacity of 93 cars. This underground car park would not only improve the quality of the scenery on the entrances of the park, but it would also stop filling the entrance of the park with cars. Therefore, the project has improved the accessibility of the park for those who will come by car.

To sum up, the most preferred transportation mode is public transportation while accessing the park. In addition to this, the designs of the entrances have no significant impact on the park. On the contrary, they have disturbed the view of the citadel from these park entrances. According to the survey, the park has become more comfortable resulting from the increase in the number of benches. However, the park users show the vast unshady areas as the primary disturbing factor.(Figure 4.45, 4.46) The addition of the underground car parking's has made the private car access easier.



Figure 4.45: The vast unshady pedestrian paths.(Photo taken by the author, 2012)



Figure 4.46: The view from the old pedestrian path covered with pergola.
(Photo taken by the author, 2012)

The outlook and the appearance of the park from the entrances define the visual access to the park. The main determinants of visual access are the level of secure and alluring outlook.

According to the survey results, the majority of the participants (35%) rate the level of secure outlook of the park from the entrances 3 (out of 5), which corresponds to a moderate level (Table 4.10).

Table 4.10: The degree of secure outlook

Secure outlook		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	1 (not at all)	10	5,6	5,6
	2	35	19,4	19,8
	3	62	34,4	35,0
	4	31	17,2	17,5
	5 (extremely)	39	21,7	22,0
	Total	177	98,3	100,0
Missing	System	3	1,7	
Total		180	100,0	

The survey respondents also rate the elements that create the alluring scenery of the park. 61,1% of the respondents rate the fun fair as the most impressive element, while 57,2% rate the lake as the secondary.(Table 4.11).

Table 4.11: The elements that constitute the alluring scenery of the park from the outside

Alluring scenery	Frequency	Valid Percent
Landscape	72	41,1
Lake	100	57,2
Fun fair	107	61,1

To sum up, the parks visual access is rated by the respondents in a moderate level. While the most significant attractive visual is the view of the fun fair.

4.2.4.2. SOCIAL ACCESS

The main aim of the renewal project was to regenerate the park and to create a “modern” visage without damaging its historic texture. Another important goal of the project was to regain the park’s old identity, so that it could be visited comfortably and enjoyed by families especially after working hours. According to the mayor of Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, homeless people used to dominate the park and there was a high tendency of crime before the renewal of the park. Families have not used the park for 15 to 20 years; however, with this new renewal plan, the park has become a “family park” with its many activities and it has regained its old identity (No author, 2009b).

Despite the declaration of the mayor to become a “family park”, the recent survey results show that the vast majority of the questionnaire respondents claim that they come to the park with their friends (Table 4.12).

Table 4.12: The companionship of the participants when using the park.

Companionship while visiting the park	Valid Percent
Alone	21,6
Spouse and children	23,6
Friends	56,8
Spouse	9,5
Parents	9,5
Children	8,8

To achieve the goal of regaining the park’s old identity, the protection of the historic values by the renewal scheme was crucial. However, the scheme did not include such intentions. For example, the historic values, such as teahouses and

Göl Gazinosu, which were the major features of the park identity, were ignored and removed by the renewal project. As a result, two important places that old city dwellers had a memorial attachment were destroyed.

The Mayor of Ankara Metropolitan Municipality claimed that the wedding hall on the island of the park, which is another most important memorial places for the old city dwellers and a 'listed' historic building, would be restored regarding its original historic values without deforming its specific features. Despite this announcement, the hall unfortunately could not be restored due to financial problems. The hall has left idle and is kept declining (Figure 4.47).



Figure 4.47: The wedding hall / Göl Gazinosu.
(Photo taken by the author, 2012)

According to the municipality, the park would be a comfortable place to visit both day and night thank to the new lightening scheme. Yet, the lights do not serve for a comfortable scenery at nights. In other words, the park still is not sufficiently lit at night except special events. Thus, it does not function at night more than before.

On the other hand, Gençlik Parkı is highly used for some special nights and days. The park is packed with people for some night activities, such as Ramadan fest or concerts. Even though some of these activities (especially religious celebrations) are

not in harmony or compatible with the park's identity or history, those activities are supported for the night use of the park.(Figure 4.48)



Figure 4.48: Anonymous photo from the Ramadan fest.
([http://www.haber2000.com/images/orjinal/7\(1103\).jpg](http://www.haber2000.com/images/orjinal/7(1103).jpg))

Gençlik Parkı has become a rather inclusive public space, compared to its state before 2005. It has been particularly a public space for the celebration of religious holidays, rather than national holidays. The park, however, has been originally designed and built to represent the ideology of the new, modern and westernized Republic. Thus, the new way of organizing religious events attracts some conservative parts of the society while excluding secular sections of the society.

There used to be a board of Atatürk on the entrance of the park, near the entrance of the Opera House. The new renewal plan also removed this board. This change was regarded as an intention to move away from the initial identity of the park. Many citizens and the published and news media objected the removal of Atatürk board (Figure 4.49); and this change was the only time when both the media and the citizens raised their claims about the project. Despite the claims and objections, Atatürk board was removed. This instance shows how far the municipality has not

really intended to include and consider the public opinions to the planning and design of such public space project.

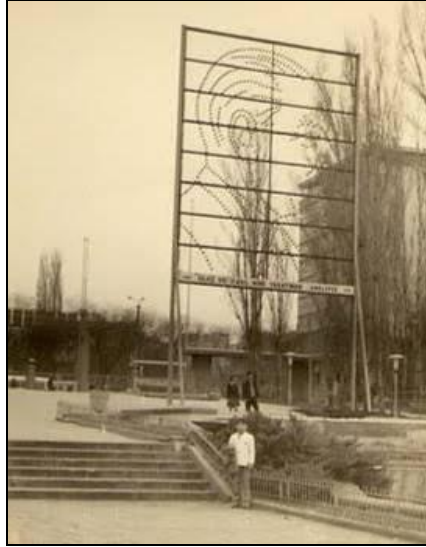


Figure 4.49: Photo of the old board of Atatürk.
(Resource: <http://www.panoramio.com/photo/45936112>)

Another change in the park design was related to the style of the architectural elements. The architectural styles of the newly built buildings and centers evoke Seljuk and Ottoman architectures, which are in fact contradictory with the parks own identity and style.

Apart from these planning and design interventions which disregarded the original identity and characteristics of Gençlik Parkı, the survey conducted by this research also tries to see whether the new design of the park has revealed a sense of attachment on the current visitors. Thus, participants are asked whether they would inform the authorities if they see other visitors polluting or vandalizing the park. The majority of the respondents (73,3%) declare that they would inform the park management (Table 4.13). Although this result shows a positive attitude of

the users towards the attachment to the park, the interviews carried out with security guards show that none of the visitors has ever informed about any inconvenient action or anti-social behavior in the park, unless it is directed against them. This shows that the minority of the users of the park has developed a sense of attachment to the space, thus does not feel obliged to protect it.

Table 4.13: Sense of attachment to the park

Informing the authorities about the inconvenient actions of other users	Frequency	Valid Percent
No	48	26,7
Yes	132	73,3
Total	180	100,0

There is no entrance fee for the park. There are only activities, which are paid such as fun fair and the cafes. Affordability of the activities is one of the most important issues in the inclusion of all social groups. For instance, 58% of the respondents declared that they found the fees of the fun fair rather affordable, which is 4 YTL, each activity (Table 4.14)

Table 4.14: Affordability of the fees of fun fair.

