Integrating Cultural Planning Approach in Urban Parks:
Case of Fateh Garden, Iran

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Abstract

Cultural planning has been used in some instances of urban planning and regeneration, but it is less frequently used in the planning of urban parks. The present study proposes a cultural planning model for urban parks and provides cultural planning recommendations to improve the condition of Fateh Garden as a case study. The four steps of this study are case study selection, cultural mapping, cultural assessment, and cultural planning Cultural mapping has been done using ethnography and the grounded theory method, cultural assessment has been done using interviews with the park authorities, and cultural planning has been done using creative methods. The findings show that Fateh Garden is a successful urban park with popular cultural resources. Among the components in Fateh Garden, sycamore trees, are the most important components from the users' point of view. Moreover, sports activities are the most important events and activities and the feeling of peace is one of the most important meanings and associations in this park for users. This study has provided a range of recreational opportunities available and recommendations for Fateh Garden. This study also detected some conflicts, issues and problems for users and proposed some solutions. Cultural planning of urban parks helps to identify cultural resources and use them in creative ways to improve the condition of parks. Future research should therefore concentrate on making optimal use of cultural resources of urban parks to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for users.

Keywords: *Cultural Planning, Cultural Resources, Urban Parks, Fateh Garden, Iran*

Introduction

As Borrup (2021) asserts, there is a cultural dimension in every component of urban planning that urban planners are often unaware of. One of the approaches that can help urban planners to understand these cultural dimensions is cultural planning. According to Bianchini and Parkinson (1993:209), *"Cultural planning can help urban governments identify the city's cultural resources and think strategically about their applications, to achieve key objectives in areas as diverse as physical planning, townscape design, tourism, industrial development, retailing, place marketing, community development, education, and training."*

Cultural planning focuses on the cultural resources of a place (Ghilardi, 2001). The work of cultural planning as Davies (2004) mentions, is putting people in the center of the space, creating opportunities around them, and motivating them to take those opportunities, work through them, and deliver something, which will not just benefit them but also benefit the community. As Bianchini (2004) discusses, cultural planning recognizes the value of local cultural resources, challenges traditional approaches to urban development, and contributes to the integrated development of a place.

The application of cultural planning has so far been mainly related to urban regeneration. There has been little consideration for the use of cultural planning in urban parks. This research helps fill a gap in the literature to investigate the use of cultural planning in an Iranian urban park. Therefore, the use of cultural planning for urban parks' planning and management is an area that has yet to be explored. In this regard, this study sought answers to the following questions: (1) What cultural planning model informs the planning and management of urban parks? and (2) What cultural planning recommendations could be outlined in the case of Fateh Garden? Therefore, the goal of the research is to propose a cultural planning model for urban parks and provide cultural planning recommendations to improve Fateh Garden.

Theoretical Foundations

Cultural planning first appeared at the end of the 1970s to address cultural concerns (Borrup, 2021). It was proposed by Harvey Perloff. Perloff (1979) considered cultural planning required to achieve the objectives for the arts. A definition of cultural planning is given by Mercer (2006) who described it as the strategic and integral planning and use of cultural resources in urban and community development. He emphasizes that "cultural planning does not mean the planning of culture but, rather, ensuring that culture is always present and not marginalized in the planning process" (Mercer, 2006:9). Bianchini (1999) also emphasizes that 'the planning of culture' is dangerous and probably impossible undertaking and it is not the task of cultural planning.

Montgomery (1990) debated the art of cultural planning for UK cities. He quotes Wolf von Eckhardt that stated "effective cultural planning involves all the arts— the art of architecture, the art of urban planning, the art of winning community support, the art of transportation planning and the art of mastering the dynamics of economic development." Montgomery believes that cultural planning is not a difficult task, though it has its problems.

Various studies have been conducted on cultural planning and its application in different countries. This has been seen in the case of Australia (Dowling, 1997; Mills, 2003; Young, 2008; Stevenson, 2005; Hill, 2011), Canada (Baeker, 2008; Hume, 2009; Fitzpatrick, 2009; Wekerle, 2011; Kovacs, 2011; McVay, 2014), UK (Montgomery, 1990; Bianchini, 1993; Ghilardi, 2001, 2003, 2010; Bianchini & Ghilardi, 2007; Connolly, 2013), Sweden (Ghilardi, 2016; 2018), Austria (Krisch, 2019), USA (Jones, 1993; Redaelli, 2012; 2013; Markusen, 2006; Ogusky, 2010; Borrup, 2019), Europe (Bianchini, 1991; 1993), China (Zhou et al, 2018) and UAE (Zaidan, 2016).

A Cultural Planning Model for Urban Parks

Cultural planning at all levels is closely related to the theme of leisure. Certainly, any cultural planning is a kind of leisure planning. Considering that urban parks are part of urban recreational spaces, and planning for them follows the principles of recreational space planning, it is necessary to specify different types of planning for such spaces. Therefore, their relationship with cultural planning should be considered.

