Riverside Recreational Landscape Planning and Design: The Case of Kalınçam Village

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Abstract

Increasing urban populations and decreasing amounts of green areas around the world increase the recreational needs of people. The areas designed within the scope of increasing recreational needs increase the amount of green areas in cities and attract the attention of tourists. Tourism-oriented recreation areas should be suitable for the region and include original values, taking into account the needs of the region. Scope of work; Recreation area planning and design, which will be a first in Turkey, has been made along the Fol Stream in the Tonya district of Trabzon city. Within the scope of this design, a tourism-oriented recreation area is planned along a corridor with a length of 5.71 km, which will both meet the needs of the local people and strengthen the local people economically. The planning and designs made throughout the recreation area were tried for the first time with original design and equipment elements within the scope of Thematic Rural Tourism Center.

1. Introduction

It is expected that the world population will be concentrated in cities and this trend will continue in the projections created [1]. Since the day Covid-19 emerged, all people have started to produce many alternatives in order to live calmer and more isolated. One of these solutions is to live in villages or rural settlements or to participate in recreational activities frequently in rural areas. For this reason, urban space solutions should be presented in rural settlements in accordance with the region. While producing these solutions, it is necessary to avoid the mistake of producing the same solutions in all Turkish cities and making them all look alike. In short, the values specific to the region should be handled and evaluated, and a path should be taken in the light of this. In addition, while making arrangements in rural areas, they should not adversely affect the ecological conditions of the region, should not transform the area into an urban space, and should not cause loss of identity. In this context, Kalınçam Village in Tonya district of Trabzon province was considered as the design area. The stream passing through Kalınçam Village acts as an edge [2] within the village according to the planning definitions. At the same time, it has been evaluated as a green road within the scope of green infrastructure in order not to disturb the ecological balance in the village.

Green roads are generally defined as natural formations such as rivers, valleys, ridges, recreational areas following railway routes, scenic roads, natural reserve areas, cultural/historical areas to settlements or areas that connect them [3]. Green roads can be planned for recreation or nature protection, as well as green roads with both purposes.

Recreation; It is defined as getting away from daily routines, resting mentally and physically, allocating time for personal hobbies in their free time [4]. As urban activities and urbanization increase rapidly, the need for recreational areas increases rapidly [4,5].

Since the second half of the 20th century, tourism has become one of the fastest growing and expanding sectors in the world economy. The effective use of the resources of the developing and expanding tourism sector is important in terms of eliminating the imbalances between regions and ensuring regional development [6]. It has also revealed that the demographic and socio-economic changes that occur in the local people within the framework of regional tourism activities are effective in the view and attitudes of the local people towards tourism [7,8].

Tourism is an economically important sector, both internationally and nationally, throughout the country. Tourism has a great contribution to employment, the use of unique values, equal income distribution and the development of rural areas throughout the country. But; When tourism physical planning is not done well, it creates negativities for the protection of natural and cultural environment. In order to protect these reservations and assets, the concept of ecotourism has come to the fore in time [9].

Within the scope of this study, local characteristics and identity were determined. As a result of the determinations, deficiencies were determined in line with the needs of the local people. In this direction, the elements with original identity value were abstracted and the recreation area was arranged by considering the balance of protection and use at the creek where reclamation work was done. Frequently used in these abstractions in the region; designs were created based on serender, stuffed eye tissue, black hive, scientific hive, bellows used in beekeeping and honeycombs.

2. Material and Method

Kalıncam Village of Tonya district has been discovered in recent years with its natural and cultural resource values, and has been declared a Tourism Region with the aim of bringing the village to domestic and foreign tourism (Figure 1). Among the tourism resource values are the unique natural landscape features created by the topographic structure, stream-wide and narrow valley formations, unique rural
villages and plateau settlements and architecture, agricultural
landscape patterns and the Famous Fol Honey, dairy products
(famous butter, cheese), spruce, beech, Chestnut, rhododendron,
blueberry-dominated natural vegetation creates a unique structure
every season, a cool climate structure that offers bioclimatic comfort,
clean forest air and transportation opportunities. The population of
Kalınçam Village, one of the oldest and largest villages in the district,
is also very dense especially in summer months. All these
opportunities have attracted the attention of tourism investors, Folea
Tourism Facility has been put into service within the borders of the
village, and investment studies for new accommodation facilities are
continuing.

