Master Thesis

Creation of an attractive City Park for the citizens of Mitrovica

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Abstract

City Parks started to be developed in the middle of the nineteenth century. During different times they were developed in diverse ways. In Kosova, for political reasons, for a long time little attention was paid to green spaces: city parks, squares, and other public spaces. The city parks that had existed in the past were lost, mainly due to the lack of maintenance. I found the town of Mitrovica to be an interesting case as it is divided in two parts as a consequence of war. This thesis is intended to discuss the importance of city parks, their development and the use we make of them. The study mainly focuses in three questions: (i) How has the city park been used throughout history? (ii) How could an attractive city park for the citizens of Mitrovica look like? (iii) How can it be used as a connection between the different parts of the town?

This thesis illustrates the activities and uses of city parks in history, the uses that the old city park in Mitrovica has had, describes the main characteristics of Mitrovica as a region and a town, and analyzes the proposed location for a city park, observes the reaction of the citizens of Mitrovica about the city park. At the end of the thesis, I made a project proposal for a new city park in Mitrovica.
Acknowledgements

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For the research made in Kosova, I would like to thank the deputy chairman of Mitrovica- Ismail Smaka, officials of Municipality Assemble of Mitrovica and the Designing Company Linprojekt. My recognition goes also to the director of the town library in Mitrovica “Latif Mitrovica, the members of NGO “Handikos”,” the union of pensioners of Mitrovica”, the kindergarten (children)” Gezimi yne”, the primary school “Avdullah Shabani” and all citizens of Mitrovica that responded in my interview.

I dedicate a special acknowledgment to my family that supported me morally and financially during the study period, and to my friends for their support.
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1. Introduction

1.1 Subject of the thesis

City Parks are public spaces that are known as the most meaningful contribution given to the citizens by landscape architecture. Parks keep changing and evolving. There are remarkable differences from one period to another, but the main purpose of City Parks is recreation.

An American professor of architecture Galen Cranz explained the development of the City Parks in four different periods.

In the first period, parks located in the country side were created to offer workers and residents places for rest. A key characteristic was separation of walking paths and vehicle roads by intention to create more secured spaces for recreation and relaxation for people in these parks.

In the second period, parks were built to meet the needs of immigrant moving to United States. Also, they were built for people that had been retired at that time and the park was known as a replacement of the street. The main characteristic of these parks were swimming pools.

Third period is marked by outside and inside activities. For example, small parks were created in the city neighbourhoods. The characteristic of this period was the use of universal playgrounds and the creation of children entertainment parks.

The fourth period is described as an artist’s accomplishment. Open spaces were created and not limited to closed areas. As a characteristic of this period were known activities, such as: bicycling, surfing, jumping, festivals and other activities. This period was also known as “taking away fences”.

Another author that wrote about history of parks is Rebecca Conard. Her area of expertise was “the Conservation of Parks”.

Parks in Kosova were characterized by political developments for many years. Currently the leadership of Kosova is trying to work creating more, public spaces and parks, squares, and green places.
Mitrovica is a city that has suffered the most in the past war Kosova. As a divided town on ethnic basis, it also suffers from a broken economy and huge unemployment. It is a town that has many problems in development in all spheres, because of barriers that are happening as a result of separation of the town in two parts. 

When I was choosing the location for creating a City Park in Kosova, I thought that Mitrovica would be the right town. Green spaces, places of recreation and playgrounds, are needed for this town. However, the reunion of the town has to happen first. 

So, to create an attractive City Park for the citizens of Mitrovica and also bring all citizens together, I had to find the location that will include two parts of the town. 

Searching for this kind of place, I found the old park that existed many years before, suitable for my thesis. The park was spreading in the south part of the town, but I used some free open space from the north part and unified it using the river that flows between them. Even Mitrovica residents agreed with my assessments about the location of the park. 

With this proposal design of City Park in Mitrovica, I tried to create an attractive City Park for the citizens. Using the pedestrian bridges, I wanted to connect two parts of the park by intention to reunite the citizenry.
1.2 Structure

This thesis analyses the development of City Parks in general in Europe and America and the need for a City Park in the town of Mitrovica. Better location and the unification of town through a park will be presented. This study also will show the willpower of citizens for creation of a park in Mitrovica.

First, I explore the City Parks in general and how some of the authors of landscape architectural literature describe the development of the City Parks.

Secondly, I describe the characteristics about Kosova as a country, and later about Mitrovica as a region and a town. Furthermore, I introduce the location for the City Park in Mitrovica. By making interviews with citizens of Mitrovica, I present the needs, desires of citizens and what is the best location for City Park in this town according to their views.

Finally, having in consideration the development of City Parks during the history, characteristics and political situation of Mitrovica, the desire and aims of the citizens, I present a project proposal for a City Park that will be attractive for citizens and unite citizens of two sides of the town.
1.3 Methodology

Throughout the research, I used a variety of literature and sources about City Parks, history of progress, and the treatment which they have had. In the absence of English written European literature that was difficult for me to find them, I decided to use the American authors and literature.

I used different books from different authors as “Politics of Park Design-A History of Urban Parks in America” by landscape architect Galen Cranz that describes the history of development of City Park from the origins in the 19th century. This book describes different periods of time of City Park developing, first users, and overall activities. Another book “Places of Quite Beauty” is written by historian Rebecca Conard about Parks, Preserves, and Environmentalism. The author guides the reader through a historical review, beginning with a call of Thomas Macribe (known as father of conservation) for parks in the late 1800s. According to definition of City Parks, I used a book from Alan Tate. Another book, I used is by author Sarah Gaventa, describing the influence of City Park in urban spaces. Also, I used an article by Jon Peterson related to the comments about Galen Crenz book.


After choosing the location of City Park, I have been consulted by government officials from Municipality of Mitrovica. Deputy Chairman of Mitrovica, was a big supporter of my research work.

In addition to receiving great help from Mitrovica government officials, I also enriched my research by the Interviews of many Local residents.
2. History of City Parks

a) Definition and creation of City Park

City Park is an open space, a park in cities that intends to offer recreation and green spaces to residents and visitors. This open space is provided for recreational use in urban or large areas protected in their natural conditions, usually owned and maintained by a local government. The supply of parks is a part of general urban plan of a town planning.

The park is planted in natural or semi-natural areas. A park can be structured by rocks, soil, water, grass area, also flora and fauna.

Common features of City Parks include playgrounds, hiking, running and mixed use trails or paths, bridle paths, sport fields, and courts, public restrooms, boat ramps and/or picnic facilities, depending on the budget and natural features available.

Nowadays, these parks can be found in cities and towns all over the world. They can be in different sizes, destinations and shapes.¹

They are ranked in high popularity and can have a great impact on the city and the neighbourhoods.²

City Parks have an ability to accommodate many different types of activities, and people. These destinations offer many socializing activities, such as, eating, reading, playing games, interacting with art, and so on.

Finally, creating a functional park requires helping communities articulate a vision for these activities, and destinations. In the case of Mitrovica, creation of this park will help people in different ways: resting, “killing time”, doing recreational activities instead of staying in cafeterias and other indoor places, children could play their games instead of being isolated at home, old people and people with disabilities can socialize better, workers can have theirs lunch and some hours in the fresh air. The most important aspect is socializing of people of two ethnic groups divided along ethnical lines. Their civil interaction and building of trust could begin with the new park.
b) Development of the City Parks through the history

If we look throughout history of City Parks, we can see they have been changing due to many socio-economic and political developments.