Since cultural resources are the basic material of the cultural planning process (Landry, 2008:173), it is necessary to identify cultural resources to use them at different stages. The presence of cultural resources within an urban park indicates the park's endeavor to incorporate diverse modes of artistic representation and create a welcoming environment for its users (Borrup et al, 2021). Therefore, the first step in the cultural planning of urban parks is cultural mapping to properly identify the cultural resources of urban parks. The cultural resources of urban parks include tangible cultural resources (man-made components, natural components, sensory components, plants, animals, and humans) and intangible cultural resources (meanings and associations).

After cultural mapping, in the second step, it is necessary to evaluate these cultural resources. Therefore, it is necessary to examine the views of managers and policymakers of urban parks concerning these cultural resources. At this stage, it is determined how to decide on the components in urban parks and their location, and what is the approach of policymakers and managers to these components, and the users' activities and events that result from them. It also takes into account the meanings and associations that these components, activities, and events create in the minds of users.

Once cultural resources have been identified and located, and the approach of policymakers and urban park managers has been evaluated, a range of recreational opportunities tailored to cultural resources is provided. What plays a crucial role in the success of urban park cultural planning is the use of creative thinking. Landry (2008) believes that creativity provides an opportunity for a city to sustain itself over time. In his view, creative thinking uses cultural resources in a way to

develop them. According to Landry (2006), creative thinking sees every problem as an opportunity for change, and any weakness can become a strength.

Given the diversity of users in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, language, and diversity of cultural resources, it is necessary to provide different types of recreational opportunities to meet their desires and needs. This variety of recreational opportunities and facilities for a wide range of users will naturally lead to the formation of conflicts, issues, and problems. Therefore, it is necessary to identify these cases. Some of these conflicts, issues, and problems are major and need immediate action. To solve them, the issues approach is used. In this approach, the main and key issues are identified first. It is then prioritized and addressed through user participation, park managers, NGOs, and other decision-making bodies. Some of these conflicts, issues, and problems are minor and can be resolved through the organic or incremental approach. This is done gradually and with the participation of users and park managers and using the capacity of cultural resources.

After resolving conflicts, issues, and problems, it is necessary to pay attention to the health, welfare, and well-being of users. For this purpose, the community development approach is used. Community development is an all-inclusive process that manages changes within a community by engaging citizens in discussions to determine necessary actions, sharing their vision of the future, and involving them in the implementation process (Vincent, 2006). The advantages comprise of empowering the community, enhancing their sense of identity, utilizing cultural resources, fostering a sense of ownership, and increasing the probability of long-term success (Curson et al, 2007).

Community development approaches are among key characteristics of successful cultural planning (2010 Legacy Now & Creative City Network of Canada, 2006). The implementation of cultural planning through a bottom-up approach in new public management is centered around supporting and enabling community development approaches (Baeker, 2002). Cultural planning focuses on sustainable community development by placing people and culture as its central elements, utilizing a multi-sectoral approach (Curson et al, 2007). Community development can refer to the result of creating an urban park or the process of involving park users in discussions to identify necessary actions and share their vision for the future of the park (Vincent, 2006).
Many tasks related to the maintenance of plants, trees, animals, and built spaces as well as holding various events can be left to the users. Creating a participatory system to use users' opinions in all decisions related to parks and delegating responsibility to public institutions for the optimal use of cultural resources can empower the users and increase the sense of belonging of users. Figure 1 shows the cultural planning model of urban parks.
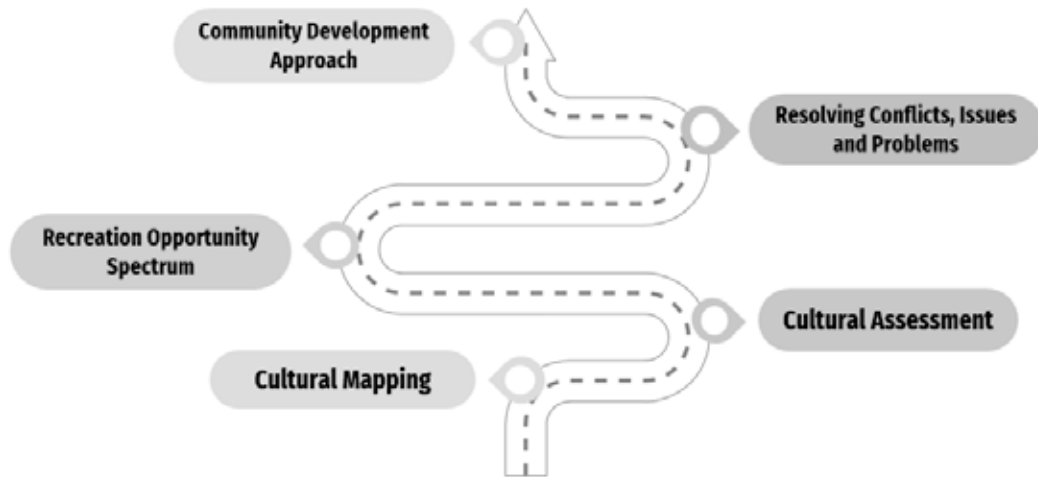
Figure 1. The cultural planning model of urban parks.