Affordability of the fee of fun fair	Frequency	Valid Percent
No	74	42,0
Yes	102	58,0
Total	176	100,0

The participants of the survey rate the question investigating the feeling of security within the park. According to the results, 78,9% of the respondents declare that they did not feel safe before the renewal of the park, while only 29,8% of the respondents do not feel safe after the renewal (Table 4.15). This increase can be interpreted as a result of the increasing control on the public space through the rising number of security guards and checkpoints. In spite of this increase in the feeling of safety, many participants have declared their discontent about the number of security guards that hindered them to act freely in the park.

Table 4.15: The feeling of security before and after the renewal project

Feeling of security before renewal		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	No	75	41,7	78,9
	Yes	20	11,1	21,1
	Total	95	52,8	100,0
Missing	System	85	47,2	
Total		180	100,0	
Feeling of security after renewal		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	No	53	29,4	29,8
	Yes	125	69,4	70,2
	Total	178	98,9	100,0
Missing	System	2	1,1	
Total		180	180	100,0

Table 4.16: The rating of the factors affecting the feeling of security within the park before and after the renewal

Factors affecting the feeling of security	Before Renewal		After Renewal	
	Frequency	Valid Percent	Frequency	Valid Percent
Overcrowded space	2	2,7	24	38,1
Insufficiency of signboards	9	12,3	11	17,5
Desolated spaces	45	61,6	12	19
Fear of Crime	64	87,7	32	50,8
Insufficiency of lightning	43	58,9	27	42,9
Insufficiency of safety factors	52	71,2	33	52,4

As for the factors, which affect the feeling of security, the survey results show that, before the renewal scheme, the fear of crime (87,7%), insufficient safety factors (71,2%), desolated spaces in the park (61,6%) and insufficient lightning (58,9%) were the major factors that restrained the feeling of security. However, the rating of desolated spaces (19%), insufficient safety factors (52,4%) and fear of crime (50,8%) reduced dramatically, while overcrowded spaces (38,1%) have increased comparatively (Table 4.16).

To sum up, the park could not succeed fully on the way to become a family park as intended by the project. However, the increase in the feeling of security has increased the accessibility of the park to people with children.

The most important correction made with the renewal project was the disturbance of the old identity of the park. Neither the activities nor the physical elements that constituted the public memories were conserved in order to preserve the park's old identity. This has decreased the self-attachment of the earlier users of the park. The park has started to be used for religious celebrations rather than national holidays or cultural events, which significantly show its changing character. Another important change is about the architectural style of the park. Ottoman and Seljuk architecture and modern styled canopies are used in the same space, creating a

complicated scenery, which is far away from the historic image of the park.(Figure 4.50, 4.51)

The implications, which have disturbed the old identity of the park observed by the METU study group in 2009, are listed as follows in the audit report;

“The scale problem of the created platforms, the insensitivity in the selection of the materials, the tent applications which can not be reconciled with the climate of Ankara and which are almost old fashioned, the island and sculpture proposals which disrupts the integrity of the pool has been described as the interventions distorting the noble republic image of Gençlik Parkı.”(ODTU Mimarlık Fakültesi çalışma grubu, 2009,p. 33)

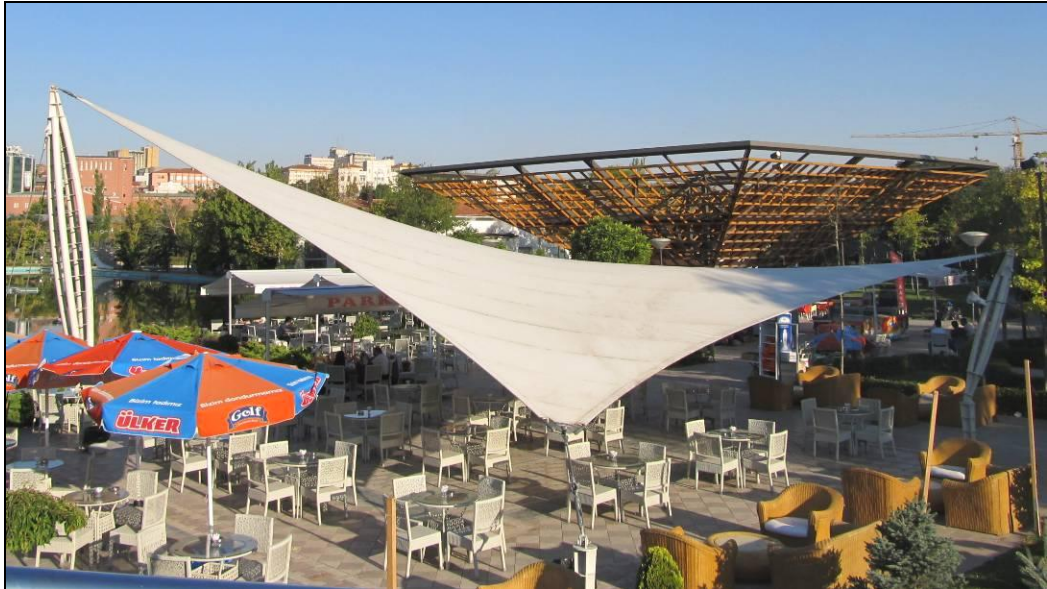


Figure 4.50:New ‘modern’ constructions (Photo taken by the author,2012)



Figure 4.51: New 'modern' constructions (Photo taken by the author,2012)

4.2.4.3. ACCESS TO ACTIVITIES

Various new facilities were introduced to the park by the recent renewal scheme. The main additions were the Youth Center and the Culture Center. The two old culture centers -named Necip Fazıl Kısakürek ve Kemal Sunal- were demolished; and a new culture center with a capacity of 350 people and with a total of 2670 m² was built with the same names. In addition to its performance halls, there are classes for music and language courses and a library in the culture center.

Besides, a 2205 m²-youth center was constructed; and it was opened in 2008 before the completion of the renewal scheme of the park. The main activities within the center include the classes for musical instruments and foreign language courses, game facilities, such as billiard, mini golf and air-hockey. The courses within the center are provided free of charge for young people over 15 years old.

The survey reveals that 68,3% of the participants were aware of the newly opened Culture Center and Youth Center. Despite this fairly high portion of respondents, only a small group (25,8%) declared that they have used them once before. This indicates that the public does not adequately know the newly added centers yet; and they are not sufficiently utilized by the public (Tables 4.17, 4.18).

Table 4.17: Awareness of the survey participants about the newly added Culture Center and Youth Center

Awareness of the Culture center and Youth center	Frequency	Valid Percent
No	57	31,7
Yes	123	68,3
Total	180	100,0

Table 4.18 Utilization of the newly added Culture Center and Youth Center

Utilization of the Culture center and Youth center	Frequency	Valid Percent
No	132	74,2
Yes	46	25,8
Total	178	100,0

In the part of the park near Opera House, the metropolitan municipality in cooperation with The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) envisaged a science center. The mayor (2009a) announces that this center will be the biggest modern science center of Ankara, having many other facilities such as open- and close-food courts, management offices of the science center and underground car-parking spaces serving the whole park, which would attract a wide range of users. This center, however, has not been constructed yet. In

addition to these, a reception hall for the municipality was added to the park, which is 1985 m².

The open-air theatre was declared as one of the structures, which must be conserved, in the 15th National Committee meeting in 05.06.2002. However, with the renewal plan open air theatre is transformed into a theatre building.(Figure 4.52)



Figure 4.52: Newly constructed theatre building. (Photo taken by the author, 2012)

The teahouses around the lake were demolished due to the concerns about the aesthetics of the park. In order to give gastronomic services, new fast food restaurants have started to operate in the park.