City Parks began to develop in Europe and North America in the middle of the nineteenth century. According to Alan Tate, City Parks are products of Landscape architecture. The title landscape architecture was used with respect to the work of Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) and Calvert Bowyer Vaux (1824-95) on Central Park, New York. Frederic Law Olmsted was a landscape designer and a journalist who was famous for designing many urban parks. For example Central Park in New York, is his master work. He designed the Central Park together with architect Calver Vaux. The so-called "Greensward Plan," developed by them, was selected as the winning design in the landscape design contest, organized by the Central Park Commission in 1857 that was appointed by the State, to supervise the development of park. As Olmsted thought, the park was "of great importance as the first real Park made in this century—a democratic development of the highest significance..." who was inspired by various trips to Europe. This park contains several natural- looking lakes and pools, walking paths, Ice –skating rinks, a zoo, a conservatory garden, an area with natural woods, a theatre, a wildlife sanctuary, etc. It is known as a place, where the birds migrate. Also included are grassy areas used for team sports, some of them as playgrounds for children, and some are left as quite areas.

Professor Galen Cranz, published a book about park design” Politics of Park Design-A History of Urban Parks in America”. In this book, she identified four phases of history of park design in the United States as:

The pleasure ground (1850 to 1900) - In the late 19th century, large tracts of land on the outskirts of the cities were purchased by city governments to create "pleasure grounds": semi-open, charmingly landscaped areas whose primary purpose was to allow city residents, especially the workers to relax in nature. It was the time when the cities were looked as: too big, too crowded, polluted, artificial, stressful, etc, while the country
stood as quite and relaxing. These pleasure grounds used to be parts of the country with lakes, fresh air, grass-plots, and greenness.

As time passed, and the urban area grew around the parks, land in these parks was used for other purposes, such as zoos, golf courses and museums.

This period presents large tracts of land, landscaped naturalistically with meandering roadways, pleasant meadows and occasionally thick foliage, to provide tranquil relaxation from the polluted and hustle of the city. As examples of this period are San Francisco's Golden Gate Park and New York's Central Park.

Cranz mentioned that Recreationists from 1940s who have characterized the early parks as organized around passive use. However, in 1895 they were more unstructured than passive ones, with too many different activities such as: racing, bicycle riding toboggan sliding, military manoeuvres, massive meetings, tennis, croquet, baseball, etc.

Park activities were outdoor activities, because of the considerable time that people spent indoors working under artificial lights. This outdoor recreation was caused as a compensation for extension split between work and free time.

It was intended to stimulate and exercise the mind of tired workers, as well as give a resting break to them.
Parks promoted walking as an exercise. They built the paths and intended promenade as a diversion. In 1893, in San Francisco commissioners thought that making “a new forest could stimulate pedestrianism”. Parks were available for all people without discrimination.

In the 19th century, before the pleasure ground was set up, cities had only few parks. The locations were determined by political, economic, and demographic interests. The naturalness offered the changes in roads, landscape, etc. The author explains how the designers were pressured to solve problems partially, because the politicians did not understand that the landscape must be treated as a whole.

The most of designers thought that the paths should be curved. The special characteristic of pleasure ground considered by historians of landscape and planning was separation of transportation system. The pedestrians and vehicles had different ways of moving. It meant that people can walk, have a picnic, and play in the park without being disturbed by vehicle movements and loud noises.

An important characteristic of the artificial lakes was filtration, vaporization, refreshment of water, and the drainage system. The merging water with the sky would create “the illusion of infinity that contrasted with finitude of urban grid.” In this period, the trees were regulated to form long views managing the look inside imaginary distances. The woods around grass-plots provoked the curiosity and pleasure to know what was in the other side. Another characteristic of pleasure ground was mowed grass.

To provide the quietness of the inside of the Park and easy access, the sport and general playing fields were situated in the bottom of the park.

Buildings were adversely affected parks, they were seeing as a danger for perfect pleasure ground. The architecture needed to come under the general composition of the plan. To present as a low-profile, they should be only one or two stories tall.

In the end, pleasure ground administrators produced an interest for using the park and the variety of entertainments.

**Reform Park (1900 to 1930)**—The culmination of this reform park was between 1900 and 1935, identified with waves of immigration to the United States and the distinction of
Progressivism. The most influential figures in parks were not landscape architects, but leaders for organizing and recreation. Every activity needed to be organized so to speak. According to author Galen Cranz in the early 1900s, the United State cities built neighbourhood Parks with swimming pools, playgrounds and civic buildings, with the intention of Americanizing the immigrant population.

Figure: 2, Eckhart Park, Chicago, ca.1915

This new urban parks were used mostly for children and adults of working class. They could not make their own activities in these parks, because of the lack of space. The recreation activities were adapted in the same way as work, and less to harmonize human activities. In the 1900's people had a lot of free time. Many people had been retired early, and others had shortened working schedules. The playground movement was established in Municipal Park.

Unlike pleasure ground that imitated nature and could not be used in evening hours and bad weather, the reform park revolutionized the concept organized activities. The day was split in part according to temperatures of the day, for example: early morning, midday, afternoon, early evening, etc. Seven day recreation activities became a norm. The activities were divided into categories such as: social, physical, or active, passive and social. This separation enabled the extension of different activities. In this period, the
swimming sport became famous, so the swimming baths became necessary recreational and social places.

In the first decade of the 20th century, folk dancing became a part of park programs that was taught in gyms and athletics. While in pleasure ground period, the crafts and the educational activities were considered as improper, in the reform period they were welcomed. Military presence was welcomed as in previous period, and the park program was organized in relaxation of the troops. However, some of the roles that had been in pleasure ground period changed.

At this period the role of the parks changed to include neighbourhood meeting places that could bring together athletic groups, professional groups and clubs. The reform park was the replacement of the street activities.

Some reformers had an idea to close off some of the streets and use them as playgrounds, because of the lack of space. The new parks were made in the densest neighbourhoods. At this time administrators tried to formulate the standards about sizes, boundaries, characters of the land and the location of the parks. The park would be located near cheap transportation system. However, these criteria sometimes were ignored, because the playgrounds were made in the land that someone donated or individuals had sold them.

In 1922, the reform park had minimum ten acres and maximum forty acres and was divided in indoor and outdoor plants. The park in general was formal and symmetrical, where the paths and roads were minimized to save space for games and other use. As an architectural characteristic of this period was the field house.

The recreation facility (1930 to 1965) - What Cranz calls "the recreation facility" dominated the period of 1930 to 1965. City Parks were no longer perceived as special, but were taken for granted and run by well-entrenched civil servants. The latter, Cranz suggests, were often more interested in expanding their empires.

As "urban safety valves," the parks shone in these troubled decades. The Cranz described how the San Francisco Recreation Commission thought that its duty was to
"confront the problem of increased leisure time due to the Depression," and Chicago parks fought "idleness."

Park funding would never again be as generous or idealistic or as high as in the reform period, especially after World War II. At that time the image of parks has changed, away from forming character and toward supplying amusement. The sports were useful in the different way. During the War, the special attention was given to hobbies, because they could be very effective in relaxing and moving tensions from a troubled society.