Research Methodology

In this study, several qualitative methods were employed to discover the cultural resources of Fateh Garden, assess them and make cultural planning recommendations. A grounded theory method (to discover the meanings and associations as the intangible cultural resources) and an ethnographic approach (to determine the component parts, events and activities as the tangible cultural resources) were adopted to derive a bottom-up understanding of cultural resources of Fateh Garden. ATLAS.ti software was used to facilitate the data analysis process. Moreover, some creative methods were used to make some cultural planning recommendations for Fateh Garden. In total, this research includes four steps that need to be done to achieve the desired result. Figure 2 shows the different stages of this research.
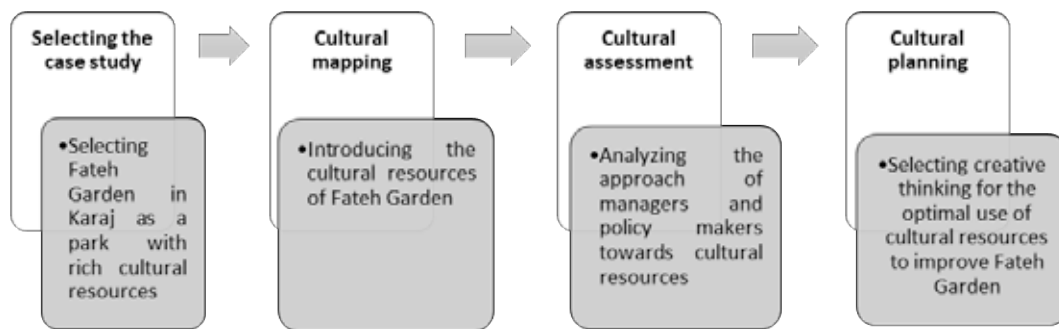

Figure 2. The stages of this research.

Timeline of Study

Fateh Garden was selected as a case study in the winter of 2020. Cultural mapping was done throughout the winter, spring, summer, and autumn of 2020. Fateh Garden was visited on weekdays and weekends at the times of early morning, morning, late morning, afternoon, late afternoon, early evening, evening, late evening, and night. About 45 observations were conducted at various times and on different days of the week. In total, nearly 6,800 visitors were counted. The number of

leisure activities observed in Fateh Garden was about 70. Cultural assessment was done in the winter of 2021 and cultural planning was done in the winter and spring of 2021.

Step 1. Selecting the Case Study
Fateh Garden is located in Karaj, Iran. According to the 2016 census, the city of Karaj, located in Alborz Province, has a population of 1,592,492 people, which is the fourth most populous city in Iran (Statistical Center of Iran, 2018). According to the Head of Landscape and Green Space Organization of Karaj Municipality (2020), there are 243 parks in Karaj. Fateh Garden is the second-largest park in Karaj with an area of 15 hectares. Until about ten years ago, it was used as a private garden full of many fruit trees that were sold commercially. Due to the convenient location of this garden in the city, its numerous and valuable trees, and the demand of the citizens of Karaj, the Municipality of Karaj took over this garden, and within a few years, with the addition of the necessary facilities, turned this garden into an urban park. Fateh Garden is also one of the registered national heritages of Iran as one of the gardens of Jahanshahr (The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, 2006).

Fateh Garden was selected because this park is at the top of the Karaj urban parks in terms of the number of photos and comments on social media such as Instagram and online tools such as Google Maps. The location of Fateh Garden in Karaj facilitates the access of the residents of the adjacent areas to it. Moreover, a large number of entrances to the park from the streets and alleys and the possibility of parking cars on the side of the street have made it easy for visitors to access this park. Figure 3 shows a picture of Fateh Garden.

Figure 3. A picture of Fateh Garden (Photo by author).

Step 2: Cultural Mapping
What is being done at this step is to identify the cultural resources available in the Fateh Garden. These cultural resources include tangible cultural resources

(components, activities, and events) and intangible cultural resources (meanings and associations). Ethnography and grounded theory method have been used to identify the cultural resources of Fateh Garden. Given the method used by some previous research studies on urban parks (e.g., Campbella et al., 2016; Loukaitou-Sideris, 1995; Rall and Haase, 2011), the research data was drawn from three main sources: direct observations of human activities (32 observations on weekdays and weekends), observation of the events and activities, and interviews with park users (57 interviews).

Fifty-seven semistructured interviews composed of 27 males and 30 females were conducted with Fateh Garden users. Among those interviewed were 3 children (under 15 years of age), 14 adolescents (15 to 20 years old), 28 youths (20 to 35 years old), 9 middle-aged people (35 to 60 years old), and 3 elderly people (over 60 years old), and they were composed of 30 females and 27 males overall. Each interview lasted between 20 and 60 minutes and was held in Persian. Some questions include the following: How often do you come to Fateh Garden? What do you usually do when you are in Fateh Garden? What does Fateh Garden evoke for you? What is the reason for your interest in Fateh Garden? Which parts of Fateh Garden are more attractive and memorable to you? How do you feel when you take a walk in Fateh Garden?