Both the metropolitan municipality and Tokcan –the architect of the renewal scheme- put forth that the recent plan has increased the greenery of the park. Including the newly constructed buildings, 12.000 m² of the park is a built-up area, while 42.000 m² is the pool and 225.000m² is the greenery. Only the buildings without the addition of the car parks or hard surfaces constitute nearly 5% of the park. However, as mentioned above, many construction works were completed.

Additionally, many trees along the lake's edges were removed to create space for the pedestrians. Thus, the park has lost its greenery, and its function as a green open space for relaxation purposes has been weakened. (Figure 4.53) The loss in the parks green-open space features is explained in the audit report of METU study group as follows;

“Buildings and facilities with very large capacities, which are not included in the original project have been built in the park area. Especially Muhsin Ertug rul theatre building, nature museum and the youth center ‘s scale and appearance is limiting and destroying the green-open space features of the park.” (ODTU Mimarlık Fak ltesi alıřma grubu, 2009,p. 32)

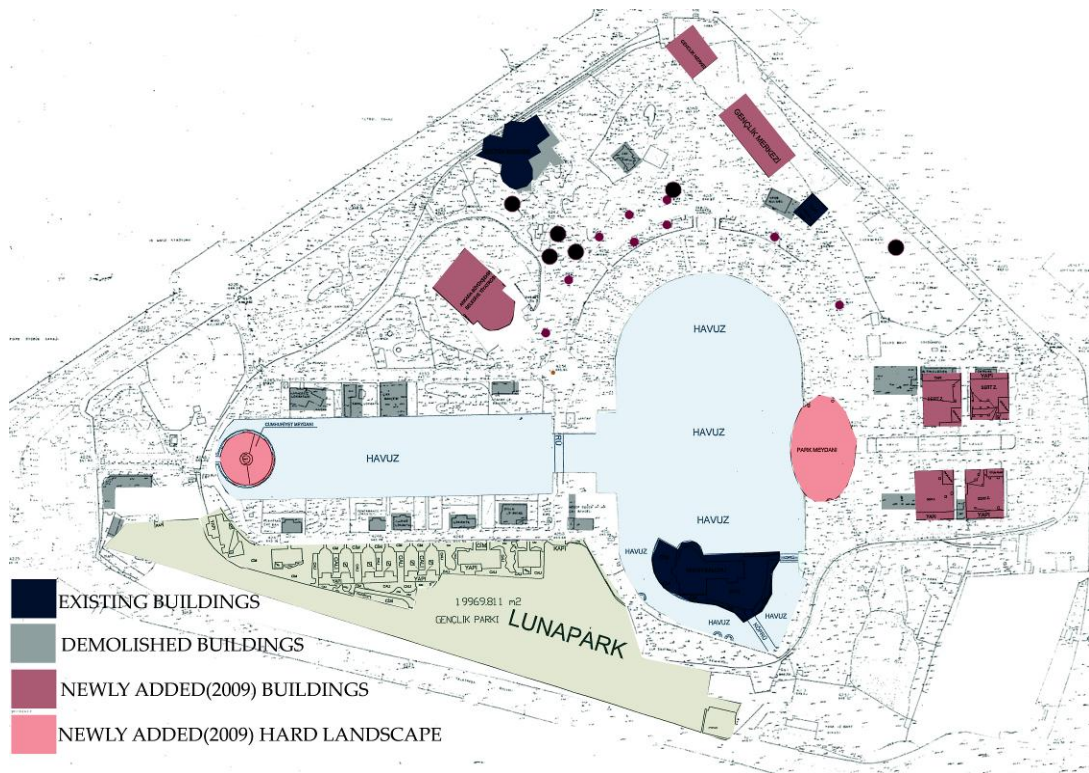


Figure 4.53: Change in the amount of built-up areas of the park after renewal project.
(Diagram by the author)

The building, which used to be G l Gazinosu, was on the agenda at the beginning of the project. Yet, it was disregarded towards the end of the project. The building now is close to being desolation unless taken care of.

Improvement of the fun fair was also on the list. Increasing the variety of activities in the fun fair games are considered to be increased and new amusement facilities are taken into account to attract people from different age groups.

Additionally, new playgrounds for children were constructed. (Figure 4.54) A variety of play fields and a place for shadow puppetry were constructed. Souvenir shops and tourist information points were added near the Metro station entrance.



Figure 4.54: Newly constructed playgrounds. (Photo taken by the author, 2012)

The survey participants were asked their favorite activities within the park, before the renewal scheme. Only 43,3% of survey participants managed to respond to this question, as they used to visit the park before its renewal. Before the renewal of the park, to spend time in an open-air environment (61,5%), fun fair (47,4%) and relaxing (38,5%) are the favorite activities of the survey participants (Table 13). After the renewal of the park, again the same activities – relaxing (65,2%), fun fair (62,9%) and open-air activities (62,9%) - are the most preferred ones for the users of the park. They are followed by, meeting with friends (53,4%) and gastronomic

facilities (37,6%). These activities are much more favorable for the visitors now than before the renewal of the park. Besides, the survey results show that Gençlik Parkı is now much more favourable for sport facilities (18%), playgrounds (13,5%) than before. Culture and Youth Centres, however, are the least favourable activities, probably because people are not very much aware of these new activities. (Table 4.19)

Table 4.19: The facilities preferred by while visiting the park.

Preferred facilities of the park	Before Renewal		After Renewal	
	Frequency	Valid Percent	Frequency	Valid Percent
Meeting with friends	21	26,9	95	53,4
Sports facilities	2	2,6	32	18
Relaxing	30	38,5	116	65,2
Open air	48	61,5	112	62,9
Fun Fair	37	47,4	114	64,4
Culture Center	4	5,1	18	10,2
Youth Center	0	0	15	8,4
Playgrounds	2	2,6	24	13,5
Gastronomic facilities	12	15,8	67	37,6

Briefly put, the park is still used for its preliminary functions such as relaxing and open-air facilities. According to the survey, nearly 70% of the respondents are aware of the newly constructed attraction points (Culture center, Youth Center), although only a small amount of them use them. (Tables 4.17, 4.18, 4.19)

