

Ankara- Sakarya Greenway Planning

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INTRODUCTION

Greenways have many distinct functions. The purposes of greenways may generally be described as the: protection of biological diversity, to establish connections between habitats, to supply the orientation of urban development and the development of recreational uses and tourism throughout rural and urban landscapes and also to preserve both historical and cultural sources and ecological assets.

Greenway is the creation of an outdoor green zone, which attaches settlements to each other either in rural and urban environments and people with nature, and which may be considered as a connection between different settlements. Greenways are green connections in the form of linear parks, open spaces, protected nature reserves located within cities, or rural settlements, in which people will enjoy to be, and where they may carry out certain activities. Some of these may be at local scale, and some at regional or national scale. Some appear in towns-villages, some in cities, and some in both. While some greenways are used for recreational and tourism-related purposes, others may be used for ecological, aesthetical purposes or for the purpose of environmental management.

The purpose of the Ankara-Sakarya Greenway proposal is to evaluate this national route consisting Ayaş, Beypazarı, Güdül, Çayırhan, Nallıhan, Göynük, Mudurnu, Taraklı and their close vicinity, which is extremely rich in terms of historical, natural and cultural assets, through an integrated planning approach.

The successful examples of greenway planning, which allows various usages through approaching the natural and cultural environment as a whole, may be seen in American and European cities, particularly since recent years. When examples supported by the European Greenway Association, such as Krakow – Vienna Greenway Planning, Poland – Slovakia – Ukraine Green Way Planning, Amber Greenway Planning, etc., are examined, it can be clearly observed that greenways not only allow conscious decisions to be given concerning the sustainable usage of historical, cultural and natural sources, but also are important tools for regional development, they also enable the diversification of tourism and recreational usages.

Furthermore, if public participation can be ensured during the inventory, planning, implementation and management stages of the effort, it would enable activities towards contributing to the improvement and orientation of the human resources capacity in the region.

By the greenway that was proposed from Ankara to Sakarya, preservation and development of environmental, historical, cultural, natural and social assets of the area, it is aimed for the development of recreational usages throughout the rural and urban landscape, diversification of tourism, development of traditional values through approaching them with scientific methods,

upon determining the agricultural production potential, and protection of historical, cultural and natural sources.

Ankara - Sakarya Greenway Planning primarily involves the formation of a comprehensive inventory of the area's natural, historical and cultural assets, through an integrated approach. Through the inventory study to be carried out concerning determined fields throughout the effort, the concept of greenway and the purpose and stages of the project was shared with the people to be affected from the application and public participation to the design of draft project was ensured.

Another important purpose of the project, is to handle the Ankara-Sakarya Greenway Project, which is aimed to be conducted as a further comprehensive and international project by the work team in question, as a pioneer effort on the scale of the City of Ankara. The purpose is, to protect biological diversity in the area, which covers an important portion of the Silk Road, to establish connections between habitats, to develop recreational uses and tourism activities throughout the rural and urban landscape and to protect historical, cultural and ecological activities.

2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

2.1. Material

The main material of the research in which the concept of greenway is thoroughly examined, and the greenway that is proposed as Ankara Sakarya Greenway Planning, including Ayaş, Beypazarı, Çayırhan, Nallıhan, Göynük, Mudanya and Taraklı settlements located in the provinces of Ankara, Bolu and Sakarya, and their near environs. Within this context, the cultural and historical assets, open green spaces, green belts, highway routes, urban natural thresholds, natural corridors, natural formations, agricultural areas, enterprises and water surfaces appearing in and surrounding the determined area were evaluated within the scope of the research.

Satellite images, topographic and geomorphologic maps used as base for the Ankara, Bolu and Sakarya provinces, and maps and data concerning the Ankara Beypazarı Taraklı transportation system, was among the materials of the research.

