



## Urban Identity and Cultural Change of Ankara Before and After the Proclamation of Republic

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### Abstract

Planned development of Ankara begins in republic period. An international competition was organized for the city's development plan in 1927, and Prof. Dr. Hermann Jansen's plan won. Unfortunately, the plan wasn't kept loyal in the following years; morphological deteriorations started to be observed in the city. In this paper, physical changes appeared so far have examined, structural and open spaces' evolutions of the historical city have highlighted. Parks and gardens demonstrating adverse changes in both structural and plant design have explained via examples that they lost their identity so far. To halt this negative change, it is crucial to develop new policies to solve the problems by defining them well, to produce new regulations or to strengthen existing ones that respect the historic urban landscapes and cultural assets of the city, to solidify sanctions on this issue and create an impartial judicial unit against crimes committed to the city.

**Keywords:** Ankara, cultural transformation, urban identity.

## Cumhuriyet Öncesi ve Sonrası Ankara'nın Kent Kimliği ve Kültürel Değişimi

### Öz

Ankara şehrinin planlı gelişimi cumhuriyet döneminde başlamıştır. 1927 yılında kentin gelişim planının inşası için uluslararası bir yarışma düzenlenmiş ve Prof. Dr. Hermann Jansen'in planı birinci seçilmiştir. Ne yazık ki hazırlanan bu planlara ilerleyen yıllarda sadık kalınmadığı için kentte morfolojik bozulmalar gözlenmeye başlamıştır. Kentin kimliğinin en önemli bileşenleri, artan nüfus, alınan göç, kapitalizm, günümüzde de neoliberalizm gibi saldırıların altında varlıklarını kaybetmeye başlamıştır. Bu çalışmada, kent çehresinde şimdiye kadar ortaya çıkan fiziksel değişimler incelenecek, tarihi ve kentsel açık mekânların fiziksel evrimi üzerinde durulacaktır. Yapısal ve bitkisel tasarımlarla git gide orijinalliklerini yitiren parklar ve bahçeler, kimliklerini bugüne kadar nasıl adım adım kaybettikleri örneklerle açıklanacaktır. Bu olumsuz değişimi durdurmak için, sorunları iyi tanımlayarak onları çözmek adına yeni politikalar geliştirmek, kentin tarihi peyzajını ve kültürel varlıklarını gözetken yeni yönetmelikler üretmek veya var olanları güçlendirmek, bu konudaki yaptırımları katılaştırmak ve kente işlenen suçlara karşı tarafsız bir yargı birimi oluşturmak gerekmektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Ankara, kültürel dönüşüm, kent kimliği.

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## 1. Introduction

The city of Ankara is located in the middle of the Anatolia, encompassed by the seven other cities around, and covers an area nearly 26,890 square kilometres, on the plains shaped by the Kızılırmak and Sakarya rivers, and is at an altitude of nearly 890 meters. The plains consist of folds and depression zones enclosed by mountains and hills, which run from the southwest to the northeast. The Salt Lake, a large and shallow lake, and adjacent farming areas run along the southern tip of the Ankara plains (T. R. Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2016).

In the twentieth century, most artificial settlements were built, and some of them constructed just because Ankara is the capital. Along with Brasilia, Canberra, Chandigarh and Islamabad; the destiny of Ankara was resolved by the desire of winning governmental ideologies. In every situation, the fundamental thought was to make a new elective shaft of development to contend with the current primate urban areas with the end goal to accommodate another balance in the spatial association of the separate nations. It isn't dumbfounding that these towns are not beside seas, which might be credited to the way that they mirror response to the nineteenth-century harbour towns which accommodated the outer coordination of recently developing countries. Ankara is an undertaking of the new society to free itself of the representative estimations of a crumbling realm and the foundation of the Caliphate, and change itself from a semi-colonial fiscal state into a country with a self-ruled economy (Günay, 2012).

