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Corresponding Author	<b>Emine Sibel HATTAP</b> Mimar Sinan Güzel Sanatlar Üniversitesi, Meslek Yüksekokulu, Mimari Restorasyon Programı, <a href="mailto:sibel.hattap@msgsu.edu.tr">sibel.hattap@msgsu.edu.tr</a> , <a href="mailto:sibelhattap@gmail.com">sibelhattap@gmail.com</a>		
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Author / Authors	<b>Emine Sibel HATTAP</b> <b>Aysel TARIM</b>	ORCID: 0000-0003-3616-4421 ORCID: 0000-0001-9635-8821	
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## A Socio-Cultural Evaluation of The Architectural and Environmental Effects of Landscape Arrangements in Istanbul with a Survey Study

Emine Sibel HATTAP<sup>1</sup>  
Aysel TARIM<sup>2</sup>

### İstanbul'daki Peyzaj Düzenlemelerinin Mimariye ve Şehre Katkısının Anket Çalışması ile Sosyo-Kültürel Açısından Değerlendirilmesi

#### ÖZET/ABSTRACT:

Büyük bir metropol olan ve nüfusu 15 milyonu aşan İstanbul'da özellikle son yıllarda peyzaj çalışmalarına ağırlık verilmiş, yeşil alanların artırılması için belediyeler büyük gayret göstermiştir. Son yıllarda her Nisan ayında lale festivali yapılmakta ve şehrin sokakları, parkları, yeşil alanları renk renk laleler ile donatılarak İstanbul'da yaşayanları, ziyaretçileri memnun eden görsel şölenler olmaktadır. Aynı şekilde şehirde en önemli turistik meydan olan Sultanahmet meydanında her sene Nisan ayında dünyanın en büyük çiçek halılarının biri hazırlanmaktadır. Bunların dışında İstanbul'da alt geçit, karayolları üzerindeki bazı peyzaj çalışmalarında zorlamalar olduğu ve güzel yeşil alanlar, dikey bahçeler yaratmak adına tutarsız, karmaşık alanlar yaratıldığı gözlemlenmektedir. İstanbul'da bir yandan yeşil alanlar artırılmaya çalışılıp, peyzaj çalışmaları da hız kazanırken, Taksim meydanı gibi, adeta İstanbul halkının toplanma, buluşma meydanı olan bir alanda neredeyse hiç peyzaj çalışması olmaması, çirkin beton bir alan olması da tepki çekmektedir, aynı şekilde en turistik caddelerden biri olan İstiklal Caddesi'nde neredeyse hiç ağaç olmaması da büyük çelişkidir. Şehrin diğer sokaklarında, ana alterlerde rengarenk çiçekler, bitkiler çok beğenilirken, halkta bunlara harcanan bütçe ile neler yapılabilirdi diye düşünceler olmakta, tutarsız bir yaklaşım ortaya çıkmaktadır. Parkların, bahçelerin, yeşil alanların, rengarenk çiçeklerin artması kente mimari açıdan büyük katkıda bulunurken, aynı zamanda çok yoğun nüfus ve trafik problemi olan şehre nefes aldirmakta, insanların sosyalleşmeleri, rahatlamaları için fırsatlar yaratmaktadır. Çalışmada İstanbul'un farklı özelliklerdeki bölgelerinde yaşayan halk ile şehirdeki peyzaj çalışmaları üzerine anketler yapılarak, sonuçlar değerlendirilmiştir.

<sup>1</sup> Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Vocational School, Architectural Restoration Program, [sibel.hattap@msgsu.edu.tr](mailto:sibel.hattap@msgsu.edu.tr), [sibelhattap@gmail.com](mailto:sibelhattap@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup> Yıldız Technical University, Faculty of Architecture, Restoration (PhD Student), [ayseltarim@gmail.com](mailto:ayseltarim@gmail.com)

## A Socio-Cultural Evaluation of The Architectural and Environmental Effects of Landscape Arrangements in Istanbul with a Survey Study

In the recent years landscaping and attempts to increase green areas in Istanbul, a metropolis with a population of 15 million inhabitants, increased by the growing efforts of municipalities. Also, in the recent years, a tulip festival is celebrated every April and the city streets, parks, green areas are decorated with different colored tulips in order to create breathtaking sceneries for the inhabitants and visitors of Istanbul. Similar to the tulip fest, every year on April one of the world's largest flowerbeds is prepared on the touristic Sultanahmet Square. Besides these, in an attempt to create new and beautiful green areas and vertical gardens, disconnected and improper landscaped areas can be found near underpasses and highways. On one hand greening and landscaping efforts are increasing in Istanbul by the day; on the other hand, major gathering spots for the citizens of Istanbul, such as the Taksim Square, lack the same efforts are turned into ugly concrete lots. It is also gravely conflicting that there is not a single tree on the touristic Istiklal Avenue. Although, major streets and highways all around the city are decorated with flowers and vertical gardens, inhabitants do wonder what else could be achieved with all the money spent towards landscaping. The increasing number of flowers and greenery in parks, gardens, and green areas, not only improve the city in an architectural sense and allow this overpopulated and traffic plagued city to breathe a little, but also offer its inhabitants new places to socialize and recreate. In this study, surveys will be conducted on the landscaping work done in different parts of Istanbul and the results will be evaluated.

**KEYWORDS:** İstanbul, Metropolis, Landscaping, People, Architecture, Survey,

**ANAHTAR KELİMELELER:** İstanbul, Peyzaj, Metropol, Halk, Mimarlık, Anket

### 1. Introduction

In recent years, due to reasons such as economic and industrial developments, rural to urban migration and cities' population has increased concentratedly. This increase has heavily affected cities both socially and physically.

Due to the increasing constructions and heavy migration into the city especially in recent years, Istanbul has suffered major negative changes in its physical structure. On one hand city's existing green areas, especially in city's focal points, are decreasing; on the other hand, new green areas are being created under the name of National Gardens. This change causes a great dilemma among the Istanbul's citizenry. Robert Venturi, of whose views this study benefit from, says that he prefers the complicated things to the obvious, the simple things to the confusing, the better designed to the basic, and that he supports the new that respects the old. He views the world unprejudiced, finds designs considered to be ugly, basic, wishes for an impure architecture and emphasizes the symbolic contents in architecture (Venturi R.,pp.i-iii, 2005). Venturi's view has been a beacon for the preparation of this study's survey questions and taken into consideration during evaluation.

#### 1.1. Purpose of the study

The objective of this study is to find out what the people of Istanbul, a capital of culture, think about the vegetation projects and available parks in terms of accessibility, usage and amount depreciatively, and to measure the level of satisfaction. Also, based on the opinions and suggestions of the surveyed citizens, to evaluate the results on a social-cultural and architectural-landscape design aspect. Roberto Venturi's views have been taken into utilized in order to complete this study.

#### 1.2. Method of the study

In order to list Istanbul's existing parks, on both European and Asian sides, and evaluate them from different perspectives, conducting and analyzing a survey among citizens of different age groups, occupations and status living in different parts of the city. 53 multiple choice questions, of which's answers can be socio-culturally evaluated, have been prepared for the survey. 54<sup>th</sup> question on the survey asks for the further opinion, suggestion and requests of the participants. Most important answers from the survey have been tabulated.