Besides the abovementioned data, visual materials such as numerous photos taken during the land survey-analysis efforts, were used within this framework. On the other hand, the national and international literature relevant to the concept, planning and stages of the concept of greenway involved in the research, as another material, in order to compile and synthesize data, which constitutes basis for proposal development concerning Ankara - Sakarya route.

2.2. Method

The research carried out for the provinces of Ankara, Bolu and Sakarya covers the literature study and evaluation, land survey-analysis efforts, and the development of the city of Ankara greenway planning proposal through synthesizing of these data.

Within this context, the concept of greenway was examined, the functions and categorization of greenways that was made and the concept/draft Ankara - Sakarya Greenway plan proposal stages and greenway management and greenway planning examples were revealed. Furthermore, the outdoor green zone system of the settlements located on the determined route, was thoroughly

examined within the context of historical development process and zoned plan process, and the geographical position, topography, geomorphologic and geologic structure, soil data, climate, water sources, vegetation, population status, social structure and transportation of the area was revealed.

At the second stage, potential areas for the establishment of the determined greenway was proposed through the survey and land survey-analysis works performed throughout the determined greenway route, by performing visual analysis in order to monitor the historical and cultural assets, which will constitute the basis for the greenway implementation, along with wild life corridors, landscape quality, green belts, highway routes, ecologically natural corridors and existing green pattern seasonal changes and landscape features.

At the last stage, suggestions concerning the Ankara Sakarya Greenway Planning was developed according to the findings obtained through the literature study, data obtained from application examples and results of the land study-analysis efforts.

It is aimed to hold meetings as part of the effort, in order to ensure public participation at every stage of the project, and to explain the concept of greenway and the project in question with successful international examples. For, it is extremely important to assure public participation to greenway planning. In addition to persons, organizations, land and facility owners to be directly affected from greenway, it is also necessary to inform the natural and cultural resources preservation associations, persons practicing outdoor sports, concerned persons from relevant local administrations, university representatives and private organizations.

In order to apply a successful greenway planning and get access to reliable data during every stage of the research and to reach feasible results, it is extremely important to cooperate with public and local administrations. Efforts addressed towards implementation, management and training concerning the determined activities, after the completion of the project planning works in question, also are a subject, which requires sustainability. Due to this reason, it will be ensured for activities such as meetings, festivals and courses, also through the contribution of concerned persons from local administrations, to be held from time to time, in order to inform the public and assure their participation.

3. RESULTS

The successful examples of greenway planning, which allows various usages through approaching the natural and cultural environment as a whole, may be seen in American and European cities, particularly in recent years. Greenways not only allow conscious decisions to be given concerning the sustainable usage of historical, cultural and natural sources, but also are important tools for regional development, since they enable the diversification of tourism and recreational uses. Furthermore, an important criterion for success, is ensuring public participation to the effort's inventory, planning, implementation and management stages.

Ankara – Sakarya Greenway Planning, primarily involves the formation of comprehensive inventory works of the area's natural, historical and cultural assets, through an integrated approach consisting Ayaş, Güdül, Beypazarı, Çayırhan, Nallıhan, Göynük and Taraklı settlements and their near environs (Figure 1).

