


Article Info	RESEARCH ARTICLE ARAŞTIRMA MAKALESİ	 KENT AKADEMİSİ
Title of Article	Investigation of Existing Green Area Presence in Example of Aksaray Province	
Corresponding Author	Bülent ESKİN Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Aksaray University, b_eskin@hotmail.com GSM: 05058520451	
Submission Date Admission Date	17/09/2019 / 10/12/2019	
Author / Authors	Bülent ESKİN Sema DOĞANAY ORCID:0000-0002-7990-4138 ORCID:0000-0001-7611-7297	
How to Cite	ESKİN, B., DOĞANAY S. (2019). Investigation of Existing Green Area Presence in Example of Aksaray Province , Kent Akademisi, Volume, 12 (40), Issue 4, Pages 812-822.	How to Cite

Aksaray İli Örneğinde Mevcut Yeşil Alan Varlığının İncelenmesi

Bülent ESKİN¹
Sema DOĞANAY²

ÖZ:

Günümüzün değişen gereksinimleri ve teknolojik ilerlemeler sonucu hızlı bir değişim süreci yaşayan kentlerde, yeşil alanların önemi her geçen gün artmaktadır. Ayrıca, kentsel yaşam kalitesini de arttıran yeşil alanlar kentsel alanların sürdürülebilir gelişmesine katkıda bulunmaktadır. Bu bağlamda yapılan çalışmada Aksaray kentindeki mevcut aktif yeşil alanlar; kent parkları ve mahalle ölçeğinde, yasada ve yapılan çalışmalarda öngörülen ortalama değerlere göre kıyaslanmıştır. 2018 yılında, Aksaray ilindeki 41 mahalle incelendiğinde, sonuçlara göre 889.375 m² yeşil alan tespit edilmiştir. Ayrıca, kişi başına düşen yeşil alan miktarının ise 4.18 m² olduğu belirlenmiştir. Bu duruma göre yeşil alanların miktarı öngörülen değerlerin altındadır. Çalışmada incelenen 41 mahalleden 4'ü yeşil alan bakımından iyi durumdadır. Diğer 37 mahallede yeşil alanlar standartların altındadır. Öncelikle, standartların altında olan bu yerlerde yeşil alanların artırılması ve parkların belirlenen standartları karşılaması için faaliyetler yapılması gereklidir. Bu amaçlar doğrultusunda yeşil alanların korunması ve iyileştirilmesi konusunda ilgili kurumlar ve yetkililerin yanı sıra toplumdaki her bir birey üzerine düşen sorumluluğu yerine getirmelidir.

ANAHTAR KELİMELELER: Aksaray İli, Yeşil Alan, Kentsel Alan

ABSTRACT:

The importance of green areas is increasing day by day in urban areas that are undergoing rapid change process as a result of today's changing needs and technological advances. In addition, green areas that increase the quality of urban life contribute to the sustainable development of urban areas. In this context, in this study, the current active green areas in the province of Aksaray is compared in the scale urban parks and neighbourhood according to the predicted average values in laws and studies. When the 41 neighbourhood in Aksaray province were examined in 2018, according to the results 889.375 m² green area was determined. Also, the amount of green space per capita is determined to be 4.18 m². According to this situation, the amount of green areas is below the predicted values. 4 of the

¹ Aksaray University, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, b_eskin@hotmail.com

² Aksaray University, Social Sciences Institute, Department of Public Administration, semadoganay68@hotmail.com

41 neighbourhoods researched in the study are in good condition in terms of green area. In the other 37 neighbourhoods, green areas are below standards. Primarily, in these places which are below standards is necessary that activities to increase the green areas and making the parks meet the determined standards. In line with these objectives, about conservation and improvement of green areas must fulfil the responsibility for each individual in society as well as relevant institutions and authorities.

KEYWORDS: Aksaray Province, Green Area, Urban Area

INTRODUCTION

As a result of the economic and social developments in the aftermath of the Industrial Revolution, cities began to grow rapidly. The population accumulated in cities has increased with the addition of migration to this rapid growth. This situation is caused the formation of irregular cities. Also, destruction of green areas is caused the emergence of concrete cities.

