

## Regeneration of A Historical Urban Park and Its Evaluation by the Visitors: Gençlik Park Case, Ankara

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### Abstract

Urban parks, which should be planned and managed with "economic, ecological, and social sustainability" in mind, benefit citizens' health in terms of these three components. This study assesses the social sustainability of parks using the example of "Gençlik Park". The study was conducted to investigate user perceptions of renovation work carried out after a large urban park, which contributed significantly to the capital city's identity, lost function and meaning and became a deteriorated area. The data were analysed with the SPSS 23 program, and variables were associated using the T-test and ANOVA. The users were questioned under the headings of "accessibility, comfort, appearance and aesthetics, adequacy and appropriateness of the activities in the park, safety" during the renovation work done in the park.

**Keywords:** Gençlik Park Regeneration, Urban Park Regeneration, Urban Park Visitors.

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## **Tarihi Bir Kent Parkının Yenilenmesi ve Ziyaretçiler Tarafından Değerlendirilmesi: Gençlik Parkı Örneği, Ankara**

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### **Özet**

"Ekonomik, ekolojik ve sosyal sürdürülebilirlik" bağlamında planlanması ve yönetilmesi gereken kent parkları, bu üç bileşen açısından vatandaşların sağlığına faydalar sunmaktadır. Bu çalışma parkların sosyal sürdürülebilirliğini "Gençlik Parkı" örneğinde değerlendirmektedir. Çalışma, başkent kimliğine önemli katkı sağlayan büyük bir kent parkının işlevini ve anlamını yitirerek çöküntü alanı haline gelmesi sonrasında gerçekleştirilen yenileme çalışmalarına ilişkin kullanıcı görüşlerinin irdelenmesi amacıyla gerçekleştirilmiştir. Veriler SPSS 23 programıyla analiz edilmiş, değişkenler T testi ve ANOVA ile ilişkilendirilmiştir. Parkta gerçekleştirilen yenileme çalışmaları "erişilebilirlik, konfor, görüntü ve estetik, parktaki aktivitelerin yeterliliği ve uygunluğu, güvenlik" konularında yürütülmüş ve kullanıcılara bu başlıklar altında sorular sorulmuştur.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Gençlik Parkı Yenileme, Kent Parkı Yenileme, Kent Parkı Ziyaretçileri.

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## INTRODUCTION

Gardens, green roofs, community forests, rivers, canals, and wetlands are examples of green spaces that benefit cities and society by serving a variety of purposes that are beneficial to the environment, the economy, society, and the human race (Harnik, 2003; Konijnendijk et al., 2013; Gore et al., 2013; Park & Kim, 2019; Kim et al., 2019; Biernacka et al., 2023) and socially and ecologically (Feyisa & Mailby, 2014; Speak et al., 2015; Mexia et al., 2018; Yu et al., 2020; Hajzeri, 2021; Shao & Kim 2022; Cooper et al., 2023), among other green spaces, particularly in city living. The fact that parks are places of public education (Yang et al., 2020), socialization and appreciation of middle class norms and human values requires a broader consideration of the functions of parks. Today, parks fulfil functions such as social control, cultural enlightenment (Zhu et al., 2020; Gai et al., 2023), improving physical and physiological health (Liu et al., 2017; Gong et al., 2023), providing tranquil environments within the city, acting as a kind of “urban recreation” for those who cannot go out of the city, and helping regular urban development (Özgüner, 2011). The presence of these landscape elements, both natural and man-made, such as parks, forests, green corridors and water features, in the city provides ecosystem services such as improved air quality (Xie et al., 2019). They also provide social and psychological contributions that are critical for the liveability of modern cities and the health of their inhabitants (Konijnendijk et al., 2013, Larson et al., 2016; Wajchman et al., 2021). Urban parks are also places that respond to the need of today’s urban people for pedestrian spaces, just like the pedestrians of the Middle Ages, and make this healthy through natural elements (Sitte, 1965).

Urban parks and other public spaces, particularly when used for event planning, help to animate the area, make it attractive and viable, and contribute to the development of a city’s identity and sense of “belonging”. These could be reinforced by historically significant objects that are protected, like physical features and historical allusions to the region (Stepanchuk et al., 2021). The large parks previously mentioned, along with the leisure and recreational activities they offer, serve not only the local community but also the national, international, and regional levels.

According to Conway (1991), “what is happening to our parks reflect what is happening in the society”. These parks can manage this as spaces where a variety of recreational and leisure activities they include. For this reason, the disciplines and managers who plan the urban park must establish a good balance between conservation and improvement efforts and the various uses and values that serve the society through the park.

Not only do urban parks provide highly desirable access to open space with the multitude of recreational activities they provide, from hiking and biking trails to basketball courts, playgrounds, soccer fields, and even more elaborate offerings such as amphitheatres, community centres, and interpretive stations; they have also been shown to consistently increase neighbourhood property values (Harnik & Welle, 2009; Lin et al., 2021). Urban parks instill a sense of community. They provide gathering spaces where people can interact with their neighbours, a rarity in today’s world (Morris, 2011; Sezen & Aytatlı, 2019).

With the right planning, design and management efforts, a city park can fulfil these functions. General indicators of the appropriateness of planning and design can be considered as “diversity of use, accessibility, ease of use, image and sociability” (Yücel & Yıldızci, 2006; Öztürk Kurtaslan, 2017).

Researchers have long noted the ways people interpret landscapes and the importance of symbolism in connecting to a “place.” Various groups of people may each define uses in a landscape in various ways and have different values for the same landscape. In this context, landscapes can sometimes gain more importance as symbols of these values and uses, reaching the status of “special places”, “heritage sites” or “sacred places” (Gobster, 2001). As in these cases, the legibility of the landscape’s narrative is critical to its perceived value (Selman, 2008). The legibility of landscape narrative reflects an ethical relationship with the landscape and supports notions of personal identity and sense of place. Therefore, shifting legibility of landscape narrative over time can lead to deep unresolved conflicts with the landscape, and these conflicts can be exacerbated when interpretations of the existing landscape are challenged by rapid landscape change (Clingerman & Drenthen, 2013).

In many cities, park departments and civic groups are maintaining their efforts to restore the magnificent parks that have been the works of landscape architects such as Olmsted, Jens Jensen, Simmonds and their contemporaries over the last 150 years. Many of these parks have been neglected from time to time due to lack of funds and labour required for their maintenance.

Park restoration approaches consist of complex interactions between “physical, biological and social” aspects of landscape planning and design and require interdisciplinary involvement from various aspects such as landscape ecology, regeneration ecology. Thus, in landscape architecture and historic preservation and park regeneration approaches, experts try to incorporate cultural values alongside efforts to improve urban nature. However, it would be appropriate to make decisions to increase social interaction (e.g. through benches and playgrounds) and physical activity (e.g. through pathways, bicycle lanes and open spaces) in renovation works (Le Lay et al., 2013; Poppe et al., 2023).

Moreover, public support or reaction to regeneration and restoration projects of all other public open spaces, including parks, depends mainly on the distance between expert and public perception (Le Lay et al., 2013). Broad-based participation of citizens in the planning and implementation of regeneration efforts in public spaces and urban parks is as important as interdisciplinary professional participation; this empowers stakeholders and helps preserve the desired landscapes in the long term.

Open spaces and parks are important areas related to urban renewal initiatives that aim to help renew “cities” (Özgüner, 2011). In urban parks, which are considered within the scope of urban renewal studies, one of the most important goals in this process is to ensure the social sustainability of the parks. Parks contribute to urban social sustainability with the activities they provide to urban people and equal participation opportunities on the scales of age, gender, race, socio-economic status, economy-ecology and equality (Ostermann, 2009). Access to parks and open spaces is a fundamental human right. Revitalizing parks and open spaces has the potential to contribute to the renewal and revitalization of the city.