In 1930 and 1940, the recreation facility transformed some of the older parks, but construction of new parks had to wait until the war finished. In the 1950s, when money became available after World War II, new parks continued to focus on both outdoor and indoor recreation with services such as sports leagues using their ball fields and gymnasia. These smaller parks were built in residential neighbourhoods, and attempted to serve all residents. Green spaces were of secondary importance.

![Image of playgrounds](image-url)

**Figure: 3, Playgrounds, SanFrancisco**


Playgrounds of these parks were made for universal needs. They were located often in the indrawn areas inside the city. In comparison with previous periods, buildings were larger and more different in function. The new buildings were Victorian, Georgian, Alpine, Nautical and after war they became more modern.
While in the pleasure ground and reform period, the signs with roles for use of the park had been situated in the entrances, the signs in this period were used to identify playgrounds, boundaries, paths, in other words to better organize the use of the park. Signs needed to be visible and contrasted with surroundings. As remarkable development of this period were amusement children parks, called also "Storyland," Fairyland, or Kiddieland.

The open space system (Post-1965)- The current "open-space system" period dating from the mid-1960s treats parks as needed breathing space that is not foreign to, but harmonious and continuous with the urban landscape. Parks came to be viewed as a satisfaction to counter white flight to the suburbs and to cool "long hot summers." Cranz says: "If the pleasure ground had been a pious patriarch, the reform park a social worker, and the recreation facility a waitress or car mechanic, the new Park was something of a performance artist."

Open Spaces were massive open areas where“ anything goes” and they were not crowd but left open. They occupied small parts of the city, found as free spaces in urban lands. Cranz writes that wince activities “on demand” by recreation facility period, the “anything goes“ in the terms of history of parks reached the most publicity. This period is known for new activities: Be-ins, Happenings, Chalk-ins, etc. New activities that were promoted are: bicycling, motocross, surfing, jumping, trampoline, while the horse riding was closed in many of them.

New activities or "happenings," rock music, kite festivals and Krishna parades were welcomed in parks’. These new urban parks have been mainly pocket parks in the free locations that previously had been in decline. This was because of competition for land. They made parks everywhere in view of making the city movable. These small parks provide greenery, a place to sit outdoors, and often a play area for children.
In the open spaces period, the designers did not pay attention to trees and plants. So, these spaces started to skip them, because of easier maintenance. Other elements that were suspended in this period were fences. They were eliminated or replaced by simple fences. All four types of park continue to exist in urban areas. However, these parks can be targeted by city managers or politicians as sources of free land for other uses. In each of them, Cranz argued, a certain design ideal emerged to shape park planning. However, John Peterson criticized Cranz, because he thought the periods Cranz defined were too rigorous and that she did not go deep in variations of park design. As we can see, the use and function of parks have long time been subject to debate.

Rebecca Conard is another author that studied park history. She verifies the complexity of American environmentalism in the twentieth century as manifest in Iowa's state park. The author guides us through the historical review about conservation of parks. She gave the various definitions to environmental spaces that are directly connected with politics and periods in which they were developed. She helps us to understand why parks are important assets to a society.

This book describes how people and politics influenced one another. She reminds us that the maintenance of park programs depends on a continually onward, watchful and supportive legislation.
Going through the history of City Parks, we can make a comparison between Mitrovica City Park and parks mentioned above. The old City Park of Mitrovica was created in 1940. In Mitrovica we can identify the similarities with these periods of City Parks in many steps through the time of their development.

If we look at the development of this park through the history, we can see it has been influenced by the political development and situation that prevailed during the time. Considering circumstances that Kosova found itself in the last twenty years, City Parks as all public spaces, were not considered of primary importance to be developed. They were left unattended and without any meaningful maintenance. As an industrial town, it was too densely populated, so it served as a recreation place for its citizens. In the 80s and 90s it was without any maintenance, because of the political situation that was happening in the country. In this period of time, citizens did not visit the park, due to lack of safety. In 1998-99 at the war time Mitrovica was known as the second town more destroyed in Kosova. City Park was a part of that destruction, but this Park had been affected from World War II, too.

![Image](image_url)

Figure: 5, The pedestrian bridge in the old City Park, used from Albanian Citizens who lives in the North Part

Source: Google earth

Also, as a result of the last war the town has been divided in two parts. Since then, the Park was used just as a pathway for Albanian population that lives in the north side of the town.
3. City Park in Kosova- Mitrovica

Some general and development characteristics are needed to recreate the City Park. The town of Mitrovica is situated in the north of Kosova.

3.1. Kosova – general characteristics

Kosova is centred in Southeast Europe. It boarders: Serbia in Northeast, Macedonia (FYROM) in the South, Albania in Southwest and Montenegro in Southeast. Territorial area covers 10,887 square kilometres.

3.1.2. Relief

Kosova is surrounded by mountains and with two major plains; the Kosova Plain (with an elevation of 510-570 m) and Dukagjini Plain (with an elevation of 350-450 m).

There are also four main river basins: I Drini i Bardhë; II Ibri; III Morava e Binçës; IV Lepenci.

The rivers flow toward three major seas: - the river basin of the Drini i Bardhë flows through Albania into the Adriatic Sea;
- the Morava e Binçës and Ibri flow through Serbia and Romania into the Black Sea;
- the River Lepenc flows through Macedonia and Greece into the Aegean Sea.
Kosova has six artificial lakes (accumulations) : Ujmani, Radoniqi, Batllava, Badovci, Përlepnica and Livoçi. The high mountains that surround Kosova are: Kopaoniku Mountains (north), Rogozna and Mokna Mountains (northwest), Bjeshkët e Nemuna Mountains (west), Pashtriku and Koretniku(southwest), Sharri Mountains (south) and the Black Mountains of Skopje(southeast).
A volcanic relief is present in the northern part of Kosova (the old volcanic cap in Zveçan has an elevation of 799m). The highest point is Gjeravica (2 655m), which is found in Bjeshkët e Nemuna.⁸

3.1.3. Climate
The climate is mid-continental and dominated by the Adriatic-Mediterranean influencing the Dukagjini Plain and along the Drini i Bardhë basin. There are also minor impacts characterized by the changeable climate of the Adriatic-Aegean in the Kosova Plain. The annual average precipitation is 596mm. The climate in Kosova is known with warm summers and cold winters. The annual average temperature is 10 °C, ranging from the lowest of -27.2 °C and the highest at 39.2 °C.⁹
3.1.4. Population

The latest estimate of Kosova population that has been done by OSCE in 2001, results with number of 2.4 million inhabitants. Coefficient of growing of population is 1.3%, and is the highest in the region. From 1921-2003 population was growing for 4.6%. If the trends continue with this percentage, in 2050 Kosova will have around 4.5 million inhabitants. The middle-age for women is 71 years, and men 67 years.\(^\text{10}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 15 years</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 25 years</td>
<td>&gt;50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 65 years</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table: 1, The percentage of population according to ages
Source: Statistical office of Kosova*

3.1.5. Ethnic structure

In 2000, World Bank offered these demographic statistics, on which is based the Statistical office of Kosova: 88% Albanians, 7% Serbs and 5% another ethnicity groups. In the group of 5% includes: Turks, Bosnjaks, Torbesh, Goran, Croatian, Romes, Ashkali or Egyptian. By OSCE prognoses 91% are Albanians, 5% Serbs and 4% other minorities.