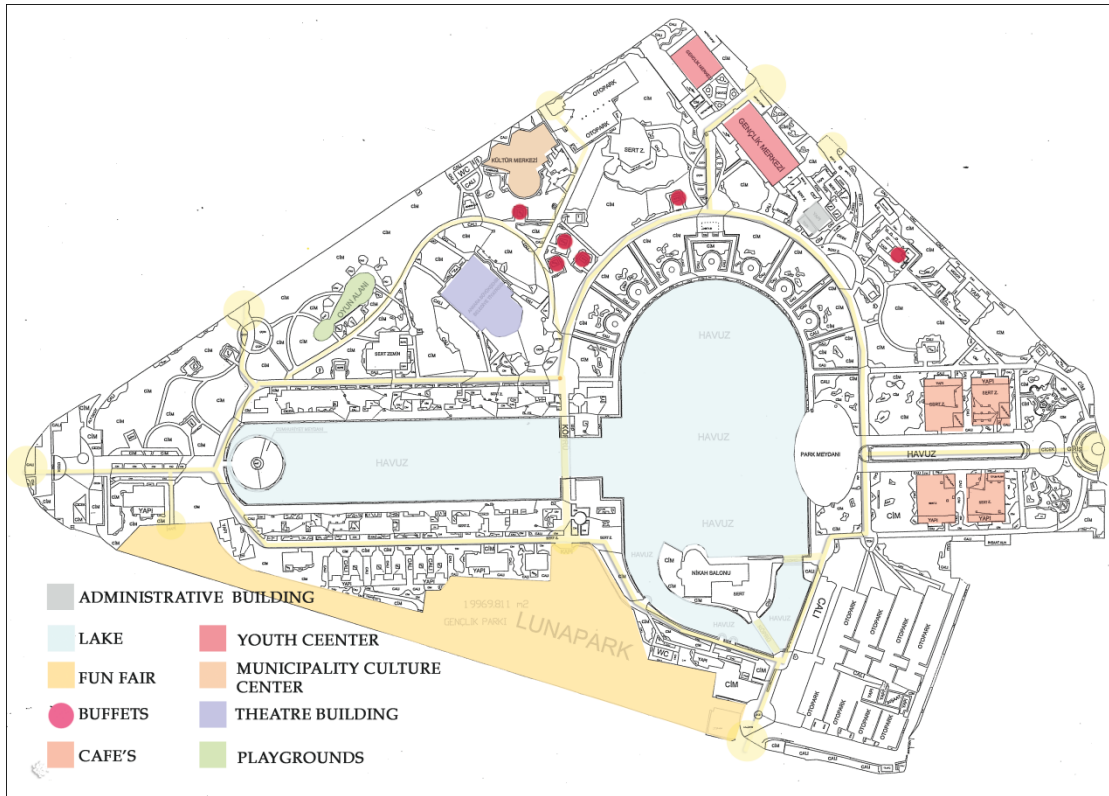


Figure 4.55: Spatial organization of activities on plan of 2009 (Diagram by the author)

4.2.4.4. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The renewal project of Gençlik Parkı was announced on both the website of the Ankara metropolitan municipality and the newspapers. Also, the website announced that a presentation about the project would be delivered to the public. However, a participatory process for the design and planning of the recent renewal project was not carried out. Neither the public, nor non-governmental organizations were included in the development of the design and planning principles of the scheme. The Metropolitan Municipality has not carried out a questionnaire to understand the expectations and needs of the users and visitors of the park, either. Therefore, the scheme was prepared through the collaboration with the professional architect and the municipality officers; and it was announced to the public through mass media means.

The survey results show that 57,8% of the participants are aware of the completion of the renewal project of Gençlik Parkı in 2009 (Table 4.20). This show that the users of the park are interested in what has happened and is happening in the park. This proportion also denotes to a high rate of awareness about the project. Yet, this does not show that they are aware of what has changed, or what have been done in the park.

Table 4.20: The awareness of the participants about the renewal project completed in 2009.

Awareness about the renewal	Frequency	Valid Percent
No	76	42,2
Yes	104	57,8
Total	180	100,0

Currently there are several signboards in the park especially for way-finding needs of the users and visitors. The information on the signboards are provided in both Turkish and English (Figure 4.56). It is a positive attempt, as the touristic value of the park increases.

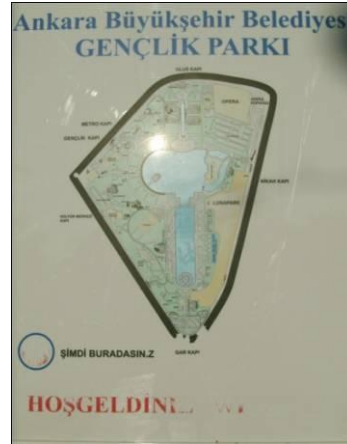


Figure 4.56: Signboards in the park (Photo taken by the author, 2012)

According to the results of the survey, only a small group (25,6%) states that they have an access to the information about the on-going events in the park (Table 4.21). Furthermore, 61,9% claims that they would like to be informed via TV, while the rest state that they would be happy to get informed via newspapers, bulletins and mail (Table 4.22).

Table 4.21: Access to information about the activities within the park.

Access to information about the activities within the park.	Frequency	Valid Percent
No	134	74,4
Yes	46	25,6
Total	180	100,0

Table 4.22: The preferences of the participants to mode of access to information about the activities within the park.

Preferred mode of access to information	Frequency	Valid Percent
Mail	25	17
Newspaper, bulletin	75	51
TV	91	61,9

4.2.4.5. CONCLUSIVE REMARKS (2009-2012)

The changes in the levels of access regarding the pre determined variables on access (Table 2.2) during the last period of the park could be summarized as follows;

Table 4.23: Summary of the levels of access (2009-2012)

ACCESS TYPES (PRIMARY VARIABLES)	SECONDARY VARIABLES	EXPLANATION OF SECONDARY VARIABLES
PHYSICAL ACCESS	PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 9 entrances, including 5 main entrances; Station, Ulus, Fun Fair, Stadium and metro station • Checkpoints were added to all entrances. • According to the survey results, the majority of survey respondents claim no difficulty accessing the park. Yet, traffic and uncomfortable design for pedestrians are listed primarily as the main barriers when accessing the park.
	UNIVERSAL DESIGN	Universal design is not considered in the new plan.
	PHYSICAL ACCESS BY DIFFERENT MODES	According to the results of the survey, the most preferred type of access when visiting the park is public transportation. Majority of the users come to the park by bus, dolmus and metro, while private car is preferred afterwards. However, pedestrian access is no longer preferred to get to the park. .

Table 4.23 (Cont'd)

	CONNECTIONS	The park has lost its function as a connecting path and has no significant connection to the circulation around it.
VISUAL ACCESS	VISIONS OF THE PARK	According to the results of the survey, the park has a secure outlook from the park. In the new plan, entrances are newly designed to create a welcoming appearance while the factors pulling users from the entrances are listed as the landscape and the lake according to the survey.
SOCIAL ACCESS (SYMBOLIC ACCESS)	SYMBOLS & REPRESENTATION	With the renewal plan, the main aim was to introduce a new 'modern' image to the park. Those images are alien to the parks old identity.
	SPACE ATTACHMENT	To measure the feeling of space attachment, survey participants were asked whether they would inform the management authority of the park about a vandalisation or misuse in the park. The majority claimed that they would inform. The security guards of the park however declared that none of the users has informed such instances so far. The old users of the park are no longer using the park as elements and images constituting their attachment to the park are loosened. For example, the teahouses were removed and the wedding hall was left deterioration.
	SAFETY & COMFORT	According to the survey results, safety of the park increased after the renewal project. Although the park was comfortable according to the survey participants, insufficient amount of shady areas and seatings are the factors causing discomfort problems of the park.
	ACCESS FOR ALL SOCIAL GROUPS	A great variety of social groups are using the space, without domination of one. Yet, young people feel excluded from the space due to the increase in the safety measures.
ACCESS TO ACTIVITIES	MULTI-PURPOSE	Moderate variety of activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation: The lake is used only for its scenic value. A new fun fair, and many other kiosks and cafés were constructed. • Education: Theatre building, youth center and culture center are constructed. • Social programs: New playgrounds were added to the site • Relaxation: The main type of activities turned to be educational as a result of the construction of Youth Center and Culture Center. The majority of the survey participants are aware of these facilities, while a small number of people utilize them.

