

HYBRID PARKS

«*The contribution of Parks to environmental awareness*»

Konstantinos Papadopoulos
Forester Environmentalist
President of NGO “RODIAN FOREST”



ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ
ΝΟΤΙΟΥ ΑΙΓΑΙΟΥ



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The parks are green spaces in or around the urban network which provide valuable services to the quality of life of residents of the modern city and are the lungs of life.



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Once the value of the park was mainly confined to the ecological functions such as improvement of microclimate, decontamination of air, noise reduction, protection of soil and flood protection of the urban fabric.

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Nowadays, the parks perform multiple functions which are classified into 3 main categories :

- ecological,
- economic (tourism, increase land value),
- social.

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Social functions



- The parks are shelters for recreation, relaxation, fitness and social interaction for the inhabitants.
- Contribute to mental and physical health.
- Improve landscape's aesthetics.
- Urge contact with nature and are areas for environmental education and awareness.

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Environmental Education



The environmental education can contribute to the transmission of knowledge and values that will shape new attitudes and behavior towards life in the natural environment.



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Environmental Education



1st step

Awareness of local society concerning the values and importance of the natural environment.



2nd step

The active involvement of residents through various environmental activities.

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Environmental Education



3rd step

The creation of motives, means, mechanisms for the gradual improvement of the local environment through voluntary work and the stakeholders' cooperation.



4th step

The gradual change of the traditional attitudes towards the protection and enhancement of the environment.

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Parks & Environmental Awareness



Parks are excellent areas for experiential learning. Because of their easy access, they offer to the residents the possibility to contact nature everyday and the opportunity for creative activities around the natural environment in urban areas.



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Parks & Environmental Awareness



One more advantage of the parks compared to natural ecosystems that extend far away from the settlements is the fact that they can have certain structure which accommodates the implementation of environmental programs and other relevant activities within the framework of environmental awareness.

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The importance of Parks for environmental awareness in Rhodes

Two factors that make particularly important the role of the parks for the environmental awareness of the Rhodian people:



1. The shrinkage of the natural environment and especially of forests and woodlands due to frequent fires.



2. The abandonment of forests and the lack of organized recreation in the countryside.

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RHODIAN FOREST

Who are we...

RHODIAN FOREST is an Environmental Non Governmental Organization aiming to become the tool which will achieve through programs and coordinated actions to collect and divert the efforts of all environmentally conscious citizens in a common cause, the prosperity of the natural wealth of Rhodes.



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What we seek...

The environmental awareness is NGO's primary purpose because it is the base for a society that will respect the natural environment and will live in harmony with it. Especially the activities for the awareness of young children are priority for us because they are the future citizens of the island.



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Our activities...

We organize visits in parks in Rhodes where we inform the participants for the environmental characteristics of the area's ecosystems and their importance for our life.



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*Informing the 4th System
Scouts Rhodes on the flora of
the region*



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Informing children in the summer camp of Rhodes College on the value of the forest

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Informing students of the 8th Elementary School of Rhodes about the value of urban parks

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Our activities...



Then, certain routes are selected within the park with stops at points of special interest. In this way, we give the opportunity to the participants to come in contact with the nature emotionally, using through the senses the various environmental stimuli and scientifically, adopting a scientific approach by studying the elements of the environment.

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Students of the 8th Elementary School of Rhodes in Rodini Park

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Meeting the flora of the area



Measurement of the tree's age



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Excursions in cooperation with
the Sports Department of the
Municipality of Rhodes

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Our activities...

In the next step, we implement environmental activities in the park such as plantings, cleanups, environmental games content etc, in order to cause the active participation and action by the participants.



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Planting by Scouts of Rhodes

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Cleaning of Traffic Education Park by members and volunteers of Rhodian Forest

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Our activities...

Purpose of the above actions: To obtain through experiential and emotional relationship developed with nature, respectful attitude and sense of responsibility towards the natural environment.



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Our suggestions...



The principles of environmental design and sustainability impose the transformation of the parks into modern recreational and educational areas inside the urban network aiming to the preservation and protection of the nature.



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Our suggestions...

Our suggestions regarding the highlighting of Rhodes' parks a areas of environmental awareness are oriented by the support of environmental education programs that could be implemented.



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Our suggestions...



Parks of larger expansion that simulate the natural environment, with the careful selection of representative species of endemic and wild growing flora and composition of vegetation in order to consist biodiversity shelters within cities



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Our suggestions...

- Creation of appropriate infrastructure, such as:



Environmental kiosk

Environmental paths



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**Thank you for your
attention!**