3.1.6. Economy

Income brutto: 930 Euro/inhabitant (2003, Data’s by UNMIK-u), 964 Euro/inhabitant (2004, Data’s from World Bank, 1’275 Euro/inhabitant (2004, Data’s from European Commission)

Economical Growth: 2.2 % (2002), 3.1 % (2003), 3.2 % (2004), 3.5 % (2005 prognosis)

Inflation: 3.6 % (2002), 1.1 % (2003), 1.5 % (2004), -0.5 % (2005 prognosis)

Unemployment: 57.1 % (2001), 55 % (2002), 49.7 % (2003). Year growth of unemployment of young people that finish the school is around 6 %.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GDP (nominal)</th>
<th>2008 estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>€3.804 million (n/a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita</td>
<td>€1.759 (n/a)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table: 2
Source: International Monetary Fund (February 11-17, 2009)"IMF Staff Visit of Kosova*
Agriculture
Around two thirds of the population depends from agriculture, even the income in brutto for inhabitants is only 9%.  

Diaspora and economic development
Migration in foreign countries is a very important factor for the economy of Kosova. In the last ten years, the economy of Kosova has largely depended on remittances from guest workers. Approximately 350,000 to 400,000 Kosovars lives and work abroad, mainly in Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, etc. For example in Sweden, there are around 55,000 Albanians. As a coincidence, 5,000 of Kosova’s immigrants in Sweden are from the region of Mitrovica. In 2005, remittances from the west were as high as 375 million Euros. One year later this sum dropped down about 10%.

As Kosova is not a part of the European Union, it is very difficult to have access to European market. The European Stability Initiative (ESI) is trying to allow migration from Kosova to other European countries, in order to battle poverty and create preconditions for a democratic transition.

The poverty
According to the data from World Bank, 37% of population is living in poverty (with incomes under 1.37 Euro for adult/day), 15 % of population is living in extreme poverty (with incomes under 0.93 Euro for adult/day).

3.1.7. The political Situation
After intervention of NATO against Serbia, Kosova was under the governance of UN as protectorate, under the UNMIK administration (United Nations Mission in Kosova) according to the resolution of United Nations 1244 of 10th of June 1999.
Kosova got its Independence on 17 of February 2008, and is the newest country in the world. Since 1999, Mitrovica is the biggest problem of Kosova, due to interethnic conflicts.
3.2. Mitrovica- general characteristics

The region of Mitrovica is known as the “Thesaurus” of Kosova. This name came because this region is known for underground assets. In the North of Mitrovica (Albanik) silver and lead has been mined since middle ages. Since then, it was the most industrial place in all of Kosova. After the war (1999), the town was divided in two parts, where the river Ibri divides town in southern part, or Albanian part and northern part or the Serbian part.

![Figure: 8, Mitrovica position in Kosova map](source)

3.2.1. Official boarders of municipality of Mitrovica

Mitrovica is situated in the north of Kosova between two rivers, Ibri and Sitnica, and is 40 km from Prishtina. It covers 350 km per square, meanwhile represents 3.25 % of Kosova’s total territory. It extends in elevation 508-510 meters above sea level. The municipality of Mitrovica borders with Zubi Potok in the West, Skenderaj in the Southeast, Zveçan in the northwest, Leposaviq in north, Podujeva in northeast, and Vushtrria in the South. The town of Mitrovica is in the center of Municipality, and also in the center of the region. The borders of Mitrovica include suburbs and 40 villages. About, 2/3 of the population of Mitrovica live in rural areas.
3.2.2. Population

Like in all of Kosova, real census data is lacking. The last demographic statistics were recorded in 1981.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>14'237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>105′322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>110 310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>82′264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>126′000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table: 3, Historical development of population in Municipality of Mitrovica
Source: Municipal Development Planning

Mitrovica’s population is estimated to be in the range of 88,200 to 100,800.

a) Ethnic structure

The Ethnic structure of Mitrovica has changed dramatically. This is in part as a result of the war. The number of Serbian population has been declining, while the number of the Albanian population has been increasing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnical groups</th>
<th>Registration 1981</th>
<th>Registration 1991</th>
<th>Prognoses 1998</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albanian</td>
<td>66 528</td>
<td>82 837</td>
<td>95 231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serb</td>
<td>25 929</td>
<td>10 698</td>
<td>10 447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim- Bosnian</td>
<td>5 205</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome-Ashkali</td>
<td>4 851</td>
<td>431</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table: 4 Ethnical groups in Municipality of Mitrovica according to the years
Source: Municipal Development Planning
b) Prognosis about population in Mitrovica

The Municipality Government of Mitrovica by Development Urban Plan, made some prognoses about the development of population in the town of Mitrovica. They predict that in 2025, the number of population will be between 85,876 and 115,959 for the town of Mitrovica. The preferable variant is 1.3% growth per year. Thus, in 2025, it will be 92,000.
c) Migration

An important development happening in Mitrovica, is the migration process. The town is over populated as a result of migration of population from villages. About 30% of rural population has already migrated to the town. Some of villages are now without inhabitants. Cërnusha dhe Orzhana are good examples. Since the town has been divided in two parts in 1999, people move from one to another side of the town. From 2000 there are only 41 people who have returned to their houses.

3.2.3. Economy

The socially owned enterprise sector (SOE), once a backbone of the local economy, almost disappeared as a source of income. The Unit of Trepça complex located in the South, employed more than 7000 people in 1989. Now it has almost entirely ceased to operate. There are just 779 maintenance jobs, financed by the budget of Kosova. Mitrovica have been in the difficult economical situation since 1989, because its economy had been dependent by the mining Industry.

According to the UNMIK study, 75% of micro enterprises are family based. Half the number of enterprises is categorized "on survival level". In Mitrovica 30.8% of micro-
Creation of an attractive City Park for the citizens of Mitrovica

Shpresa STRELLCI

enterprises operate outdoors, 38.5 % have no electricity and 46.2 % have no water supply.  

There are three other sources of support of household: subsistence agriculture in the villages, remittances from the Albanian Diaspora abroad, and rent paid by International officials.

The incomes of the northern part of Mitrovica are 102 € per person, more than two and half times the level of South Mitrovica. Around 2000 people earn a living in the economic sector, which is only 25 percent of incomes of the local community. Life in northern part is sustained almost entirely by external subsidies from Prishtina and Beograd.

a) Employment and unemployment

Number of employed people is 22%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working places</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>According to Agenda 2007-2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public enterprises (Mine of Trepça)</td>
<td>1,129</td>
<td>302 (north)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private sector</td>
<td>5,529</td>
<td>15,095 (south) 1,600 (north)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration (Municipality) together with education and healthcare</td>
<td>2,411</td>
<td>2,176 (south) 1,767 (north)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy, legislation, security</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional enterprises (water supply, „Uniteti“, forest agency, PTK)</td>
<td></td>
<td>555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International organization</td>
<td></td>
<td>215 (north)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment in total (supposition)</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>22,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioner Trepça and another social services from serbs budget</td>
<td></td>
<td>11,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quota of employment (supposition)</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table: 6, Employment

Source: Linprojekt, Urban Development Plan
One of the main problems in Mitrovica is high level of unemployment. To have a job in the private sector needs to have professional and trade qualifications. In addition business and professional facilities are needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quota of unemployment (supposition)</th>
<th>70%</th>
<th>79% - 77%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Table: 7, Number of Unemployment
Source: Linprojekt, Urban Development Plan

b) Agriculture and farming

Until the 50s, the territory of Mitrovica was place of production of vegetables and white corn. Around 150 Ha of first class land of vegetable cultivation in municipality, were occupied by Industrial buildings.