Table 4.23 (Cont'd)

ACCESS TO INFORMATION	EVENT AND ACTIVITIES	The events and the on-going activities within the park are published through the website of the municipality.
	PARTICIPATION	According to the results of the survey, %57,8 of the respondents were informed about the renewal project, whereas no public inquiry or participation occurred during the design and development processes of the plan.
	LANGUAGE	Signboards are designed multi-lingual: Turkish and English.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

The aims of this thesis, as stated in the introductory section, are to investigate the notion of inclusivity of open public spaces, to define its attributes and ascertain the ways of improving and enriching the inclusivity of open public spaces. This chapter first aims to summarize the significant findings of the case study. Then, based upon the findings of the research, it seeks to give hints about the ways of improving and enriching 'inclusivity' on public open spaces for further studies.

5.1. FINDINGS OF THE RESEARCH

This thesis starts with the questions of how 'inclusivity' of open public spaces can be defined and what the attributes of an inclusive public space are. According to Asriany et al. (2011, p.163), public spaces are "... (*the*) spaces which are open for safe pluralistic interactions which is the main need for a healthy settlement which offers more than economic transactions". Public spaces are needed to operate as the democratic stages for social relations, to create and enhance urban identity and image and to increase the feeling of locality. In order to fulfill these functions, open public spaces need to be 'open' and 'accessible'; in other words, they should be 'inclusive' for the whole society. They should provide spaces for the free actions of the society. Any member of the society should be able to enter and use the space for their intended purpose freely.

Public spaces, which suffered neglect and obsolescence during the 1960s and 1970s, have been given special attention since the early-1980s (Akkar 2005b, Akkar Ercan, 2007). Despite the recent rising concerns on the public spaces in many cities, they have been facing threats on their 'publicness' and 'inclusivity' (Akkar 2005b, Akkar Ercan, 2007). The declining 'publicness' and 'inclusivity' of public spaces are resulted from various factors, depending on the economic, social, cultural and political conditions. Another important factor, threatening the 'publicness' and 'inclusivity' of public spaces, is the exclusionary provision and management policies, causing the creation of public spaces dominated by certain social groups and loosing their egalitarian characteristics, rather than being inclusive spaces for all.

The literature review on the inclusivity of public spaces shows that accessibility is the main measure or indicator. Despite the variety of discussions on 'accessibility', this research has opted to examine 'inclusivity' of a public space under four main types: *physical access, social access, access to activities and access to information*. One should note that a public space is neither totally inclusive nor exclusive (Akkar, 2005b). Contrarily, there are rather different degrees of inclusivity according to the accessibility types and features of public spaces (Akkar, 2005b). In order to achieve well-operated and managed open public spaces, however, a moderate degree of inclusivity should be sustained.

Employing a case study method, this research examines the changing 'inclusivity' of a public open space –Gençlik Parkı- in Ankara, regarding the pre-defined access types (*physical access, social access, access to activities and access to information*) according to pre-defined phases: *First phase: 1943-1950, Second phase: 1950 – 1970, Third phase: 1970-2009 and Last phase: 2009 – 2012*.

The first type of access, '*physical access*' is examined regarding the following variables: *physical attributes, universal design, access by different modes, connections and visual access*. The results of the study can be summarized as follows:

- The initial design of the park put the same importance on the four main entrances of the park, and these park gates were located with reference to the surrounding facilities such as the stadium, train station, Ulus and Exhibition Hall (later, the Opera House). During the second phase of the park, the entrance of the park on the train station direction started to lose its importance, due to losing importance of the station as the main gateway of the city. During the second and third periods, the park entrance from the side of Ulus was still primarily used, while the gate near the fun fair started to gain importance. The recent survey findings show that although the most preferred entrance of the park is still the gate from Ulus, the entrance near the fun fair is also preferred due to the existing fun fair and the large car-parking area.
- During the early years of the park, the main mode of access was on foot. After the increasing public transportation modes and the rapid growth of the city in the 1970s, the primary mode of access became public transportation. With the completion of the metro line in the 1990s, and having two stops close to the park, Gençlik Parkı have become more accessible for public transport users. According to the recent survey results, public transportation is still the primary mode of access to the park, whereas pedestrian access lost its importance. Also, there is a rather higher tendency to access the park by private cars. The accessibility of the car by private-car users have been increased by the underground car-parking sites, which were proposed by the renewal plan and built very recently.
- In the initial design of the park, the main pedestrian path of the park was built as a connector between the train station and the city center, *Ulus*. This walkway, which continued serving as a connector till the late-1970s, lost its safety due to the increasing fear of crime in the park during the 1970s.

During the fourth period, the path has lost all its importance. With the renewal plan, tea houses making the walkway more vibrant were removed; and trees providing shade for pedestrians were cut down to create large spaces for pedestrians, while the walkway has turned into a vast and fairly uncomfortable area for the park users.

- In the first phase, the visual accessibility of the park was strengthened by designing the cascades of the lake at the Ulus entrance, and keeping a clear citadel view from the park gate on the train-station direction. By the 1950s, the fun-fair and the billboards on the entrances the park made the park visually appealing both day and night. By the late-1970s, the park started to look unappealing due to neglect and obsolescence. With the renewal plan of 2005, this look and image changed. Big monuments, built near the entrances, have led to obstruct the axial view of the citadel. The neglect of the axial view decreased the attractive view of the park from the station entrance.

Briefly put, the park has become more inclusive for different transportation modes in time, although it has become more exclusive for pedestrians, because of the increasing car-traffic, which has become a barrier for pedestrian access. The connection with the nearby paths of circulation also decreased through the periods. With the renewal plan, inclusion for private-car users (addition of car parks) and metro users (design of a new entrance with facilities, such as gift shops) were regarded primarily. Additionally, the visual access of the park was strengthened by the well-kept look of the park and entrance designs, while the appealing view of the citadel from the Station entrance was destroyed.

As for the *social access* of the park, it is examined by the attributes of *symbols and representation, safety and comfort, access for all groups including marginal groups*. The research findings on 'social access' can be summarized as follows:

- In the first phase, the park was rather inclusive for the whole society. Various groups used to come to the park due to the presence of a variety of activities accommodating the needs of the users from different age, gender and income groups. The park was also very attractive, as it was the only urban park in Ankara with a number of new facilities and values. In the second phase, middle-class users who were mainly old city dwellers became the dominant group within the user profile of the park. Despite their dominance, there were special management policies of the park to attract marginal groups to the park (such as, special sessions both on the theatre and Göl Gazinosu for women and low-income groups). During the third phase, low-income groups, especially migrants, and unemployed and homeless people became dominant users of the park, whereas middle-class groups opted to use alternative public spaces in the city. After the renewal plan, many different social groups have used the park.
- During the first and second phases, Gençlik Parkı was a very safe and comfortable park for all groups from different age, gender and income. During the third period, high crime rates and political struggles, as well as the dominance of low-income groups, unemployed and homeless people led to reduce its social accessibility. Thus, the access for women and families became harder. After the renewal project, this park's safety and comfort seems to be improved. According to the survey results, the feeling of security and comfort within the park was increased, although, the users of the park, mainly young users, claimed that they have less freedom of action due to the increasing control of the public space by security guards.
- Regarding symbols and representation, during the foundation years, Gençlik Parkı was designed to present the republican ideology, to create a modern and western society. The presence of the lake was an important

attraction for all Ankara citizens, including the government officers who used to come from coastal settlements and miss their cities. During the second period, the users of the park were dominantly middle-class groups due to functions and activities shaped by their needs and tastes. Nevertheless, the park still welcomed low-income groups. The image of the park during the years between the 1970s and 2000s did not represent the tastes of middle-class citizens and the republican ideology anymore. Indeed, the park had no more its unique image. The renewal plan of 2005 has introduced a “modern visage” to the park, while disregarding and destroying the historic texture and characteristics of the space. The park has lost its original images and functions, constituting its older identity.

