Importance of orchards in urban planning according to landscape management in Mediterranean: the case of Konyaalti region

Reyhan Erdogan, Sibel Mansuroğlu and Hilmi Ekin Oktay, Akdeniz University Agricultural Faculty Department of Landscape Architecture Antalya-Türkiye

Abstract

Orchards which have importance in terms of the sustainability of urban ecosystems are essential for the planning of the Mediterranean cities. Urban vegetation in orchard increase property values improve privacy and provide many environmental benefits.

Konyaalti region is developed last decade in Antalya. Antalya is the Mediterranean city in Turkey. There are too many hotels and holiday village and new tourism facilities have still being built in the city. The rise of the building sector affects all the planning actions all over the city. Because of this, in urban areas hard surface density is rising and by the conclusion of this process affects the urban areas. Under these conditions, the identities of the cities are lost and decrease of the green areas like orchards affect life quality of the public. The main problem of this situation is that the managing of the city development or master plans cannot be applied as it should be.

In this research orchards which are valuable for urban ecosystem were defined on urban structural plan for Konyaalti settlement. It was proposed some suggestions for protecting and using orchards. Orchards are also found in close proximity to the region where they form a band along the periphery of Konyaalti. Cypress tree boundaries in association with orchards are common feature of the traditional Mediterranean landscape. The orchards are an important landscape component, especially in Bogacay riverside. However, the areas that are represent of the agricultural Mediterranean vegetation are facing extinction in urban because of rapid urbanization in Antalya Konyaalti region. At the end of this study was to determine the protecting principles to existing orchards and to put some suggestions for landscape management principles to sustainable Mediterranean landscape in the Antalya Konyaalti region. To protect orchards and using citrus, olive, punica, grape species in park areas can be a good planting design model for other Mediterranean cities. Design of these areas should arouse some human senses such as curiosity, mystery, resting, excitement etc. With these feelings, public can be aware of natural beauty, natural protection and ecological living. In orchard parks, natural material like gravel, mulch and compacted soil should be used for pedestrian ways and bicycle roads and design of these roads should be made in the term of mature tree protection. In the parks some areas should include open spaces for sports, active recreation and kids play area. In these areas should be replaced kids play tools which are made from natural material. Small scaled selling places for ecological markets are replaced for selling of natural productions. There should be designed and placed wood pergolas and gazebos for hanging grapes. Wooden decks and banks should be placed for sitting and recreating for users. The citrus museum should be established in the park.