The overall area of municipality is 33,596 Ha, whereof from 5,600 Ha infield, 400 Ha after the last war have been transformed in “Wild Construction”. Now there are 5,200 Ha infields.

Comparing to other municipalities of Kosova, Mitrovica is below the average level. Around 54% is agricultural land (cultivation of corns, vegetables, groves, vineyard, garden, meadows, etc), as 40% of these lands are forests.

Agricultural fields, dwellings, fields with economic destination are situated in plains near the rivers in the center of municipalities’ area. The farming land is located in Shala area. While in the northeast (Koshtova / Kopriva / Broboniqi) and in the western side are hilly mountain areas.

c) Industry

Mitrovica in the 50s was the most important industrial region in Kosova. Almost the entire mining and minerals industry focused in Trepca mining plant. Residents of the municipality of Mitrovica saw this plant as an important factor for their existence. Most of the employees came from Mitrovica region.

d) Trade

The fact that Mitrovica has been in close proximity for trading routes, between Skopje, Thessaloniki, and Sarajevo, coupled with agricultural production have favoured the
development of trade in this municipality. On the other hand, it had an important role in development of export of trade industrial products. It was the largest producer of wood and wood stuff materials. Now, Mitrovica is the transition point for Sarajeja, Podgorica and Sanxhak(Serbia). Also, the majority of goods between Serbia and Kosova are transported through Mitrovicas’ territory.

From 1,375 businesses that Mitrovica has, 91% are export-import based. The percentage of the employment in this sector is 44.4%.

e) Tourism

The characteristic of this municipality are the three rivers: Sitnica, Lushta and Ibri and their valleys that encompass its territory. As an unused potential for development of tourism are Slopes of Bajgoras’ Shala with peak of Alps.

According to the Development Agenda of Municipality, Trepca has a science-educational potential for tourism. The unused gallery of Trepca can be transformed in tourist attraction. It has a very well known Museum of Crystals that is the only one in Kosova.

The area in the river sides of Iber is frequented by citizens of Mitrovica in two seasons: summer and winter. The Sitnica banks offer the same potential. However, they should repair the banks of the river and deal with particular problem that is contamination caused by thermal plant of Obiliq. The Slopes of Bajgoras’ have the potential for winter and summer development of tourism. As a sample, is the Hole “Mejdan of Rahova”, which is characterized by holes filled by ice even in hot summer days.

![Figure: 10, Entrance in gallery of Trepca](Source: Municipal Development Agenda 2007-2009)

![Figure: 11, Bajgora in the winter](Source: Municipal Development Agenda 2007-2009)
The hill of Izmiq towards Zubin Potok and Skenderaj, has a characteristic climate. In 24 hours the climate changes in three seasons: spring, summer and late autumn.

Also, in the Shala of Bajgora is located the oldest Mosque in Kosova, called” Mosque of Mazhiqi”.  

33 f) Informal economy (Grey economy)  
In Mitrovica grey economy is present. About 300 people/ families practice this economic activity. They are usually small shopkeepers and diners that do not register their businesses and do not pay taxes.

Finally, if they are forced to depend on their own economic base, both parts of the town will find it too hard, and maybe the result will be the possibility of a substantial exodus of the population. As we see, is very important for both sides to be united and be treated in the same level.

3.2.4. Social services  
a) Education  
The Educational system in Municipality of Mitrovica is organized in five levels: preschool, primary, lower, secondary education, higher education and the university level. The education is run by two competing systems. One is with Kosova’s system, and the other by Serbia’s system. Schools are separated on ethnicity basis. All schools are managed from the Municipality government of Mitrovica.

In 2006 Mitrovica has had:

• 2 Kindergartens (one in Albanian and one in Serbian language)  
• 35 Primary schools (27 in Albanian and 8 in Serbian language)  
• 10 Secondary schools (5 in Albanian and 5 in Serbian language)  
• 2 Music Schools (one in Albanian and one in Serbian language)  
• 2 Special schools (one in Albanian and one in Serbian language)  
• 5 Faculties  
The higher education and universities are not the competence of Municipality government of Mitrovica. From 2002 in North part of Mitrovica operates the so-called
“University of Prishtina” in Serbian language that is not legitimated from UNMIK administration, or state authorities.  

b) Health
Health clinics are located in both parts of the town. The hospital is situated in the northern part of the town, and is used for Serb population. On the other side of the town, the institute for public health offers just ambulance services, the hard interventions are made by KFOR hospitals or by Prishtina Hospitals. According to the Department of health (December 2006), these health institutions operate in the town of Mitrovica:
• 1(One) Regional Hospital
• 1(One) main health family center
• 7(Seven) family centers
• 10(Ten) ambulances for family medicine
• 1(One) Institute for public health

c) Gender issues
By intention of creating opportunities for two genders, male and female, the municipality government has passed non-discriminational Laws. Even in Mitrovica, there is a high level of consciousness for equality between to genders, and they are treated equally. The destruction of economy and infrastructure of Mitrovica by the war of 1999 has adversely affected the role of women in the municipality. According to the data of Regional Center for employment, from the general number of work applications in august 2006, 9.671 of them are female or 40.9%. If we look it by age, in the group of 25-39, 49.3% are female. The number of unemployed females can be higher, considering that all of them do not make a work request in the Regional Center for employment. It can be higher, because the possibilities/chances for employment are less for females.
3.2.5. Culture and cultural monuments

In the territory of Mitrovica there are many evidences to prove an ancient civilization in the region. The infancy of organization for cultural and artistic life in Mitrovica begins in 1933, when the CAF (Cultural Artistic Fellowship)”Merhamet” was established.  

Some of the cultural buildings are:

Center of Culture “Rexhep Mitrovica”; Cinema “Teslla”; Cinema “Zvezda”; Cultural house “Kej Lushta”; Cinema in Stanterg; Cinema in First Tunnel(Tunel i Pare); Cultural house in Bare; Intermunicipal library “Latif Berisha”; Muzeum of Town; Inter-municipal Archive; Cultural House in First Tunnel(Tunel i Pare); Theatre of town (in creation phase).

The heritage and Cultural monuments

Some of the known historical cultural monuments are:

1. Building of old Hamam in Mitrovica(Used as a public bathroom)-in 18th century. This building is functioning as a museum now.
2. Cairns of Latin Catholic Church – SASE, which dates back to 18th century, and nearly destroyed in 1999
3. Mosque with graves in Mazhiq dating back to 16th century, nearly destroyed
4. Cairns of medieval town of Trepca(Vidishiq), XII XVI century (nearly destroyed)
5. Town of Trepca (Gjytet) Rashan XIII XIV Century (in bad condition)
6. Remains of medieval complex in Old Trepca area (Mazhiq) - XIV XVI century (nearly destroyed)
7. House in street Ilia Birqanin(nr. 17,Mitrovice). XIX century (in good condition)
8. House of Bllagoje Gjorgjjeviqit in street Ivo Llolla Ribar Nr. 7 (L NC Mitrovice). (in good condition)
9. House in street Zelengora Nr. 10. Building of Ex Rus Consulate (Mitrovice)- XX century. Except buildings that are registered in the Institute for protection of Cultural Monuments of Kosova, in territory of Mitrovica exists eighty other historical buildings and around 20 memorials and obelisks.37

**Buildings of Cult**

Some of the religious buildings in Mitrovica are:
- The mosque of grit (functional); The mosque of Haxhi Veseli (functional); The mosque of Bajri(functional); The mosque of Iber (totally destroyed); The orthodox church of Sveti Sava (destroyed); The orthodox church of Sveti Dimitrije( functional-new building); The Catholic church of saint cross.

