



HISTORICAL INFORMATION ON PARKO TRITSI

PARKO TRITSI
Historical context

The Park of Environmental education "Athens, Tritsi", sited between the municipalities of San (east-west), Agia Anargyri (north) and Karamanli (south), is part of a larger urban area of about 2.500.000 square meters, known as "Pirga Tritsi". In 1914 it was given as an estate to King Othon, who built the summer residence for Queen Aspasia in 1917, with all necessary facilities for his labor staff and the horse stable.

After the voting of 3rd July 1983 of the national council of Athens, the property was declared a national park. The Heritors, through a preliminary compensation of 7.400.000 drachmas in 1985, of which they finally gained 4.500.000 from the Greek State.

After several law procedures that lasted many decades the property of "Pirga Tritsi" was transferred to the government property office and was placed in 20 years in the Royal Institute, which established a series of technical schools, the National Teachers' Centre and other organizations in the area.

In 1983 a part of 972 sq. was given to Athens Organization of town planning in order to create a town local amusement attraction, and one of the biggest thematic parks of Europe. This part already included roads, railways and land of several authorities.

The legislation that was passed includes the architectural restoration of the historical buildings as listed buildings, the agricultural properties and their surrounding areas, and the areas of trees, especially those of the municipality of Ag. Anargyri. It also included building restrictions and bonuses.

ZONES OF BUILDING CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT BOARD

ZONES OF BUILDING CONTROL
The decree of 1996 determined zones of building control regulation of the surrounding municipalities, according to which land uses and construction forms are arranged in three regions: A, B and C.

Region A:
Public spaces with organized or free green areas
Allowed utilization-activities
open facilities
outdoor facilities
Cinema hall
restaurants - amusement facilities
recreational education
ecological shops-markets
markets
recycling centres
architectural center, parking, existing religion places, small railway station, swimming facilities

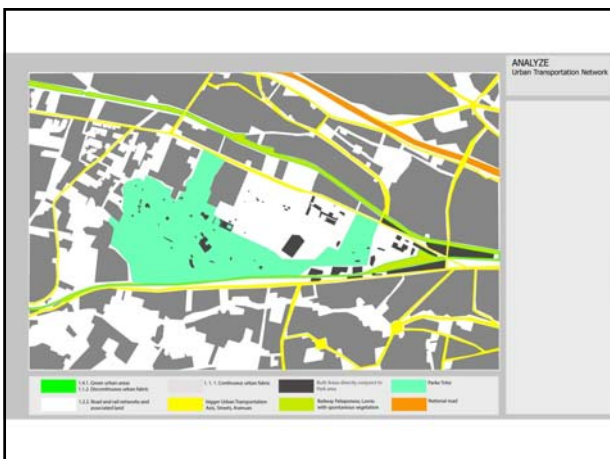
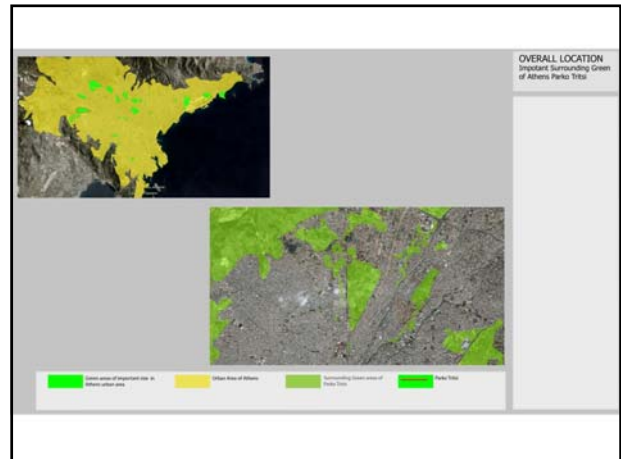
Region B:
Historical buildings
Allowed utilization-activities
agricultural facilities
residences, offices
cultural facilities
urban bar
no stock farming

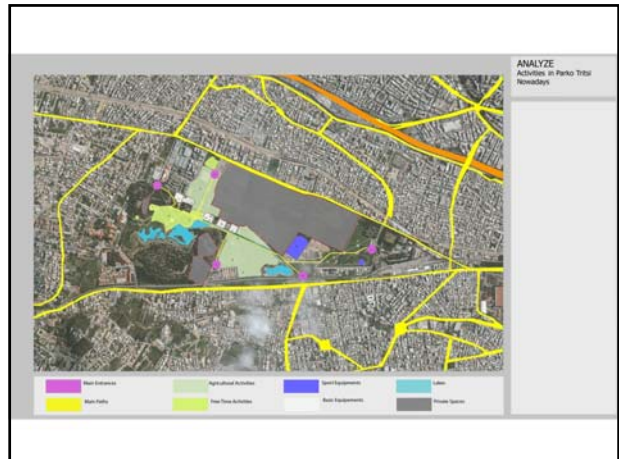
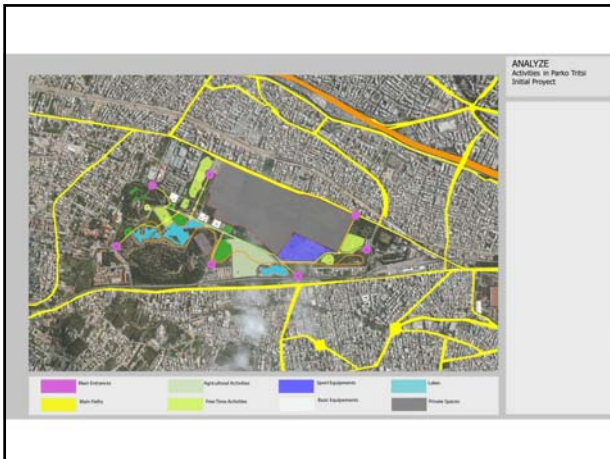
Region C:
Organic farming
Allowed utilization-activities
agriculture, stock farming
restaurants
shops, electronic parking