Step 3. Cultural Assessment
In this research, the two-way relationship between the cultural resources of Fateh Garden and the managers and officials influencing the Fateh Garden is considered. It is necessary to determine the approach of the managers and policymakers of this park towards the cultural resources. In this regard, the designers, planners, and manager of Fateh Garden as well as the current and previous Head of Landscape and Green Space Organization of Karaj Municipality, head of Fateh Foundation, and a member of the city council were interviewed to discuss their approach to the components of the park, their location in the park, and their relationship with the events, activities, meanings, and associations they have for the users.

Step 4. Cultural Planning
In the final stage, based on the cultural resources of Fateh Garden and the use of creative thinking, the range of proposed recreational opportunities was presented. Then, the existing conflicts, issues, and problems were identified and the proposed solutions were introduced. Finally, the suggestions of cultural planning of Fateh Garden were presented according to the community development approach.

Results
Cultural Mapping
Cultural mapping responds to the policy challenge by proposing a flexible approach to define a particular community's cultural resources (Evans, 2015). Cultural resources of Fateh Garden include component parts, activities, and events as tangible resources and meanings and associations as intangible resources. Component parts of Fateh Garden include natural components, sensory components, plants, animals, humans, man-made components, and places. Figure 4 shows some of the plants, humans and man-made components in Fateh Garden.

Figure 4. Some of the component parts of Fateh Garden (Photo by author).

Events and activities can be human or nonhuman. The human events and activities related to what the users do in Fateh Garden, including sports, games, and fun activities, children's activities, taking photos and recording videos, events related to socializing with friends and family, making friends, working, holding studying, literary, artistic, and educational sessions, political activities, smoking, drug dealing, patrolling, buying and selling goods, occasional events. Figure 5 shows playing sports and figure 6 shows playing chess and backgammon in Fateh Garden.

Figure 5. Playing sports in Fateh Garden (Photo by author).

Non-human events are animal-related events & plant-related events. Figure 7 shows dogs in Fateh Garden & figure 8' table shows its cultural resources in detail.

Figure 7. Dogs in Fateh Garden (Photo by author).

Cultural Resources	Some Examples	
Component parts		
Natural components	soil, water, wood, stones, brick, plastic, and polyethylene	
Sensory components	different colors (green, brown, gray, white, yellow, black, blue, orange, and red as the most frequent colors), smells (e.g., plants, wet soil, and cigarettes), sounds (crows, birds, dogs, cats, insects, human laughter, human speech, water, music, and songs)	
Plants	the fruit trees (e.g., mulberry, plum, Coe's golden drop, pomegranate, walnut, pear, and apple), the non-fruit trees (e.g., sycamore, maple, poplar, ash, weeping willow, and acacia), and flowers	
Animals	crows, other birds, cats, dogs, insects	
Humans	sports practitioners, teenagers, young families, couples, middle-aged and elderly people, children, artists, poets, writers, photographers, musicians, singers, students, unemployed people, sweepers, gardeners, security guards, and workers	
Manmade components	swing benches, fixed benches, gazebos, four-seater chess tables, sitting walls along the main walking path, fitness machines, fountains, entrances, border features, statues, playground equipment, drinking fountains, rubbish bins, signs, lights, stone vases	
Places	Shamdooni Café, Book Café, Garden House, food kiosks, restrooms, prayer rooms, playground, fenced sports enclosure, tennis courts, badminton courts, plots, walking paths	
Events and Activities		
Sports	morning group workouts, walking, jogging, running, tennis, badminton, volleyball, chess, skating, cycling, parkour, slacklining, and football	
Game and fun activities	board and card games, backgammon, Frisbee, pantomime and Mafia, and music and singing	
Children's activities, taking photos, recording videos, holding studying, literary, artistic, and educational sessions, making friends, political activities, smoking, drug dealing, patrolling, buying and selling goods		
Socializing with friends and family	conversations, laughing, eating, and drinking	
Occasional events	The Fall Leaves Festival, the Celebration of Mid-Sha'ban, Pomegranate Celebration on the occasion of Yalda Night, world yoga day, taekwondo annual meeting, kickboxing conferences, and general training in self-defense and cold weapons	
Animal-related activities	dog walking, feeding animals	
Plant-related activities	irrigating, fruit picking, and maintaining the trees	
Meanings and Associations		
Meanings	antiquity, originality, deep-rootedness, greatness, strength, stability, calmness, freedom, vitality, positive energy, the flow of life, glory, freshness, delight, happiness, enthusiasm, beauty, mobility, kindness, mercy, pleasure, affection, hope, comfort, solitude, loneliness, privacy, companionship, friendship, charm, mischief, drowsiness, joy, passion, change, movement, health, a sense of life, coolness, peace, loveliness, proportion, symmetry, sacrifice, magnanimity, chivalry, courage, forgiveness, effort, excitement	
Associations	Individuals	the hardworking gardeners, fiancé, girlfriend or boyfriend, family, friends, children, high school classmates, adolescent girls and boys, lively and friendly older men, participants in business meetings, passers-by, bodybuilders, athletes, sports practitioners, swimmers, the late Fateh
	Animals	crows, stray dogs, cats, insects
	Places	nature, Valiasr St. in Tehran, forest parks such as Chitgar Forest Park, forests, the north of Iran, private gardens, walking paths, children's playgrounds, sports clubs, gyms, pools, rivers, lakes
	Events or activities	playing music, feeding animals, dog walking, talking, eating, and drinking in groups, riding on children's swings, group music performances, group games (chess, backgammon, cards, snakes and ladders, ludo), swimming, making friends with other people
	Components	old trees, swings, meals, drinks, musical instruments, chess, backgammon, ludo, snakes and ladders, cards
	Periods	childhood, spending time with friends, gatherings with classmates, nights, meetings and classes, the period of being with a spouse, fiancé, or family, times of playing live music, training times in the gym, summer, the time when Fateh Garden was a private garden

Figure 8. Table of Fateh Garden's cultural resources.

