

ATATURK FOREST FARM AS AN ACTIVE RECREATION AREA IN TERMS OF RECREATING THE SELF

INTRODUCTION

Ataturk Forest Farm was the first serious recreation attempt in the new capital of Turkey. It has a big production meaning firstly, which is essential for the aimed characteristics of the Republic, and this production meaning was referring to the self sufficiency economically in the reform process. That reform was aimed to subject a lot of part of the structure of Turkey like administration, economy, social structure, education etc. considering this structural reform the establishment of the Ataturk Forest Farm could serve to all these concepts by teaching new production texture on agriculture, new education techniques, new interests, new resistance and cooperation with nature and new social public place usage which I will discuss in this paper in terms of its perception.

Ataturk Forest Farm was a totally new social experience for the life of citizens of Ankara except the other radical features. It has an identity of a big reform on production in people's mind who will be a part of its social structure and providing a variety of new usages. Duygu Kaçar summarizes these activities in her article as "Swimming or sailing in Marmara and Akdeniz pools, watching the swimming races or having a swimming course in Karadeniz pool, eating in the Farm Restaurant, drinking in the Beer Park, exploring the zoo, walking around parks of Çiftlik Köşk, listening to the concert of the presidential orchestra around Marmara Köşk or hiking in the forest helped to associate the inhabitants with the new culture." (Kaçar,2011). Obviously it was providing a prestigious place for the new capital. This change in social structure is also a strategic movement to create a harmony between new regime and the citizens and probably it would help to make changes sustainable and so the new republic could stand as a whole with all its components. In the time of modernization of people's life styles, using Ataturk Forest Farm as a public place which provides a leisure time shaped their perception about the standing position of the new characteristic of the country. Considering the reciprocal relationship human and place, Ataturk Forest Farm shaped by human hands was a very effective place on shaping humans perception on changes and provide adaptation between the essence of human namely the self beings and the new platform. Now it would be useful to give some more details about what kind of a relationship there is between a place and the self.

Urban life which include people chasing for their life in the way of not being able to find a second for living their life is getting more and more difficult to live everyday. In a time that flows very fast in an urban life people mostly shape their perception according to their surroundings which is running fast, so they accord themselves and this would be generally on consuming an action. A second which generally request a calm and stable situation would be familiar to all that making a query of what is happening around while in the exertion of catching the life and this critical moments in people's perception demonstrate some clues about identity of the self. There is an approximate perception of the self almost in everybody and it changes in time via this critical moments. When the individual

realize something is different inside than before it means a recreating of the perception of the self in the mind. It may also be defined as the other self that is waiting to be discovered. This discovery process may vary according to the structure of the place which is isolated from that "runway". For instance it would be different discoveries that produced by a social place or some more estranged place. To specify; if it is accepted that human is a social being and one part of the self may shaped according to the way of standing between the others, it would obviously provide a different kind of realization process to the self like a position in the group. On the other hand in a more isolated place the individual would be face to face with the quintessence. Both a social or estranged place is critical for also providing an appropriate platform for a very essential notion called "production" which will be discussed later. So the characteristics of the place is becoming very essential in the terms of providing different kind of relation of the self and the individual would require different types of places according to interests for this reason. Nowadays it is more difficult to find that second because human life is in the situation that surrounded by a fast urban life which is backed up by all sorts of technology. In such situation concious endeavors for providing "escape points" from the noisy urban life and "productive research on the self" places become essential neccesities for the healty psychology of individuals, baccuse individually I believe it is a must process of searching inside. With every production brick in the perception of the self the recreation process would be under construction. In the lights of these considerations "recreation area" term comes into question.

WHAT IS A RECREATION AREA?

Recreation term firstly was seen in English in the late 14th century in terms of "refreshment or curing of a sick person" which is an appropriate definition in a way for the topic is been discussed in this paper. The term is generally used to define activities which are done for leisure and enjoyment. In the manner of speaking, "leisure" term is perceived as the time remaining from the busyness. Yukic states that "While one perception is that leisure is just "spare time", time not consumed by the necessities of living, another holds that leisure is a force that allows individuals to consider and reflect on the values and realities that are missed in the activities of daily life, thus being an essential element of personal development and civilization." (Yukic, 1970). According to Olmstead's definition, recreation areas especially big ones should include some natural elements and compositions which clear the artificial views of city from the minds of citizens. According to Ibrahim & Cordes, "Recreation refers to an organized activity in which an adult participates during free time. The emphasis in leisure is on the state of mind that allows the adult to participate in an activity of his or her choice during the time freed from work or civil or familial obligations." (Ibrahim & Cordes, 2008) So according to some perspectives it is possible to seperate notions like recreation and leisure. On the other and there is an undeniable truth that everybody needs and has the right to use and be into that kind of spaces. For this reason thethere is a principle accepted in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as:

"Every citizen has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours, and periodic holidays with pay . . . and . . . the right to freely participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts. . . ." (U.N., 1978).