The purpose of this research is to ascertain the degree of satisfaction with the revitalization efforts undertaken to address both functional issues and issues that arose during the creation and planning process of Gençlik Park.

In order to ascertain the degree of visitor satisfaction with the revitalisation studies, it is crucial to ascertain the revitalisation activities that were carried out to address both functional issues and those that arose during the creation and

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planning of Gençlik Parkı. Furthermore, the research data is significant because it serves as a basis for future research data.

## **URBAN TRANSFORMATION, RENEWAL IN PARKS**

The changes that occur over time and the need for renewal in urban parks, which have a decisive role in the identity of the city and provide important functions, especially in close relationship with the city centre, are often closely related to the concept of urban transformation. As in the case of Gençlik Park, the changes observed in the park over time have emerged as a result of the physical and social collapse of the city centre where the park is located (Özkır, 2007). The urban transformation concept, emerged in the early 19th century when the city's social, cultural and economic needs brought on by physical factors and led the city to change. Due to aspects like unhealthiness, environmental pollution, and depression, it starts to become a region faced with social and economic deterioration (Üstün, 2008; Yenice, 2014).

Urban transformation can be defined as the process of reconsidering cities economically, socially and spatially, and transforming undesired urban textures in line with contemporary urbanism principles and planning principles (Daşkıran & Ak, 2015).

Urban transformation aims to improve the urban textures in question (old central business areas that have lost their attractiveness, urban protected areas, unhealthy and illegal buildings within the city, slum areas, etc.) in social, economic, physical and cultural aspects.

Urban transformation, which first started with interventions aimed at revitalizing socially and economically depressed areas in the cities of developed Western countries, has generally taken the form of implementing projects that will contribute to the economic development of the city in areas where the population has lost its population or where low-income groups live in poor economic and physical conditions and where social solidarity has been lost.

Between 1950 and 1980, in parallel with industrialization in Türkiye, the phenomenon of rural-to-urban migration caused some socio-economic changes in cities, housing areas became inadequate, and technical and social infrastructure deficiencies emerged. In the 2000s, the problem of accessing social services and education increased in relation to unemployment and impoverishment, and crime rates also increased in inner-city collapsed areas (Ataöv & Osmay, 2007). This situation has also reduced the user profile in city parks and other public spaces, as in the case of Gençlik Park.

Parks and other open and green areas, which are important planning and design tools in improving the quality of urban life, may also lose their importance and function in the city over time, and therefore they may become the subject of urban transformation projects, and in this context, frequently urban renewal projects.

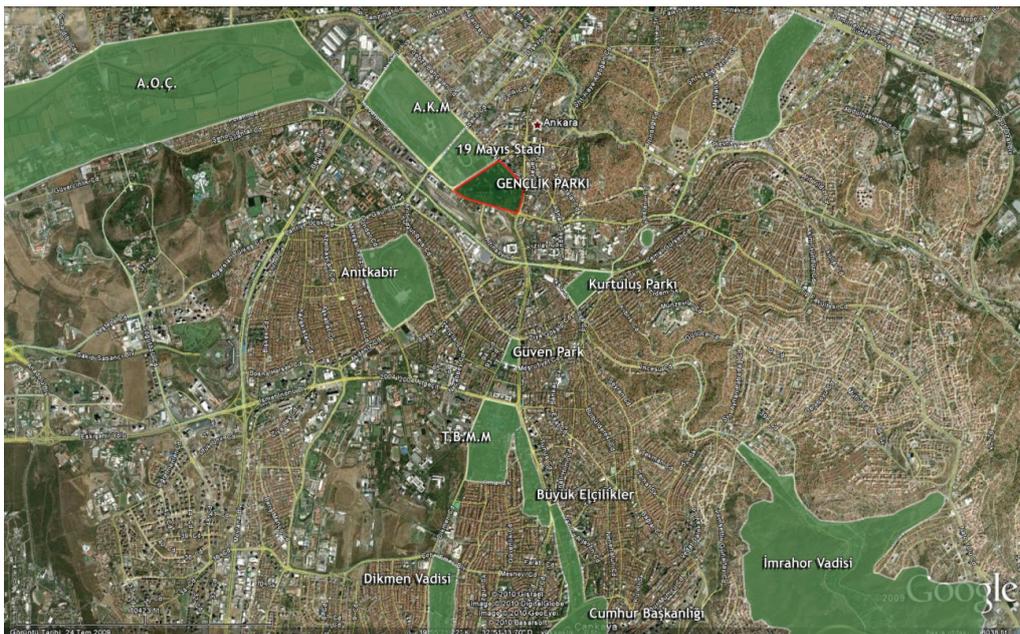
As already mentioned, parks and other public spaces are important components of regeneration initiatives as they can create a visual message about the city and can serve as a site by which both visitors to the city and local people can identify with the city.

## GENÇLİK PARK

Gençlik Park, Ankara's first "urban park", has a special significance in the history of the republic for being the first city image the visitors saw upon arriving in the city by train as well as its physical structure designed as the area of modern life simulation (Ekinçi & Sağlam, 2015). Citizens of Ankara, who had first met with open air theatre in "Millet Bahçesi" (National Garden), were further amused by another auditorium, the water sports with a club house, a casino, an ice rink, mini train lines and various recreation areas which became available in Gençlik Park. The park was used as a tool for the realization and the sustainability of social development. It can be said that the park was express itself more than a park in the years it was constructed. In the period of urbanization it was a breaking point for Ankara, a place which is a symbol of the time the old city ended and the new city started (Ekinçi & Sağlam, 2015; Önge, 2007).

Gençlik Park was located in the capital Ankara, with a population of 122, 270 in the 1930s, and in an area surrounded by steppe land. Ankara has been specially planned since the foundation of the Republic, and the central government's service buildings were planned to be located first around the old city of Ulus, and then in the Ministries-Kızılay (Yenişehir) region. During this period, the "urban park" phenomenon, which existed in all western cities, was wanted to be implemented in Ankara as well. Gençlik Park project is seen as a continuation of the urbanization movement that started in 1923 (Anonymus, 2009).

The park is a large city park proposed and authored by Jansen upon the request of the founder and administrators of the Republic in the Ankara development plan finalized in 1932. The park was planned to be 260 decares and was a very remarkable and monumental work for the capital in those days. In the Ankara development plan prepared by Jansen for 1932, Gençlik Park constitutes an important component of the green area system that forms the backbone of the city (Figure 1). Gençlik Park would provide green space and water facilities for Ankara, which was under the arid effect of the continental climate at that time. Besides that, park in the early Republican era, like other urban parks and many other public spaces, became the prestigious urban space, which represented the Republican ideology and the new modern lifestyle (Memlük, 2012; Bayraktar, 2016).



**Figure 1.** Location of Gençlik Park in the green area system of Ankara City (Anonymus, 2019).

There were 3 factors affected the development of Gençlik Park: first factor was the ideology of the new Republican regime to create a new social order; second factor was the need for the construction of an urban identity for the newly emerging capital as a first large urban park and third factor was the need for a social and recreational space for the society and social interaction (Uludağ, 1998; Memlük, 2012).

In 1956-1958 period, Genclik Park played a significant role in the social life of the people of the capital, with its weekend activities, casinos and picnics for the families of civil servants (Özkır, 2007). In 1957, TCDD started to operate two trains traveling through the track (Bayraktar, 2016). Later, an amusement park and wedding hall were established in the park. Until the early 1960s, water sports were performed and concerts were held in the large pool in the park (Boyacı, 2010). After this period, the park, which gradually lost public interest, was renovated by eliminating the trends of the early 1980s and reopened on August 30, 2009 and reached its current period (Anonymus, 2009).

### Periods of Change in the Park

This section explains and discusses the history of the park under four main phases as; 1928 – 1950, 1950 – 1970, 1970 – 2009, 2009 – 2012. The developments in each period are briefly summarized below.

