



“Conservation of Architectural Heritage, CAH” 23-27 November 2015, Luxor

Establishing a Process for Handling Valuable Landscapes: A Comparative Analysis for Managing Historical Parks in Egypt Nourhan H. Abdel-Rahman*

Cairo University, Faculty of Engineering, Department of Architecture, University Street CUFE Campus, Giza 12316, Egypt

Abstract

The preservation of Cultural Heritage in historically rich third world countries is a complex issue. Historical urban parks in particular face various challenges relating to management and evaluation. This paper tackles formulating a pragmatic process for managing historical urban parks in Egypt through a comparative analysis between distinguished foundations in the field. These are UNESCO's World Heritage Convention (Global), Med-O-Med (Intercultural, Mediterranean and ME countries), NPS (National, USA), TCLF (Non-governmental, USA) and Barcelona's City council (Local, Spain). The research is verified through survey among professionals in relevant fields in Egypt, to authenticate the applicability of the recommended proposal.

© 2016 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

Peer-review under responsibility of IEREK, International experts for Research Enrichment and Knowledge Exchange

Keywords: Historical Parks; Cultural Landscapes; Urban Management; Egypt.

1. Introduction

One of the resilient ways of preserving the collective memory of history is through historical landscape settings. Historically intense countries like Egypt carry endless chronicles within their open spaces. Sadly, we find layers of this history threatened by hectic stresses not limited to aging erosion, user needs and urban growth. With little awareness from community and municipality, urban parks are deprioritized compared to other contemporary demands. The dispute of appropriate management of historical landscapes is already a vital issue pursued by various major foundations globally, in hope to preserve valuable landscape settings. These efforts that spread worldwide had

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +2 0100 6660119; fax: - .
E-mail address: nourhan_abdelrahman@hotmail.com

an inclusive vision for settings that need protection that sites requiring preservation are not just buildings, but rather the whole context (Lipský & Romportl, 2007). This issue has been covered by different approaches in various countries, yet Egypt remains isolated in this trajectory. The gap between global movement and Egyptian realm concerning valuable landscapes is rather noticeable and yet to be studied. This research investigates these existing approaches through analyzing five major foundations working actively in the field, comparing between them, in order to conclude a proposal that suits the Egyptian context.

Nomenclature

CLR	Cultural Landscape Report
DOI	Department of Interior
FUNCI	Fundación de Cultura Islámica
ICOMOS	The International Council on Monuments and Sites
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NPS	National Park Service
QoL	Quality of Life
TCLF	The Cultural Landscape Foundation
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHC	World Heritage Convention
WHL	World Heritage List
WOT	What's Out There (TCLF List)

2. Parks as a Product in Egyptian Cities

To illustrate the significance of this research, it is vital to review the current situation of parks in Egypt. Cairo, as the biggest city in Egypt in terms of area and population, and its capital, is the most adequate subject for pilot analysis. Thus an analysis of the current situation of Egyptian urban parks in Cairo portrays a representation of the local context. Urban parks in Cairo suffer in various aspects. These aspects include lack of sufficient planning, design and management, as well as being deprioritized in funding and maintenance efforts. Thus the result is noticeable degradation in quality, quantity, and distribution of such urban green spaces in the city (Abd El Aziz, 2012, p. 39).

The main problems with urban parks in Cairo can be summarized in three focal attributes that are clearly noticeable in the Egyptian urban context. These are the shortage in quantity, poor distribution, and poor quality.

- **Shortage in Quantity;** can be expressed in the rather low citizen quota of open green spaces in Great Cairo, which doesn't exceed 1.2 m²/person. This is considered extremely low as compared to international figures (Abd El Aziz, 2012).
- **Poor distribution;** evident in the unjust division of existing green spaces is substantially apparent in the difference between middle/high social class areas and lower class areas. For example, Zamalek (a district for upper middle/high class) has plenty of parks, and a citizen quota of 10.9 m²/person, while other poorer districts like Mataria have nearly no public green spaces at all (Abd El Aziz, 2012).
- **Poor Quality;** appears mostly in parks that have been design or redesigned in the modern era in Cairo (late 20th century till present), as it resulted from applying "prototype designs", which show no respect for user needs or economical and environmental aspects. Management regimes have a share in the liability for this situation, as their policies constantly failed to preserve and maintain parks in acceptable condition. They also ignore over-seeing any activities to attract users from surrounding neighborhoods (Abd El Aziz, 2012).

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1107661>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1107661>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)