Cultural Assessment

The analytical framework used to assess the cultural resources in Fateh Garden is based on the criteria for defining strategically important Arts, Cultural and Entertainment (ACE) facilities. According to the suggestion, if a cultural resource meets any of the definitions mentioned in figure 9, it can be categorized as strategic (Curson et al, 2007). Figure 9 shows these definitions and examples in Fateh Garden.

Criteria	Examples in Fateh Garden
A cultural resource that attracts a notable portion of its visitors or users from the rest of the city.	Sycamore trees, sports facilities
A cultural resource which provides a service for the users who come from outside the region.	sports facilities
A cultural resource which is unique to this sector of the region.	Sycamore trees
A type of cultural resource with special amenities e.g. disability access, equipment, and which is unique to this sector.	Garden House
A type of cultural resource that serves particular groups, such as cultural minorities, and which is unique to this sector.	Sports facilities, Garden House
A cultural resource that is currently or expected to be utilized by a considerable number of visitors.	Sports facilities
A cultural resource able to host special events that is unique to this sector.	Garden House, tennis courts
A cultural resource with particular historic associations that is unique to this sector.	Sycamore trees

Figure 9. Criteria for defining strategically important ACE facilities and the examples in Fateh Garden.

To uphold the significance of cultural resources and promote social progress, it is essential to have a strong commitment and effective policy measures in place (Ancho, San Juan, 2021). Before becoming a city park, Fateh Garden was owned by the Fateh Foundation and the Abadani and Jahan Foundation, which operate under the control of the Martyrs and Veterans Affairs Foundation. There is still an abandoned plot of land in the north of Fateh Garden, which is owned by Abadani and Jahan Foundation and has a dispute with Karaj Municipality over how to use this land. After the acquisition of this land by the Municipality of Karaj, the Head of Landscape and Green Space Organization of Karaj Municipality and his deputies came every morning to do morning group workouts in Fateh Garden, and due to the passage of cars on the main and important streets leading to this park, doing morning workouts in Fateh Garden has become a common activity. Since then, many citizens of Karaj, from children to the elderly, from employees to retirees, and from men to women, engage in morning workouts in the early hours of the day, turning Fateh Garden into a large open-air sports club.

This situation is fully endorsed by the managers and policymakers of this park and they support sports practitioners in various ways. The park manager personally visits the park every morning and takes care of sports-related matters in this urban park. Issues and problems related to sports equipment and sports fields are quickly investigated and resolved. The construction of eight tennis courts at the beginning of the establishment of this urban park by the park managers shows their determination to encourage users to do sports activities in this place. There-

fore, sports activities in Fateh Garden, as the most important activity available and one of the most valuable cultural resources of this urban park, are strongly supported by managers and policymakers.

The next point is related to the plants in Fateh Garden as one of the most important cultural resources of this urban park. According to officials, the number of trees in the plots has increased dramatically since it became an urban park, and worn-out trees are quickly being replaced by more trees. However, the number of fruit trees has decreased due to their short lifespan in the polluted urban space of Karaj and has been replaced by other trees. A lot of money is spent on planting and maintaining plants and trees in the plots, and the efforts of the managers of this garden are to preserve the garden-like identity of this urban park. Therefore, the construction of roads, sitting walls, stalls, and buildings in the plot is not allowed. This has made the plots still look pristine and natural, and the various animals that can live in the plot can nest or feed on them. Preserving the garden-like identity of this urban park has been the main goal of the managers and policymakers of Fateh Garden.

One of the buildings that, according to the former head of Landscape and Green Space Organization of Karaj Municipality, is one of the most important assets of the Fateh Garden, is the Garden House. This building has been built for the general use of citizens to hold classes, events, and activities of individuals and nongovernmental organizations and has hosted many individuals and institutions to hold weekly monthly, or occasional events. Moreover, the Book Cafe has been established to promote reading and hold literary meetings, and Shamadoni Cafe, with the emphasis of the park manager, has provided a pleasant space for users to relax in a colorful combination of chairs and tables, along with water and trees.

The approach of park managers and policymakers towards the animals is different from the opinions of users in some cases. For example, there are many stray dogs in Fateh Garden that most of the users do not have a problem with their presence, but the managers at different times try to catch them and transfer them to dog shelters that are opposed by some users who prevented from doing so. Moreover, the presence of domestic dogs is opposed by the managers. Sometimes domestic dogs are not allowed in the park which is protested by the owners of these dogs. In other cases, the approach of managers and policymakers is in line with user opinions. For example, the staff of Fateh Garden is also allowed to feed the animals along with the users. Moreover, the animals live in peace and do not feel disturbed by the park staff. Holding bird-watching tours by different companies and individuals is also approved by the managers.