#### The period between 1928 - 1950

In Jansen's plan of 1928, Gençlik Parkı was a part of a recreational and green spine through Incesu Valley. This spine also included Hippodrome and a series of parks, such as Kore Parkı, Abdi İpekçi Parkı, Kurtuluş Parkı and Gençlik Parkı (Orsan & Karadeniz, 2019).

Jansen envisaged Gençlik Parkı as an urban park of 260.000 m<sup>2</sup> (26 ha). The park was designed to serve the whole city with an estimated population of 300.000 (Jansen, 1937).

Jansen's plan on Gençlik Park was based on three main principles:

- create shady areas of greenery for the citizens
- regenerate the beautiful scenery of the city with the help of this new green space.
- a large pool for rowing boats.

Various activities representing the new, modern life style and needs, such as theatre and sports activities, were used together without disturbing each other. The park also had a very safe and decent image, which motivated especially families and women to use it freely (Memlük, 2012) (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** The last design proposal of Gençlik Parkı by Hermann Jansen dated 1935 (Akansel, 2009).

### The period between 1950 - 1970

This term may be called as "golden age" of the park. The park offered variety of activities related to recreation, education, social programs and relaxation. The middle class felt welcomed to the space, while low-income groups were still using the park. (Memlük, 2012). "Throughout these years, despite its deliberately configured design and identity by the centralist and authoritarian power with no public consultation, Gençlik Park operated as a modern, secular and Western-style urban park, and an inclusive and democratic public space" (Akkar Ercan, 2017) (Figure 3).



**Figure 3.** The pool and the tea houses on the edge of it in 1965 (Akansel, 2009).

### The period between 1970 – 2009

This period was the decline period which some deteriorations had been seen in the park. For example park entrances lost its significance and priority and access by vehicle was high. Because of the domination of low-income groups, middle class was no longer feeling welcomed within the space. Mainly newcomers' of the city (migrants) were dominating the space. There was a safety problem on park apparently. At this term, the urban transformation approach of the government effected the deterioration of the park as well. As a result of a competition held in the second half of the 1980s, implementations started with the Ulus Historical City Centre Development Plan, but the Gençlik Park, which had become a collapsed area, was ignored at this stage (Memlük, 2012) (Figure 4).



**Figure 4.** A view of Gençlik Park in 1970's (Anonymus, 2009).

### The period between 2009 – 2012

At this term, traffic and uncomfortable design for pedestrians were the main barriers when accessing the park. In addition, majority of the users come to the park by public transportation. However, pedestrian access is no longer preferred. The park has lost its function as a connecting path and has no significant connection to the circulation around it.

In the 2000s, Gençlik Park became a neglected, unsafe park, not preferred by families, with fewer green areas and in ruins. The deterioration in the uses of the park during this period can be listed as follows:

- The entrances connecting the park's vehicle and pedestrian paths had lost their functional features, including security.
- Irregular structures such as warehouses, kiosks and restrooms were located in the park by the lake, thus the recreational uses by the lake were lost.
- In the whole park, the ratio of green area to built area had changed to the detriment of green area. The quality of green areas deteriorated due to poor maintenance (Özer, 2005; Özkır, 2007).
- Green areas were seen as a burden for local governments, and these areas were seen as non-revenue generating areas as well as loss of income due to maintenance and repair works (Özer, 2005; Özkır, 2007).
- Static and flowing water areas were neglected; bad appearance and malodorous was beginning to form. Users had difficulty in reaching the water. Although there was no change in the area of the water surface, which was measured at 45,000m<sup>2</sup> in 2005, there were deteriorations in water quality.
- There were not enough security guards in the park, and the park was generally poorly maintained and dirty. An unsafe environment prevailed in the park.
- Recreational functions in the park were significantly reduced compared to the past.
- Many equipment elements such as surfacing elements, lighting elements, seating elements, children's playgrounds, orientation and lighting elements had become unusable.
- The mini train line had lost its characteristic of being the symbol of the park and had become unusable (Özkır, 2007). According to Özer (2005), the security problem showed up with the buffets and third-class restaurants, whose numbers have been rapidly increasing since the 1970s and with the drug users in the park, whose numbers have been increasing since the 1990s. In 2006, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality closed down the park to reorganize it.

As a matter of course, deterioration in Gençlik Parkı caused it to be less preferred, and the level of park use decreased. The reasons of this can be summarized as follows:

- Inadequate attention of the administrative structure: institutional problems and lack of authority in the management of the park
- Planlessness: no future projections regarding the use of the park
- Economic reasons: Inability to allocate sufficient budget for the renovation of the park
- Problems arising from social structure

In 2006, upon the request of the Metropolitan Municipality, it is planned to design the park by considering the basic ideas in the establishment of the park, the identity of the park, the feature of being an urban park and the decisions of the national committee (Tokcan, 2009). Based on these elements, it is planned to make the following changes in the revision project of the park:

- Taking all the trees in the park area into surveying about the genre, size and

location, processing them on the existing maps and making identification for each tree,

- Dealing with the 5 entrances that make the park connect to the surrounding roads, vehicles and pedestrians, and considering other issues related to functionality, including security,
- Improvement of the square and its extension at Ulus entrance with café-tea buffets and pergolas, in a way that can also serve the employees who works in the vicinity of the park,
- At the entrance to the train station, partially cleared of the amusement park, the square has a variety of kiosks and pastry cafes, while at the entrance to the subway there are various kiosks, souvenir shops and tourist offices,
- Maintain the main circulation scheme of the park,
- The old city (Ulus) and the train station are on the main axis of the park, which has been recognized since the beginning. Removing the irregular settlements and uses around the pond on this axis and replacing them with pedestrian paths, seating areas and other activities in an enriched landscape,
- Placing the mandatory requirements of the park (café-tea gardens, restaurants, etc.) near to the walls forming a border with surrounding roads and placing the amusement park near to border railings so that these uses are located in places that can easily serve in quiet corners (due to their proximity to the surrounding roads).
- Preserving the structures to be protected as they were that were specified in the decision of the National Committee,
- Enriching the landscape of the square with sitting and waiting areas and removing the ugly building attachments around the Municipal Wedding Hall Building,
- Construction of an indoor parking lot of 200-300 cars available for the use of the park and opera house,
- Minimizing the amusement park in accordance with the decisions of the National Committee, making it a technological entertainment centre for education and science,
- Protection of the Mini-Train for nostalgic reasons, provided that it is between train station and Ulus entrance,
- Bringing the buffets to be scattered on the road together in the wooded area between Muhsin Ertuğrul Açık Hava Tiyatrosu and Sosyal Tesisler structure (Boyacı, 2010).

This project proposes to repair and enhance the park's architectural structures through artistic elements, lighting, and interior architectural arrangements (Tokcan, 2009). The park's revision project would also include the establishment of a Park Administration Building, the construction of new security structures and help desks, the reorganisation and definition of the park's entrances, and the development of stronger spatial relationships with the surrounding roads. The new uses that will provide more social and cultural services in the park are planned as follows: multi-purpose building complex and hall (3500 people), small movie theatres, restaurants, cafeteria, fast-food area, youth centre, cafe, pool hall, bowling hall, traffic signaling building (2000 m2), park administration building, mini golf, kiosks, semi-open areas (shadow play and show areas), science centre, indoor parking lot (100 vehicles capacity) (Tokcan, 2009).

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It is seen that open area arrangements in the park are as follows. Outdoor facilities of the park were planned as excursion routes, sitting-resting areas, semi-open show area, children's playground, underpasses and overpasses, squares, republic monument complex, various playgrounds (intellectual games, shadow play, and others), nostalgic restoration of the old mini-train line and the addition of new elements (such as fairytale-like tunnels with music and lighting) and the arrangement of the island within the pool in accordance with the new function.