As a result of the Fol Stream reclamation, which are about to be
completed by the State Hydraulic Works (DSI), the evaluation of new
area gains along the stream route has come to the agenda. While some
village residents made new arrangements in these areas as
agricultural areas, some of them started to create commercial areas.

Although the stream was successfully reclamated by DSI in terms of
technique, the visibility of the water decreased visually, even though
this construction was supported by reinforcements such as stone
walls, wrought iron fences and bridges (Figure 2). The natural
ecosystem of the stream has deteriorated, and although access to the
stream has been achieved at some points, human, domestic and wild
animal access/easy access to the water has been partially limited in
general. For this reason, the walking path to the waterside has gained
even more importance in terms of making the waterfront more useful
and visually contributing to the region.

The idea of a walking and bicycle path project within the boundaries
of the village was conveyed to the Mayor of Tonya, who stated that he
would follow up the project if it was created. Project preparations are
ongoing and it is aimed to be introduced in the near future.

The walking path initially covers the distance between the first
mosque in the village and the Scout School area at the village exit (5.71
km). The second mosque area, which is the village center, was chosen
as the pilot area. The walking path was passed from the opposite side
of the stream in other parts parallel to the main road in places with
suitable width. Uninterrupted transportation was provided by using
the existing wrought iron bridges on the walking path.

3. Results

3.1. Determination of the natural life track

The natural life track is 5.71 km long during the planning phase
(Figure 3), and the area was planned in 2 stages.

The length of the recreation track planned as the first stage is 3.1 km
and covers the central region of Kayışli-Kalınçam Villages (Figure 4).

The length of the track planned as the second stage is 2.61 km long,
although it is north of the first stage (Figure 5). While determining the
natural life track, it emerged as a project that connects the villages,
stretches along the Fol Stream where the reclamation work is carried
out, and will reveal the natural values of the region, at the same time
protect the local values and fill the lack of recreation areas in the
region where tourism comes to the fore.
3.2. Determination of the most suitable recreational equipment areas in the natural life track

The functions in the natural life track have been determined both within the scope of spreading the tourism vitality in the region to the whole region and considering the property status of the lands. In addition, the needs of local people were determined through observation and recreation items in the area were included. At the center of the life track, original designs reflecting the local socio-cultural structure were included by making abstractions to promote local values and especially Fol Honey and attract tourism-oriented attention (Figure 6).

3.3. Design of recreational equipment elements—Concept

Local values were prioritized in the design of recreational equipment elements in the course planning. A special inspiration and concept area has been determined for the promotion of Fol Honey, one of the most famous products in the region.

In addition, the most known of the local architectural elements along the track; modern Serender structures have been redesigned and placed at certain distances along the track. In terms of the economic development of the local people; Designs such as the Local Village Market, Book Cafe, Country Wedding Area, and Lake Area are included (Figure 7). These designs are; Although it is tried for the first time in Turkey within the scope of thematic rural tourism center, it has an original design.

3.4. Structural planning

Uninterrupted walking and cycling path will be covered with natural compaction ground.

A lost culture recovery was achieved by placing the gazebos, called “Serender” in the region, in suitable areas along the walking path. Hartama, which was used as a roofing material in the region in ancient times, will provide harmony with the natural environment.

Seating units are made of natural wood logs. For this purpose, resin-free trees such as beech, chestnut, oak and alder will be used.

At the point close to the center, original children's play elements from the natural trees of the region will be placed.

There are view terraces and canopies in suitable areas along the waterfront with the walking path. Shades will be built on the terraces extended over the water so that they can see the water. Care has been taken to ensure that these are compatible with nature, reflecting the leaves of herbaceous or woody plant species that grow naturally in the region. For example: The herbaceous plant known as kela in the region and the mushroom plant, which has many species in the region, were used.

At a point close to the village center, there is a local product sales area, a country cafe with a library, a security and a service building for bike rental. All the buildings in this area will be built in the style of stone knitting between wooden beams and the traditional architecture of the region will be kept alive in this area. This type of building style is used in all structural units, contributing to the brand value of the area.