- Regarding space attachment, during the first period, Gençlik Parkı was important for all Ankara citizens. National ceremonies were held in the park; and such events and organizations led to create a social bond between the park and its users. During the second period, the activities in the park predominantly led to create memories for middle-classes. During the third period, with the depreciation of the park, and the exclusion of the middle classes, the memories of the old citizens started to disappear from the space. During the last period, however, the historic and architectural characteristics of the park were disregarded by the recent renewal project. A totally newly-developed image has been imposed on the public space, disregarding the values and images of the old park.

To sum up, the park was inclusive for the whole society till the 1970s. In each historic phase of this park, there have always existed been some dominating groups. Middle class dominated the space in the second period due to activities and visiting patterns designed especially for this specific group. In the third period, low-income groups, homeless and unemployed people dominated the space, while middle class was excluded from the space due to aesthetic and safety

issues. Despite the dominance of certain social groups, in each period, there were always special policies to attract marginal groups, such as women and low-income groups, to the park.

After the renewal plan for the park was completed, the park has become more inclusive for women and families as the means of security were increased. Yet, the recent survey results show that off the park users, only a small group uses the park with their families. Additionally, because of higher control measures, young people have started to feel excluded from the space. Likewise, after the completion of the renewal project, the older images and functions of the park were disregarded, and the historic texture and design characteristics of the park were unfortunately lost. The old users of the park were ignored; their memories were paid no attention regarding the new design of the park; thus, they were excluded from the space.

The third type of access, which is *access to activities*, is examined regarding the *presence of multi-purpose activities* and *availability for communal activities*. The major findings of the study can be summarized as follows:

- The activities of the park were originally designed and built regarding a variety of user groups. The park provided the public with the opportunity of relaxing in a green and peaceful atmosphere. It also accommodated many sports activities, such as rowing and ice-skating. There were also educational activities (exhibition hall, open-air theatre) and play grounds for children and a child care centre. In the second phase, entertainment facilities replaced relaxation and sports facilities. The fun fair and Göl Gazinosu, which were introduced in the park, led it serve mainly entertainment purpose. The fun fair and Göl Gazinosu, which were available only for certain groups due to entrance fees, strengthened the

exclusivity of the park in this period. In the third phase of the park, the park started to lose its sports or entertainment functions. Göl Gazinosu was transformed into a wedding hall and the pool was no longer used for ice-skating. By the recent renewal plan, two major facilities were added to the park: the Youth Center having educatory functions and the Culture Center. According to the survey results, the majority of the users are aware of the centers, while a few respondents claimed that they use these centers.

Briefly put, the park had a significant variety of activities, including both sports facilities and entertainment facilities, till the late-1970s. The variety of functions used to make the park inclusive for different age groups according to their needs and expectations. The recent renewal project has turned the park into a more commercial site with the new cafés, restaurants and a renewed fun fair. The recreational and sport activities have been undermined, while the educational and cultural functions of the park have been strengthened by the new Youth Center, and Culture Center. Nevertheless, the recent survey results show that, currently, the cultural and educational facilities are not widely used.

Regarding the *access to information*, the analysis on the *access to information about events and activities, participation and access to information without language barrier* shows that:

- In the very first years of the park, the main means for accessing information about the park was, the newspaper, namely Ulus. The newspaper published articles about the park even before it's opening. In the second phase, billboards were put up in the park entrances, giving information about the on-going activities of the park. In addition, there was a weekly magazine for the park. There is no significant change in the access to information in the third phase. In the last phase of the park, the main source of information became the webpage of the metropolitan municipality. According to the recent survey results, the majority of the

users are aware of the activities within the park and the renewal project, although they have not participated in the design and development processes of the park.

To sum up, even though the means of communication are vast and disseminating information has become much easier through the advances in communication technologies over the last years, the public's access to information has not changed drastically. On the contrary, the public's access to information was even easier in the early years of the park. Access to information about the on-going planning decisions about the park was always insufficient. Another result of this research is that participatory planning was not carried out in any of these historic periods. It is not expected to see such a planning approach for the very first years of the park, as there was no such a tradition or rhetoric in the planning approach of these years in the western world either. However, in the 1980s and the following years when participatory planning was experienced in different fields, such as housing areas, and even the 2000s when the collaborative planning has been discussed very much in the planning field in Turkey, the metropolitan municipality was expected to conduct a collaborative planning, design and development process for Gençlik Parkı – one of the biggest public spaces of Ankara. However, despite technological advances in communication, and the changes in the the planning rhetoric towards a more collaborative approach, none of the design, planning and development stages of the park was carried out through the collaboration of the user groups of the park. This approach of the municipality has significantly undermined the 'inclusive' quality of the park.

5.2. RECCOMENDATIONS

All in all, public spaces are indispensable components of urban life, defining urban quality. Their quality is dependent on their ontological attributes as being open and egalitarian. In order to achieve this ideal in open public spaces, their design, planning, development and management should be 'inclusive'. Inclusivity can be achieved through the provision of moderate degrees of accessibility.

As discussed earlier, Gençlik Parkı has a changing inclusivity through different periods with respect to the changes in different access types and levels of inclusivity. In order to enhance the inclusivity of Gençlik Parkı in specific, and other public open spaces in general, it is crucial to consider the provision and management policies of these public spaces according to the physical access, social access, access to activities and to information.

Both '*memory*' and '*collective memory*' helps to create place identity and *place identity* helps to reconstruct '*memory*' or '*collective memory*'. For the case of Gençlik Parkı, the renewal project has erased the architectural symbolic elements, which create place identity. By disregarding these elements and by disregarding the original identity of Gençlik Parkı, it has sought to erase collective memory. This in fact than led to the rise of a new park identity (so called 'modern'), which caused the exclusion of the past of the park thereby the old users of the park. In this sense; the histories and elements constituting the identity of public open spaces should be well preserved in order to foster social inclusion of the old users of the space who have created collective memories of the park.

In order to enhance inclusivity, public open spaces need to *flexible*, which means provision of a variety of activities for various user groups. The most commonly discussed issue restraining flexibility of user activities is, increase in the safety measures. Increase in the surveillance measures, resulted in the formation of *highly*

regulated spaces closed for freely chosen and spontaneous actions of the users. The availability of the randomness in activities has decreased. Thus public open spaces started to fail as a stage for free actions of the society. In the case of Gençlik Parkı, young people started to feel excluded from the space due to the increase in the number of security guards restraining their activities. Besides, they are offered with programs pre-set by the municipality within Youth center. In addition to this, the removal of the teahouses, which were also offering alcoholic beverages, could be seen as an attempt to exclude groups using those spaces. Another crucial change by the renewal plan is the big-scaled constructions in the park. The constructions destroyed the open space-greenery features of the park. The space available for those features became limited, thus lowering the variety of facilities. To sum up, in order to be inclusive for large groups of the society, implications regarding safety should not barrier *flexibility and randomness* of activities within public open spaces.

In order to reach a moderate level of inclusivity, public open spaces should also be designed and managed in an inclusive manner. Regarding this manner, Gençlik Parkı was primarily designed as a *part of a whole*. Thus, it was considered as a part of the Incesu Valley which is a green spine passing through the city center of Ankara in Jansen plan. It was undertaken in relation with the Stadium and the Hippodrome as a chain of green open spaces. This attitude was also continued in the plan of AKM (Atatürk Culture Center). Gençlik Parkı was defined as 3rd Region in the plan, in relation to Hippodrome and Stadium. With the recent renewal project, the park is undertaken individually rather than a *part of whole*. Furthermore, the activity areas in the park are also designed as individually working mechanisms rather than designing the park as a whole. Briefly, public open spaces should be considered within their urban contexts and projects should be developed in an inclusive manner, regarding the *whole*, in order to reach a moderate level of inclusivity.