At the war time in Kosova, there were many buildings of cult destroyed.37

**3.2.6. Infrastructure (technical infrastructure)**

The center of town is very well included in infrastructure, while the Industrial zones are included in extra infrastructure.

One of the main problems in the development of the settlements and enterprises is lack of technical infrastructure. Also the lack of treatment of waste water and partly the uncoordinated removal of waste can be dangerous for the health and the environment.38

**Electricity**

In the southern part of Mitrovica, energy supply is made through the Thermo-plant of Obiliq, while in the northern part through the station of Vallqi in Zveqan. Thus, two parts of the town are supplied by two different electrical companies, both of them supported by UNMIK.39

**Heating**

Heating is primarily made by wood and coal. This in turn results in deforesting of forests in the region and the pollution of the environment.

One plant for central heating exists in northern part of the town, where public institutions, schools, kindergartens and administrative buildings are connected.
**Water supply**

By and large much of Mitrovica has a functional drinking water system. However, some parts of the town are not connected to this system. The system is overloaded, because it is supposed to furnish the Mitrovica town alone, but now also is supplying Vushtrria, Skenderaj and Zveçan municipalities. Two companies for water supply in two parts of the town operate: “Regional water supply” and “Ibri” that fulfill 85% of needs of drinking water. Both of them are under supervision of UNMIK.

The zones that are not connected in the water supply system are furnished by wells in private properties that are dangerous, because they can be contaminated by waste chemicals and toxins.

Mitrovica, Vushtrri and Skenderaj are supplied with drinking water from the only manufacture for water treatment in Shipol, working with capacity 450l/s. The furnishing with water in this water plant is made from the lake of Gazivoda.  

**Communications**

The public traffic - The citizens of Mitrovica dependent on private forms of transportation. Also, there are no suitable pedestrian paths and cycling.

For regional transport, the public company” Kosovatrans” and 12 other operators take care of commuter needs.

Vehicle parking places in the downtown- Public parking places exists only in the downtown parts of the town.

**3.2.7. Landscape and free spaces**

There are wildlife sanctuary and one source of mineral water that are under protection. The spaces for sport and recreation comparing to dimensions of this town, are not satisfactory.

Parks, squares, green spaces

- The City Park with 30,941 m2-18500m2 of them is not green. The green spaces in City Park are heavily damaged. It can be concluded that the City Park in the location I chose to rebuild.

- The “Solana” Park 5,515m2- is also non-functional and needs repairs.
- The Park situated near the Blue Tower covers area of 4,000 m². The park near the tower in the neighbourhood of Tjegullorja is in the good condition.
- The Jasharaj Square, around 550 m² - is in good condition, but more greenery is needed.
- The Mehe Uka Square, about 120 m² - green spaces is needed in some parts of it.
- Areas in front of buildings, in the street Mbreteresha Teuta about 200m²
- Lateral areas and oases in the street Mbreteresha Teuta, about 2750 m² – Some of these surfaces are without green spaces.

**Game spaces for children**
There is only one game space in all of Mitrovica, and is located in the northern part.

**Sports spaces**
There are three sport buildings: the big stadium in the southwest, a small stadium in the south west of downtown, and one football field in the Bajri neighbourhood in southern part of the town.

**3.2.8. Environment**
Municipality of Mitrovica and its region has one of the highest levels of pollution in Kosova, caused by industrial activities of Trepça mining complex. This pollution has started from the prehistoric times, but more intensively from 1927 in the mining of Stan Terg started, operated by the British company” Mine Limited”, in 1939 lead foundry and 1967 the production of zinc.

According to the World organization of health research, a notable pollution of environment by lead that is very dangerous especially for children and pregnant woman is present in Mitrovica.

The lead pollutes the soil and water. From the research done in 2004 from WHO (World Health Organization), 25% of children 2-3 years have an increased presence of lead in their blood.
3. 2.9. Political context\(^43\)
From 1999, the town is divided along the lines of the river Iber. This separation of the town has complicated procurement of public services and caused developmental challenges for both sides. The United Nation made a small improvised pedestrian bridge for Albanian citizens that live in the northern part of the town. In the 2002 the special commissioner of permanent secretary of UN made an administrative directive that forbids existence of parallel government. Since that time, the UNMIK administrated entire Kosova. This part of the town is administrated from UNMIK through eight member multiethnic commission. From February 2008, this role was transferred to EULEX.

3. 2.10. Summary of general characteristics
All these parameters are important for creating a City Park in this town, because the park will be created for citizens. Thus, we have to know the conditions, situation of their lives, infrastructure of the town, which things are functioning or not, and so on. 
As we saw from these general characteristics of Mitrovica, the reunion of the town is indispensable. Some of these problems are caused by the separation of the town. If the politics can not make the re-unification, the citizens can take this role. Looking through the history of the world we have had always this kind of separation caused by the wars, or politics. There are too many examples that citizens are reunited with each other. We can mention the case of Berlin that was divided in the east and west part during the Cold War. However, they are again together, because the citizens wanted to live together and it is impossible to stop that from happening.
3.3. City Park Proposal

3.3.1. The reason for choosing this location

The first reason for creation of the City Park in Mitrovica, has been the lack of functioning park or public space that can be used by citizens of this town. The town is very polluted, but also crowded (see the characteristics of Mitrovica). Hereupon, the evidence for a green and open space is enormous. Citizens of Mitrovica spend much of their free time in cafeterias and indoor spaces. There is no place where they can go for recreation or relaxation without paying. Considering the poverty and unemployment rates in this town, the largest number of people spends the free time in their homes or apartments. Mitrovica as entire Kosova is known for a young population (average age 25 years old), some of them studying, working, mostly without any obligation because of high rate of unemployment. They need to have more open spaces to develop different activities that will make them feeling more useful and occupied.

It was the war that caused the separation of the town and now residents live isolated from one another. This separation causes too many problems in this town. It makes the life harder for citizens, and is a big barrier for the development of the town. The location that I choose is situated in both sides of the river that divides Mitrovica town, also near the famous bridge of Iber River.

Another reason for choosing this location is the fact that it has been a park since 1940 and is located in the center of the town. The park was situated in the southern part of Mitrovica, but I took some open space from the northern part of the river, for the purpose of bringing the citizens of two parts of the town together.
3.3.2. The Objective

The idea is to make the City Park that will link two sides of the river. Through this connection between two sides of the river, the idea is to reunite the citizens of two parts of Mitrovica. These people want a reason to live together, but no one can make the first step without outside intervention. I will use my friend's sentence: "People have bridges in their minds, they should think more to live and socialize with each other and to remove these bridges." The division of this town is caused by politics, but citizens can remove this barrier and no one can stop them.

3.3.3. How did the City Park of Mitrovica look in the past?!

Here are some pictures from the past, provided to me by Mitrovica municipal government and the company of Design and Construction Linproject.
In the 40's, a marvellous Park is shown in the same location. The park with promenades, paths, places for rest, meeting, different kind of trees, greens, flowers etc. There was also a beautiful lake that was used for voyage.

