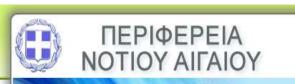
#### «The contribution of Parks to environmental awareness»

Konstantinos Papadopoulos
Forester Environmentalist
President of NGO "RODIAN FOREST"













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.







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.





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



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

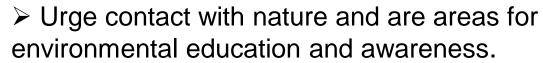




#### **Social functions**



- The parks are shelters for recreation, relaxation, fitness and social interaction for the inhabitants.
- Contribute to mental and physical health.
- Improve landscape's aesthetics.







#### **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.







#### **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.



#### **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.



#### **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.





#### **Parks & Environmental Awareness**





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



#### The importance of Parks for environmental awareness in Rhodes



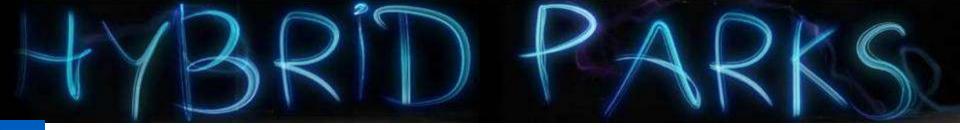
Two factors that make particularly important the role of the parks for the environmental awareness of the Rhodian people:

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.







#### **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.





#### **RHODIAN FOREST**

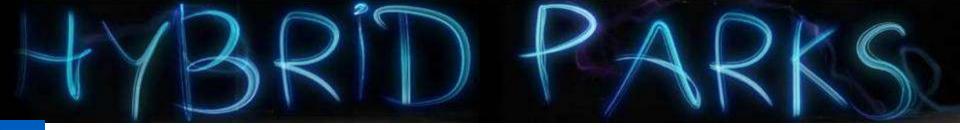
What we seek...



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.









#### **RHODIAN FOREST**

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.





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











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







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





#### **RHODIAN FOREST**

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.









Students of the 8<sup>th</sup> Elementary School of Rhodes in Rodini Park



Meeting the flora of the area





Measurement of the tree's age







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

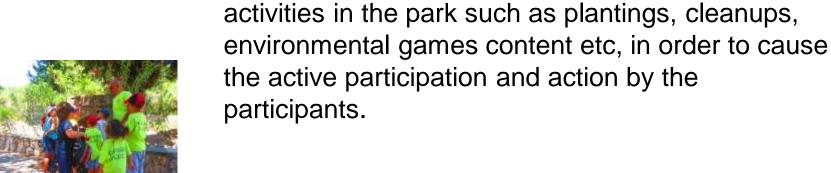




#### **RHODIAN FOREST**

In the next step, we implement environmental

Our activities...













Planting by Scouts of Rhodes







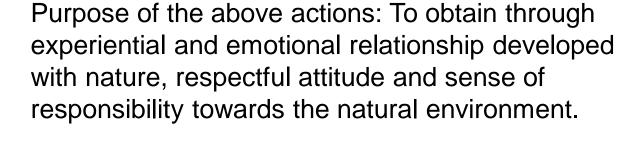
Cleaning of Traffic Education Park by members and volunteers of Rhodian Forest





#### **RHODIAN FOREST**

Our activities...











#### **RHODIAN FOREST**

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.







#### **RHODIAN FOREST**

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.







#### **RHODIAN FOREST**

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





#### **RHODIAN FOREST**

Our suggestions...

Creation of appropriate infrastructure, such as:



**Environmental kiosk** 

**Environmental paths** 





#### Thank you for your attention!