Ankara has been dwelled consistently from the twentieth century B.C. up today. First dwellers were Hittites, they called the city Ankuva, as named in old records. Hittites' capital, Hattusas, is located in 200 km eastern part of Ankara. The Hittite Empire was destroyed in the twelfth century, by Phrygians, commanding a segment of the Anatolia at that time, their headquarter is Gordium is situated in 100 km southwest of Ankara, known as Ancyra back in time. Lydians assumed control over the west-territory of the Anatolia in the seventh century, along with Sardis in the Aegean district, cultivating close relations with the Greek Colonials. While the kingdoms referred to above were kept to the furthest reaches of the Anatolia, the Persian invasion began in the 6th century B.C. started a flood of commanding realms. Right when the small organisation of the Hellenistic Empire in the fourth century broke down, the little principedom of the Galatians begun administering a tiny district, in Ancyra, was chosen as their capital. Towards the completion of the first century B.C., the Romans possessed the domain which would check the start of a time of thriving for the town (Günay, 2012).

Ankara was not destroyed in that time, though, yet was not glamorous like in the Roman time. Ankara was exposed to various intrusions from east, by Turks, Arabs, Sassanids, thus would invest a large portion of its energy as a martial headquarters. From the eleventh century up, the city previously undergoes the Seljuks rule, and afterwards in the fourteenth century, it is under Ottoman governance. The Ottoman Empire dislodged the Byzantines; thus, the focal point of the east indeed progressed toward becoming Istanbul, still this time under the mastery of oriental culture. When political solidness was built upon the Anatolia and the street systems revived, Ankara entered another time of constrained thriving, however constantly under the control of Istanbul. From the sixteenth to the eighteenth hundreds of years the city flourished with the creation and handling of mohair and angora. The populace is assessed to be around fifty thousand before the finish of the eighteenth century (Dinçer, 2009).

In the 1800s, more created, developed West agreed with Anatolian culture importation crude kits and exportation completed items. In this novel procedure, social and afterwards spatial association of the Anatolia started to happen, while neighbourhood generation crumbled and a railway framework was made to incorporate particularly the western districts of Anatolian peninsula. The Baghdad-Istanbul railway avoided Ankara in its earlier period of development. A mid-nineteenth century, the ancient city walls of the external city were still enduring. The west-territory of Ankara anyway was totally a swamp, proposing no open door for urban advancement. In the start of the twentieth century, another country rose out of the cinders of the Ottomans. Anatolia was occupied regionally by Western nations. A National Pact signed in 1920 decided the limits of this country, which included the whole Anatolia and a bit of Thrace, with Istanbul at the north-western edge of the new political substance (Günay, 2012).

At the time that the War of Independence was finished, the new government looked for a safe and strong headquarter. At the one hand, there was Istanbul, the capital city of the area throughout the previous 1500 years, and at the other hand, there was Ankara, which had been the focal point of the obstruction development and another belief system that was endeavouring to invalidate the representative semi-colonial focus of the Ottoman Empire. At that time, Ankara had an exceptionally weak physical status, having acquired a destroy Ottoman urban structure – the roads were dirty in summer and sloppy in winter (Dinçer, 2009).

Ankara was chosen, because this decision depended on the requirement cutting its bond from Ottoman's semi-colonial picture of the modern society, to refute the cosmopolitan social estimations of Istanbul, to pull financial improvement towards the core of Anatolia, and to fabricate an urban model as an image of modern living condition. The principal current region in the Ottoman managerial framework had been built up in Istanbul in 1854 under the control of minority gatherings, and in Republican Turkey, Ankara would be the main city to have a metropolitan association in 1924.

Istanbul ruled the whole Middle East and Balkans 15 centuries; however, it was in the twentieth century that another country accommodated the solidarity of the Anatolia, placing Istanbul in an off-driven status. Inside the recently settled federal limits, the geometrically vital Ankara turned into the place of the new state, and was the proving ground for the republican organisation's examinations to build up another general public and its city in similarity with the tenets of the modern age (Günay, 2012).

Turkish Government attempted a global rivalry in 1927 for the advancement plan of the recently framed capital city Ankara, with the end goal to comprise a model for the eventual fate of the country and offer driving forces to numerous different urban areas in the nation. Among the three planners who were welcomed for the competition (Léon Jausseley, Joseph Brix, Hermann Jansen) Hermann Jansen was the winner (Figure 1) and he was chaired for set up the ground-breaking strategy of Ankara in 1928 (Tankut, 1993).