3.3.4. How is the City Park of Mitrovica looking now?!

Unfortunately, these days the Park looks very different and totally damaged. From the pictures we can only see few trees. Twenty years stagnation of development and legislation in Kosova, wars (the World War II and the last war in 1999), and too many changes, around seventy percent of Park area is occupied by residential informal buildings. We can not see any signs of the lake that was in the past. From the holdover surface of the Park, half of it is occupied by KFOR station army, but intended not for a long time.
Figure: 13, The Park nowadays

Source: Linprojekt
3.3.5. The interviews

a) Objective- the idea about this interview was to find answers and the attitude of citizens about the need for City Park, location, the activities, etc.

b) Methodology
To realise this research more successfully, and in the short term, I applied a Questionnaire (Appendix A). The questionnaire had eleven questions that were written in a simplest.

As a topic of the research were citizens in:
- Kindergarten (children)” Gezimi yne”,
- Schools (pupils)as ” Muharrem Shabani”
- Library of town( people that were reading in the library)” Latif Berisha”,
- Retirees” The union of pensioners of Mitrovica”,
- People with special needs (people with disabilities)-NGO” HandiKOS”,
- NGO’s, police officers, housewives etc.
- Also, I used the Municipality offices for making these interviews. Citizens that came to apply for any documents in municipality offices.

c) Results
There are 209 respondents that took part in my research.

Gender of respondents
From 209 respondents, 108 were males, 96 Females, while three of them did’ not declare.
Age of respondents

The age of respondents varied. There were responders from 5, 8, 9, and so one, till 77 years old.
**Ethnicity of respondents**

There were 156 Albanian respondents, 35 did not declare their nationality, 11 of them declared as Kosovar, two as Turkish. However, I did not get one respondent from the Serb nationality.

![Chart: 3, Responses by ethnicity](image)

**Profession**

The largest number of respondents were pupils with 56 of them, 29 students, 16 retirees, 13 people with disabilities (they did ‘not declare about their profession), 11 economists, 10 Administrative officers, 9 educators in kindergarten, 9 teachers who teach 6-9 grades at the primary school, 7 teachers who teach from 1-5 grades at the primary school, 6 lawyers, 5 police officers, 4 librarians, 3 technical workers, 3 workers, 3 engineers, 3 construction technicians, 2 engineers of chemical technology, one Ecologist, Pharmacist, Graduated Engineer of Agriculture, Teacher (secondary school), Housewife, Pedagogue, Graduated Engineer of Construction, Gardener, IT manager, Citizen.
Results of questions

There were a total eleven questions asked:

1. The first question “Does any City Park exist in Mitrovica”?

Most of them (161 of respondents) thought that Mitrovica had a City a Park, 47 said NO, while one did not answer.
2. The second question “**Does the town of Mitrovica need a City Park?**”

Almost all declared that Mitrovica needs a City Park. It was just one who said it does not need one.

![Chart 6: Responses of question 2](image)

3. Third question “**Which is the preferred location? (in the center or periphery?)**”

Mostly said the center (137 of respondents), 60 of respondents said in the periphery, 6 respondents thought it is needed in both places (center and periphery). Three respondents were not sure.

![Chart 7: Responses of question 3](image)
4. The fourth question **“If the preferred location is in the Center of town, where it can be situated? (Which place exactly?)”**

The preferred place for most respondents was Near the Iber River Bridge (88 respondents), 43 said somewhere in the center, 18 did not answer, 11 thought better to be near the Bus station, 10 respondents said near Mother Theresa Square, 8 Near the place where was the market place before, 5 in the North of the town, 5 near the bridge of blood, 4 near one of the rivers, 3 respondents did not know where, 2 thought near Adem Jashari Square, 2 said in Bajri neighborhood, and 1 said near the square Mehe Uka.

Three of them thought it has to be in Kushtova village, two of them in Zhabar village, two of them did not know exactly, they just wanted it in the periphery. One thought it is better in Shala Mountain, while one said anywhere, is fine as long as we get a park.

5. The fifth question **“Which activities would you develop in that park?”**

In this question, I received responses about activities they wanted to develop in the Park. Most of them would make a walk, especially walking in the river side, also like the promenades. They like to develop sport and recreation activities: football, basketball,
athletics, chess, running, cycling, etc. Some of them would use it for reading, meeting people, making a picnic. Games were favored by children.

6. The sixth question “Will going in this park affect your health?”
Almost all of them agreed that the Park will positively affect in their health, just eight of them gave a negative answer.

7. In the seventh question “What will make the park attractive (in your opinion)?”
They said that green spaces, flowers, trees, game places for children, sports fields for tennis, athletics, ping pong, football, basketball, chess, pools, etc., fountains, artificial lakes, riverside that needs to be repaired, the fresh air, etc. Also an amphitheatre will make it more attractive. However, the needed things are chairs especially for old people, public bathrooms, telephone cabins, etc.

8. In the eighth question “Which are preferred days for you to visit the park?”
Most preferred to go in the park on weekends (131 respondents), 45 of respondents would visit the Park every day, 25 of them any day especially at weekends, 2 respondents weekend and holidays, 2 respondents want to visit in spring and summer days, one on Mondays, one on Tuesdays, while 2 of them did not answer.
9. The ninth question “Which part of the day, would you spend in the park, or how much time would you spend there?“

The preferred times are afternoons (88 of them), 28 prefer morning and evening time, 27 evening times, 24 the midday, 12 morning, 8 would visit the park anytime, and 2 of respondents did not answer. 51 of respondents would spend one to two hours in the park, 25 respondents two to three hours, and six of respondents would spend four to six hours.
10. The tenth question “Is there a need for separate places based on groups of people?”

Most wanted to have separate places for different groups of people (133 of respondents), 66 of them did not want separate areas by groups of people, 10 of them did not answer in this question.

![Chart: Responses of question 10](image)

11. The last question in this questionnaire was “Who has to maintain the Park?”

The citizens of Mitrovica think that competent authorities, such as municipality of Mitrovica must take care of the City Park (83 of them), 44 of respondents declared that citizens must take care of it, while 78 of respondents thought that competent authorities and citizens together must take care of the City park. Two of respondents did not answer this question.

As in other questions, childrens’ answers were the most interesting. They wanted to have a watchman for 24 hours in the City Park!
d) Conclusions

According to interviews, the idea to make a City Park in location “Iber Bridge” is supported by citizens of Mitrovica. It is simple to understand that, because they have a nostalgia about the City Park from the past, and also they need the park to spend their leisure time and for recreation purposes.

The main requests for City Park from the citizens in this interview were: pedestrian paths, green spaces, places for sport and recreation, playgrounds, also fountains, lakes, and entertainment activities.

e) Attitude:

The respondents of Mitrovica were friendly and have not hesitated to answer my topic questions. They were very cooperative.

f) Convenience:

The municipal government of Mitrovica and its citizens, made it easier for completing my interviews.

Special thanks to the citizens and the Government of Municipality of Mitrovica, I did not have problems making the interviews. The only problem was inability to conduct the same interviews in northern part of Mitrovica. For “the security reasons” I was not allowed to go in that part.
4. Project-Proposal

The City Park is a comfortable and functional space for small groups and individuals to relax and socialize, and also can be made available for large events.