In the revision plan of the park, two more entrances were added to the park and it had 7 entrances. So, with the physical accessibility, the park is affected positively by the amount and availability of entrances (Figure 5). According to the new plan, irregular building units and uses on the base axis of the park were removed and pedestrian paths and seating areas were replaced (Figure 6) (Boyacı, 2010).



**Figure 5.** Some of the images of the park entrances- First image is the main entrance- (Original, 2017).

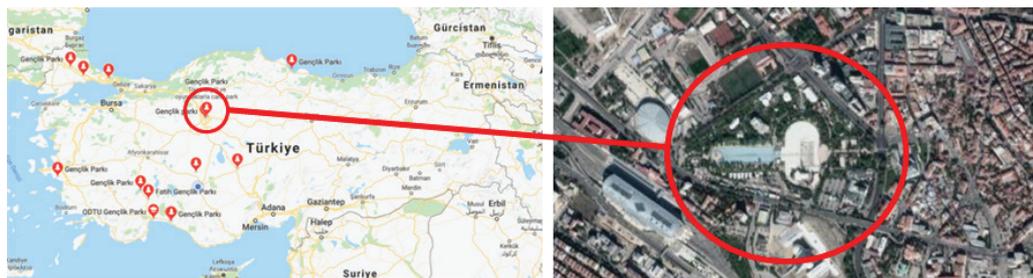


**Figure 6.** Seating elements and pedestrian routes in the park (Original, 2018).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Study Area

Gençlik Parkı is located in Ulus, known as the historical centre of Ankara, the capital city. The location of the park in the country is shown in Figure 7.



**Figure 7.** Location of the park in Türkiye (Anonymus, 2019).

The park is also an significant part of the urban green spine system with the other recreation areas in the heart of the city (Figure 8).



**Figure 8.** Location of the park within Incesu Valley, in the green spine (Anonymus, 2021).

### Data Analysis

The primary sources of evidence for this research are survey, direct observation, archival documents, descriptive statistics of biodata, and analysis. Both quantitative and qualitative data are used in this study. For the scale utilised in the research section, reliability analysis was carried out and quantified through scoring. The reliability of the questionnaire questions was assessed using the Cronbach's Alpha test statistic.

This study provides explanations of the research's purpose, population and sample, data collection methods, and data analysis, in that order.

### Population and Sample of the Research

The population of the study consists of all those who visited Gençlik Parkı in Ankara in 2018. Since there would be temporal problems in reaching the population,

In the study, "monographic sampling method", which is one of the non-probability sampling methods, was used. In this method, the researcher works on a set or subjects that he/she thinks can represent the universe based on his/her knowledge and predictions about the universe. In these group sampling methods, the researcher's wishes and subjective value judgments are effective in determining the sample to be selected (Ural, 2011). In this study, it was decided that 500 individuals who visited Gençlik Parkı would represent the population of Ankara, which constitutes the population of the research. The survey was conducted in June and July during the summer season.

### Data Collection Tools

A questionnaire was used as data collection tool in the research. It consists of two parts. In the first part, there is a demographic information form to determine the personal information of the participants, and in the second part, the scale which includes the expressions prepared in the framework of the main topics about the park: "accessibility, comfort, image and aesthetics, adequacy and suitability of activities in the park, security".

The questions in the questionnaire are divided into 4 groups:

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- Multiple-Choice Questions
- Scaled Questions (Likert Response Scale)
- Open-Ended Questions
- Demographic Questions

The questionnaire was applied to 500 people as 248 women and 252 men. Statistical analysis of the data obtained from the questionnaire applied to the participants was performed using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) 23.0 statistical program. Reliability analysis was applied to the data in the first place. Internal consistency of the questions was measured by reliability analysis (Alpha Values). Frequency analysis was used for the demographic information of the participants. Then, t-test and ANOVA were performed to correlate the dependent variables with demographic variables. After ANOVA, appropriate post-hoc tests were used to determine the groups that are important for the formation of difference between the means. Numerical improvements were tested at 95% reliability level.

## RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this part of the study, the findings and interpretations about the demographic information of the sample group and the analysis of the obtained data with the appropriate statistical method are included.

According to Table 4, it is seen that the reliability of the Novelties Scale is  $\alpha = 0.982$  and the Attitude Scale is  $\alpha = 0.984$ , and these values are sufficient for the research.

**Table 4.** Reliability of the scale.

	Cronbach's Alpha	Number of Items
Novelties	0,982	22
Satisfaction	0,984	20

According to Table 5, 49% of the participants are female and 51% are male. 2% of the participants visit the youth park once a week, 3% once a month, 35% whenever they have the opportunity and 60% rarely. 94% of the participants complete their visit in 0-3 hours, 4% in 4-7 hours and 2% in 8-12 hours.

59% of the participants see the youth park as a suitable place to meet with friends and 41% of the participants see the youth park as a suitable place to meet with friends. 66% of the participants see the youth park as a suitable place for family and 34% of the participants see the youth park as a suitable place for family. 25% of the participants have a low youth park visitor income profile and 75% of the participants have a medium youth park visitor income profile.

3% of the participants find the transportation of the youth park easy, 25% find the transportation of the youth park medium and 72% find the transportation of the youth park difficult. 41% of the participants benefit from in-park businesses and 35% do not benefit from in-park businesses. 19% of the participants have the opportunity to have a picnic in the youth park and 81% do not have the opportunity to have a picnic in the youth park. 44% of the participants think that the youth park is a fun environment suitable for children, activities are sufficient and 56% think that it needs to be improved for children. 47% of the participants visit the youth park before the regulation and 53% do not visit the youth park before the regulation.

		n	%
Gender	Women	248	49
	Men	252	51
	Total	500	100
1) How often do you visit the park?	Once a week	8	2
	Once a month	16	3
	As occasion serves	174	35
	Rarely	302	60
	Total	500	100
2) How much time do you spend on a visit?	0-3 hours	470	94
	4-7 hours	22	4
	8-12 hours	8	2
	Total	500	100
3) Do you see it as a convenient place to meet your friends?	Yes	293	59
	No	207	41
	Total	500	100
4) Do you think it is suitable for families?	Yes	331	66
	No	169	34
	Total	500	100
5) How do you evaluate visitors' income profiles?	Low	126	25
	Medium	374	75
	Total	500	100
6) What do you think about the ease of access to the park?	Hard	14	3
	Medium	125	25
	Easy	361	72
	Total	500	100
7) Do you benefit from the in-park enterprises?	Yes	323	65
	No	177	35
	Total	500	100
8) Is it possible to have a picnic in the park?	Yes	95	19
	No	405	81
	Total	500	100
9) What do you think about whether there is an environment where children can have fun?	Suitable for children, a fun environment; activities are sufficient	218	44
	Needs improvement for children	282	56
	Total	500	100
10) Did you use to visit the park before the arrangement?	Yes	236	47
	No	264	53
	Total	500	100

**Table 5.** Distribution of demographic characteristics of the participants.

According to Table 6 24% of the participants stated that the green space and plant arrangement in the park was insufficient, 16% had no opinion, and 60% stated that it was sufficient. In other words, the participants find the green space and plant arrangement in the youth park adequate.

For the expression "parking facilities", 60% responded that it was insufficient, 24% had no opinion and 17% said it was sufficient. In other words, the participants find the parking facilities in the youth park inadequate.

For the expression "restroom cleanliness", 58% responded "insufficient", 34% "no opinion" and 8% "sufficient". In other words, the participants find the toilet cleaning in the youth park inadequate.

For the expression "security", 34% responded "insufficient", 23% "no opinion" and 44% "sufficient". In other words, the participants find the security in the youth park adequate.

For the expression "food and beverage venues", 25% responded "insufficient", 25% "no opinion" and 50% "sufficient". In other words, the participants find the food and beverage venues in the youth park adequate.

For the phrase "entertainment and show areas", 32% of the respondents answered insufficient, 21% had no idea and 48% answered sufficient. In other words, it was found that the participants find the entertainment and show areas in the Gençlik Park are adequate.