As it mentioned before in the abstract, there is a huge difference between before and after the proclamation of the republic. Besides the changes of physical scape of the city, the study will focus on the changes of three crucial components in the city: Atatürk Boulevard, Gençlik Park, and Atatürk Forest Farm.

## 2. Material & Method

Most of the coastal cities were occupied by the enemies; therefore, they weren't appropriate to be the headquarters where the war of independence will be planned. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, after organizing congresses in Anatolia which were to galvanize the people lived there, was searching for a place which would be the best place to continue planning. After some time, Ankara was decided as the safest and most logical place to be chosen. It was near the Western front, which was the most important one. There were railroads passing from Ankara and leading to other big cities of Turkey, so the transportation of soldiers and supplies would be easy. Ankara was in the middle of the Turkey so a naval invasion was not possible. In addition to that the people in Ankara supported the idea of sovereignty and the war of independence. Because of these same reasons, later on Ankara was decided to be the capital of the Republic of Turkey. Also one of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's personal goals after the war was to make Ankara better and make it an example city. There were many swamps and very few trees in Ankara. Therefore, Atatürk promoted the citizens to plant trees and asked the opinions of many foreigner ecologists to make Ankara a "green" city. Along with the Jansen's plan, Ankara has been created on three important instrument: Ataturk Forest Farm, Gençlik Park, and Ataturk Boulevard, which were quickly become representatives of the city. That is why, the material of the research consists of these three destinations.

In this paper, physical changes appeared so far will be examined, structural and open spaces' evolutions of the historical city pattern will be highlighted. Parks and gardens demonstrating adverse changes of both structural and plant design will be explained via examples that they lost their identity so far. Identical and cultural changes in the whole city have been explained in the historical process.

To do so, especially literature on Jansen's plan has been gathered, and VEKAM's library (Koç University Vehbi Koç Ankara Studies Research Center), which is very rich and diverse records, books, maps, documentaries about Ankara has been visited and historical process of these spaces has been examined through resources.