Offering a variety of options for users to sit in the park has made users easily find a place to sit. The installation of swing benches in two walking paths, fixed benches in most of the walking paths, gazeboes in four walking paths, four-seater chess tables in one walking path, and sitting walls along the main walking path have made it easy for people to find a place to sit. Given what has been said, managerial findings for use in cultural planning are shown in Figure 10.

Cultural resource	Management findings
Plants as the most important natural resource of the Fateh garden	- Preserving the garden-like identity of this park due to the role of the environment and its impact on encouraging users to sports activities - Preventing construction of walking paths or buildings in the plots and preventing the destruction of plants and trees - Using the shade of sycamore trees on the walking paths for sitting, walking, and doing sports
Sports activities as the most important activities in Fateh Garden	- Construction of eight tennis courts at the beginning of the establishment of this urban park - Creating a fenced area for ball sports - Allocating a walking path to chess by installing four-seater chess tables - Allocating a walking path to badminton by creating five-lined courts and installing bars - Allocating three walking paths to exercises by installing a large number of fitness machines - Facilitating users to do sports such as parkour, skating and cycling on walking paths, and slacklining on the plots
Garden House as the most important place in Fateh garden	- Increasing the spirit of participation among users and promoting group activities - Providing free educational services for citizens - Providing a gathering place for users to hold weekly, monthly or special events - Providing a place for the sale of handmade products of citizens on different occasions
Animals in Fateh Garden	- Not disturbing the life of animals in the plots - Transferring stray dogs to shelters - Facilitating users to feed animals - Facilitating bird watching tours
Urban furniture	Providing a large and varied number of options for sitting through: - Installing swing benches on two walking paths - Installing of fixed benches on nine walking paths - Installing gazeboes on nine walking paths - Installing four-seater chess tables on a walking path - Installing seating walls along the main walking path
Food and beverage outlets	Providing different options through: - Book Café to promote reading and holding literary meetings and gatherings of poets, writers, and literary figures - Shamdooni Cafe in the form of an artistic cafe with colorful chairs and tables next to the water and trees to gather artists, athletes, and other users - Three food and beverage kiosks in three different places

Figure 10. Management findings for use in cultural planning.

Cultural Planning

Once the cultural resources of Fateh Garden have been identified and the approach of managers and policymakers towards these cultural resources has been determined, it is necessary to provide a range of recreational opportunities appropriate to these cultural resources for users. Due to the sports atmosphere in Fateh Garden, sports activities are the most important activities in Fateh Garden. As mentioned earlier, various sports are practiced in different parts of this park, including tennis, volleyball, badminton, chess, skating, cycling, slacklining, parkour, and football. Although this variety of sports activities is very valuable, it seems that it is still possible to do some other sports in Fateh Garden.

Considering that tennis is the first sport in Fateh Garden and has even caused Fateh Garden to be known as "Tennis Park", it is possible to install table tennis tables for those who are interested in this sport. Because table tennis balls are so small, it is very unlikely to injure other users or trees if hit. Moreover, due to a large number of trees and the natural and relaxing atmosphere of this park, it

can be suggested to do mental exercises such as yoga. This sport can be done on plots and walking paths. Sports such as bowling can be performed in this urban park due to the length of the throwing path, which does not occupy much space. However, sports such as basketball are not suitable for this park due to the need to install baskets and the weight of the ball.

Users of Fateh Garden play different games in different places. For example, on chess tables, various games such as chess, backgammon, snake and ladder, card, and other board games are played. However, these games are also played in other parts of the park, including gazebos. Due to the interests of different groups of users in these games, from young people to the elderly, more of these games can be suggested for this urban park. Installation of football tables and air hockey tables due to their small size and low risk can enhance recreational opportunities for young people in this park.

Many events are held on different occasions in Fateh Garden. These special events are held both on national and religious occasions. Moreover, various sports groups, governmental, non-governmental, civic, or environmental organizations organize events in this urban park on different occasions and by obtaining the necessary permits. Most of these events are popular among the users of Fateh Garden and users have good memories of them. It seems that more events can be done on different occasions as shown in figure 11. Some events are also held daily, weekly or monthly in the Garden House. These events can be more varied and can be done in other places in the park. In this regard, other events can be organized. Figure 11 shows the range of recreational opportunities available and recommended for the Fateh Garden.