#### 1.3. About Istanbul

Istanbul is Turkey's most populated, economically, historically and socio-culturally most important city. Being an intercontinental city, Istanbul in on two continents; the European side is also known as the Rumeli side and the Asian side is also known as the Anatolian side (fig.1).



Fig.1: Map of Istanbul [Url 1]

Istanbul is a cultural capital of the World standing between Europe and Asia that has been a settlement, based on the recent Yenikapı excavations, for almost 8500 years, a city for 3000 years, and a capital for 1600 years [von Albrecht Knechtel & Tuğrul Artunkal, Kamera Frank-Peter, 2010].

The city has been home to many civilizations and cultures over the ages where people from many religious, lingual, racial backgrounds have lived together. It has preserved its cosmopolitan and metropolitan structure over the centuries and have become an unmatched mosaic of cultures. Istanbul is a world capital and one of the few places on the world that has been the center of the world and remained as such for a long period of time.

Today, Istanbul is one of the world's most important cities with a population of 15 million, a surface area of 5.712 km<sup>2</sup>, 647 km long shoreline, 3 bridges across the Bosphorus, 1 Eurasia tunnel under the Bosphorus, 28 ports, 50 docks, 233 km of railways with 17 lines, 9 islands, 39 districts, 712 hotels, 28.650 restaurants and 4 seasons with a temperature between -11 and 40 C degrees throughout the year.

Istanbul, the bridge that connect Europe and Asia, has served as the capital for the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman empires. The city attracts about 13 million foreign tourists annually with its 1796 sites, 28 palaces, 91 museums, 93 baths, 595 historic fountains.

In addition to all this with its 49 universities, 9103 schools, 36 libraries, 227 theatres, 882 cinemas, 2 passenger airports, 1 cargo airport, and 2 million 380 thousand, 300 decare (one tenth of an hectare), 44% of the city's surface area, covered with forests, Istanbul is one of the world's most important cities [Url-2].

## 2. Current Status of Parks and Gardens in Istanbul Province

There are in total 39 districts in Istanbul, 25 of which are on the European side and the remaining 14 on the Asian side, and these districts consist of 782 neighborhoods. There are at least one park nearly in every neighborhood in Istanbul and in this study refers to the latest status of Istanbul's parks (Tab1.-2).

### 2.1. European Side

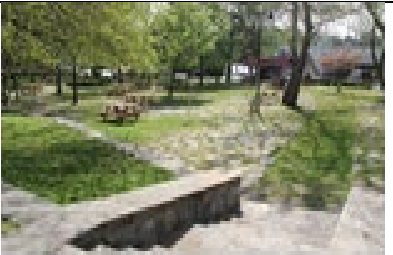




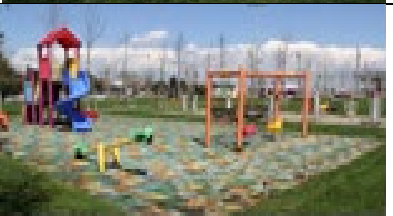

Below listed are some parks with name, location and properties on the European side:

Tab. 1 Istanbul European Side Current Parks and Their Properties [Url-3]

Park's Location	Park's Name	Park's Properties	Park's Picture
Arnavutköy	Arnavutköy Şehir Parkı	84.408,10 m2 surface area 2 Kids' Playgrounds 3 Fitness areas, 2 fountains Basketbol Court Football Field	
Avcılar	Avcılar Sahil Parkı-1	116.634,60 m2 surface area 4 Kids' Playgrounds 3 Fitness areas 1000 m long walkway	
Avcılar	Avcılar Sahil Parkı-2	182.720,60 m2 surface area 4 Kids' Playgrounds 2 Fitness areas 1 Skatepark	
Avcılar	Cemal Kaytaç Parkı	33.964,36 m2 surface area 1 Kids' Playground 1 Fitness area	




Avcılar	Küçük çekmece Sahil Parkı	63.354,21 m2 surface area 1 Fitness area, 1 Walkway 1 Private Cafe 1 Private Theme Park 1 Private Go-Kart ring	
Bağcılar	Bağcılar Trafik Eğitim Parkı	7.000 m2 1 Kids' Playgrounds	
Bağcılar	Azerbaycan Dostluk Parkı	33.000,00 m2 surface area 2 Kids' Playground 1 Fountain 3 Basketball Court 1 Picnic Area	
Bağcılar	Bağcılar Merkez Mahallesi Bölge Parkı	28.971,01 m2 surface area 3 Kids' Playground 1 Fitness area 1 Fountain	
Bahçelievler	Kıbrıs Parkı	1 Kids' Playground 1 Private Cafe 1 Fountain, 1 Walkway	
Bakırköy	Çamlık Parkı	3.621,11 m2 surface area 1 Kids' Playground 2 Fitness areas 1 Basketball Court	

Bakırköy	Kayalı Bahçe Parkı	4.429,34 m2 surface area Seating areas 1 Private Cafe	
Bakırköy	Zuhuratbaba Parkı	926.08 m2 surface area 1 Kids' Playground 1 Fitness area	
Bakırköy	Bakırköy Cevizlik Parkı	4.212,85 m2 surface area 1 Kids' Playground	
Bakırköy	Bakırköy Sakızağacı Parkı	5.236,53 m2 surface area 1 Kids' Playground 1 Fitness area	
Bakırköy	Bilal Bozkaya Parkı	1.367,75 m2 surface area 1 Kids' Playground 1 Basketball Court	
Bakırköy	Deniz Aktaş Parkı	6.566,65 m2 surface area 1 Kids' Playground 1 Fitness area	
Bakırköy	Dinazorlu Park	1.756,98 m2 surface area 1 Kids' Playground	

Bakırköy	Florya Sahil Parkı	107.115,66 m2 surface area 5 Kids' Playground 1 Fitness area 1969 m long Walkway 2100 m long Bicycle road	
Bakırköy	Kazakistan Parkı	18.792,56 m2 surface area 1 Fitness area, 670 m Walkway 1 Fountain	
Bakırköy	Şehit Gülşen Bahadır Parkı (Yeşilköy Sahil Parkı)	175.867,85 m2 surface area 1 Kids' Playground 1 Fitness area 2994 m long Walkway 3000 m long Bicycle road 1 Basketball Court	
Bakırköy	Aytekin Kotil Parkı	68.248,17 m2 surface area 4 Kids' Playgrounds 3 Fitness areas 1 Basketball Court 1869 m long Walkway 2300 m long Bicycle road	
Başakşehir	Başakşehir Tatarcık Parkı	150.000 m2 surface area, 3 Kids' Playgrounds, 2 Fitness areas 1 Bicycle road, 1 Football Field 1 Basketball Court, 1 Volleyball Court 1 Picnic area	
Başakşehir	Başakşehir Spor Parkı	38.350 m2 surface area 4 Kids' Playgrounds 3 Fitness areas Walkway and Bicycle Road 1 Basketball Court, 1 Football Field 1 Volleyball Court, 1 Skatepark 1 Picnic area	