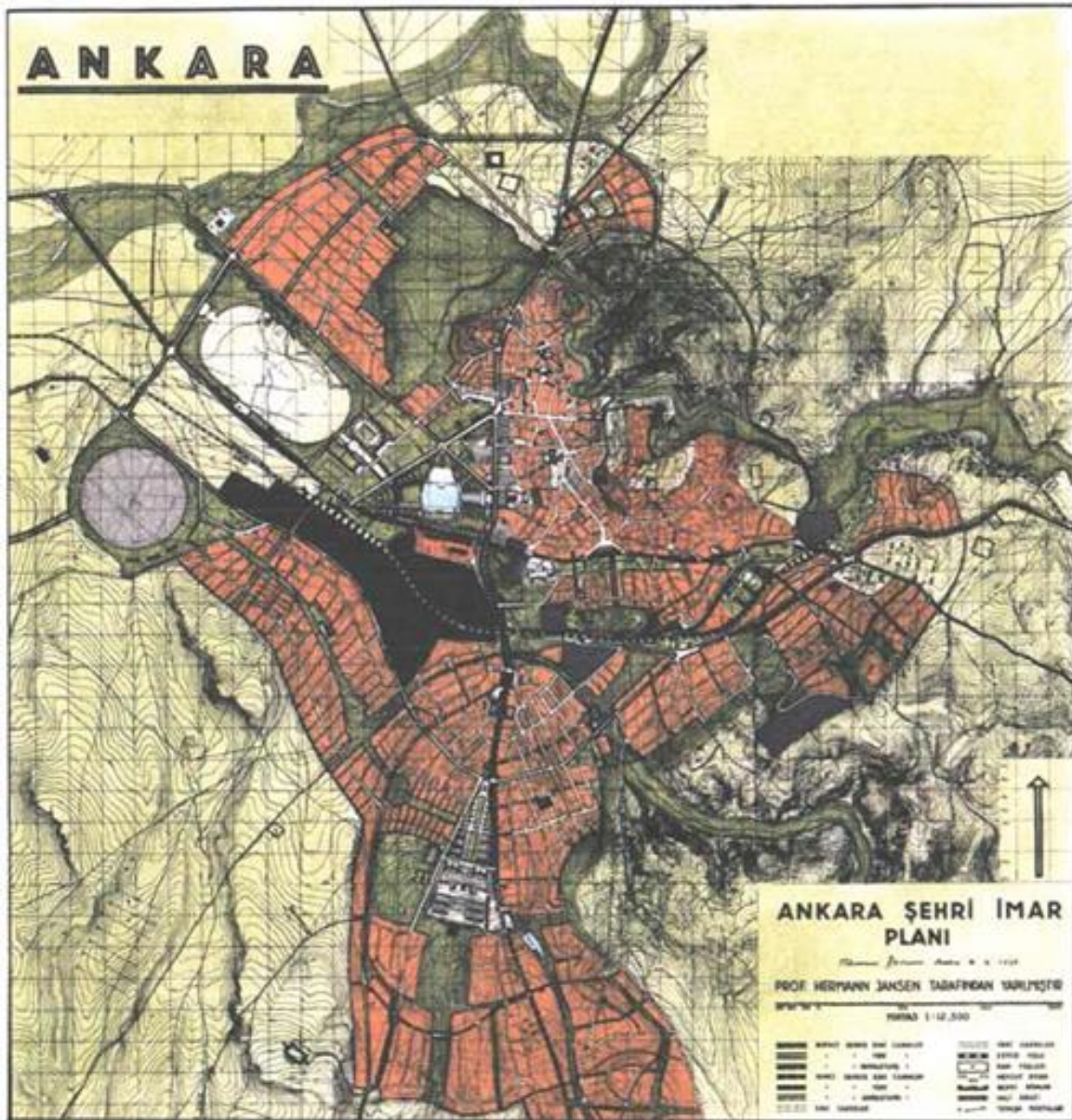


Figure 1. Jansen Plan, 1932 (Anonymous, 2016a).

### 3. Research Findings

#### 3.1. Gençlik Park (Youth Park)

Hermann Jansen, a German city planner and architect, came to Turkey in 1928, contrived a land-use plan for Ankara. The land-use plan of Ankara was endorsed in 1932. The plan uncovered that Jansen had apportioned space for a vast city park (Figure 2). After one year, on the demand of the Ministry of Public Works, Jansen likewise designed a city park which was affirmed later. The application of the park began in 1938. After one year, World War II broke out. Construction of the park surpasses the arranged time. The 27.5 ha park is nearly at the focal point of Ankara. Its altitude is around 850 m, one of the lowest grounds of Ankara. Park is encompassed by Ankara Opera House (earlier Ankara Exhibition Building) toward the east Ulus Square toward the north, 19 Mayıs Stadium toward the west, Selim Sırrı Tarcan Sports Hall and Ankara Central Station toward the south. Back in times, the Turkish Republic, where the park is all covered was a swamp. After the swamp was dried, the park was set up and opened to general society on 19 May 1943, the National Youth Day. There were cafés around the 42,000 m<sup>2</sup>, main pool, a swimming pool, an amphi-theatre and tracks. In 1957, two small trains were set up inside the park as an entertainment attraction (Tankut, 1993)