**Table 6.** Distribution of demographic characteristics of the participants.

	Inadequate		I have no opinion		Adequate	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Arrangement of green areas and plants	122	24	80	16	298	60
Parking facilities	298	60	119	24	83	17
Cleaning of WCs	292	58	170	34	38	8
Security	169	34	113	23	218	44
Food and beverage areas	127	25	124	25	249	50
Entertainment and show grounds	158	32	104	21	238	48
Children's playgrounds	201	40	96	19	203	41
Pools, water games and bridges	140	28	102	20	258	52
Sports fields	254	51	124	25	122	24
Arrangement of pedestrian roads and firm grounds	165	33	80	16	255	51

In Table 7, the following responses are shown for the statement: "I find it positive to reconsider the entrances that provide auto and pedestrian relations with the park's ring roads": 14% strongly disagree, 22% disagree, 7% are undecided, 45% agree, and 12% strongly agree.

15% strongly disagree, 16% disagree, 10% are undecided, 44% agree, and 15% strongly agree with the statement "I find it positive that the Ulus entrance square and its extension should be developed with cafe tea kiosks and pergolas so that those who work in the morning can also have breakfast." To the statement "I find it positive that the station entrance should be re-landscaped with a square freed from the amusement park extension and various buffets, patisseries and cafes" 14% strongly disagree, 13% disagree, 7% are undecided, 56% agree and 10% strongly agree.

To the statement "I find it positive that the metro entrance is enriched with various kiosks, souvenir sales and tourism promotion units." 15% strongly disagree, 11% disagree, 9% undecided, 51% agree and 13% strongly agree.

To the statement "I find it positive that the main circulation scheme of the park is preserved as it is." 14% strongly disagree, 13% disagree, 24% undecided, 41% agree and 9% strongly agree.

To the statement "I remember the Gençlik Park as it was before the arrangement." 14% strongly disagree, 14% disagree, 16% undecided, 35% agree and 21% strongly agree.

To the statement "I remember the state of Gençlik Park before the arrangement." 14% strongly disagree, 14% disagree, 16% undecided, 35% agree and 21% strongly agree.

To the statement "I think the arrangement was beneficial" 12% strongly disagree, 13% disagree, 9% undecided, 50% agree and 16% strongly agree.

To the statement "I think the number of visitors increased after the arrangement" 14% strongly disagree, 11% disagree, 16% are undecided, 42% agree and 16% strongly agree.

To the statement "I spend more time in the park than before." 13% strongly disagree, 25% disagree, 17% undecided, 31% agree and 13% strongly agree.

To the statement "I benefit from the services in the park (cafe, tea garden, amusement park, etc.) more than before" 14% strongly disagree, 22% disagree, 13% undecided, 39% agree and 13% strongly agree.

To the statement "I find it positive that each tree is given an identification number." 9% strongly disagree, 14% disagree, 18% are undecided, 41% agree and 18% strongly agree. To the statement "I find it positive that the unplanned settlements and uses around the pond should be removed and replaced with pedestrian paths, seating areas and other activities in an enriched landscape." 9% strongly disagree, 13% disagree, 9% undecided, 47% agree and 22% strongly agree.

To the statement "I favour the placement of mandatory needs (cafes, tea gardens, restaurants, etc.) on the sides of the walls limited to the peripheral roads and on the edges of the border railings of the amusement park so that these uses can be brought to a position where they can be easily served in quiet corners" 9% strongly disagree, 14% disagree, 6% undecided, 53% agree and 17% strongly agree.

To the statement "I find it positive to enrich the landscape of the square with seating and waiting areas by removing ugly building additions around the municipal wedding hall building" 14% strongly disagree, 11% disagree, 7% undecided, 52% agree and 16% strongly agree.

To the statement "I find it positive to build a 100-200 car parking garage open to the use of the park and opera house" 13% strongly disagree, 12% disagree, 9% undecided, 48% agree and 18% strongly agree.

For the statement "I find the abolishment of the Mini Train negative", 15% strongly disagree, 18% disagree, 33% are undecided, 24% agree and 10% strongly agree.

For the statement "I find it positive to remove the unplanned settlements and uses on the main axis of the park and replace them with pedestrian paths and seating areas", 10% strongly disagree, 15% disagree, 10% are undecided, 43%

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agree and 21% strongly agree. The highest rate of 45% of the participants think that the entrances that provide the relationship between the park's perimeter roads and the automobile and pedestrian relationship should be reconsidered.

To the statement "I find it positive to have various playgrounds (shadow play, imaginative games and others)." 11% strongly disagree, 16% disagree, 11% are undecided, 47% agree and 16% strongly agree.

For the statement "Uses for children in the park are sufficient", 15% strongly disagree, 22% disagree, 22% undecided, 37% agree and 4% strongly agree.

"I find the removal of water skiing in the pond negative." 18% strongly disagree, 22% disagree, 19% undecided, 27% agree and 13% strongly agree with the statement.

To the statement "I find it positive that the Youth Centre Building (activities such as guitar, organ, binding, foreign language, table tennis, table football, billiards, internet, air-hockey, mini golf, 100-person movie theatre and cafeteria in the centre)" 11% strongly disagree, 13% disagree, 6% undecided, 46% agree and 24% strongly agree.

To the statement "I find it positive that the Cultural Centre Building is in terms of theatre and handicrafts." 9% strongly disagree, 15% disagree, 11% are undecided, 46% agree and 19% strongly agree.

**Table 7.** Distribution of expressions about the renewals in the park.

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		I have no opinion		Agree		Strongly Agree		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	Avg.	SD
	I find it positive the reconsidering of entrances that connect the cars and pedestrians and surrounding roads to the park.	68	14	109	22	36	7	227	45	60	12	3.20
Improvement of the square and its extension at Ulus entrance with café-tea buffets and pergolas, in a way that can also serve the employees who work in the vicinity of the park is a positive change.	74	15	79	16	51	10	221	44	75	15	3.29	1.31
At the railway station entrance, giving place to various buffets and patisserie cafes in the square, that is partially clear of amusement park is a positive change.	68	14	64	13	36	7	281	56	51	10	3.37	1.23
Including various kiosks, souvenir shops and tourist offices at the subway entrance is a positive change.	77	15	56	11	43	9	257	51	67	13	3.36	1.28
Preserving exactly the main circulation scheme of the park is a positive change.	68	14	64	13	118	24	204	41	46	9	3.19	1.19
I remember the pre-arrangement state of the park.	68	14	72	14	82	16	175	35	103	21	3.35	1.32
I think the arrangement is useful.	61	12	64	13	43	9	250	50	82	16	3.46	1.25