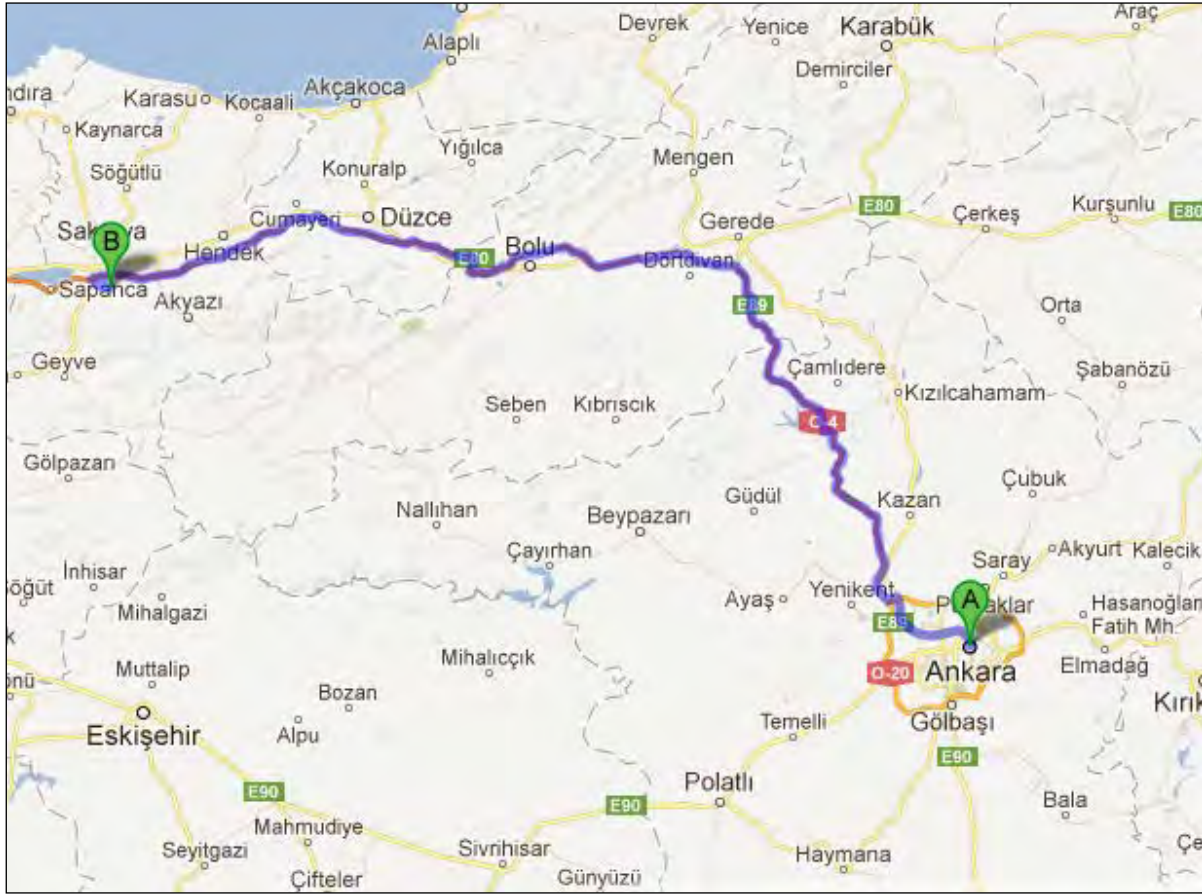


Figure 1. Ankara-Sakarya Greenway Route Proposal (<http://maps.google.com>)

Greenways may be designed near a railroad route or water channels throughout a river or a valley, establish functional connections between historical settlements themselves through appearing throughout important historical trade routes, like in the Vienna – Prague Greenway, and they establish contact with the surrounding landscape structures of all scales, and have the quality of connecting people to nature, and cities to rural areas. Another important aspect of Ankara-Sakarya Greenway is the existence of Silk Road in this route and the use of the natural, historical and cultural properties towards diversifying tourism.

Physical planning in tourism is to develop an infrastructure enabling the fulfillment of touristic needs, which arise from the desires of the communities to spend their spare time, benefiting from open air, resting and gaining good health. In physical planning and design, actual needs are shaping through the growing and changing desires of the consumers or the tourists. These changes are evaluated by the planners and the designers and lead to new pursuits. The sources of settlements involved in the Ankara – Sakarya Greenway approach, have the richness and diversity to answer the different wants and expectations of the users. The region/route is very rich in terms of historical and cultural assets which the main source of tourism.