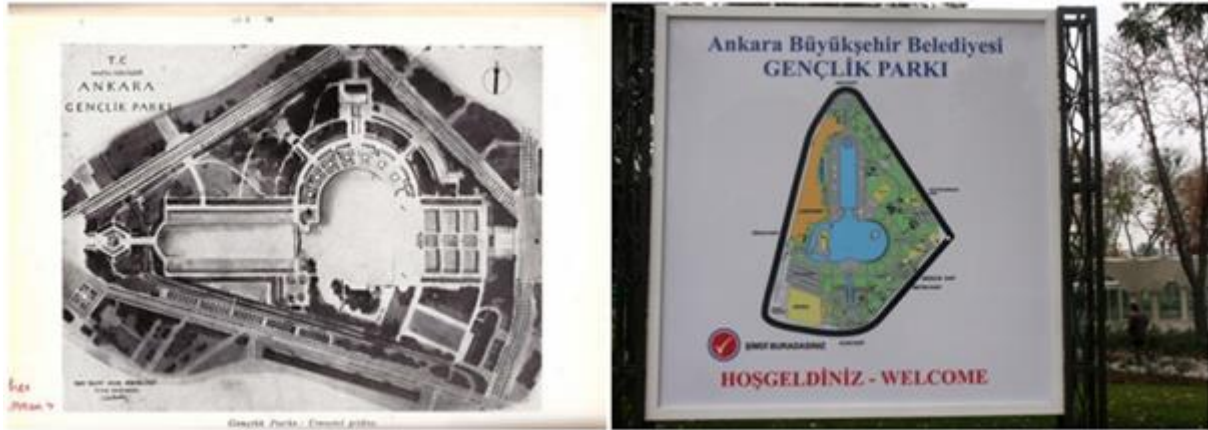


Figure 2. Gençlik Parkı the very first and current projects (Anonymous, 2016b).

Gençlik Parkı was a distinguished picture among other Anatolian towns; cause from the train station, visitors are welcomed by a major city park to Ankara. Formerly, there were many casinos, and before its fashion passed, many famous Turkish singers had performed in such places. When the TV first emerge to Turkey – and not everyone owns one - tea gardens in Gençlik Parkı were full of people watching programs. In the 1980s, the maintenance rate of the park began to be inadequate. Casinos and tea gardens surrounding pond has been structurally expanded by cutting green space. In 2009, the park experienced the most significant change in its design. On 30 August 2009, the park reopened but there were not many things left of its past usages. Formerly, it was possible to swim and row boating in the pond or having tea beside, but it is an ornamental pool, and there are no restaurant or tea gardens since 2009 (Figure 3). Formerly there were many casinos serving alcohol, and it is forbidden since 2009. Green mass of the park has been decreased. Park lightings were decreased, and many parts of the park look insecure now. Many sculptures and reliefs were removed. People of Ankara do not prefer to visit Gençlik Parkı with their family anymore, as if it is left for bums (Anonymous, 2016c; Özer, 2016).



Figure 3. Past and present usage of the pond (Anonymous, 2016d).

### 3.2. Atatürk Boulevard

The principle vision of the boulevard is important, and it is begun from the strength of national spirit that ranges to the place of the portrayal of public competence in Turkey. Amidst the 1920s, the improvement of Ankara structured based on Atatürk Boulevard. Carl Christopher Lörcher arranged the plan somewhere in the range of 1924 and, 1925 with putting significance on Kızılay and Ulus. The predominant improvement dependent on The Atatürk Boulevard effectively understood from the plan. Then again, public institutions set along the street. The Atatürk Boulevard has been structured as the improvement of the young republic's principle conduit (Figure 4). The movement region in the avenue changed for the duration of the time. In the beginnings of the street, Ulus was the destination for recreation, later Kızılay turned into the most favourite place lastly, Kavaklıdere is utilised for that reason - moving towards south up and down the road (Kesim, 2009).

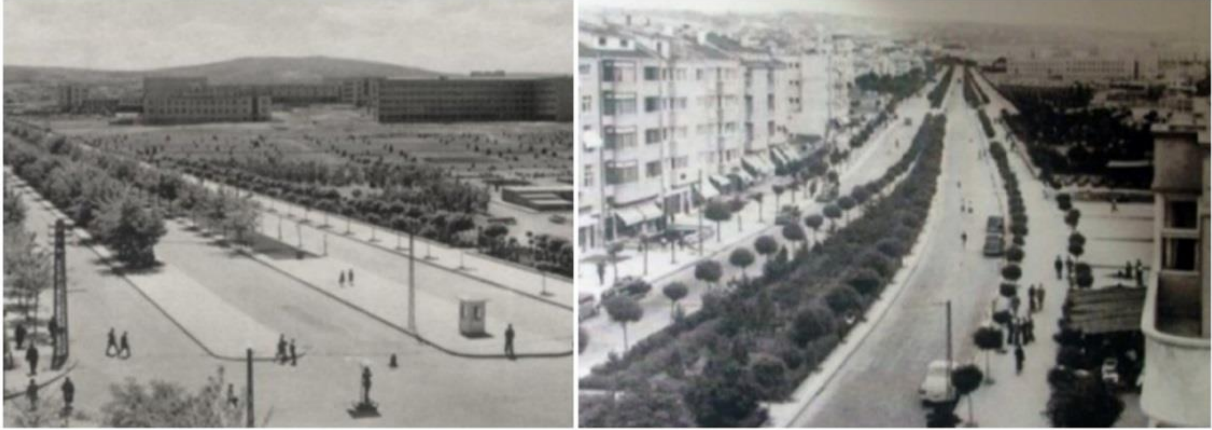


Figure 4. Ataturk Boulevard in 1920s (Anonymous, 2017a).