The idle local house at an accessible distance along the walking path will be restored and equipped as a village mansion, and it will be turned into a stopover area or promotion office that offers the opportunity to eat and drink.

The walking path will be integrated with the newly designed country wedding area.

Along the road route, there are fountains, WCs and garbage cans. With the traditional fences of the region, function and visuality are provided in the space.

Along the route, introductory plates that introduce the natural and cultural features of the region and show the walking distance will be placed.

In the illumination of the area, night use was encouraged by placing medium-height lighting poles that reflect the flower of the likarpa/blueberry plant that grows naturally in the region. In some areas, spot lighting was preferred to emphasize the architectural and natural structure.

Completely natural plant species were used in order to provide the opportunity for shady walks and to provide visuality along the shores of the road. For this purpose, plant species such as mountain ash, mountain maple, rhododendrons, likarpa, currant, viburnum, euonymus, lily were mainly used, and all plant species will be labeled with their scientific names in terms of environmental sensitivity along the route.
3.5. Advantages and disadvantages of recreational planning of Kalıncam Village

Due to the excessive increase in vehicle traffic, pedestrian transportation in the village jeopardizes pedestrian safety / lack of walking area for pedestrians on the roadside

Existence of new waterfront areas that will ensure pedestrian safety and provide an opportunity for the construction of walking paths with the completion of the stream improvement work.

Having a suitable slope and flatness for the pedestrian road in the village / suitability of the topography, uninterrupted transportation opportunity

Providing the opportunity to use as a bicycle path as well as safe pedestrian transportation / encouraging the use of bicycles

It offers pedestrians the opportunity to walk in a more comfortable, noise-free, safe, healthier and more natural area away from exhaust gas on the waterfront.

Opportunity to create different recreational/resting and shopping areas along the walking path

Benefiting from the visual and bioclimatic effect of the stream

In addition to the tourism investments in the village, the location of the village on the main transportation route of many highland settlements / the prestige it will provide to the village in addition to its function.

Opportunity to use natural living and non-living building materials / ecopark, sustainable approach compatible with the environment

Positive approaches of Tonya Municipality, which is the implementer, on the subject and the possible encouragement of the village because it is a neighborhood of Trabzon Metropolitan Municipality/decision makers to know the region.

Contributing directly to employment with the presence of security, cleaning and control officers throughout the area.

With the implementation of the project, besides providing a comfortable livable space for the local people, it is aimed to bring many benefits such as contributing to the economic structure of the region, functional, aesthetic, ecological, providing prestige to the village and contributing directly to its promotion.

The walking path built by the Tonya Municipality in the city center should attract great attention in terms of people's interest in new designs.

To have a walking path that is sensitive to the environment, unique and can set a model for other villages.

3.6. Challenges/threats to the construction of the recreational project

Cost/economic situation in the implementation of the project

Reluctance of decision makers and implementers

Negative approaches of the owners of agricultural land on the river bank

Expropriation difficulties in some areas

Problems that may arise if the area is used intensively

In case the pandemic disappears, it is expected that foreign visitors will come to the village. The project idea can be discussed with Trabzon Governorship, Metropolitan Municipality, Tonya Municipality, tourism investors, village headman and residents, the feasibility of the project can be made and the project can be sourced from the relevant funds. It is also an opportunity to have local politicians who will convey the project to the relevant authorities and contribute from the procurement of resources to its implementation. The project, the main concept of which has been presented above, will be carried out jointly with Tonya Municipality. With the implementation of the project, an original design will emerge that completely refers to the natural and cultural environment.

A physical change process has begun to be experienced with new investments in the village of Kalıncam, which has been declared a Tourism Zone. In all physical investments, non-recyclable structures that will disrupt the natural and cultural structure of the region should be avoided. There is a need for controllable physical investments that are ecological, aesthetic, sustainable, highlighting the local identity, in peace with the user. In all investments, first of all, village residents should be informed and the balance between protection and use should be taken into consideration with a participatory approach. We all have a great responsibility to carry our natural and cultural resource values to the future with confidence.

Declaration of Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest. They have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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