According to Reyhan Gedikli's article "Kentlerde Kişi Başına Düşmesi Gereken Açık Yeşil Alan Büyüklüğünün Değerlendirilmesinde Kullanılabilecek Matematiksel Model Önerisi", researches show that higher social welfare increases the need to recreational activities and with the change of the

socio-cultural structure **use of recreational areas**, according to the accessibility **the frequency of going to recreational areas**, according to the activity **size of the area**, according to the location **the user profile**, according to the proximity **the feeling of adoption**, according to the user profile **the border line of the social privacy** can change (Gedikli, 2002). So, obviously there are a lot of sensitive variable which affect the characteristics of the recreation areas.

RECREATION AREAS IN THE TERMS OF PRODUCTION

At this point I believe that it would be useful to give a personally perceived definition of recreational areas for making a clear bridge between the terms “production” and “recreation”. As I mentioned in the introduction part, recreation areas have a very unique characteristic such as being an affective place on the humane part of the people and as saying humane it is being tried to interrelate with some notions like producing relations, thoughts, emotions etc. Shortly, notions about production. For being a productive place, it does not necessarily have to occur a tangible production. According to my perception, in a productive place there is a construction of a thought or an interest, a spiritual serenity, a relationship or a knowledge which is essential for power and all these production processes serve to discovery of the self eventually because it uses the self as a raw material. A productive place is the reflection of an idea or a notion basically. On the other hand a consumption place does not demand for thinking and digging out of the self seriously. While producing needs a full concious and concentration, in the process of consuming the concious and concentration generally tends to be lost. For instance when big shopping malls is accepted as a consumption place, it is mostly heard that people has no idea about how the time past and they do not think about anything deeply while the process. So obviously productive places is a need for the humane part of the people and recreation areas are very essential representatives of that such kind of places. For being more illustrative I would like to depict a vision by giving more details shopping centers as reverse of a productive place. For instance while in a recreational area a person could observe and be with so many kind of people at the same platform which is very natural and this allows to produce relationships. On the other hand in places like shopping centers which is controlled fully there is an elimination mechanism which does not allow all kind of people to be together. In the manner of speaking, the homeless, the poor and foreigners can have the chance joining the urban life and being together with everybody, being a part of the public and producing relationships with them which is very humane and which is essential for a place to be public.

When we consider this characteristics that I mentioned about researches of the self, emergence ideas of recreational parts of Ataturk Forest Farm comes out very meaningful. However nowadays the emergence ideas of Ataturk Forest Farm is trying to be forgotten and accepted as a leisure area that does not provide a chance to reproduce the self by using the place. Both the basic idea behind and the land also are being fallen to pieces. So at this point thinking about what alternatives that would keep the land as a whole could be applied in the land and how could the sustainability provided for the prestige of the capital, for protecting the basic idea behind and for providing a recreation and recreational area for citizens. The alternatives are also important for the economic self sufficiency and technological development of the Farm but social dimension of possibilities will be discussed in this paper.

Ataturk Forest Farm has never been an ordinary recreational area that you could use daily. While processsing alternatives, characteristics of the place and providing a productive namely educational

structure should always be considered. In additionally -in Duygu Kaçar's expression- for "cultivating minds" and for draw attentions of the citizens from the consumption place which is default and used intensely in Ankara, the alternatives must provide different kinds of interests as much as possible for creating a rich variety. At the light of this consideration, some possible alternatives put in order as follows and their sustainability will be discussed later.