Another essential structure that The Atatürk Boulevard is like road advancement is the green spaces of it. National Gardens are utilized for managing the social relations and turned them into proceeds with social relations, affecting from the French Public Gardens. The national garden incorporates facilities like theatres, social clubs, sports fields and a wide range of other recreational opportunities.

A couple of them could be seen on the Jansen's plan. These gardens and others like Kuğulu Park, Güvenpark, Youth Park, have the same aims together. They are seen as the social generators for the people of the young regime. The fundamental greenery regions along the avenue as: Abdi İpekçi Park, Youth Park, Zafer Park, Güvenpark, Kızılay Park, Turkish Grand National Assembly Garden and Assembly Park, Embassy Gardens, Seymenler Park, İnönü Park, Kuğulu Park, Presidents Palace Garden (Kesim, 2009). All these greenery structures are powerful proof for daily interaction through the street (Figure 5).

It ought to be shown that the expanding populace and density analogous to hedges in Ankara was changed from 157.000 to roughly 300.000, between 1940 to 1950 (Yavuz, 1973). Analogous to the expanding prosperity and density, transportation problems have emerged. One of the intercessions with Uybadin-Yücel Plan in 1959 is broadening the streets of Ataturk Boulevard (Dinçer, 2009). The augmenting venture influenced initially semi-settled components like greenery structure that are the fundamental author of social association. Expanding thickness and need of specialised correspondence (as it is observed from the past lane cases) supplanted from the essential cooperation systems. Situational needs got a visually impaired network. An ordinary situational conclusion proceeded from expanding the number of floors along the road to ten stories in 1961 (Keskinok, 2009). Every one of these petitions diminished the social nature of urban existence with destroying social connection spaces, and furthermore estimations of these spaces. The swarming road space has an estranging impact that exudes from over incitement.



Figure 5. Structural changes in Ataturk Boulevard (Anonymous, 2017a).

### 3.3. Atatürk Forest Farm (AFF)

Ataturk Forest Farm was built upon a territory as big as 20 thousand decares bought personally by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk in 1925 and named Forest Farm. It expanded to 52 thousand decares territory with buying new zones in the middle of the long periods of 1925-1937 was allowed and endowed to the Republic of Turkey Treasury with the confirmation petition of Atatürk composed on 11 June 1937 (Figure 6). The Forest Farm which was first appended to State Agricultural Enterprises Institution was then included inside the assemblage of State Production Farms General Directorate. Atatürk Forest Farm Directorate was established with the law number-5659 sanctioned on 24 March 1950 and the name of the facility was changed as Atatürk Forest Farm until today. Together with different laws which were ordered in between the years 1950-1983 a piece of the AFF zone was exchanged or sold to different foundations and its surface region was decreased to 30 thousand decares. A piece of such exchanged region was even passed to private property from public property through the accompanying privatisations (Günay, 2012).

It had been announced as common and chronicled site zone by the Conservation Board of Cultural and Natural Assets, on 2nd of June, 1992. Also, the board set the positioning furthest reaches of AFF, on 20th July 1993. Furthermore, AFF was announced as first-degree site space on 7th of May, 1998 (Anonymous, 2017b).