Başakşehir	TokiHoşdere Hayat Parkı	140.000,00 m2 surface area 4 Kids' Playgrounds 1 Fitness area, 1 Mini Golf Course 1 Basketball Court 1 Skatepark, 2000m Bicycle Road 1 Pond	
Başakşehir	BaşakşehirOnur kent Park-1	27.335,95 m2 surface area 1 Kids' Playground 1 Basketball Court	
Başakşehir	Kayabaşı Mahallesi Parkı-1	32.719,47 m2 surface area 3 Kids' Playground 1 Fitness area 1 Basketball Court 1 Football Field	
Başakşehir	Onurkent Parkı 2	7.105,29 m2 surface area 2 Kids' Playgrounds 2 Fitness Areas 300m long Walkway 1 Fountain, 1 Basketball Court 1 Volleyball Court	
Başakşehir	Göçmen Konutları Parkı	34.368,74 m2 surface area 2 Kids' Playgrounds	
Başakşehir	Başakşehir 2. Etap Koru Parkı	28.930,06 m2 surface area 2 Kids' Playgrounds 2 Fitness Areas 1500 m long Walkway 2 Basketball Court	
Bayrampaşa	Kocatepe Parkı	29.954,02 m2 surface area 1 Fitness Area	



Beşiktaş	Aşiyan Parkı	2.960,89 m2 surface area 1 Sculpture	
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In addition to the parks listed above, there are around 135 more parks with different properties on Istanbul's European side. Fatih district is ranked number one with 35 parks. The fact that this district houses many cultural properties on the UNESCO World Heritage List, and that it is the district where the city was first founded are the main reasons.

Additionally, Istanbul's European side has many groves, urban forests, fountains and ponds, flower beds around junctions and refuges, vertical flower beds and wall gardens. As of today, there are in total 27 wall gardens and below a few examples (Fig.2-3).



Fig. 2: Sarıyer, Emirgan Korusu (Su Perdesi) Vertical Garden, Total Area: 74.69 m2 [Url-4, A.Tarım,2017]




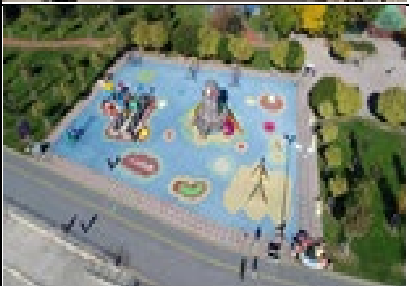
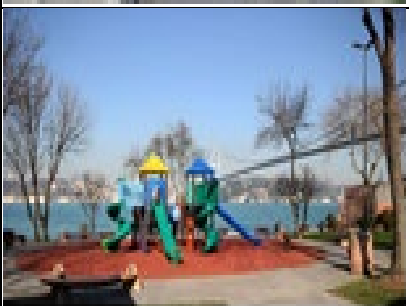


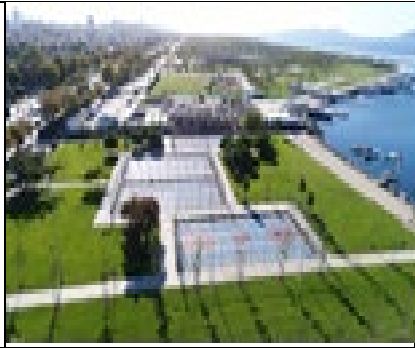
Fig. 3: Bayrampaşa E5 (Topkapı-Maltepe) Vertical Garden, Total Area: 875,00 m2 [Url-4, A.Tarım,2017]

## 2.2 Asian Side

Below listed are some parks with name, location and properties on the Asian side:

Tab. 2 Istanbul Asian Side Current Parks and Their Properties [Url-5]

Park's Location	Park's Name	Park's Properties	Park's Picture
Beykoz	Sultaniye Parkı	16. 514 m2 surface area	
Beykoz	Nato Parkı	5.608 m2 surface area	
Beykoz	Paşabahçe Parkları	3.330,30 m2 surface area	
Kadıköy	Dalyan Parkı	137.732,21 m <sup>2</sup> surface area 2 Kids' Playgrounds 4 Fitness areas	
Üsküdar	Kuzguncuk Parkı	7.382 m <sup>2</sup> surface area 1 Kids' Playgrounds 1 Fitness area	

Maltepe	Bostancı Küçükyalı Arası Kara ve Sahil Parkları	121.132, 74 m <sup>2</sup> surface area	
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In addition to the parks listed above, there are around 120 more parks with different properties on Istanbul's Asian side.

Additionally, Istanbul's Asian side has many groves, urban forests, fountains and ponds, flower beds around junctions and refuges, vertical flower beds and wall gardens. As of today, there are in total 24 wall gardens and below a few examples (Fig.4-5).



Fig. 4: Kadıköy, Eurasia Tunnel Exit Vertical Garden, Total Area: 610 m<sup>2</sup> [Url-6]



Fig. 5: Üsküdar, Ünalán, Vertical Garden, Total Area: 1.092 m<sup>2</sup> [S. Hattap,2019]

### 3. Tulip Festival in Istanbul and an Park Example

Every year between 1-30 April, Istanbul's colorful gardens, squares and avenues become alive and vivid with more than 30 million breathtaking tulips planted for the Annual Tulip Festival. For the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Tulip Festival, this year Emirgan Grove, Yıldız Park, and Göztepe 60. Year Anniversary Park hosted many colorful activities with its tulips of all shapes and colors (Fig.6-7-8-9-10-11).



Fig. 6: Yıldız Park Tulips, Beşiktaş, İstanbul (A.Tarım, 2017)



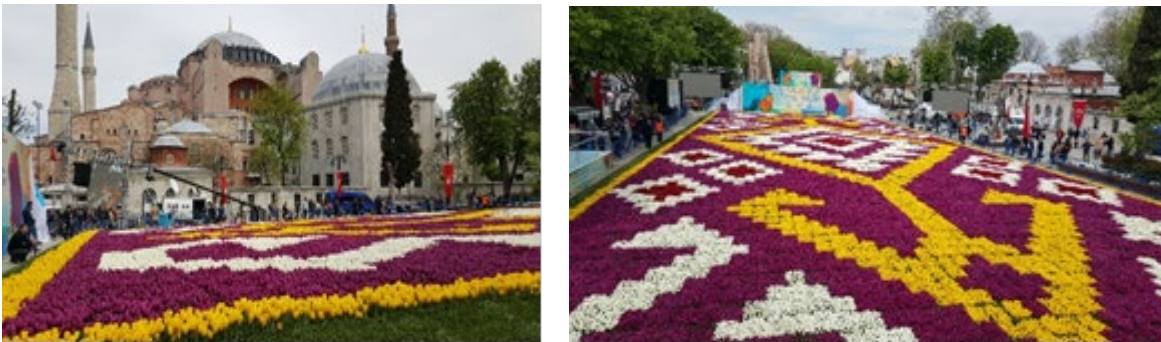
Another large annual tulip festival hosted by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality is the World's Largest Tulip Carpet, created for the 5<sup>th</sup> time in 2019 on the Hagia Sophia Square. Festival is open to all citizens and tourists.

Visitors of the Hagia Sophia Square between 1-30 April will get to enjoy the tulip carpet filled with historic and modern motifs and elements and to have the change to have Hagia Sophia or the Sultanahmet Mosque (the Blue Mosque) as a backdrop for memorable photographs.



*Fig.7: World's Largest Tulip Carpet, 2019, Sultanahmet, İstanbul [Url-7]*

The world-famous Turkish tulips and the Turkish carpet have been a part of the Turkish culture for many centuries. Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality created the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Tulip Carpet on the Hagia Sophia Square using traditional Turkish carpet motifs.