Public authorities should assure the accessibility of a variety of social groups to the different phases of the provision and management of these spaces (i.e., planning and design, development and management). Without the presence of such a democratic and egalitarian public sphere, which embraces a variety of social groups and people, and which gives them the opportunity to raise their voices and opinions about the public spaces, it is not possible to generate inclusive public spaces. By creating such inclusive collaborative public arenas, Ankara and other Turkish cities will be able to achieve real inclusive public spaces, which will drastically and significantly foster the urban quality.

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APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRE

Anketin Yapıldığı Tarih:/...../2011

SAAT:.....:.....

KULLANICI PROFİLİ

1.Cinsiyetiniz Erkek Kadın

2. Bitirdiğiniz Yaş 18-25 25-45 45-65 65 +

3. En son bitirdiğiniz okul İlköğretim Lise Üniversite Y. Lisans

4.Aylık hane halkı geliriniz ortalama olarak hangi aralıktadır?

2.000 VE ALTI 2.000 – 5.000 6.000 – 8.000 8.000 +

5. Hangi semtte oturuyorsunuz?

KULLANICILARIN PARKI KULLANIM ALIŞKANLIKLARI

6. Gençlik Parkı'nı ne zamandır kullanıyorsunuz?

İlk kez 0-6 ay 1-3 yıl 3-7 yıl 7-10 yıl 10-20 yıl
 20-30 yıl 30-40 yıl

7. Gençlik Parkı'nı hangi sıklıkla kullanıyorsunuz ?

Yılda Bir Kez Ayda Bir Kez Haftada Bir Kez Diğer

8. Parka hangi ulaşım türü ile geldiniz?

Yürüyerek Otobüs, Dolmuş Metro Taksi Özel Araç

9. Parka genellikle kiminle gidersiniz? (1 den fazla seçenek işaretlenebilir)

Yalnız Eşim ve çocuğumla Arkadaşımla Eşimle Annem ve babamla
 Çocuğum /Çocuklarımla Diğer.....

10.1 ile 5 arasında bir değerlendirme yapmak gerekirse parka gelirken ne kadar

ZORLANDINIZ?

(Az) 1 2 3 4 5 (Çok)

11. NEDEN zorlandınız?

- Trafik Yoğunluğu Yürümeyi Zorlaştıran Yoğun Araç Trafiği Diğer.....

12. Gençlik Parkı'nı daha önce ziyaret ettiğiniz/etmekte olduğunuz parklardan farklı kılan unsurları nelerdir?

- Büyüklük Heykeller Etkinlik sayısı Diğer.....

13. Bu parka geliş amaçlarınız nelerdir? (1 den fazla seçenek işaretlenebilir)

<u>Yenilenme Öncesi</u>	<u>Yenilenme Sonrası</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Arkadaşlarla buluşmak	<input type="checkbox"/> Arkadaşlarla buluşmak
<input type="checkbox"/> Spor yapmak	<input type="checkbox"/> Spor yapmak
<input type="checkbox"/> Dinlenmek	<input type="checkbox"/> Dinlenmek
<input type="checkbox"/> Açık havada zaman geçirmek	<input type="checkbox"/> Açık havada zaman geçirmek
<input type="checkbox"/> Lunaparka gitmek	<input type="checkbox"/> Lunaparka gitmek
<input type="checkbox"/> Kültür Merkezini kullanmak	<input type="checkbox"/> Kültür Merkezini kullanmak
<input type="checkbox"/> Gençlik Merkezini kullanmak	<input type="checkbox"/> Gençlik Merkezini kullanmak
<input type="checkbox"/> Çocuk oyun alanını kullanmak	<input type="checkbox"/> Çocuk oyun alanını kullanmak
<input type="checkbox"/> Yeme-içme	<input type="checkbox"/> Yeme-içme
<input type="checkbox"/> Diğer.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Diğer.....

14. Bu parkın 2005 yılında yenilendiğini biliyor musunuz? Evet Hayır

15. Bu parka yenileme yapılmadan önce gelmiş miydiniz? Evet Hayır

16. Parkın en çok hangi girişini kullanıyorsunuz?

- İstasyon Lunapark Ulus Metro Stadyum Hepsi

Neden?.....

17. Park'ın girişinden baktığınızda, park sizce ne kadar güvenli bir yer gibi gözüküyor?

- (Az) 1 2 3 4 5 (Çok)

18. Park'ın girişinden baktığınızda sizi cezbeden unsurlar nelerdir?

- Bitki Örtüsü Havuz Lunapark Diğer.....

19. Kendinizi parkta güvende hissediyor musunuz?

Yenilenme Öncesi

- Evet (21.soruya geçiniz) Hayır

Yenilenme Sonrası

- Evet (21.soruya geçiniz) Hayır

20. Neden güvenli değil? (1 den fazla seçenek işaretlenebilir)

<u>Yenilenme Öncesi</u>	<u>Yenilenme Sonrası</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Çok kalabalık olduğu için	<input type="checkbox"/> Çok kalabalık olduğu için
<input type="checkbox"/> Yeterli yönlendirme elemanları olmadığı için	<input type="checkbox"/> Yeterli yönlendirme elemanları olmadığı için
<input type="checkbox"/> Çok ıssız olduğu için	<input type="checkbox"/> Çok ıssız olduğu için
<input type="checkbox"/> Park içinde ve çevresinde suç işlendiği için	<input type="checkbox"/> Park içinde ve çevresinde suç işlendiği için
<input type="checkbox"/> Yeterli aydınlatma olmadığı için	<input type="checkbox"/> Yeterli aydınlatma olmadığı için
<input type="checkbox"/> Güvenlik/park görevlisi olmadığı için	<input type="checkbox"/> Güvenlik/park görevlisi olmadığı için
<input type="checkbox"/> Diğer.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Diğer.....

21. Bu parkta kendinizi ne kadar RAHAT hissediyorsunuz?

(Az) 1 2 3 4 5 (Çok)

22. Bu parkta kendinizi rahat hissetmemenizin nedenleri nelerdir?

<u>Yenilenme Öncesi</u>	<u>Yenilenme Sonrası</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Basamakların Yüksek Olması	<input type="checkbox"/> Basamakların Yüksek Olması
<input type="checkbox"/> Çok Fazla Merdiven Olması	<input type="checkbox"/> Çok Fazla Merdiven Olması
<input type="checkbox"/> Rampa Olmaması	<input type="checkbox"/> Rampa Olmaması
<input type="checkbox"/> Oturma Birimlerinin Yetersiz Olması	<input type="checkbox"/> Oturma Birimlerinin Yetersiz Olması
<input type="checkbox"/> Gölge Alanların Az Olması	<input type="checkbox"/> Gölge Alanların Az Olması
<input type="checkbox"/> Diğer:.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Diğer:.....