I think the number of visitors increased after the arrangement.	69	14	57	11	81	16	212	42	81	16	3.36	1.27
I spend more time in the park than before.	67	13	125	25	87	17	154	31	67	13	3.06	1.28
I benefit from the services in the park (café, tea garden, amusement park, etc.) more than before.	68	14	109	22	64	13	193	39	66	13	3.16	1.29
I find it positive to have an identification number for each tree.	46	9	71	14	89	18	204	41	90	18	3.44	1.20
I find it beneficial to remove the irregular settlements and uses around the pond and to replace them with pedestrian paths, sitting areas and other activities within an enriched landscape.	45	9	65	13	45	9	236	47	109	22	3.60	1.22
Placing the mandatory requirements of the park (café-tea gardens, restaurants, etc.) near to the walls forming a border with surrounding roads, and placing the amusement park near to border railings so that these uses are located in places that can easily serve in quiet corners are positive changes.	46	9	71	14	30	6	266	53	87	17	3.55	1.20
Enriching the landscape of the square with sitting and waiting areas and removing the ugly building attachments around the Municipal Wedding Hall Building are positive changes.	68	14	57	11	37	7	259	52	79	16	3.45	1.27
I find it positive to have an indoor parking lot of 100-200 cars, available for the park and opera house.	67	13	58	12	44	9	242	48	89	18	3.46	1.28
I find the removal of the Mini- Train negative.	75	15	88	18	165	33	121	24	51	10	2.97	1.19
I find it positive to remove the irregular settlements and uses on the main axis of the park and to replace them with pedestrian paths and seating areas.	52	10	73	15	52	10	216	43	107	21	3.51	1.26
I find it positive to have various playgrounds (Shadow play, intellectual games and others).	53	11	80	16	53	11	235	47	79	16	3.41	1.23
The uses for children in the park are sufficient.	74	15	111	22	110	22	184	37	21	4	2.93	1.16
I find it negative to remove water skiing in the pond.	91	18	112	22	96	19	135	27	66	13	2.95	1.32
I find it positive to have Gençlik Merkezi Binası (Youth Centre Building) (courses for guitar, organ, bağlama, foreign language; access to the Internet; table tennis, foosball, pool hall, air-hockey, mini golf, movie theater for 100 people and cafeteria).	53	11	65	13	30	6	228	46	116	24	3.59	1.28
I find it positive that there is a theater and craft department in Kültür Merkezi Binası (Cultural Centre Building).	45	9	73	15	53	11	226	46	95	19	3.51	1.22

According to Table 8, 13% strongly disagree, 16% disagree, 26% neither agree nor disagree, 38% agree and 7% strongly agree with the statement "Park entrances have become more prominent".

To the statement "It is easier to access the park" 11% strongly disagree, 11% disagree, 17% neither agree nor disagree, 48% agree and 13% strongly agree.

To the statement "I think I can reach the park staff more easily when needed" 13% strongly disagree, 22% disagree, 19% neither agree nor disagree, 34% agree and 11% strongly agree.

For the statement "I can easily reach any place in the park without losing my direction" 11% strongly disagree, 10% disagree, 18% neither agree nor disagree, 56% agree and 6% strongly agree.

For the statement "Parking facilities are better", 17% strongly disagree, 19% disagree, 24% neither agree nor disagree, 34% agree and 6% strongly agree.

For the statement "Rest areas in the park are more beautiful", 12% strongly disagree, 16% disagree, 13% neither agree nor disagree, 48% agree and 11% strongly agree.

To the statement "The rest areas in the park are better maintained" 12% strongly disagree, 16% disagree, 15% neither agree nor disagree, 49% agree and 9% strongly agree.

To the statement "Rest areas in the park are more useful" 10% strongly disagree, 16% disagree, 18% neither agree nor disagree, 46% agree and 10% strongly agree.

To the statement "The vegetative arrangements in the park are more beautiful than before" 9% strongly disagree, 12% disagree, 12% neither agree nor disagree, 51% agree and 16% strongly agree.

To the statement "The equipment elements in the park (garbage bins, lighting elements, benches, etc.) are more beautiful than before" 9% strongly disagree, 10% disagree, 13% neither agree nor disagree, 52% agree and 16% strongly agree.

To the statement "The image of the park in the city is better than before" 9% strongly disagree, 15% disagree, 12% neither agree nor disagree, 53% agree and 11% strongly agree.

To the statement "The arrangements around the lake are better than before" 8% strongly disagree, 11% disagree, 14% neither agree nor disagree, 57% agree and 10% strongly agree.

To the statement "Activities around the lake are more useful than in the past", 9% strongly disagree, 11% disagree, 15% neither agree nor disagree, 50% agree and 14% strongly agree. To the statement "The musical water curtain in the lake is good" 8% strongly disagree, 11% disagree, 13% neither agree nor disagree, 49% agree and 9% strongly agree.

To the statement "The quality of children's playgrounds is higher" 15% strongly disagree, 10% disagree, 22% neither agree nor disagree, 41% agree and 12% strongly agree.

To the statement “The quantity of playgrounds is more appropriate than before” 11% strongly disagree, 14% disagree, 22% neither agree nor disagree, 42% agree and 10% strongly agree.

To the statement “It is good that the amusement park was not removed” 11% strongly disagree, 13% disagree, 15% neither agree nor disagree, 41% agree and 20% strongly agree.

To the statement “It is a good feature that the number of paid activities in the park is higher than in the past”, 17% strongly disagree, 16% disagree, 21% neither agree nor disagree, 38% agree and 9% strongly agree.

To the statement “The park and the different areas within it are generally safer” 17% strongly disagree, 11% disagree, 16% neither agree nor disagree, 50% agree and 6% strongly agree.

To the statement “The control and authority that was not felt in the park before is now felt” 11% strongly disagree, 16% disagree, 19% neither agree nor disagree, 47% agree and 7% strongly agree.

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Agree		Strongly agree		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Avg.	SD
Park entrances have become more pronounced.	66	13	81	16	130	26	188	38	35	7	3.09	1.16
Access to the park is easier.	53	11	57	11	84	17	242	48	64	13	3.41	1.17
I think I can reach the staff in the park more easily if necessary.	67	13	110	22	96	19	171	34	56	11	3.08	1.24
I can easily reach anywhere in the park without losing my direction.	53	11	51	10	89	18	279	56	28	6	3.36	1.09
Parking facilities have improved.	87	17	96	19	119	24	170	34	28	6	2.91	1.20
Recreation areas in the park have become more beautiful.	59	12	80	16	66	13	238	48	57	11	3.31	1.21
Recreation areas in the park have become better maintained.	60	12	79	16	74	15	244	49	43	9	3.26	1.18
Recreation areas in the park have become more useful.	52	10	80	16	89	18	228	46	51	10	3.29	1.17
Herbal arrangements in the park are more beautiful than before.	45	9	58	12	60	12	257	51	80	16	3.54	1.16
Reinforcement elements in the park (trash bins, lighting elements, benches, etc.) are more beautiful than before.	46	9	50	10	67	13	258	52	79	16	3.55	1.15
The image of the park in the city is better than before.	46	9	74	15	59	12	265	53	56	11	3.42	1.15
Arrangements around the lake are more beautiful than before.	39	8	57	11	69	14	286	57	49	10	3.50	1.07
Activities around the lake are more useful than before.	46	9	57	11	76	15	250	50	71	14	3.49	1.15
The musical water curtain inside the lake is a good novelty.	39	8	57	11	67	13	243	49	94	19	3.59	1.15
The quality of children's playgrounds has become higher.	76	15	50	10	110	22	206	41	58	12	3.24	1.24

**Table 8.** Distribution of expressions about the contentment from the renewals in the park.

The number of children's playgrounds is more appropriate than before.	54	11	72	14	112	22	212	42	50	10	3.26	1.15
It is good that the amusement park has not been removed.	54	11	65	13	75	15	206	41	100	20	3.47	1.25
It is a good feature that the number of paid activities in the park is higher than before.	83	17	78	16	105	21	191	38	43	9	3.07	1.24
The park and its different areas are generally safer.	83	17	56	11	81	16	251	50	29	6	3.17	1.22
Control and authority that are not felt before in the park are now felt.	54	11	78	16	97	19	236	47	35	7	3.24	1.13

The independent group t-test was used to see if the opinion scores regarding the park's renewals showed a significant difference based on the gender variable, as shown in Table 9. It is observed that there was no statistically significant difference between the arithmetic means of the gender groups ( $t = 0.058$ ;  $p = 0.954 > 0.05$ ).

As a result of the independent group t-test conducted to determine whether the satisfaction scores about novelties in the park showed a significant difference according to the gender variable, it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of the gender groups was not statistically significant ( $t = 1,844$ ;  $p = 0.066 > 0.05$ ).