*Fig.8: World's Largest Tulip Carpet, Sultanahmet, İstanbul (A.Tarım, 2017)*

World's first ever tulip carpet laid in Istanbul has as its design elements a ramshorn symbolizing bravery, a gyve symbolizing family union, waterway symbolizing the importance of water, and cocklebur motifs symbolizing a harvest and wealth. These elements have been used on different scales in a mixed layout using 570 thousand individual tulips (Fig.8-9).



*Fig.9: World's Largest Tulip Carpet, 2019, Sultanahmet, İstanbul [Url-7]*

Throughout the years around 20-30 million tulips are planted as part of the festival in different parts of the city annually. Some of these places are listed below;

- Gülhane Park: 1 million 500 thousand tulips of 37 different types.
- Emirgan Grove: 2 million 600 thousand tulips of 78 different types. All types of tulips can be found at the grove.
- Yıldız Grove: 500 thousand tulips of 50 different types.
- Bulbous Plants Garden: 400 thousand tulips of 47 different types.
- Beykoz Grove: 350 thousand tulips of 25 different types.
- Göztepe 60. Year Anniversary Park: 1 million 560 thousand tulips of 81 different types.
- Grand Çamlıca Grove: 550 thousand tulips of 26 different types.
- Small Çamlıca Grove: 650 thousand tulips of 34 different types.
- Fethipaşa Grove: 350 thousand tulips of 18 different types.
- Hidiv Çubuklu Grove: 1 million tulips of 30 different types.
- Gözdağı Grove: 105 thousand 350 tulips of 20 different types.





Fig.10: Tulips at the Emirgan Grove, Sarıyer, İstanbul (A.Tarım, 2017)

Near the numerous parks and squares hosting the Tulip Festival, one can find tulip themed exhibitions, ebru workshops, various other activities and events.



Fig.11: Various art installations in Emirgan during the Tulip Festival, Sarıyer, İstanbul (A.Tarım, 2017)

### 3.1 Park Example: Kadıköy, Göztepe 60. Year Anniversary Park

Southern part of the Göztepe 60. Year Anniversary Park (coast road) is designed as a tulip and color gardens whereas the northern park (Bağdat Ave.) is designed as a symmetrical baroque garden with plenty of pruned boxwood. This symmetrical baroque garden has a 21 m<sup>2</sup> fountain at the center and seating areas all around. There is an 8.600 m<sup>2</sup> Rose Garden with more than 16.500 roses in it the southern side of the park. Rose parterres are created using around 100 individual roses of 92 different types. Each different type has a its Latin and Turkish names written on plates next to them with QR codes that can be scanned to get access to further information about the roses (Fig.12-13-14-15) [Url-8].





Fig.12: Kadıköy, Göztepe 60. Year Anniversary Park [Url-8].

The 1.250 m<sup>2</sup> ground fountain that serves as a gathering area for everyone, is designed with a wide square around it where people can sit, relax, read and attend musical water shows at the same time.



Fig.13: Kadıköy, Göztepe 60. Year Anniversary Park [Url-8].

The 1.000 m<sup>2</sup> biological pond on the park is a fully natural, low-cost and self-sustaining and self-cleaning ecosystem through the plants and microorganisms in it, has a wooden bridge and a small wooden pier on it.





Fig.14: Kadıköy, Göztepe 60. Year Anniversary Park [Url-8].

There are 2 playgrounds for children on the park with a total area of 3.350 m<sup>2</sup>. The playgrounds are handicapped-friendly and handicapped children can interact and play with other kids.

A fitness area with a total area of 176 m<sup>2</sup> is provided for citizens wishing to use the park for athletic purposes.



Fig.15: Kadıköy, Göztepe 60. Year Anniversary Park [Url-8].

Park is fully handicapped-friendly with guide tracks for the visually impaired, handicap ramps with special railings next to stairs for people with wheelchairs. With such indiscriminating design, the park allows everyone to use it comfortably.

Some of the vegetation planted around the park (trees, saplings, bushes, tulips, seasonal flowers) are used to create sceneries in cooperation with the other elements of the park. In total, around 2.360 trees of 71 types, 80.700 shrubs, 50.000 of which are boxwood, of 53 types, 1.700.000 seasonal flowers, 2.900.000 bulbous plants, 120 vines, 31.115 pieces of trailing were used for the park [Url-8].

Park has a total area of 80.475 m<sup>2</sup>. 27.332 m<sup>2</sup> of it is solid ground and 53.142 m<sup>2</sup> is green areas, of which 39.882 m<sup>2</sup> is grass.

#### 4. Surveys and Analysis

Below are examples of the questions from the survey undertook for this study.

##### Survey Form

This survey is for an academic study. It is important that it's filled out by residents of Istanbul.

1- Gender?

Woman Man Other

2- Age?

7-18 18-35 35-50 50-75 75+

3- Marital Status?

Married Single

4- Education?

Elementary School High School University Graduate School Doctorate

5- Occupation?

.....

6- Neighborhood do you live in?

.....

7- Monthly Income?

NA 0-2500 TL 2500 TL-5000 TL 5000 TL-10000 TL 10000 TL+

8- Any parks near where you live?

Yes No

9- Name the park/s you visit the most?

.....

10- How often do you use the parks?

Everyday 1-3 days a week 1-2 days a month Once every 3 months 1-2 days a year Never

11- Are you satisfied with the park culture around you?

Yes No

12- Do you find the parks aesthetically pleasing?

Yes No

13- Do you find the parks functional?

Yes No

14- Are there any activities at parks around you, if so what?

Yes No

.....

15- Why do you use the parks?

Sightseeing-Recreation Social Interaction Athletics Picnics Activities Other.....

16- How do you find the landscape design at the parks?

I like it I do not like it

17- Are the number of current parks enough for Istanbul?

Enough Not enough

18- What do you think of the parks' contributions to Istanbul architecturally?

Enough Not Enough

19- What do you think of the Istanbul's parks budget?

Enough Not Enough Unnecessary No idea

20- Are there any services such as cafes at the parks, if so what?

Yes.....No

21- Are there WC at the parks?

Yes No

- 22- Are there pools, waterworks or ponds at the parks?  
Yes No
- 23- Is there an area for just dogs at the parks?  
Yes No
- 24- Can you step on the grass at the parks?  
Yes No
- 25- Can you have a picnic at the parks?  
Yes No
- 26- How much time do you spend at a park on average?  
0-1 hour 1-3 hours 3-5 hours 5+ hours
- 27- What do you think about the pavements at the parks?  
Appropriate Inappropriate
- 28- Are there bicycle, skateboard, scooter and walking track at the parks?  
Yes No
- 29- Are the children playgrounds at the parks sufficient?  
Yes No
- 30- Are the parks open throughout the year?  
Yes No
- 31- Are the parks transformed for better use topographically?  
Yes No
- 32- Do you find the parks safe?  
Yes No
- 33- Are the parks afforested sufficiently?  
Yes No
- 34- Do you find the plants and trees at the parks sufficient?  
Yes No No idea
- 35- Are the open and shady areas at the parks sufficient?  
Yes No
- 36- Is there athletic equipment at the parks?  
Yes No
- 37- How do you go to the parks?  
By foot By bike By car By public transport Other
- 38- Do you find the parks clean?  
Yes No
- 39- What do you think about the equipment (seating, signage) at the parks?  
Sufficient Insufficient
- 40- Are the parks loud?  
Yes No
- 41- How do you feel about the parks in general?  
Satisfied Unsatisfied
- 42- Are the parks handicapped-friendly?  
Yes No
- 43- Are there artworks, sculptures at the parks?  
Yes No
- 44- Are the parks suited for children of different age groups?  
Yes No
- 45- Are the parks close to main transportation routes?  
Yes No

46- Is the lighting at the parks adequate?