Today, quality of life, ground quality, housing satisfaction and sustainability are the concepts used in determining urban environment quality. Urban living conditions will be improved with pass into practice of these concepts. In addition, open and green areas, which are an indicator of the natural life that shows the quality of life in the city, make a positive relationship between human and nature by softening the stiff appearance of the city (Van Kamp et al., 2003, p. 6).

Architectural structures, open-green areas and their relations with each other determine the general character and integrity of the city. In addition, the open-green areas improve the urban living conditions by establishing a positive balance between human and nature. For this purpose, most of the developed countries tend to focus on the mental and physical needs necessary for human life and to create an appropriate urban area (Gül & Küçük, 2001, p. 29).

The open and green spaces in the city are public spaces with many different functions for recreation, ecology and land organization. In addition, these areas, which allow sports activities and entertainment in the city prevent air pollution (Önder & Polat, 2012, p. 76). Nowadays, there is a need for areas where people can engage in various activities and have fun, with approach towards green. For this purpose, children's gardens, sports areas, district parks, urban parks, regional parks and national parks are constituted to bring together the vast majority of green areas in cities around the world and in Turkey.

Parking areas with a certain potential in terms of green area presence, have the feature of being both an urban element and a social area in the city. Parks which are classified by various names according to their functions, service area and locations are located in urban life with their service quality, reinforcements, landscape value and aesthetic values (Halil Emür & Onsekiz, 2007, p. 393).

Aksaray province, which is the subject of study, is in an insufficient condition in terms of forest and natural vegetation. Various activities are carried out in Aksaray province in order to solve the problem of green area. In this context, it is aimed to examine the status of the existing active green areas in Aksaray city, according to the projected average values, in the scale of urban parks and neighbourhood.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The existing active green areas, which are implemented in the zoning plan of Aksaray city, are the main materials of the study. The measurements of the existing active green areas were taken from Aksaray Municipality Urban Design Directorate and Aksaray Provincial Directorate of Environment and Urbanization. In addition, during the process of forming the data related to the study, university libraries, various electronic library resources, some national and international search engines, articles and thesis studies on this subject have been utilized. Also, the findings were supported with photographs.

In this study, firstly, the researches about the green areas were examined and general information about the subject was given. Then, active green areas in Aksaray city were analysed comparatively according to zoning law and standard average values determined by scientists, in the scale of urban parks and neighbourhood. Finally, there have been suggestions for the improvement of green areas in order to create a liveable and healthy city in Aksaray.

1. Urban Green Areas

The green areas, which are important for the future of the cities, have the property of specifying the quality of urban life. Green areas, which are one of the places providing service to the city in various aspects, should be of a certain size in terms of quality of urban life. The amount of green space per capita in Turkey was determined with the Zoning Law No. 3194. With the amendment made in 1999, the required green space standard for urban quality of life is 10 square meters per person (Halil Emür & Onsekiz, 2007, p. 393).

It is important that green areas are distributed evenly in the city in terms of accessibility, functionality and planning. When active green areas are not distribute regularly in some neighbourhoods in the city, individuals, cannot benefit from children's playgrounds, sports fields and neighbourhood parks. In order for individuals to benefit from these areas at the optimum level, attention should be paid to the balanced distribution of open green areas when planning (Dede Akbulut & Önder, 2011, p. 93). If this places are designed in an ergonomic way reinforced with plant material, then the comfort required for humans can be provided. However, it is not that easy to design open green areas that will be appreciated in terms of visual quality (Güngör & Polat, 2018, p. 947).

