

DETERMINATION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION POTENTIAL: CASE OF THE CITY OF BARTIN AND ITS ENVIRONS, TURKEY

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ABSTRACT

This study has been prepared to determine the importance of existing historical, cultural and natural resource values and outdoor recreation areas in the City of Bartın and its environs. Besides, it has been prepared to expose the ecologic and economic potential values of existing recreation resources. Also computer software, which determines the potential of outdoor recreation areas, has been developed to assist the healthy improvement of the city from the recreational point of view. The study takes place within the jurisdiction border of the Bartın Municipality.

The study provides information about the definition, classification, etc of the recreation. After natural and cultural characteristics of recreation areas in the city limits have been inspected, existing and potential recreation resources have been determined. Depending on the results of survey, in the frame of protection and usage principles, the recreation resources have been evaluated in order to maintain their best usage, and usage values of these resources have been determined by using the method of Kiemstedt (1967) [27] that has been developed by Altan (1976) [28] and Gülez (1980) [8] for Turkish conditions. Furthermore, computer software has been created in this study, and this developed software puts into practice the method and determines the significance of outdoor recreation potential values quickly and accurately.

KEYWORDS: Outdoor recreation potential, leisure time, computer software, City of Bartın.

INTRODUCTION

Since the incidents in industrial and technologic fields, unplanned and unhealthy urbanization revealed the physical, psychological and socio-cultural diversities and problems of people. With the existence of unplanned urbanization, rapid and intense changes are experienced in natural structure and landscape, some environmental problems, such as partially or thoroughly devastation of fauna and flora,

come into happening. Nowadays, as an assist to these types of danger, the protection of nature and its sources and having the necessary precautions against physical and psychological welfare of people, supplying the necessity of movement and recreation of individuals have become essential. This urbanization in recent years has also revealed the importance of forming new lands in order to answer the recreation necessity in the frame of a planning theme.

Recreation

Leisure time and the theme “recreation” do not correspond in the same meaning though they show similarities each other. Leisure time is the span of time that people have the opportunity of living the time so as to reach an acceptable life standard beside their own activities [1, 2]. However, Balcı [3] advocated that recreation is evaluating the leisure time with various trenchancies.

The phrasal meaning of recreation utilizing the word by applying an affix “re” to itself enables obtaining a new correspondence as having the opportunity of re-evaluating the word “create,” “coming into existence again” [4-6]. Several researchers (e.g. [4, 7-11]) put forth various definitions on recreation up to their fields of studies.

According to Corbin [7], recreation is refreshing and regeneration by affording energy and power with an output of mental and psychological renewal. This utterance by Köseoğlu [4] was progressed as an activity with which everyone who has all classification of ages, gets pleasure in his leisure time about resting, having joy and self-progression, in addition to affording the spare energy or being refreshed from the daily life’s toughness to renew himself psychologically and physically, and to find an alternative way for refreshing his energy and being wedded to life.

Recreation is the total of activities that aims the physical and mental renewal of the individual with his own will in leisure time with a frame which consists of the social, economical, cultural opportunities of the individual by having a connection with the structure of society [5, 10].

In recent years, recreation experienced a phase of transition from being a demand into requirement. According to Karaküçük [12], after realizing the necessity of recreation, the studies on appraising of the decreasing green-lands in