COLLECTIONS OF LIVING PLANTS AND HORTICULTURAL FAIRS

To begin with, when the nature characteristic of the place is taken into account, an educational place about the nature should be thought and a very suitable example of that aim are "collections of living plants" and "horticultural fairs". To mention, for understanding the benefits of collections of living plants to this place, the term should be looked into more detailed. The collection of plants activity has been existing for hundreds of years in a basic way. It was firstly recorded when collectors went to Somali to collect incense trees for Queen Hatshepsut in 1495 BC and it became more popular in Victorian Era. In present, the most important representative of a plant collection place is the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew created in 1795 in London. Kew is a botanical research and education institution hosting two million visitors in 2008. It is a 121 hectared land that has a lot of utilization about research of plants on it and it provides a prestigous structure to the capital city London. Because of it is a rare educational and well organized rooted activity at the same way it become a symbolic and representative structure for the city as well as contributing the economy. Considering these properties a prototype of this kind of collection working with a variety of usages would be an appropriate alternative for Ataturk Forest Farm. Moreover instead of the Zoo that is trying to be transformed into an expectedly "interesting" place nowadays by spending a vast area of land the original version of the Zoo could stand mutually with such kind of collection place only when some restorations and improvements are done. Secondly, I would like to mention about "international horticultural fairs". There are a lot examples of fairs from all around the world like "Des Moines Home & Garden Shop" in USA or "Gartenträume" in Germany or "Fruit. Vegetables. Logistics" in Ukraine and it takes place mostly in Istanbul in Turkey like "Uluslararası Süs Bitkileri Peyzaj ve Yan Sanayileri İhtisas Fuarı". These activities are important for international relationships mostly on trade relationships and their emphasis could vary like highly technological vegetable-growing or ornamental plants etc. If this activities could considered to be made in a place like Ataturk Forest Farm and the capital city of Turkey, a meeting place for the whole horticultural sectors could be provided and it would contribute to the place as a big invigorating support. It is also important for the prestigous of the capital city by being an international activity and it could work with these collectional places so I believe assesting these two activity is appropriate because of the similarities.

EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIONS

In time of establishment of Ataturk Forest Farm there was educational activities by doing internships in the farm for students who were taking education on agriculture in the view of 'learning by doing'. According to this basis, interrelating agricultural faculties with Ataurk Forest Farm would be very sensible for their work field. At present, there are a lot of facilities that agricultural faculties are applying such as harvest festivals, annual vintage, ecology education with instects etc. In such a frame that trying to get activities about nature education under one umbrella, this kind of efforts would be enriching and if it could be possible to create a rich platform for scientific educational activities like taking as a research field in Ataturk Forest Farm, it would have been realized of

emergence ideas of the farm in a way. In additionally, there are some institutions like coordinator of awareness and education of the society which can cooperate with the institution which should be established for executing the whole scenario and will be discussed later in sustainability part. Briefly for educational activities relevant faculties and governmental institutions should cooperate and the farm could be used as a research field.

ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYBODY

Because the characteristics of Ataturk Forest Farms consist of productivity since the day of the idea of the farm was born, a productive recreational area suggestion could contribute the thought of recreating the self. From this point of view not being just a leisure place, but making participants feel that they are in a place that is an essential scientific, technologic and productive part of Turkey would help people shaping their minds about outdoor place and the main idea should be cover everybody under an umbrella of production and making them enable for producing. At the light of this considerations, productive recreational activities which can not be made in an ordinary park that provide a place for the need of daily routine recreational activities. These activities should offer the individual a wide color range in the process of helping the research on the self and in additionally the citizens' attentions could be attracted from the consumption places. There may be a lot of kind of activities could be planned in the Farm just like, nature sport activities for both single individual and for the sport communities. In the specific periods of the year camping areas for scouts may be organized or forests sports may be arranged so an active life for sports clubs which is very productive would be provided. Except sport clubs, the idea of fishing pools comes into question. Fishing is a considerable activity which subjecting to an amount of a community and in a city like Ankara it becomes harder. However like happened in 1930s Ataturk Forest Farm may provide a different perspective of living to the citizens. Again for gathering this kind of activities under one roof would fit to the expected organizational structure of the Farm. Just like fishing pools agricultural gardens or agriculture industry workshops like producing beer would serve the same aim and it would create an interface between an individual and the nature and the main idea is against enabling everybody to do. When people know that they have a different and powerful organized alternative for their recreational times and when they become used to it, it means that outdoor space perception has begin to change from a perspective of consuming to producing and as I mentioned before producing activities are just interrelated to the essence of the self. Obviously these activities may require producing a relationship or an idea etc. in additionally they are the activities which may allow transitions between themselves when they happen on the same land, so it would also help people to expand their limits and meet new perspectives. However one of the most important part of this issue is the way of providing the sustainability because as we experienced the most difficult part of making an idea real like in Ataturk Forest Farms is sustaining the idea and make it permanent and being open to be developed.