This project proposal is designed according to the knowledge from the development of the City Parks in the past, results of interviews made with citizens of Mitrovica, literature that I have used during the work, knowledge and desire to make an attractive Park for all citizens of Mitrovica, and the incentive for the re-unification of the town.

4.1. Project proposal description

a) Location

The location of City Park is near the bridge of river Iber that divides the town in two parts. The Park will be situated in two parts of the town including the river. Having in consideration more than half of the old Park area is occupied by wild construction, the location is limited to around three thousand meter per square (30,932.0 m²). However, combined with, I joined it open space from the northern part of the river, the location reached around 42,726.0 m².

The location is bordering with Cultural Center “Rexhep Mitrovica” in the east, kindergarten in the south, also the Municipality Assembly Building in the southeast, in the west with Roma neighbourhood.

Location extends to River Ibri. In the northern side of the Park, it borders with the road that goes to the neighbourhood of Suhodoll.
Creation of an attractive City Park for the citizens of Mitrovica

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Figure 14: Location

Picture used: Google earth source

b) Project Design and Contents of the Park

This Park will be developed by different activities. The Park will have an open area with a concert stage, sport playground for adults, children playground, small artificial lake with fountains, the escalating part in four levels, the hilly area, drawing area, fishing area, picnic places and so on. Pedestrian paths cover all areas of the Park, with seats for having a rest. Also, Promenade that lies on the south side of the river will be included.
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Figure: 15, Project proposal
Source: Designed by Author
Creation of an attractive City Park for the citizens of Mitrovica

Figure: 16, Section A-A, section of ground
Source: Designed by author
**Main entrance** In the left side of the south part, in front of the Center of Culture, is located the main park entry, that gives a sense of arrival, and entry to the Park. Entry for maintenance vehicles is separated from the main entrance. For this purpose, I used one secondary entrance.

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**Bridges** - As a link between two sides of the river will be pedestrian bridges. One of them will be in the same place where the small improvised pedestrian bridge is lying now, that is used for Albanians who live in the northern side, another one will be near the children ground in direction of hilly area. The bridges are like double bridges, in a form of “Lace” that link two parts of the Park in two different levels. Inspiration for these bridges is “the Infinity Bridge” in the new waterside park in Jersey City, NJ.
**Promenade** that is in high demand from citizens is located in the river edge, which will serve for walking. The whole promenade will be followed by trees in one side in order to drop the shadow effect.

![Image of the promenade](image.jpg)

**Open area** will be used for events such as a concerts. In this area, people are free to walk on the grass, sit, and so one. I have not designed the paths in this area. The intention is to build them later, based on movements that will be used by citizens.

**Banks of the river** are intended in two levels, in the summer as a part of Park having a rest, fishing, etc. While in the winter **when the river can flow** (flood-tide), they will protect the Parks area.

**Pedestrian paths** The entire Park will penetrate the pedestrian path that have a form of a ribbon. Also there will be secondary paths in both sides. One path lies near the bank of the river.

**Concert stage** is situated in the open area with views to the river and a northern part of the Park, with purpose to have a chance to watch on it from another side of the river.

**Trees** will be planted in different shapes. Much of the Park will be covered in trees.
Escalated area is situated in the northeast of the Park. This space is separated into four levels that can be reached by stairs, but also by ramps intended for old people and people with disabilities. There is a bridge that reaches two of these levels. The difference between levels is one meter. This part can be used by people in the natural way, sitting in the grass, walking, etc.
**Drawing places** will be in the front of lake for portrait drawings. However, they will be also in the escalated area, drawing the nature and landscape.

![Banks of the both side of the river](image)

**Hilly area** is situated in the northwest of the park. It can be reached by one of the two bridges in two levels. It is intended especially for young people that like to walk on this kind of ground. They can free climb in this area, without using the bridge.

![Banks of the north side of the river, hilly area and fishing place](image)

**Flower areas** different flower are intended in the south part in two big areas, between open area, and in the lake area, but they will be planted in the northeast part of the park in great numbers, too.
**Lake and fountains** are situated in the east part of the Park. Its form is similar with a lake that had been in the old Park for the sake of citizens’ nostalgia. In the middle of the lake will be a big fountain, while in the corner will be a small fountains. Through the lake lies the console when people can sit, read or just have rest. On one side of it, there will be a stair used for sitting. It will be the lively part of the Park. Lake will be not so deep, less the one meter where people especially children are free to go in.
A place for old people this place is situated near the river, there are situated sitting places, where they can have meetings, rest, also playing chess or other games. This place is located between the river and the lake.

Sport playground for adults is situated in the west side of the Park, near the stadium. There are universal field places used for football, basketball, handball, volleyball and tennis. The primary path sends us directly to the sport field.
**Children Playground** traversed by the ribbon path, is situated near the sports field. In this path will be some sits in front of the playground, used by parents to watch their children. There will be different game equipments for children.

![Image](image.jpg)

**Figure: 28, Sports playground for adults and children playground**

*Source: Designed by author*

**Seats** will be around all the paths but also in some places on the grassy areas. In the highest level of the northern part of the Park, the seats will be situated on grass.

**Public Bathrooms** are situated in the southwest side of the Park near the concert scene. It can be reached from all spaces very easy.

**Fishing area** will be in the north river bank.

**Trash Receptacles** will be established around the whole Park.

**Maintenance rooms** are situated in the same building as Public Bathrooms, with an entrance by one secondary path that I mentioned earlier in the research.

**Nightlights** will cover all areas, for in order that having a good view and a security going at the night time. Good view and security measures.

In this project, I did not cover the Cultural Center, but it is intended to be part of the Park in the future when it will be enlarged in the southeast. In that part will take place more activities such as bicycling, skateboarding, etc.

This Park that lies in two sides of the river will attract people from two sides to socialize with each other; will offer them space for recreation, relaxation, meeting, etc. It will be a historical point of connection between the citizens of Mitrovica.
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Appendix A: Questionnaire

Age of respondent: ___________________ Profession: ___________________
Gender: F/M __________________________ Ethnicity: _________________________
Date: __/__/__________

Research Questionnaire

I am Sh. S., student in Master Programme “European Spatial Planning and Regional Development”, Blekinge Institute of Technology in Sweden. This questionnaire is part of my thesis work with subject “City Park in Mitrovica”, with whom I am trying to identify needs and requests of citizens for City park in Mitrovica. Your responses have a special importance in this study, it will help in designing of a Park that will be suitable, attractive and will fulfill citizens’ requests. Also, it will help the Municipal authorities in creation of this kind of spaces.

This survey will take 10 minutes of your time. Your participation is entirely voluntary. Your information and answer are confidential and will be used only for the purpose of this study. I am appreciative of your cooperation to answer the questions. Thank you!

Instructions: Please answer in the suitable way for you

1. Does any City park exist in Mitrovica? YES/NO

2. Does the town of Mitrovica need a City Park? YES/NO

3. Which is the preferred location? Periphery / Center

4. If the preferred location is in the Center of the town, where it can be situated? (Which place exactly?)

5. Which activities would you develop in that park?

6. Will going in this park affect your health? YES/NO

7. What will make the park attractive (in your opinion)?

8. Which are preferred days for you to visit the park?

9. Which part of the day, would you spend in the park, or how much time would you spend there?

10. Is there a need for separate places based on groups of people? YES/NO

11. Who has to maintain the Park?