Urban open-green areas, which are of great importance in terms of landscape, have many aesthetic and functional features. Among these features;

- * Plant and structural materials used in light-green areas provide physical and aesthetic value to urban area with features which are form, size, texture, color, line,
- * They gives an aesthetic shape to urban buildings which have sharp, hard and monotonous geometric lines.
- * The specified areas clean the air by increasing the amount of oxygen in the urban environments. In addition, these areas control the microclimate by providing air circulation.
- * These areas provide convenience in urban circulation by directing vehicle and pedestrian traffic.
- * The aforementioned areas provide the opportunity to meet the active and passive recreational needs of the individual and society.
- * The mentioned areas facilitate the human life by giving relief to the human psychology with the characteristics of plants such as color, shape, texture, size.
- * They help individuals to socialize by positively influencing human relationships.

Open green spaces play an important role in raising awareness of nature and the environment.

- * They absorb or reduce noise.
- * Open green aras camouflage unwanted objects or images.
- * They protect the soil and water by covering the upper part of the soil.
- * They also improve soil fertility.
- * Green areas provide economic benefits by contributing to the development of sectors related to herbal production and marketing(Gül&Küçük, 2001, p. 30).

For many city residents, everyday life and work conditions are quite stressful. Individuals who want to get away from these stressful situations need environments where they can relax psychologically and physically. Research has shown that green areas directly affect human psychology and have positive results in terms of health(Kaplan & Kaplan, 1989). In order to maintain these positive developments of individuals, the green areas, especially in parking areas, must be in accordance with some standards. There are the ideal park standards (Table 1) according to the area, the population and the way the park is formed.

Table 1. Standards of parks

Parks	Service Area (Radius-Kilometer)	Age Group of Users (Age)	Per Person Size (decare / 1000 People)	Serviced Population (People)	Ideal Size (decare)
Children's Gardens	0,2-06	0-3, 4-7,8-15	4		8-16
Sport Areas	2	7 and up	4	Whole City	40-60
Neighbourhood Parks	0,5-1.5	All Ages	8-12	3.500-5.000	20-40
County Parks	1-2,5	All Ages	10-20	15.000-30.000	160-400
City Parks	1-10	All Ages	80	Whole City	40-800
Regional Parks	25-100	All Ages	750-3000		2.000-4.000
National Parks	All over the country	All Ages	Variable	All over the country	Variable

Resource: Tümer, 1976, Yıldızcı Ahmet, 1982, Türel, 1988, Halil Emür & Onsekiz, 2007.

FINDINGS OF THE RESEARCH

2. General Features of the Study Area

Aksaray province is located in the Middle Kızılırmak section of the Central Anatolia Region. It is located between the 38-39 north parallels and the 33-35 east meridians. Aksaray province is surrounded by Nevşehir in the east, Niğde in the southeast, Konya in the west, Ankara in the north and Kırşehir in the northeast. Salt Lake is located to the northwest of the province. It has an area of 7997 square kilometres. It is ranked 39th among the provinces with its area. It has 7 districts except the center. These districts are Gülağaç, Eskil, Güzelyurt, Ortaköy, Ağaçören, Sarıyahşi and Sultanhanı. Aksaray is 980 meter above sea level. Hasan Mountain (3268 meters), the highest mountain in Central Anatolia after Erciyes Mountain, is located in Aksaray province (Ahiler Development Agency, 2016, p. 23).

3. Green Area Status of Aksaray Province

There are parks with green spaces and social spaces that ensure a healthy and quality life in cities. These areas where people evaluate the times left from their intensive activities are very important in terms of relaxation and fun. Aksaray province, which is a working area, has parks and areas where children and individuals can relax and have fun. These include Kültürpark, Kılıçarslan Park, Karabağ Thematic Park, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Youth Park, Young Osman Park and Hobby Garden. Aksaray Municipality, which aims to organize a quality city, carry on works related to the development of the green areas in Aksaray province in this parks. For this purpose, Aksaray Municipality carries out its activities in certain periods during the year. Tree and flower planting are among the activities carried out regularly in Aksaray province every year.

3.1. Culture Park

This park is visited intensively by the people of Aksaray in summer due to being close to the city center. The parking area(Figure 1) is next to the E-90 highway and its size is 16 hectares. Ulurmak passes through the park located in Büyük Bölcek Neighbourhood. Also, in this area, there are amusement park, Olympic swimming pool, gym, shopping center, cinema, cafes, wedding salons, high society market and parking.