Yes No

47- Are the parks open at night?

Yes No

48- Should there be vertical gardens?

Yes No  No idea

49- What do you think about the national parks?

I like them I do not like them No idea

50- Have you made any friends at the parks?

Yes No

51- If so, are you still friends?

Yes No

52- What do you think about the Tulip Festival in Istanbul?

I like it I do not like it It is unnecessary No idea

53- What do you think about the World's largest tulip carpet built on Sultanahmet Square every year?

I like it I do not like it It is unnecessary No idea

54- Your opinions, suggestions and requests:

.....

Below are the opinions, suggestions and requests from the participants of the survey:

- I do not want people to start campfires at the parks along Istanbul shoreline. Bakırköy-Eminönü route looks like there is a fire and smells like a kebabs and barbeque.
- I believe new parks will no longer be required in Istanbul as soon as the National Gardens open.
- We want better and more secure parks.
- We want more parks and gardens. We wish that the dog-only areas could be moved outside the parks.
- I want more bicycle routes to be made available to the parks away from vehicle traffic routes.
- We want more green parks, not parks made of concrete.
- We want the number of parks and park equipment to be increased and that the existing parks to be improved, specifically, taking the population in the surrounding area into consideration.
- Since the lightings at the parks are insufficient, the user profile of the park changes at night. This may cause security problems. Also, I suggest that natural vegetation and plants acclimatized to Istanbul should be used.
- Most parks, places where children, elderly, and all people need for recreation, have become useless due to many illicit workplaces and lack of inspection. Especially, these illicit workplaces around the parks make them unsafe. Necessary security must be established and parks must be regularly inspected. Parks are not shelters for drug addicts, alcoholics, and runaways. These should be taken into consideration. Parks are for everyone's use. To whom it may concern.
- The parks are not large enough for the city's population. Kids of different age groups need to play together and this causes accidents from time to time. Since there are no bicycle roads, it causes danger when people ride them around the playgrounds. Grass areas cannot be preserved for the same reason and is destroyed soon after planting.
- I suggest that parks such as the Life Valley in Beylikdüzü should be spread all across Istanbul.
- A greener Istanbul can be accomplished through horizontal construction. I also suggest that public transportation should be made available 24/7.
- I request that number of botanical parks should be increased.