Available sports	Recommended sports
Tennis, volleyball, badminton, chess, skating, cycling, slacklining, parkour	table tennis, yoga, bowling
Available games	**Recommended games**
Chess, backgammon, snake and ladder, card, other board games, Frisbee	Air hockey, table football
Available occasional events	**Recommended occasional events**
The Fall Leaves Festival, Mid-Shaban Celebration, Nowruz Celebration, Pomegranate Celebration on the Occasion of Yalda Night, World Yoga Day, National Pump and Body Balance Conference, Taekwondo Conference, Kickboxing Conference, Colorful Balloons Festival on the occasion of International Children's Day, Book Day and Book Reading Festival, a conference to honor and commemorate the International Day of Disables	All national and religious holidays, Women's Day, Men's Day, Girl's Day, Youth Day, Adolescent Day, Student Day, World Elderly Day, Teacher's Day, Karaj Cultural Day, Physical Education and Sports Day, World Poetry Day, World Water Day, World Health Day, Persian Gulf Day, Handicrafts Day, World Blood Donation Day, National Flower and Plant Day, Holy Defense Week Festival, Research Day and World Board Game Day
Available daily, weekly or monthly events	**Recommended daily, weekly or monthly events**
Gardening workshop, Shahnameh reading, Masnavi reading, Hafez reading, painting training, painting exhibition, handicrafts exhibition, group consultations	Friday cultural and artistic bazaars, artists' gatherings, bird watching tours, art education workshops, special education sessions for students, sports competitions, art competitions

Figure 11. The range of recreational opportunities available and recommended for Fateh Garden.

These recreational opportunities can create conflicts, issues, and problems for users. For example, due to the narrow width of the walking paths, doing some sports such as skating may cause pedestrians to encounter skating practitioners. This has caused some people to protest. Assign part of one of the walking paths to skate can solve this problem. Moreover, the possibility of a volleyball or Frisbee colliding with pedestrian users causes them to be frightened while walking. Due to the fenced area for ball games, it is necessary to play volleyball only in this area. Also, due to the existence of an empty and open field in the north of Fateh Garden, Frisbee enthusiasts can use that piece of land.

Another issue is the use of children's playgrounds by those interested in parkour and martial arts for training, which has provoked protests from children and their parents. Due to the good flooring of this area, athletes sometimes use this place to do their exercises. Since there are two flat and wide stone sitting platforms in Fateh Garden, by equipping them with suitable flooring, they can be allocated for sports exercises. Given what has been said, Figure 12 shows the conflicts, issues, and problems and recommended solutions for the Fateh Garden.

Conflicts, issues, and problems	Recommended solution
The possibility of pedestrians encountering skating practitioners on the walking path	Assigning part of one of the walking paths to skating
The possibility of volleyball or Frisbee colliding with pedestrian users	Playing volleyball only in the fenced area Throwing Frisbee in the open and empty piece of land at the north of Fateh Garden
Simultaneous use of children's playground by those interested in parkour and martial arts on the one hand and children on the other	Equipping two flat and wide stone sitting platforms with suitable flooring for parkour and martial arts practitioners

Figure 12. The conflicts, issues and problems with recommended solutions for the Fateh Garden.

After resolving conflicts, issues, and problems, it is necessary to pay attention to the health, welfare, and well-being of users. For this purpose, the community development approach is used. Many tasks related to the maintenance of plants, animals, and built environment as well as holding various events can be left to the users. Creating a participatory system to make the benefits of users' opinions in all decisions related to parks and delegating responsibility to public institutions for the optimal use of cultural resources can empower the community, increase the sense of identity and sense of belonging of users to parks. User comments were used for this purpose. Since cultural planning is a participatory approach and it is necessary to ask the opinions of other users of Fateh Garden, in the community development approach, different methods can be used to meet the needs and desires of users. The table in figure 13 presents the final recommendations for Fateh Garden, taking into account the community development approach.

General suggestion	Recommended for Fateh Garden
Delegating many tasks related to the maintenance of plants to the users	Planting plants according to the interest and desire of users Involving users in the process of preserving the plants through the formation of voluntary groups - Facilitating the participation of environmental groups to provide suggestions related to the type and method of planting the trees and flowers in the park
Delegating many tasks related to animals to the users	- Facilitating the activities of individuals and organizations that support animal rights to feed animals in the park - Organizing stray dogs through animal advocacy groups
Delegating many tasks related to the maintenance of the built environment to the users	- Garden House management by users through the formation of various voluntary groups - Monitoring the activity of food and beverage kiosks, Shamdooni Cafe, and Book Cafe through users - Providing solutions to problems related to restrooms, sports equipment, prayer rooms, etc. through users
Delegating holding various events to the users	- Organizing sports competitions by sports groups - Holding art competitions by art groups - Holding scientific and educational competitions for pupils and students by volunteer groups - Holding charitable celebrations to help the needy by charitable organizations - Holding celebrations and festivals on national and religious holidays by various groups of people - Setting up stalls to sell home-made products by different groups and individuals - Holding training classes to empower users and create job opportunities
Creating a participatory system for the optimal use of user opinions in all decisions related to the park	- Holding elections to form the Park Management Council - Communicating with members of the Park Management Council through face-to-face and social media - Holding weekly meetings to hear the opinions of users in the park
Deciding how to spend the park resources and how to inform the users	- The transparency of the expenses and incomes of Fateh Garden through public announcement - Holding surveys on how to spend the park's revenue regularly - Providing monthly and annual performance balance to users

Figure 13. Table of the final recommendations for Fateh Garden considering the community development approach.