Figure 1. A View from the Culture Park Area

3.2. Kılıçarslan Park

This park, which has an area of 30 hectares, is one of the major resting areas(Figure 2.) of the city. There are barbecue areas, picnic areas, sports fields, hiking and biking trail, cafes, a channel where it's passing through the water, playground with cartoon heroes and terrace with city and mountain views in this park (Aksaray, 2014).



Figure 2. A view from the Kılıçarslan Park area (Resource: Landscapes of Aksaray 2014)

3.3. Thematic Park of Karabakh

This park, which was done by Aksaray Municipality in the area of 3.2 hectares in Fatih District in 2018, is the first and only thematic park(Figure 3) of the city. Its name comes from Nagorno-Karabakh, which is located within the borders of Azerbaijan. The monument of the Har-ı Bülbül ” flower symbol of Nagorno-Karabakh was placed at the entrance of the thematic park. In the park, there are also scented garden, open-air cinema area, recreation areas,

children's playgrounds, tennis courts, skateboard areas and open air exhibition halls where women can exhibit their products, women's activity center, kindergarten and day care center(Can, 2017).



Figure 3. A View from the Area of Thematic Park of Karabakh

3.4. Park of Genç Osman

Young Osman Park, the largest park in Aksaray, had done on an area of 180 hectares in Cumhuriyet neighbourhood. The park(Figure 4) has two astroturf , two basketball courts, a volleyball court, a tennis court and a sports complex with sports tools, playgrounds for children and picnic areas(Aksaray, 2016).



Figure 4. A View from the Area of Genç Osman Park

3.5. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Youth Park

The park, which is located in the immediate vicinity of the Culture Park in Tacin Neighbourhood, has an area of 42.6 hectares. It has 3 stages with 7.9 hectares, 10.4 hectares and 24.3 hectares respectively. The 1st stage of the park(Figure 5) was over. When the park is complete, Ulurmak Recreation Area which cover both sides of Ulurmak, and urban park will be operational. In the park where there are cycling path, running track, children's playground and amphitheatre, youth center will be built with 3 floors in the future. A multi-purpose conference room, foyer area, cafeteria, library, computer rooms, art and music workshops, disabled activity rooms and training rooms where

courses can be held will be took part in this building. In addition, a biological pond and 3 squares are planned to be constructed in the park in the future(Aksaray, 2018).



Figure 5. A View from the Area of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Youth Park

3.6. Hobby Gardens

This area, located to the west of Tacin Street, is rented by Aksaray Municipality to pensioners as 250 square meters. Especially in this area(Figure 6) which is in high demand on weekends, vegetables and fruits are grown by retirees.



Figure 6. A view from the hobby gardens area of Aksaray province

The parks which are located among the open green areas, serve the children, young and old population in reducing the negativity in the cities. There must be certain standards in order for society to benefit from these areas properly. In this respect, various neighbourhood parks and urban parks in Aksaray province were investigated(Table 2). As a result of this analysis, green areas per capita were compared with standard values.