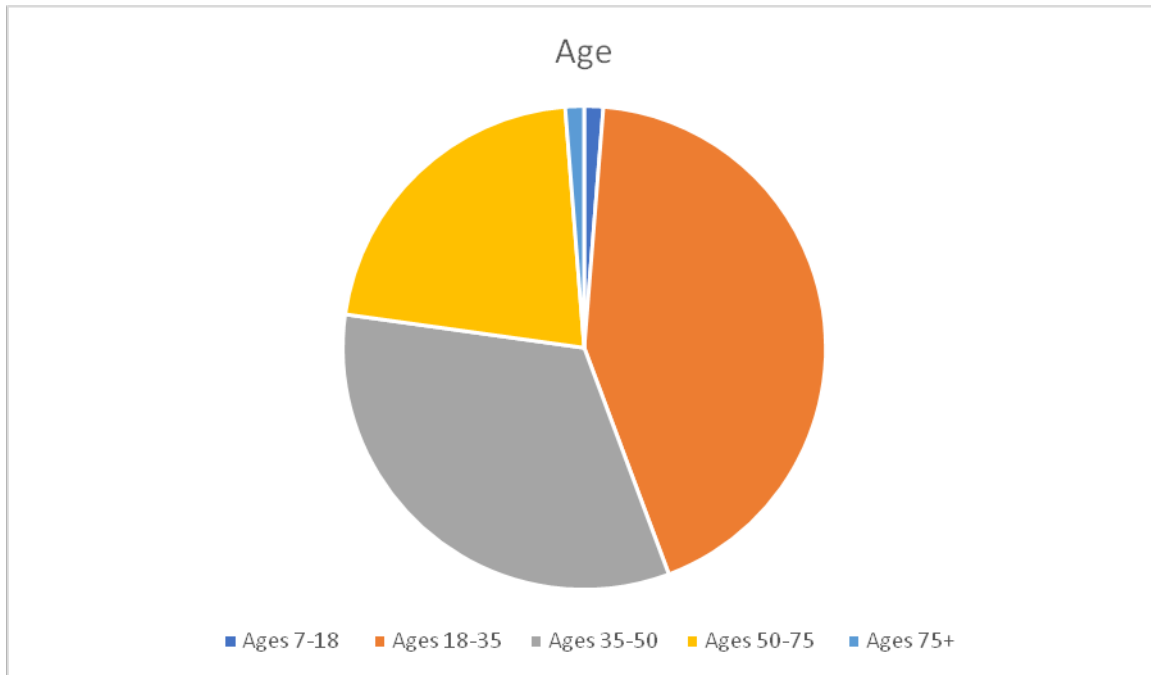


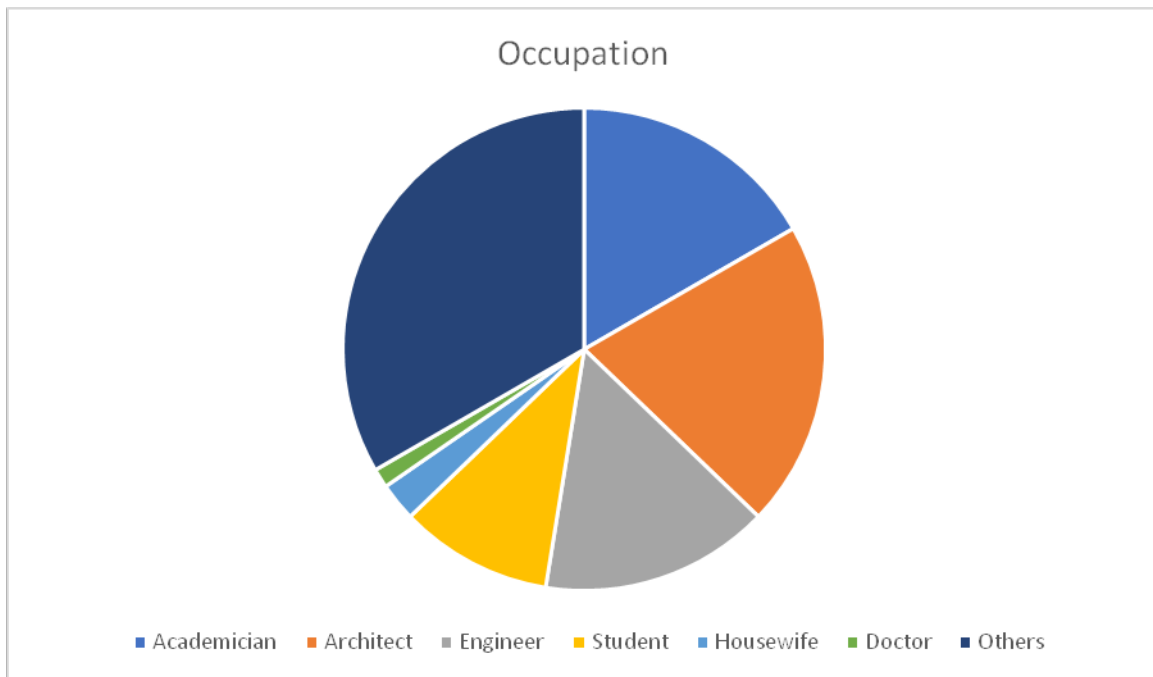
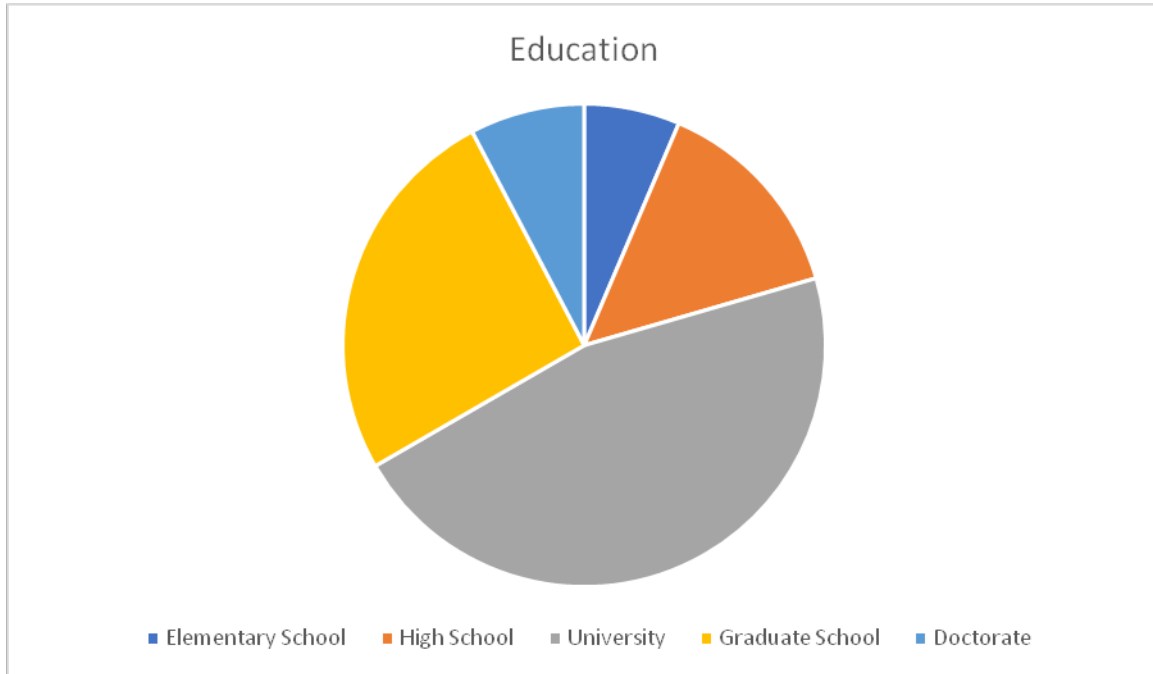
- I believe that the use of bushes instead of vertical gardens will be economically and ecologically more beneficial. I suggest that the river beds and creeks in the city needs to be rid of concrete and these areas should be converted into parks naturally. I believe doing so will prevent floods. A park's budget is planned on the minimum required service once a park is opened. Therefore, plants and equipment that require minimum maintenance should be used.
- I suggest that the number of green areas should be increased.
- I suggest that the number of green areas should be increased, not to turn Istanbul into a concrete wasteland.
- Vertical gardens should be revised in order to require minimum maintenance and cost, plants should be bushes that require no maintenance. Number of park equipment should be increased and should be usable at night and extreme weather conditions. Parks should be in walking distance, number of waterworks should be increased, the playground platforms should be rid of plastic.
- I suggest that there should be more walkways in parks.
- I hope for more green areas and people who do not pollute the nature.
- Not every empty space should qualify as a park and 3 m<sup>2</sup> areas should not be turned into "parks."
- I suggest that parks should be more useful, well-kept and clean.
- I believe that the budget for the Istanbul Tulip Festival should be instead used to create permanent green areas.
- Temporal yet continuous flowering of roadsides should be stopped. Natural and permanent bushes should replace vertical gardens. Plants and trees that require a minimum amount of water and are acclimated to the region should be utilized.
- There should be more parks in walking distance for use of children and the number of large parks should be increased.
- Instead of temporal events such as the Tulip Festivals, permanent green areas and parks that the citizens actually need should be created. They should be easily accessible and should be able to host any kind of activities. Parks should be places where people can relax and get away from the noise. I believe there is a need for places for sunbathing, reading and meditating.
- I think the budget for temporal vegetation projects should be used for permanent vegetation instead.
- I think better parks than the current parks should be created.
- I think the current parks in the heavy urban fabric need to be reserved and new ones should be made available.
- I believe that the green areas per person in Istanbul, especially on the European side, is inadequate and that the amount green areas on both sides need to be increased in order to create a more livable Istanbul.
- I wish that more parks to be created for our future and our children's future.
- I think the park areas should be afforested further.
- Parks are plenty and clean where I live; however, parks in most areas of Istanbul are inadequate and unclean. Most of them are used for barbeques. This is disturbing.
- Organization for the handicapped and the children are insufficient. I suggest that better planned parks must be created.
- Green areas, garbage bins, seating equipment, arrangements for the handicapped, must ne improved and new and ergonomic designs for the urban furniture.

- I do not wish peddlers to be allowed in the parks. I want parks to be safe. I do not want alcohol consumption at the parks. I want WCs at every park.
- I request safer and more ergonomic parks to be created.
- I wish for revised picnic areas, playgrounds, sterilized sandbox for children, cafeterias up to the health code and most importantly regular security inspections at the parks.
- My main problem at the parks is finding a parking spot. Parking lots around parks are insufficient.

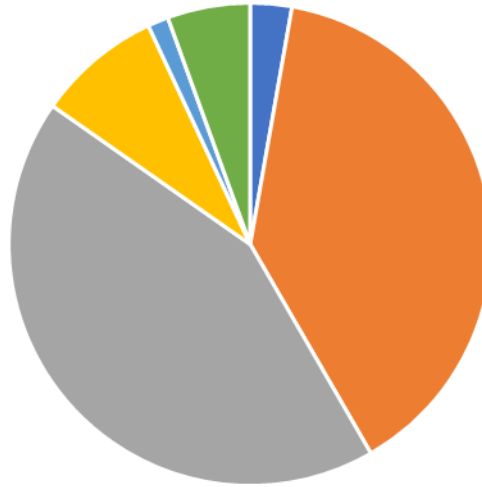
#### 4.1 Graphical survey results

Some of the answers affect the results of the survey are shown graphically below:



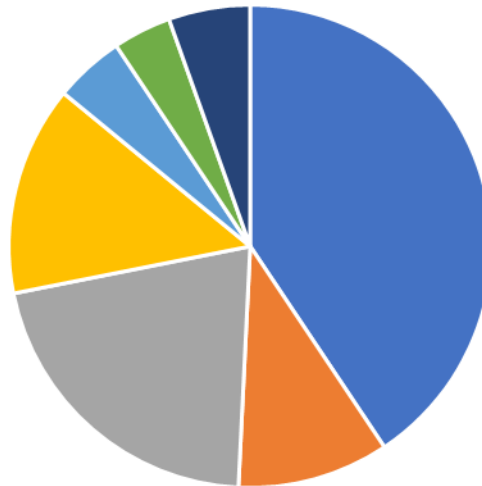


### How often do you use the parks?



■ Everyday ■ 1-3 days a week ■ 1-2 days a month ■ Once every 3 months ■ 1-2 days a year ■ Never