Alongside the Conservation Board selections attempts plunder and loot over AFF were prevented for quite a while unauthorised and unapproved developments within the district continued. On eight July 2006, The Law for Amending Foundational Law of Atatürk Forest Farm numbered 5524 was sanctioned and along with this adjustment ability for "making initial higher scale styles and Development arrange for Conservation functions and in like manner every style of advancement plan" for Atatürk Forest Farm, was changed to Turkish capital Metropolitan Municipality. Turkish capital Metropolitan Municipality that was affirmed to use the AFF zone as discretionarily because it needed, following this lawful game arrange that opened the road, begun its endeavours and organised in a very transient timeframe "1/25 000 Scaled Atatürk Forest Farm territories Master Development arrange" and "1/10 000 Scaled Atatürk Forest Farm Master Development Plan with Conservation Purposes". Such styles were acknowledged by the Metropolitan Municipal Council on 12 January 2007. Assembly of Architects, Chamber of Landscape Architects and Chamber of Agricultural Engineers, motivated authentic cases with the passion of repudiation of such plans and therefore the call of the town board that

legitimised focusing practices and meant to open the territory overall to profit lease set ways. Turkish capital thirteenth body Court disintegrated such chamber call and planned on twenty-eighth of November, 2008. The legitimate assurance for denial was equally documented by the Sixth Chamber of the Council of State on seventeenth of March, 2010 (Kaçar, 2011). A mid the development of such roadways that bear the AFF with a full profile as forty meters over the East-West and North-South bearings essential forest and green zone was destroyed and afterwards application of Prime Ministry Service Building was begun. By then, on ten February 2014, the court adopted a motion for the rest of execution to 1/10000 Scaled Master Development arrange with Conservation functions. Complaints to the present court alternative were turned down. During this manner, all usage within AFF concluded up illicit (Günay, 2012).

Another involving structure in AFF is Ankapark, which is alleged as the most magnificent amusement park of the world and nominated to the Guinness World Records Book. The recreation centre is worked with an aggregate zone of 1.200.000 square meters, including 100.000 square meters of indoor space and 1.100.000 square meters of outdoor space, right amidst the forest of AFF. Ataturk Forest Farm Zoo, which is one of the significant images of Ankara, is redesigned by Ankara Metropolitan Municipality. Notwithstanding the Zoo ANKA Park, with the 930,000 square meters zone new region, will be Turkey's most extensive zoological garden, and contain numerous exotic animals in which the world's quartets are represented (Anonymous 2017b). For every one of those zones fundamental for these offices, AFF will lose its green spaces to an ever-increasing extent, and the city will transform into such a solid mass.

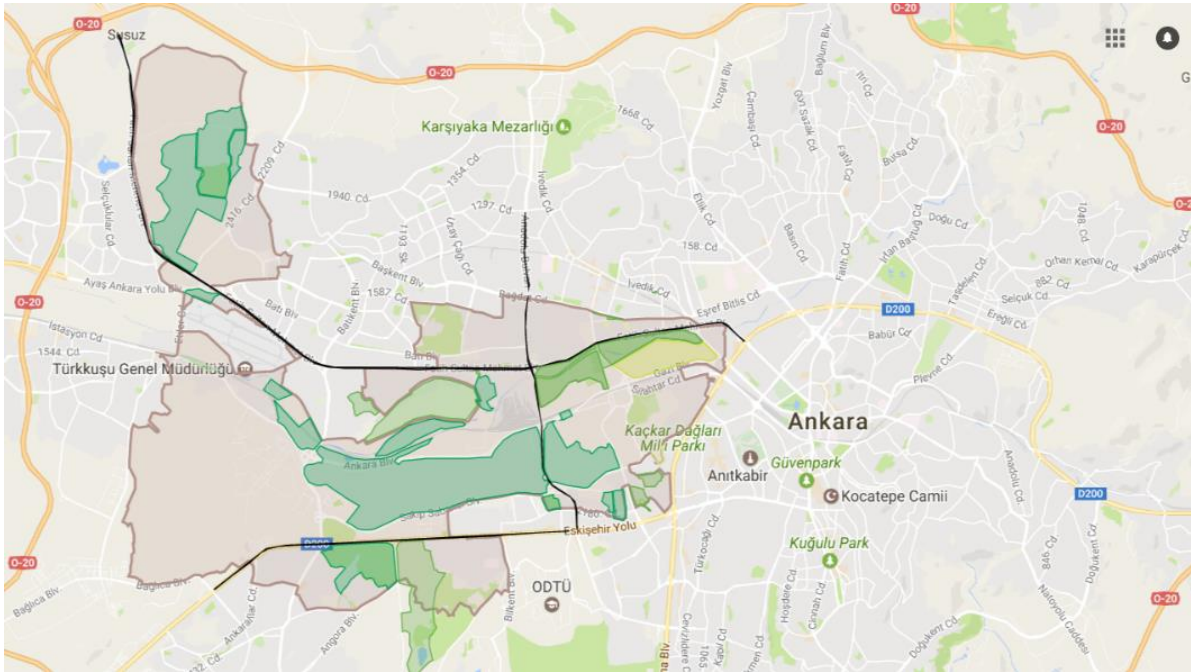


Figure 6. Ataturk Forest Farm's first (light brown) and current (green) area (Anonymous, 2017c).