23. Bu parkta yürürken, birilerinin parkı kirlettiğini ya da tahrip ettiğini görürseniz, onları uyarır yada park güvenliğine yada yönetimine haber verir misiniz? Evet Hayır

24. Gençlik Parkı'nı önceki hali ile karşılaştırdığınızda şimdiki halini nasıl değerlendirirsiniz?

- Çok beğeniyorum Beğeniyorum Orta Beğenmiyorum
 Hiç beğenmiyorum

25. Gençlik Parkı'nı genel olarak beğenmenizin nedenleri nelerdir? (1 den fazla seçenek işaretlenebilir)

- 1 Yalnız kalabilme şansı
2 Parkın manzarasının olması
3 Su kıyısı olması
4 Açık alanda dolaşabilme imkanı sağlaması
5 Parkta yapılabilecek aktivitelerin çeşitli olması (Çay bahçesi, Restoran, Çocuk bahçesi, Lunapark, Spor alanları)
6 Diğer.....

26. Bu parkta beğenmediğimiz unsurlar nelerdir? (1 den fazla seçenek işaretlenebilir)

- 1 Parktaki insanların davranışları
2 Parkın bakımsızlığı
3 Parkın güvensiz ve kontrolsüz oluşu
4 Gıda kontrolü olmayışı
5 Bilgi verici, yönlendirici levhaların olmayışı
6 Çöp kutusu, bank ve aydınlatmalar yetersizliği
7 Otoparkın ücretli oluşu
8 Fiyatların pahalı olması
9 WCnin kalitesiz/bakımsız oluşu
10 Parkta şikâyette bulunulabilecek bir yerin olmayışı
11 Diğer.....

27. Sizce, lunapark herkesin bütçesine göre mi? Evet Hayır

28. Park içerisindeki Gençlik Merkezi ve Kültür Merkezinden haberdar mısınız?

- Evet Hayır

29. Bu merkezlerden herhangi birini kullandınız mı? Evet Hayır

30. Parkta başka hangi aktivitelerin olmasını isterdiniz?

.....

31. Parkta gerçekleşen etkinliklerden haberdar olabiliyor musunuz?

Evet Hayır

32. Parkla ilgili yenileme projelerinden ve etkinliklerden hangi şekilde haberdar olmak isterdiniz?

MAIL GAZETE, BÜLTEN TELEVİZYON

33. Parka ait 2005 öncesi anılarınız varsa, kısaca bahsedebilir misiniz?

.....

APPENDIX B

QUESTIONNAIRE

Date :/...../2011

Hour:.....:.....

USER PROFILE

1. Gender Male Female
2. Age 18-25 25-45 45-65 65 +
3. Educational Status Elementary School High School University
 Higher education
4. What is your average house income monthly?
 LESS THAN 2.000 2.000 – 5.000 6.000 – 8.000 MORE THAN 8.000 +
5. Which neighbourhood do you live in?.....

USERS' VISITATION PATTERNS OF THE PARK

6. How long have you been going to Gençlik Parkı?
 First time 0-6 months 1-3 years 3-7 years 7-10 years
 10-20 years 20-30 years 30-40 years
7. How often do you visit Gençlik Parkı?
 Once a year Once a month Once a week Other
8. Which transportation mode do you use to access the park?
 On foot Bus, Dolmuş Metro Taxi Private Car
9. Whom do you usually go to park with? (You can choose more than 1 alternative)
 Alone Spouse and children Friends Spouse Parents
 Children Other.....
10. If you have to rate between 1 and 5, while 1 being the least difficult and 5 being the most, how difficult was it to access the park?

(Least) 1 2 3 4 5 (Most)

11. What was causing the difficulty?

Traffic Jam Vehicle traffic restraining pedestrian activity Other.....

12. What are the factors that makes Gençlik Parkı different from the other parks you have been to?

Size Monuments Number of activities Other.....

13. What is your purpose for visiting the park? (You can choose more than 1 alternative)

<u><i>Before Renewal</i></u>	<u><i>After Renewal</i></u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting with friends	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting with friends
<input type="checkbox"/> Sports activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Relaxing	<input type="checkbox"/> Relaxing
<input type="checkbox"/> Spending time outdoors	<input type="checkbox"/> Spending time outdoors
<input type="checkbox"/> Going to the fun fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Going to the fun fair
<input type="checkbox"/> Using the Culture Center	<input type="checkbox"/> Using the Culture Center
<input type="checkbox"/> Using the Youth Center	<input type="checkbox"/> Using the Youth Center
<input type="checkbox"/> Using the playground	<input type="checkbox"/> Using the playground
<input type="checkbox"/> Gastronomic facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Gastronomic facilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Other.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Other.....

14. Did you know that the park was renovated in 2005? Yes No

15. Have you been to the park before the renewal project? Yes No

16. Which entrance of the park do you use the most?

Station Fun fair Ulus Metro Stadium All

Why?.....

17. According to you, how safe does the park seem looking from the entrance?

(Least) 1 2 3 4 5 (Most)

18. What are the factors that attract you from the entrance?

Landscape Lake Fun fair Other.....

19. Do you feel safe in the park?

Before Renewal

Yes (Move to question 21) No

After Renewal

Yes (Move to question 21) No

20. What are the reasons that make you feel unsafe? (You can choose more than 1 alternative)

<u><i>Before Renewal</i></u>	<u><i>After Renewal</i></u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Overcrowded	<input type="checkbox"/> Overcrowded
<input type="checkbox"/> Insufficiency of signboards	<input type="checkbox"/> Insufficiency of signboards
<input type="checkbox"/> Desolated spaces	<input type="checkbox"/> Desolated spaces
<input type="checkbox"/> Fear of crime	<input type="checkbox"/> Fear of crime
<input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate lighting	<input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate lighting
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of security guards	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of security guards
<input type="checkbox"/> Other.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Other.....

21. How comfortable do you feel in the park?

(Least) 1 2 3 4 5 (Most)

22. What are the reasons that make you feel uncomfortable in the park?

<u><i>Before Renewal</i></u>	<u><i>After Renewal</i></u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Height of riser on the stairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Height of riser on the stairs
<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive number of stairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive number of stairs
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of ramps	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of ramps
<input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate number of seating's	<input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate number of seating's
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of shady areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of shady areas
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:.....

23. While walking in the park, if you see someone polluting or damaging the park, would you warn them and inform the security guards or administration office about this situation?

Yes No

24. What do you think about the current state of Gençlik Parkı when compared to its previous one?

- Not at all satisfied Slightly satisfied Somewhat satisfied
 Very satisfied Extremely satisfied

25. What are the factors that satisfy you in Gençlik Parkı in general? (You can choose more than 1 alternative)

- 1 A chance to spend time alone
2 The scenery of the park
3 Waterfront
4 Spending time outdoors
5 Various number of activities (Cafes, Restaurants, Playgrounds, Fun fair, Sports facilities)
6 Other.....

26. What are the aspects that you don't like about the park? (You can choose more than 1 alternative)

- 1 Acts of other users
2 Untended situation of the park
3 Unsafe and uncontrolled state of the park
4 Lack of food control
5 Lack of signboards
6 Inadequate lighting, benches and bins
7 Expensive car park fees
8 Prices of the gastronomic services
9 Insufficiency of public toilets
10 Insufficiency of officers
11 Other.....

27. Do you think the fun fair is affordable for everyone?

- Yes No

28. Are you aware of the Youth and Culture Center in the park?

Yes No

29. Have you used any of those centers? Yes No

30. What other activities would you want in the park?

.....

31. Can you be informed about the activities that take place in the park?

Yes No

32. How would you like to be informed about the renewal projects and activities that are ongoing in the park?

VIA MAIL BY NEWSPAPER/NEWSLETTER THROUGH TV

33. If you have any memories about the park before 2005, could you tell them briefly?

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