**Table 9.** T-Test results by gender.

		N	Avg.	Fd	t	p
Novelties	Women	248	3,33	1,01	0,058	0,954
	Men	252	3,32	1,12		
Satisfaction	Women	248	3,40	0,93	1,844	0,066
	Men	252	3,23	1,11		

According to Table 10, the independent group T-Test was used to determine whether the opinion scores about the renewals made in the park showed a significant difference according to the variable of finding it suitable for meeting place, and it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of the meeting place groups was statistically significant ( $t = 2,307$ ).

$p = 0,022 < 0,05$ ). In other words, the opinions of the participants who chose the park as a meeting place are positive when compared to the participants who did not choose it as a meeting place.

As a result of the independent group T-Test to determine whether the satisfaction scores about the novelties in the park show a significant difference according to the meeting place variable, it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of the meeting place groups was not statistically significant ( $t = 0,098$ ;  $p = 0,922 > 0,05$ ).

**Table 10.** T-test results according to suitability as a meeting place.

		N	Avg.	Fd	t	p
Novelties	Yes	293	3,42	1,11	2,307	0,022
	No	207	3,20	0,99		
Satisfaction	Yes	293	3,32	1,15	0,098	0,922
	No	207	3,31	0,83		

According to Table 11, as a result of the t-test conducted in order to determine whether the opinion scores about the renewals made in the park showed a significant difference according to the variable of suitability for families, it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of the suitability for families groups was not statistically significant ( $t = 1,428$ ;  $p = 0.154$  (0.05)).

As a result of the independent group t-test conducted to determine whether the satisfaction scores about novelties made in the park showed a significant difference according to the variable of suitability for families, it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of the suitability for families groups was not statistically significant ( $t = 1,773$ ;  $p = 0,066 > 0,05$ ).

		N	Avg.	Fd	t	p
Novelties	Yes	331	3,37	1,11	1,428	0,154
	No	169	3,23	0,98		
Satisfaction	Yes	331	3,37	1,06	1,773	0,066
	No	169	3,20	0,94		

**Table 11.** T-test results according to suitability for families.

According to Table 12, independent group t-test was used to determine whether the opinion scores about the renewals made in the park according to the visitor income profile showed a significant difference and it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of the visitor income profile groups was statistically significant ( $t = -2,881$ ).  $p = 0,004 < 0,05$ ). In other words, the opinions of middle income participants about the novelties are positive when compared to the participants with low income profile.

As a result of the independent group t-test conducted to determine whether the satisfaction scores of novelties in the park show a significant difference according to the visitor income profile variable, it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of the visitor income profile groups was not statistically significant ( $t = -1.910$ ;  $p = 0.057 > 0.05$ ).

		N	Avg.	Fd	t	p
Novelties	Low	126	3,07	1,19	-2,881	0,004
	Medium	374	3,41	1,01		
Satisfaction	Low	126	3,16	1,02	-1,910	0,057
	Medium	374	3,36	1,03		

**Table 12.** T-test results according to visitor income profile.

According to Table 13, independent group t-test conducted to determine whether the opinion scores about novelties made in the park showed a significant difference with respect to the utilization of the in-park enterprises, and it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of the groups benefiting from the in-park enterprises was found to be statistically significant ( $t = 4,989$ ;  $P = 0,000 < 0,05$ ). In other words, the opinions of the participants benefiting from the in-park enterprises about the novelties are positive when compared to the participants who do not benefit from these enterprises.

As a result of the independent group t-test conducted to determine whether the satisfaction scores about novelties made in the park showed a significant difference with respect to the utilization of the in-park enterprises, it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of the utilization groups in the park was found to be statistically significant ( $t = 3,008$ ;  $p = 0,003 < 0,05$ ). In other

words, participants who benefit from the in-park enterprises are more content than participants who do not benefit from these facilities.

**Table 13.** T-Test results according to the utilization status of in-park enterprises.

		N	Avg.	Fd	t	p
Novelties	Yes	323	3,50	1,04	4,989	0,000
	No	177	3,01	1,04		
Satisfaction	Yes	323	3,41	1,08	3,008	0,003
	No	177	3,13	0,90		

According to Table 14, the independent group t-test was used to determine whether the opinion scores about the renewals made in the park showed a significant difference according to the possibility of having a picnic, and it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of having a picnic groups was statistically significant ( $t = 7,176$ ;  $p = 0,000 < 0,05$ ). In other words, the opinions of the participants who have a picnic in the park about the novelties are positive when compared to the participants who cannot have a picnic.

As a result of the independent group t-test conducted to determine whether the satisfaction scores about the novelties made in the park showed a significant difference according to the possibility of having a picnic, it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of having a picnic groups was statistically significant ( $t = 5,556$ ;  $p = 0,000 < 0,05$ ). In other words, the participants who can have a picnic in the park are more content than the participants who cannot.

**Table 14.** T-test results according to the possibility of having a picnic.

		N	Avg.	Fd	t	p
Novelties	Yes	95	3,96	0,93	7,176	0,000
	No	405	3,18	1,04		
Satisfaction	Yes	95	3,82	1,07	5,556	0,000
	No	405	3,19	0,98		

According to Table 15, the independent group T-Test was used to determine whether the opinion scores about the renewals made in the park according to the variable of suitability for children and it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of suitability for children groups was not statistically significant ( $t = -0,513$ ;  $p = 0,608 > 0,05$ ).

The independent group T-Test was used to determine whether the satisfaction scores about the novelties in the park showed a significant difference according to the variable of suitability for children, and it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of suitability for children groups was statistically significant ( $t = 3,608$ ;  $p = 0,000 < 0,05$ ). In other words, participants who think that the activities are sufficient and there is a fun environment suitable for children in the park are more satisfied than those who think that the park needs to be developed for children.

		N	Avg.	Fd	t	p
Novelties	There is a fun environment suitable for children and activities are sufficient.	218	3,30	1,14	-0,513	0,608
	The park needs improvement for children	282	3,35	1,01		
Satisfaction	There is a fun environment suitable for children and activities are sufficient.	218	3,50	1,01	3,608	0,000
	The park needs improvement for children.	282	3,17	1,02		

**Table 15.** T-Test results for according to suitability for children.

According to Table 16, the independent group t-test was used to determine whether the opinion scores about the renewals made in the park according to the variable of visiting status profile before the novelties showed a significant difference and it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of the visiting status before the novelties groups was statistically significant. ( $t = -2,265$ ;  $p = 0,024 < 0,05$ ). In other words, the opinions of the participants who visited the park before the novelties are positive when compared to those who did not visit it before the novelties.

As a result of the independent group t-test conducted to determine whether the satisfaction scores about the novelties in the park show a significant difference according to the visitor income profile variable, it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of the visitor income profile groups was not statistically significant ( $t = -0,640$ ;  $p = 0,523 > 0,05$ ).

		N	Avg.	Fd	t	p
Novelties	Yes	236	3,21	1,28	-2,265	0,024
	No	264	3,43	0,82		
Satisfaction	Yes	236	3,28	1,28	-0,640	0,523
	No	264	3,34	0,74		

**Table 16.** T-test results according to visiting status before novelties.

According to Table 17, the one-way analysis of variance was used to determine whether the opinion scores about the renewals made in the park show a significant difference according to the visit frequency variable, and it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of the visit frequency groups was statistically significant ( $t = 8,976$ ;  $p = 0,000 < 0,05$ ). In other words, the opinions of the participants, whose frequency of visits to the park are once a month, as occasion serves, and rarely, about innovations are positive when compared to those who visit once a week.

The difference between the arithmetic means of visit frequency groups was found to be statistically significant as a consequence of the one-way analysis of variance that was carried out to ascertain whether the satisfaction scores regarding the novelties in the park show a significant difference according to the visit frequency variable ( $t = 11,077$ ;  $p = 0,000 < 0,05$ ). In other words, the participants whose frequency of visits to the park are once a month, as occasion serves, and rarely are more satisfied than those who visit once a week.