Table 2. Status of green areas per person in Aksaray province

Number	Neighbourhood	Population	Parking area m ²	Number of Parking	Green area m ² / person
1	Aratol	4.561	39.090	13	8.57
2	Bayrambaba	424	15.300	2	36.8
4	Büyük Bölcek	14.594	42.462	13	2.90
5	Coğlakı	7.338	4.289	2	0.58
6	Cumhuriyet	12.950	187.289	4	14.4
7	Çerdiğin	4.361	7.208	4	1.65
8	Çiftlik	2.635	5.730	3	2.17
9	Dere	717	2.879	2	4.01
10	Ereğlikapı	15.010	24.368	7	1.62
11	Fatih	15.137	73.725	10	4.87
12	Hacı Hasanlı	2.332	31.466	2	13.4
13	Hacılar Harmanı	4.449	15.337	4	3.44
14	Hamidiye	2.313	1.493	3	0.64
15	Hashas	6.225	10.045	4	1.61
16	Hürriyet	3.905	7.581	5	1.94
17	İstiklal	1.336	5.280	1	3.95
18	Kılıçarslan	6.107	7.842	3	1.28
19	Kurtuluş	3.817	7.975	2	2.08
20	Küçük Bölcek	13.972	18.666	9	1.33
21	Laleli	2.715	5.762	2	2.12
22	Mehmet Akif Ersoy	3.412	7.151	3	2.09
23	Meydan	5.664	10.731	4	1.89
24	Nakkaş	5.362	29.505	6	5.50
25	Pamucak	2.840	3.179	2	1.11
26	Paşacık	13.535	8.499	7	0.62
27	Pınar	3.900	4.084	2	1.04
28	Selçuklu	2.193	3.635	2	1.65
29	Sofular	640	500	1	0.78
30	Somuncubaba	667	800	4	1.19
31	Şamlı	1.843	973	1	0.52
32	Şeyhhamit	4.798	5.092	2	1.06
33	Şifahane	4.380	9.824	3	2.24
34	Tacin	4.400	165.795	6	37.68
35	Taşpazar	14.696	30.417	11	2.06
36	Yavuz S. Selim	8.696	19.194	4	2.20
37	Yenimahalle	854	1.350	1	1.58
38	Yeni Sanayi	2.065	4.958	3	2.40
39	Yunus Emre	4.921	29.862	6	6.06
40	Zafer	2.301	16.075	4	6.98
41	Zincirli	514	3.420	2	6.65

(Resource: Anonymous, 2017)

In 2011, the green area was 534 441m² in Aksaray. The green space per capita was 2.93 m²(Aksaray Municipality, 2011, p. 132). In 2017, when the parks and neighbourhood populations in 41 neighbourhoods of Aksaray were examined, it was determined that the green areas increased to 889.375 m². In addition, the amount of green space per person was identify to be changing as 4.18 m².

4. Other Outdoor Areas of Aksaray Province

Other outdoor areas of the city are important as much as parks for citizens. These areas are needed for the creation of a liveable and healthy city. In terms of establishing a liveable and healthy city and demonstrating the presence of green spaces, there are other open green areas in the province of Aksaray which carry values other than the parks. These areas include squares, forest areas, agricultural areas, residential gardens, schools, cemeteries and historical, cultural, natural and tourism areas.

4.1. Squares

July 15 Aksaray National Will Square which has historical and cultural importance in Aksaray province is the meeting place of the city and the main square in the city scale. This square, which is at the center of its commercial activities, is an important place in the formation of the city identity with its closed bazaar and the governor's office building.

4.2 Forest lands

In the Aksaray province, where the winters are cold and rainy and the summers are arid and warm, the density of the forests is located in Hasandağı and Ekecik Mountain. Density of trees in these mountains was formed by oak groves. In the foothills of Hasandağı, forests rise from 1400 meters to 1850-1900 meters. In the areas with less rainfall in the mountains, the forest cover is lost and steppes begin(Aksaray Belediyesi, 2011, p. 74). All the forests in the province of Aksaray which has 21.208 hectares of forest and nursery area belong to the General Directorate of Forestry. Local administrations in the province work to increase the forest assets(Flora, 2018).

4.3. Agriculture Areas

Agricultural areas in the Aksaray province where agricultural activities are carried out, has an important place in the total green area presence of the city. 420.430 hectares of 799.700 hectares of land in the province is suitable for arable land. 179.129 hectares is meadow and pastureland. 131.374 hectares is non-agricultural land. In addition, the province has 11,050 hectares of vegetables, 2,627 hectares of fruits, 1.444 hectares of the vineyard area(Brifing, 2018).

4.4. Residential and Mass Housing Gardens

Residential and mass housing gardens are the smallest areas in terms of open-green areas where citizens benefit. In recent years, despite the environmental arrangements made in Aksaray due to the increase in the construction of mass housing, the green areas in the residential areas do not meet the standard, aesthetic and functional characteristics. In detached houses, the owners carry out garden arrangements according to own opportunity. But in these dwellings number of consciously planned garden arrangement samples are very low(Dede Akbulut & Önder, 2011, p. 93). In addition nowadays, the majority of the world population lives in residential. Since the this areas are provided with man-made elements, they cause pressure on all creatures living in them (Güngör & Polat, 2017, p. 9).