In 2001 the park was given from government property office to ASDA and in 2002 a management council was established with the following duties:
- conservation and operation of the park in terms of ecotour development
- environmental education
- usage of clean technologies
- research and production of biological goods in the park
- activities for visitors- adults
- creation of botanical gardens and of a seed bank
- games, adventures, sports
- common ecological goods
- anything else good for the park

The council consists of 9 members (the mayors of San, Ag. Anargyri, Karamanli, and a representative from VIKOSI), Athens Organization, Athens Planning Institute, ASDA, private university and an ecological organization.

REFERENCE PAPER





THE USERS OF THE PARK

The park is visited by 60,000 people on the winter, and 250,000 on the summer. On the whole year the actual statistics that visit the park are 70,000, and those that visit H.O.S. are 12,000.

Apart from the organized activities by the management based on the environment, people use the park for several activities like jogging, bicycling, walking, picnics, etc. Especially on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays with good weather the park is full of people enjoying the space in the city.

There is a strong movement by the citizens of north-west Athens, aiming to stop the commercialization and expansion of the park, and the attempts of the management to give permits to activities such as a disturbance to visit life of the park, and its beautiful natural frame, and not public spaces to private investors.

Their goals are:

- To realize their vision of the park as a frame local education of environmental education, cultural interest and awareness, with the use of olive groves, recycling and treatment, protection, the development of organic agriculture (paper market - festival), the creation of areas of creative environment (the games, small trees and myriophylls), and the establishment of an environmental center of research and education.
- To pass for the necessary finance - 100% from the state, responsible management, and social control.
- To employ the necessary staff (scientific-technical) with high quality of employment.
- To remove all private investors expansion of the park and restore the public character of the park.
- People believe that an economic, environmental and political crisis is connected to the park.



MAIN PROBLEMS OF THE PARK

Maybe the biggest problem of the park is the short age of money or the loss of money. With expenses of about 1 million euros per year, there is no budget from H.E.C.C.C., neither financing with the region (Urban), in addition, the park is in the "black list" of the E.U. because the money grant wasn't used invested and the activities of the park never give income.

The works that cost 1 million (E.U. and State) were never finished. For example, biological cleaning and water recycling were not completed, as water flow to diffuse river and the latest water come from a lake at Marousi, the small lake inside the park never operated, the 4000 trees of the initial study were never planted.

Consequently, the park is abandoned, with no maintenance, broken benches, malfunctioning the hydrotechnology, plastic recycling water, the lake turning into marshes, and part of the park turning into rubble (rubbish) from local markets, and comes from other and restaurants.

A big part of the park at the south edge is enclosed with fence by the Municipality, so the park is split in two.

Furthermore, there is not enough labor for the needs of the park (only 3 working men - minimum requirement of 20 constant labor and 20 seasonal) and no constant labor agreement and unpaid personnel staff - low security of employment. The operation of the park (light etc.) is mostly based on voluntary work.

THE INFLUENCES ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The new changes of the park are not compatible with its character. The new park, the walk, the abandoned playgrounds seem to be annoying for the park's landscape. In addition, the olive tree and pistachio bark is given to private investors, an existing small building holds an exhibition of sculptures, which means a disturbance of visit life, the small team of maintenance attention has turned into a karaoke gym and a big part of money waste is given to Hellenic Republic (H.E.C.C.C.) with the rent) and not for environmental activities. The Commission on the center of the park means more pollution and a lot of garbage. The management could also plan to turn a big area of the park into a water park with restaurants.

These changes pollute the park, annoy the visit life of the park, and further harm the people with more expenses.

POSITIVE IMPACTS

Since it is 6 times bigger than the National Garden, the park has been one of the best with the secondary/tertiary in the city, especially for birds. Due to the water that flows between the main market lanes which is very rare in Athens, and the diversity of plants and trees (pines, olive trees, deciduous trees, shrubs, olive trees, pistachios), the place attracts many different species - mainly birds, wasps, ducks, herons.

Because of the park the park contributes on the cleaning of Athens' pollution air and on temperature control, and also helps the humidity rates.

The park is a big attraction for bicyclists, since it is full of very beautiful and interesting routes. The easy access through kids' playground and the large parking areas are very helpful too. There are many and colorful tables, but unfortunately not enough tables on summer, since there are not enough big trees on the tables.