THE WAY OF SUSTAINING THE IDEA AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE LAND

Although the creation idea of Ataturk Forest Farm has contributed the process of generation an identity which was not moving through to be about shopping malls to Ankara, the sustainability of the land could not be so successful unfortunately. In years, various usages such as public institutions, universities, terminal etc. began to take some parts of the lands and it began to be used for aims which is not very appropriate about its emergence ideas and conditions that Ataturk mentioned

about his donation. As this paper aimed, in a condition that necessary regulations which reorganize the land again and ensure the integrity of the lands are provided the most essential part of the work is guaranteeing the sustainability. To achieve this aim, there is a necessity of proceeding carefully in an organized way. Because of this, it would be beneficial if the stakeholders are considered firstly who will the vital role on sustainability of the land.

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS				
STAKEHOLDERS	THE ROLE IN THE PROJECT	DEGREE OF POTENTIAL IMPACT IN THE PROJECT	POTENTIAL NEGATIVITY	DUTY OF THE STAKEHOLDER
EXECUTIVE INSTITUTION AFFILIATED TO RELEVANT MINISTRIES (AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN ETC.)	Providing coordination and execution	High	Not able to execute transparently or providing efficient budget	Coordinator
SUB-ASSOCIATIONS (ORNAMENTAL PLANT DEALERS, SEED GROWERS)	Providing contribution to the activities and and take an active role in horticultural activities	Middle	Not be able to organise refreshing prestigous organizations	Operator
FAIR ORGANIZATION FIRMS	Taking an invigorating and contributing part in the international fairs	Middle	Not being able to provide enough participation	Operator
RELEVANT FACULTIES OF UNIVERSITIES Toplum bilgilendirme ve Eğitimi Koordinatörlüğü (ankara ziraat)	Contributing of defining the problems and preparing projects, providing creative ideas and activities, preparing introductory programs for educating the awareness of citizens	High	Not able to deliver educational and introductory programs to the target group, not able to defining the problems totally	Operator/Coordinantor
RELEVANT COMMERCIAL FORMATIONS	Providing economic mobility	Middle	Not being able to provide attractive activities	Operator
SPORT COMMUNITIES	Providing productive usages of the recreaional areas	Low		Final Beneficiary
RELEVANT FOUNDATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS	Preparing introductory programs for educating the awareness of citizens, contributing to produce activities	High	Not being able to be very introductive and informative and not being able to coordinate transparently	Operator/Coordinantor
PARTICIPATING SOCIETY	Recognizing the problems conciously and moving as being open to innovations and changes	Middle	Not being able to be open to innovations	Final Beneficiary
EMBASSIES	Supporting to coordination in international activities	Low		Secondary Stakeholders

Secondly to be aware of the conditions fully, SWOT analysis that woul be held on by scientific and educational authorities would take a very vital part in the scenerion and after that analysis a comprehensive research shoul be made about Ataturk Forest Farms's vision about its goals. To mention about these conditions shortly;

Strengths

- Historical background
- Central position
- Being a fertile land
- Close to the universities (means also sport communities)
- Being on the main transportation points

Weakness

- The real identity is about to be lost
- Unawareness of the society
- The land that separated into pieces
- Weak networks with the market
- Not intervened usages which are not appropriate with the original identity
- Not being used at present very highly because of not being able to respond current necessities
- Not having a developer institute which could contribute to scientific researches
- Not having a vision for the future of the Farm
- Not being integrated with the recreational areas

Opportunities

- High accessibility
- Symbolic value
- Subjecting to a sensitive part of the society because of its background
- Historical characteristic about being a field for scientific developments
- Appropriate existence for gathering people under one roof for a new perspective of recreational place

Threats

- Depredation
- Decrease of the fertility because of the impurity
- Insensitivity of the administrative structures
- Being inclined of the society to the consumption places

CONCLUSION

When we consider about what kind of a society and what kind of a life is desired I believe that constitutive pieces namely individuals have a vital position. So according to this consideration, firstly it should be determined that what characteristics an individual should have. Apparently every person has their own characteristics but when we look at the default characteristics I believe that finding the self comes first. In this paper I tried to address The Ataturk Forest Farms issue from this point of view. Because except all the positive structures of being created of Ataturk Forest Farm, there is one essential part which addressing to exactly the selves which creating the society by shaping their perceptions. At present I believe that sustaining this characteristic of the Farm has a position of a great significance for the sake of the capital city Ankara. The productive identity that given to the

daily routine life would be a resistance to the imposed consumption structure of city. There is always a discussion about the relationship between people and place? Does the place shape people or just the opposite? I believe both statements are true. At past, by creating Ataturk Forest Farm, a vision of people who were open to the innovations, give importance to the nature and science and productivity was aimed and it gave good results. However, to sustain it we must approach the subject as consciously.

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