**Table 17.** T-test results by frequency of visit.

		N	Avg.	Fd	F	p	Difference
Novelties	Once a week	8	1,77	0,00	8,976	0,000	Once a month >
	Once a month	16	3,93	0,21			Once a week
	As occasion serves	174	3,21	1,05			As occasion serves > once a week
	Rarely	302	3,40	1,08			Rarely >
	Total	500	3,33	1,07			Once a week
As for satisfaction,	Once a week	8	4,10	0,00	11,077	0,000	Once a week > As occasion serves
	Once a month	16	3,90	0,05			once a month > As occasion serves
	As occasion serves	174	3,00	1,11			Rarely > as occasion it serve
	Rarely	302	3,44	0,96			
	Total	500	3,31	1,03			

According to Table 18, as a result of the one-way analysis of variance conducted to determine whether the opinion scores about the novelties in the park show a significant difference according to the time spent on visits variable, it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of the groups was statistically significant ( $t = 7,274$ ;  $p = 0,001 < 0,05$ ). In other words, the opinions of the participants, who spent 8-12 hours during the visit to the park, about the novelties are positive when compared to the participants who spend 0-3 hours and 4-7 hours.

As a result of the one-way analysis of variance conducted to determine whether the satisfaction scores about the novelties in the park show a significant difference according to variable of the time spent in visits, it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of the groups was statistically significant ( $t = 4,476$ ;  $p = 0,012 < 0,05$ ). In other words, participants who spend 8-12 hours during their visit to the park are more satisfied than participants who spend 4-7 hours.

**Table 19.** T-test results according to the time spent during the visit.

		N	Avg.	Fd	F	p	Difference
Novelties	0-3 hours	470	3,30	1,06	7,274	0,001	8-12 > 0-3
	4-7 hours	22	3,39	0,98			8-12 > 4-7
	8-12 hours	8	4,73	0,00			
	Total	500	3,33	1,07			
Satisfaction with the changes	0-3 hours	470	3,32	1,02	4,476	0,012	8-12 > 4-7
	4-7 hours	22	2,81	1,27			
	8-12 hours	8	4,00	0,00			
	Total	500	3,31	1,03			

According to Table 19, as a result of the one-way analysis of variance conducted to determine whether the opinion scores about the novelties in the park show a significant difference according to variable of transportation, it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of the transportation groups was not statistically significant ( $t = 2,049$ ;  $p = 0,130 > 0,05$ ).

As a result of the one-way analysis of variance conducted to determine whether the satisfaction scores about the novelties in the park show a significant difference according to the variable of transportation, it is seen that the difference between the arithmetic means of the transportation groups was found to be statistically significant ( $t = 13,109$ ;  $p = 0,000 < 0,05$ ). In other words, the participants who think that the access to the park is easy are more satisfied than the participants who find access to it as difficult and medium.

		N	Avg.	Fd	F	p	Difference
Novelties	Hard	14	2,84	0,87	2,049	0,130	
	Medium	125	3,25	1,13			
	Easy	361	3,37	1,05			
	Total	500	3,33	1,07			
Satisfaction with the changes	Hard	14	2,38	1,43	13,109	0,000	Easy > Medium
	Medium	125	3,05	1,04			
	Easy	361	3,44	0,97			Easy > Hard
	Total	500	3,31	1,03			

**Table 20.** T-test results according to transportation.

According to Table 20, there is a relatively moderate, positive and statistically significant relationship between the opinions about the renewals made in the park and the satisfaction with the novelties made in the park ( $r = 0,488$ ;  $p = 0,000 < 0,01$ ). As the positive opinions about the renewals made in the park increase when compared to the past, the satisfaction with the novelties made in the park increases.

		Satisfaction
Novelties	r	0,488
	p	0,000
	N	500

**Table 21.** Correlation analysis.

## RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this study, 51% of participants were men and 49% were women. Of the participants, 2% go to the park once a week, 3% go once a month, 35% go whenever they get the chance, and 60% go infrequently. Furthermore, 94 percent of the participants finish the visit in 0–3 hours, 4 percent in 4–7 hours, and 2 percent in 8–12 hours.

The study's findings indicate that 3% of participants thought visiting the park was easy, 25% thought it was medium, and 72% thought it was difficult. Furthermore, 35% of participants do not benefit from in-park enterprises, whereas 41% of participants do. About participants' satisfaction with the park's innovations, it is observed that 13% strongly disagree, 16% disagree, 26% neither agree nor disagree, 38% agree, and 7% strongly agree with the statement "Park entrances became more prominent." Fifty percent of the participants thought that overall, the park and its various areas were safer. Furthermore, 47% believe that the park now has control and authority that it did not previously have. When compared to previous years, the opinion scores regarding the park's renewals were not found to be statistically significant based on the gender variable. Regarding the gender variable, the novelties created in the park did not yield statistically significant satisfaction scores. It was found that the opinion scores about the

renewals made in the park were statistically significant when compared to the past, according to the variable of finding it as a meeting place. In other words, the opinions of the participants who chose the park as a meeting place are positive when compared to the participants who did not choose it as a meeting place. There was no statistically significant difference between the scores of opinions about the renewals made in the park according to the variable of suitability for families.

In addition, the difference between the opinion scores about the renewals made in the park according to the utilization of the in-park enterprises was found to be statistically significant. In short, the opinions of the participants benefiting from in-park enterprises about novelties are positive when compared to the participants not benefiting from them. In addition, it was found that the participants who benefited from the in-park enterprises were more satisfied than the participants who did not benefit from them.

As a result of the research, it was seen that the participants who thought that the access to the park was easy were more satisfied than the ones who found the transportation difficult and medium; and that as the positive opinions about the renewals increased, the satisfaction with the novelties made in the park increased, when compared to the past.

### **Suggestions**

It is seen that some of the city parks which occupy an important place within the cities, lost their functions and semantic integrity in the past, and some have regained their value that they had in the past with proper planning and they can be converted into areas that can meet modern-day needs.

Ankara Gençlik Parkı, which constitutes the area of this study, was established in a period when settlement in the city was not dense. The park has gone through establishment, development, deterioration and renewal periods with the city in which it is located. In other words, the changes in the city and urban life have shaped the park, the functions of the park and the park users.

The regeneration plan of Gençlik Parkı was originally designed to give the park a modern image. However, ignoring a number of features of the park during the Republican Period, when the park was originally planned, led to a decline in the number of former users of the park. For example, the teahouses were removed and the wedding hall was left to deteriorate. Such segregation and decline observed in park use has led to losses in urban memory and urban awareness. From this perspective, it can be said that the main problem related to Gençlik Park is that the park couldn't have provided the multi-cultural and multi-class population in the regeneration process.

However, Gençlik Park has greatly increased its functions during the renewal period and has gained appreciation of the city in terms of its present functions. The reason for this is that the park is handled with a good planning system after the deterioration period and that a management structure to maintain this system is established. In order for the planning system to be successful, it is recommended that all the values the park possesses be taken into consideration during the renewal phase and that different professional groups come together to carry out these studies. In addition, the fact that the park has a management structure and a budget that ensures its continuity can be considered as another reason for its success.

Urban renewal plans and strategies in Turkey frequently come after practices rather than before them, as in the case of Ankara Gençlik Park. Rather than taking this approach, plans and strategies for urban transformation should incorporate the process of challenging the opinions and expectations of the user. As a result, liveable and socially responsible urban areas will be created.

### **Conflict of Interest**

No conflict of interest was declared by the authors.

### **Authors' Contributions**

The authors contributed equally to the study.

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### **Ethics Committee Approval**

Ethics committee approval was obtained with the decision of the Faculty of Architecture and Design, Selçuk University, number 08/04 and dated 09.10.2023.

### **Legal Public/Private Permissions**

In this research, the necessary permissions were obtained from the relevant participants (individuals, institutions and organizations) during the survey, in-depth interview, focus group interview, observation or experiment.

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