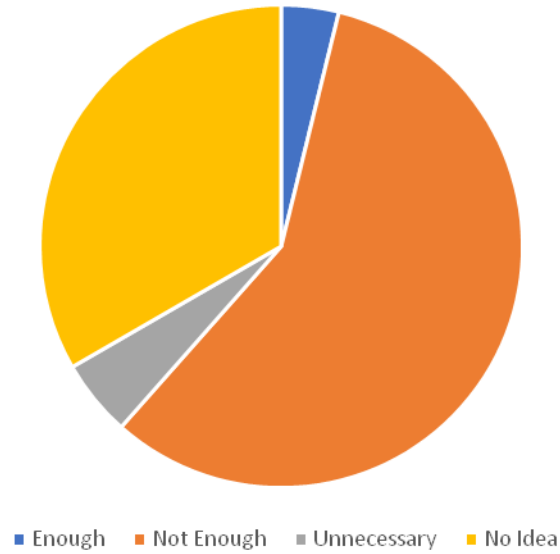
### Why do you use the parks?



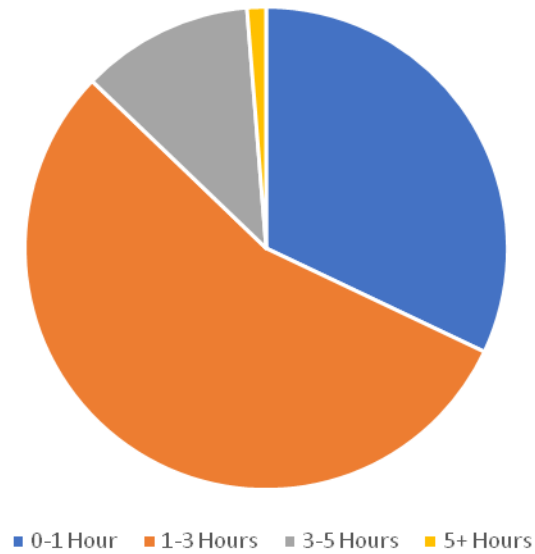
■ Sightseeing-Recreation ■ Social Interaction ■ Athletics ■ Picnics ■ Activities ■ Play Garden ■ Other

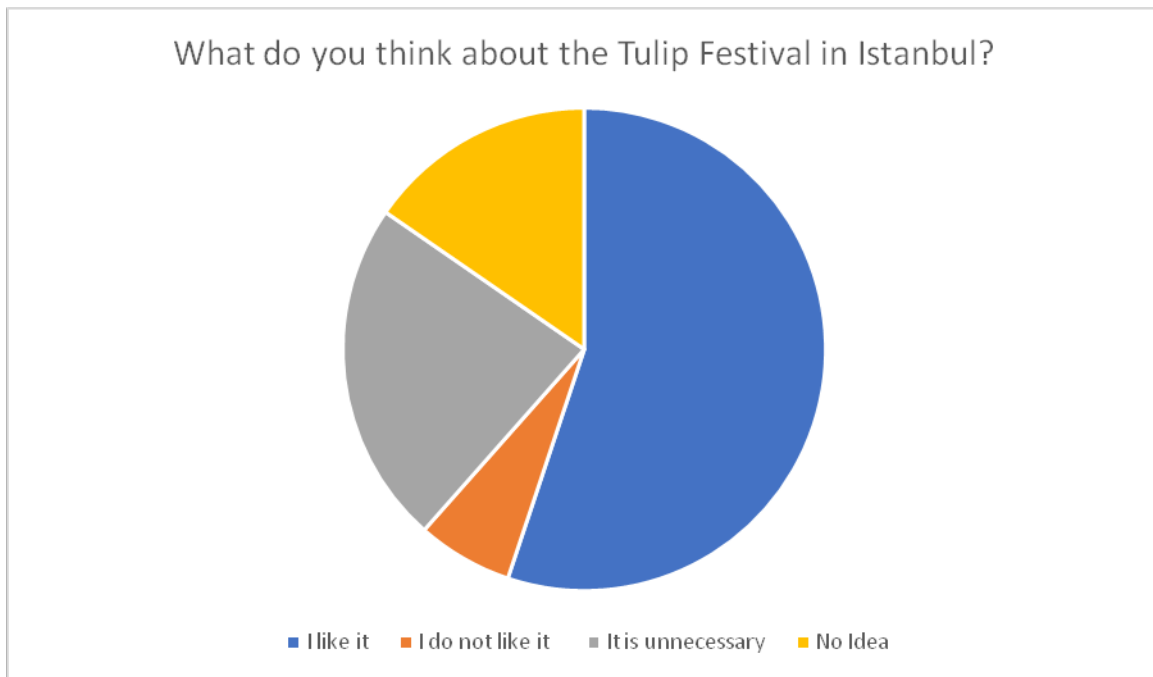
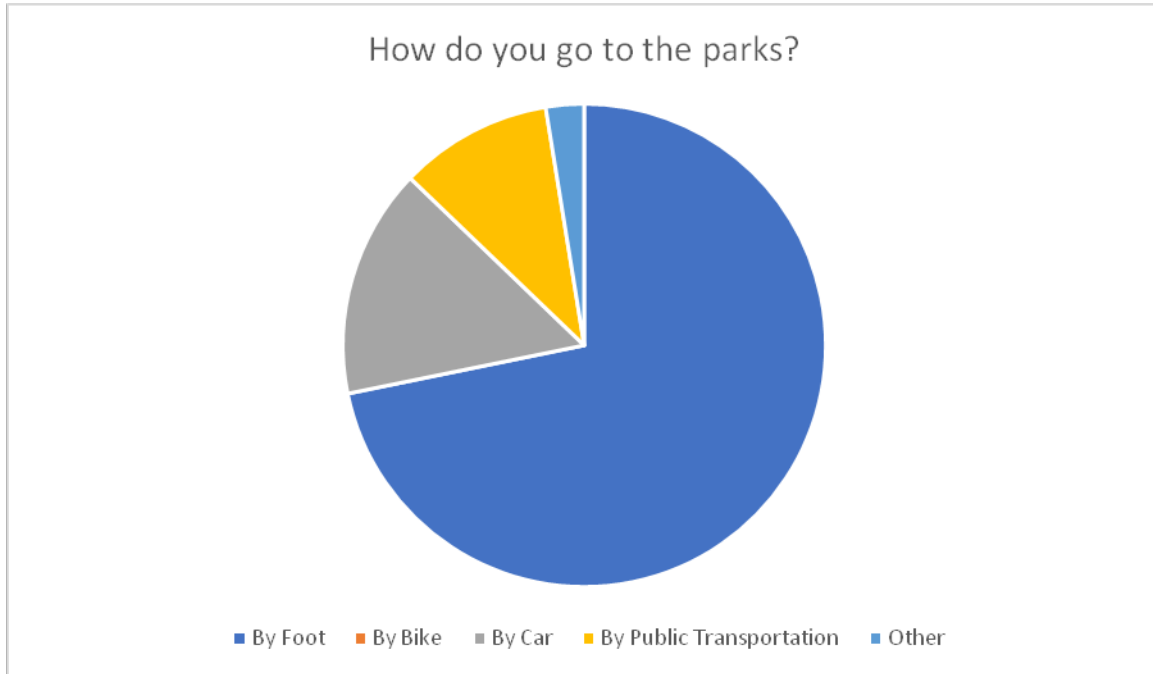