4.5. School Gardens

School gardens, which contribute to the development of children, are one of the important areas where children can play. Therefore, it is necessary to plan and design the primary and secondary school gardens in the cities in accordance with the standards set out in the laws(Karadağ et al., 2012, p. 54). There are 21 preschools, 98 primary and 60 secondary education institutions in the canter of Aksaray. In these institutions, with the understanding of contemporary education, are provided contribution to increase social welfare and to educate students in a healthy environment (Urban Building, 2014). When these institutions meet the standards in terms of quality and quantity and they are sufficient for green areas and play areas, helps children spend time in a quality environment.

4.6. Cemeteries

In Aksaray, other areas where green areas are dense are cemeteries. There is a cemetery of Ervah, which also includes the Somuncu Baba tomb in the east of Coğlaki neighbourhood. Local and foreign visitors visit this region continuously during the year. Aksaray Municipality endeavours to increase the amount of green space in this area. Another cemetery area that is rich in green area is the cemetery of Bedir Muhtar, which is located in the east of Bayrambaba Neighborhood.

4.5. Historical, Cultural, Natural and Tourism Areas

Aksaray has many works in terms of history, culture and tourism belonging to pre-Christian, Christian and Islamic periods. Ihlara Valley, Manastır Valley, Acemhöyük, Güzelyurt, Viranşehir and Hasandağı are important natural, historical and touristic centers. The fact that Main roads are located at the point of link and that the transportation facilities are sufficient make the city an important place in terms of culture, tourism and nature values.

CONCLUSION

The existing open-green areas and parks, which must have an integrity in the city, have important qualities to meet the needs of urban people. These qualifications include plant assets, service areas and aesthetic functions. In this context, various activities are carried out by local governments, non-governmental organizations and local people to increase the presence of green areas in the city intended for provide a modern and green city view to Aksaray.

The neighbourhood parks, which are one of the most important places with green areas, provide information on the green area quality of the city. Besides, neighbourhood parks are places where people spend time and get away from the stressful atmosphere of the city. In this study, the current green area conditions in the neighbourhoods have been investigated by taking into consideration the parking areas in Aksaray province. The green area situation in Bayrambaba, Cumhuriyet, Tacin, Hacı Hasanlı neighbourhoods are above 10 square meters green area determined according to the standards. The reason for the high green areas in these areas is the presence of urban parks. Aratol, Zafer, Zincirli, Yunus Emre, Nakkaş neighbourhoods are below the standard. However, these neighbourhoods are better in terms of green areas than other neighbourhoods. Out of these the green space per person in 32 neighbourhoods varies between 0.52-4.87 m². According to this, 4 of the 41 neighbourhoods investigated in the study are in a very good condition in terms of green area. In the other 37 neighbourhoods, the green areas are below the standards. First of all, it is necessary to carry out activities in order to increase the green areas in these 37 neighbourhoods and to make the parks conform to the determined standards.

In order to increase the quality of urban life, people living in the urban area should be provided with opportunities to relax, have fun, and improve their psychological conditions. City parks, which are the subject of research in Aksaray province, which has different possibilities, have the opportunities to contribute to increase the quality of urban life. Kültürpark, Kılıçarslan Park, Karabağ Thematic Park, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Youth Park, Genç Osman Park and Hobby Garden which are located in the province meets the minimum 40 decare standard for urban parks.

As a result, in order to achieve an aesthetic appearance in the future, activities aimed at increasing the green areas should be in a planned way. In this context, annual, seasonal, monthly and daily programs should be carried out for the plants on topics such as irrigation, fertilization, pruning and disinfestation by Aksaray Municipality. Also, the level of awareness of the local community should be increased by organizing educations, conferences and seminars by local governments and non-governmental organizations for the purpose of protect existing green areas and take them further.

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