Figure 7. AFF's previous green spaces and the status of after it is occupied for constructions (Anonymous, 2017d).

This extraordinary fabricated environment is a piece of the aggregate memory of the Turkish country, and it has turned into the subject of protection. It is a first degree social and common site since it had been the phase for chronicled occasions amid the foundation time of the Turkish Republic. Additionally, among an assortment of spaces for creation and diversion, the abodes for Mustafa Kemal Atatürk were worked in this particular site, as well. As Günay specifies (2009), "preservation of normal and social creatures and their propagation through different approaches of generation of urban space will mean the propagation of the individual itself". Therefore, Atatürk Forest Farm is identified with the being of the Turkish country for meeting its past and its way of life. Consequently, the awareness of general society will encourage more extensive and watchful preservation of Forest Farm as a being, with all its distinctive characteristics that have made it one of a kind (Kaçar, 2011).

#### 4. Discussion and Conclusion

The UNESCO Draft Medium Report (1988) defines heritage as, "... the entire corpus of material signs, either artistic or symbolic, handed on by the past to each culture", and goes on to note that "... the cultural heritage gives each particular place its recognizable features". Identity of the culture and that of the reurban space are interdependent as reflected in the inconceivable quick changes of the urban fabric demanded by abrupt radical social changes such as the French Revolution. Thus, continuity of one should be integrated with the continuity of the other.

Today's urban conservation practices focus onto architectural, age or historic values of the urban fabric at the expense of the living society. They petrify streetscape, built shells, and city quarters. Having followed the protection of tangible components of heritage, these, in search of a signified identity, delimit the city geographically and delineate it in architectural typologies.

City, a concentration of cultural productions of civilizations, evolves like a living entity, accumulating layers of the living experiences of individuals as members of a group. It acquires layers due to those different valuing

communities as well. Thus, the urban heritage is not just a non-renewable resource but also a growing resource. Identifying the resource value of the urban space could reveal its placing within those valuing communities. The urban heritage is not a physical object, and its values cannot be protected by physical intervention. The cultural approach, being a responsive place-oriented, would look beyond such universal denominators.

Ankara has been through a lot since it had first settled. Now, as a home of more than 6 million people, the city is losing its characteristic historical details, and turning into such a huge concrete mass. In fact, Ankara has gained its importance after the proclamation of the republic, and that is why, its past is not as glorious as European capitals, but Ataturk tried hard to make Ankara an outstanding sample of among all others. Unpredictable rise of population, not being loyal to the city's first development plans resulted in a chaotic metropolis. Gençlik Park, Ataturk Boulevard and Ataturk Forest Farm is kind of representatives of Ankara, and their presence and importance shouldn't be evanescent.

To halt this, approaching these problems in political ways, and recreating city's former precious usages and introduce it to the Ankara's present dwellers is crucial. When the history, culture, and habits of the city couldn't overlap with new designs, unnecessary usages, it would bring many unqualified and kitsch open spaces into the city. To do so, in several generations, it is highly possible that the city may lose its cultural and historical details. There are already some renamed squares, changed and harmed cultural heritages and meaningless, kitschy spatial usages have appeared in Ankara.

As a conclusion, it is obvious that Ankara's these three essential components is continuing to lose their distinctive and original attributes. Gençlik Park, Ataturk Boulevard, and AFF have changed a lot according to their first design, and usage which harms the feel of belonging of the dwellers in time. In order to halt this negative change, it is crucial to develop new policies to solve the problems by defining them well, to produce new regulations or to strengthen existing ones that respect the historic urban landscapes and cultural assets of the city, to solidify sanctions on this issue and create an impartial judicial unit against crimes committed to the city itself.

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