The proposed greenway route that was used as settlements since pre-historical times, have been ruled by the Hittites, Phrygians, the Galateans and the Romans. After the arrival of the Turks,

Ankara had become part of the dominions of the Mongols, and afterwards the Il-Khanate during the second half of the 13th century. Ankara and its surroundings were added to the Ottoman country in 1354, during the rule of Orhan I. The settlements, which are among the oldest ones of Anatolia, valuable cultural heritages from past to present, with their very narrow streets embellished with the traditional houses, fountains and mosques located in every part of the settlement at the openings which were formed in these streets.

The traditional settlements were attracting attention with its houses reflecting the traditional way of life and with its organic settlement formation. Bringing together peace and calm, art and culture, and a historical and very well preserved architectural environment with a protective/conservative tourism approach, will make the area as one of the important tourism centers of the region.

The research area is also rich in terms of agricultural fields, and its characteristic of being the place answering the vegetable and fruit needs of the surrounding provinces to a considerable extent. For the area, both the continuation of the conscious agricultural activities, and the promotion of agricultural tourism emphasize the importance of the effort. The relevant areas with the highest tourism potential are the valleys located in the area with their interesting topography, vegetation and traditional vineyard houses. It may be possible to offer all the options of the farm tourism to the visitors arriving from big cities and offering visitors to be in touch with nature, wishing to be involved in the agricultural production of different seasons.

Besides, in line with the route recommended within the scope of the greenway, many activities, such as trekking, climbing, cycling, monitoring plant species and animal presence and picnicking may be carried out simultaneously. In this manner, an attraction would be created for the visitors, and also different opportunities were offered for them.

One of the targets of the work is to ensure the area, which is rich in case of thermal resources, to become an important center of thermal tourism. In this way, the opportunity for 12 months of tourism, the provision of regional balanced tourism development, through easy integration with other types of alternative tourism such as winter tourism, plateau tourism and congress tourism were also be proposed/offered, and by courtesy of these, along with the presence of means of creating healthy, energetic people in thermal facilities, alongside activities towards healing human health, can be a driving factor towards the improvement of the economy.

4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- With the research that was carried out, first of all, the inventory of the natural and cultural assets located in the Ankara-Güdül-Beyazari-Nallıhan route, were registered. In this respect, data, that constitutes the basis to the natural and cultural assets inventory both on the Ankara scale and on national scale, have been compiled.
- By courtesy of the greenway planning that was proposed on the route the asset potential of the area was put to an effective use, leading to the tourism activities to be diversified, and to economic development of the area and employment opportunities to arise, through the envisaged recreational uses.

- The greenway planning which was proposed at the end of the research, will constitute a model for the similar efforts to be performed on the national scale.
 - The destruction of natural and cultural assets located in the research area due to abandonment or insensible usage was prevented. On the other hand, it will be ensured for the environmental sources to be protected through being put into good use, and to be handed down to next generations, by courtesy of the greenway planning the management model that was offered.
 - With the project in question, it is aimed to preserve the biological diversity in the research/study area, to establish connections between habitats, to protect historical and cultural resources and ecologic assets. In this context, the natural, historical and cultural assets will have been protected, the future generations will also be able to benefit from these assets, and their usages will be assured.
 - One of the most important solution for improving the life and environmental quality of Ankara – Sakarya Route can be supplied by the preservation of ecological balance both the whole and the settlements situated on this route. This can be supported by protecting existing natural and green areas and establishing green network planned both for recreation, tourism and nature protection purposes offering alternative cultural, social, agricultural uses.
- In conclusion, the development of national greenways consisting (multi) cities as in Ankara – Sakarya Greenway case sets/shows a comprehensive way of ecologically based planning and design in the case of holistic greenway approach.

On the other hand by creating such a greenway between the cities of Ankara and Sakarya, the sub-settlements in this route will become identified and qualified both culturally, socially and geographically. Ankara – Sakarya Greenway proposal not only revitalizes this road, it also supports and enriches the ecology of the region as forming habitat for various living components of nature.

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