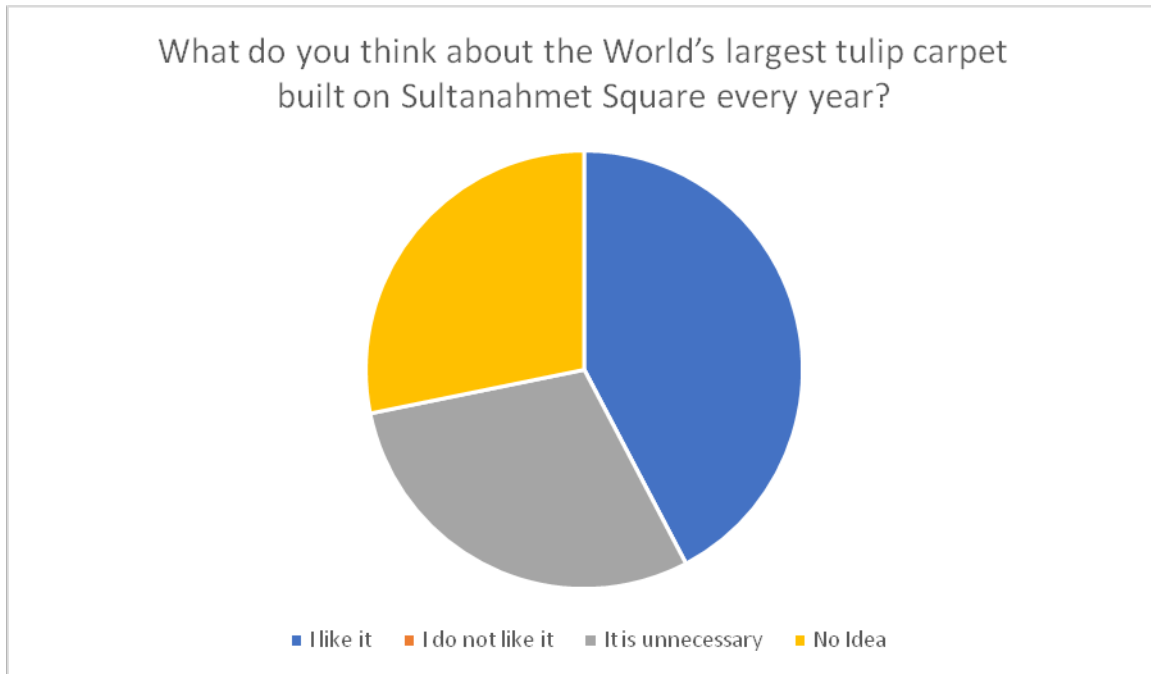
### What do you think of the Istanbul's parks budget?



### How much time do you spend at a park on average?







## 5. Conclusion and Suggestions

Most important data from the surveys have been turned into charts for visualization. Among the participants, man-woman and married-single ratios are almost equal. Although most participants are 18-35 years old, middle aged and older people have also participated. Most participants have a university diploma or a higher degree and most have average income. Almost all participants state that there are parks close to their home or work. Near half of them go to the park 1-3 times a week, while the other half goes 1-2 days a month. A few go every day, however, their number does not affect the average. It has been established that parks that host events such as concerts, open-air theatres, festivities, fairs, book sales and festivals are more commonly used. Similarly, parks that have cafes and WCs are used more frequently. When participants are asked why they go to the park, mainly reasons like sightseeing-recreation, athletics, socializing, picnics, taking kids to the playground are mentioned. Participants are divided on whether they find the parks aesthetically pleasing or not. Most participant believe that the existing number of parks in Istanbul are insufficient.

With that, many find the parks budget to be unnecessary and cause a great excursion. 45% has ponds, waterworks, etc. at their parks while the other 55% do not. At this point, Venturi's view gain prominence. Venturi found most designs that are considered ugly, basic; he wished for an impure architecture and emphasized the symbolic contents in architecture. He says that sculpture, graphics and painting should be used in architecture and landscape design simultaneously (Venturi R.,pp.i-iii, 2005). Within this scope, the survey has showed that parks with sculptures, ponds, waterworks and similar elements prove to be more favored. 71% of the parks used by the survey participants from Istanbul either have a sculpture or any other kind of artistic element in it. Many of the participants state that they spend 1-3 hours at the parks. %87 has athletic equipment at their parks. Nevertheless, only 53% find their parks as safe. %92 of the parks used by the participants are located close to major traffic routes and are easily accessible. In addition to this, 72% choose to walk to their parks since they are close enough. Only 42% find their parks aesthetically pleasing. Although 91% believe that the parks have no architectural contribution to the Istanbul, 55% enjoy the annual Tulip Festival. 37% of the participants have no idea about the National Gardens. 32% like them, 31% do not. 39% likes vertical gardens, 19% find them unnecessary, 42% are neutral.

From this survey, with 53 questions and one opinions, suggestions and requests section, it can be learned that good investments are being made for parks in Istanbul. However, it can also be seen that trees cannot be protected socio-culturally, historically important and touristic squares and avenues such as the Taksim Square and Istiklal Avenue, and that Istanbul is swiftly into a concrete wasteland. This dilemma can be reflected in the survey results. Also a big number of participants have no idea about the vertical gardens, National Gardens, flower beds around the city. Main

reasons for this are the cosmopolitan and fast lifestyle, work and traffic in the city. Same reasons apply to how frequently people go to the park or how much time they spend there. Most participants complaining about the rapid concretion of the city with new building projects. As mentioned previously, the migration into the city is a major factor to this. Most participants request more parks and more green areas and some specific demands. Although palaces gardens and public gardens around the city add to the aesthetic value to Istanbul, many participants believe the new vertical gardens and new parks do not affect the city's architecture at all. At this point, it should be remembered to build the new in respect to the old as Venturi said. The old and the new must be combined in the most productive way (Venturi R.,pp.64, 2005). Again in accordance with Venturi's ideals, every newly designed park needs to be humane and serve the humans' needs. In conclusion, when designing parks that will help citizens breathe, mentally and physically recreate, and positively contribute to the city's architecture, it should be made sure that they are low-cost parks with a basic, ergonomic yet of high quality.

Napoleon once said, "*if the world was only one country, Istanbul would be its capital.*" Gyllius said, "all cities are mortal, but Istanbul is not." Alphonse de Lamartine said, "if one had but a single glance to give the world, one should gaze on Istanbul." Parks and gardens with adequate landscape design is Istanbul's, a cultural capital of the world's, right.

### **Etik Standart ile Uyumluluk**

**Çıkar Çatışması:** Yazarlar herhangi bir çıkar çatışmasının olmadığını beyan eder.

**Etik Kurul İzni:** Bu çalışma için etik kurul iznine gerek olmadığını beyan ederim.

**Finansal Destek:** Yok

**Teşekkür:** Yok.

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