Conclusion

A model consisting of three stages for cultural planning of urban parks is introduced in this research. Cultural mapping, which involves identifying cultural resources, is carried out in the first stage. The cultural resources of Fateh Garden can be categorized into tangible resources such as its components, activities, and events, and intangible resources such as meanings and associations. The results indicate that Fateh Garden is a prosperous urban park, featuring well-liked cultural resources. According to users, the most significant element of Fateh Garden is the sycamore trees. Additionally, users consider sports activities to be the primary events and activities in Fateh Garden, while the feeling of peace is among the most critical meanings and associations that this park holds for them.

The second stage involves doing a cultural assessment, which includes assessing how urban park authorities and policymakers have approached the park's cultural resources. Fateh Garden authorities enthusiastically support sports activities, growing and maintaining trees, and hosting events at Garden House. In the final stage, this study showcased the variety of leisure activities that are presently accessible and advised for Fateh Garden. Table tennis, yoga, and bowling are among the suggested sports, while air hockey and table football are among the recom-

mended games. Furthermore, the study proposed various events to take place in Fateh Garden, including cultural and artistic markets held on Fridays, meetings for artists, bird-watching excursions, workshops for art education, specialized sessions for students with unique needs, sports tournaments, and art contests. The use of a cultural planning approach may suggest potential solutions for the problems, conflicts and issues present in Fateh Garden. Allocating a section of a walking trail for skating, limiting volleyball games to a designated fenced area, utilizing the open and unoccupied area to the north of Fateh Garden for Frisbee throwing, and providing two level stone platforms with appropriate surfaces for individuals practicing parkour and martial arts are some proposed solutions.

Compared to many other countries, Iranians have a limited range of recreational activities, and their primary choices for socializing with friends and family include visiting parks, cinemas, restaurants, and cafes. Islamic regulations prohibit Iranians from attending Western-style entertainment venues, such as nightclubs. Therefore, urban parks are an excellent alternative for teenagers and young adults, especially when it comes to utilizing their free time. Iran has a distinct approach to urban park planning when compared to other countries, particularly Western nations. The primary reason for this variation is related to the governing bodies responsible for making decisions about urban parks, as well as the banned events and activities within parks in Iran. In Iran, municipalities do not have sole decision-making authority on certain issues related to the management of urban parks because governmental, military, and religious institutions and organizations also have a role to play in this regard. In Iran, the police and religious institutions are against the idea of having pet dogs in urban parks. Furthermore, these entities are against the presence of music and dance groups in parks throughout Iran. Their belief is that Iranian urban parks should adhere to Islamic principles, and only events and activities that align with Shia Islamic doctrine are permissible in these parks. As a result, certain leisure activities that are popular in urban parks in Western countries, including alcohol consumption, dancing, and walking dogs, are explicitly banned in Iranian parks.

The recommendations of this study regarding the implementation of cultural planning in other parks across Iran are broadly divided into two sections. The initial part pertains to the disregard of cultural features unique to every city and neighborhood and the lack of attention given to cultural resources. The approach taken towards designing and organizing urban parks in Iran has been somewhat uniform, involving the installation of man-made elements like benches, gazebos, and restrooms, along with the planting of grass or trees to create a verdant environment. No consideration has been given to the cultural attributes of individual neighborhoods or cities in this regard. The way of life in each neighborhood or city is influenced by their belief systems, resulting in a preference for particular cultural resources that urban park planners and policymakers should take into account when formulating plans. Cultural planning has the potential to effectively identify the cultural resources present in urban parks and utilize them to their fullest extent to enhance the parks and cater to the needs and desires of park users.

As an instance, in an urban park where group activities are prevalent, it is vital to incorporate features like gazebos or circular seating arrangements that facilitate face-to-face interactions. It is important to take into account users' preferences for sensory and natural components such as their favorite colors, scents, cuisine, and sounds when designing urban parks. The flora and fauna present in urban parks are also important factors in making them appealing and unforgettable. Thus far, there has been a focus on enhancing man-made components in urban parks, such as benches, gazebos, and amenities like restrooms, while many other cultural resources have been disregarded. By taking into account all cultural resources, an urban park has the potential to become a second home for its users, which can enhance the frequency and quality of park usage. Consequently, by identifying and effectively utilizing cultural resources, urban parks can serve as a place to fulfill a variety of user needs and desires, creating a peaceful environment for park-goers.

The second set of recommendations pertains to improving the communication and interaction between the policymakers and officials of urban parks in Iran and the park users. An often neglected aspect of planning and designing urban parks is the engagement and interaction between park managers/policymakers and park users. In order to meet the users' demand for greater support and promotion of fun activities, the park officials ought to carry out a survey within the activity areas. This will enable them to gather feedback from the community and gain a better understanding of their needs and concerns.

Additional studies on cultural planning for urban parks could provide answers to other inquiries. Here are some potential areas for future research:

- How to apply cultural planning to transform urban areas and rejuvenate them.
- Identifying the suitable locations, elements, flora and fauna that urban parks require in order to fulfill users' needs and desires.
- Ways to make events and activities enjoyable for the park users and how to make them more accessible.
- How to differentiate an urban park from other parks based on the requirements and preferences of its users.
- The significance and connotations that an urban park holds for its users.
- Conducting studies like the current research in other urban parks or different urban spaces, with diverse users.

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