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PLANNING FOR EARTHQUAKE RESILIENCE: POST-DISASTER FUNCTIONALITY OF KÜLTÜR PARK

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Abstract

According to United Nations reports, natural disasters have increased fivefold in the last fifty years. This increase has been observed in Turkey as well as in the world. Forty-five of Turkey's 81 provinces are under the risk of earthquakes of the 1st degree. Elazığ is one of the risk provinces. Written and visual documents, zoning plans, and GIS analysis were used as methods in the study. According to the results, the earthquake intensity in Elazığ is quite high. The city experienced a 6.8-magnitude earthquake in 2020. Kültür Park, the largest park in the city center with an area of 180,000 m², was intensively used during the disaster. A total of 484 tents were set up in Kültür Park and people stayed there for 45 days. However, only 38,000 m² of the park could be used due to its unsuitability for post-disaster use. This shows that 79% of this park, which is located in the middle of dense settlements, could not be used during the earthquake. In the usable part of the park, epidemics and fires occurred because the tents were too close together. There were also floods in the park due to precipitation. As a result, the park became unusable after 45 days. It has been observed that Kültür Park and other green areas of the city are not resilient to disasters. Recommendations have been developed to increase the resilience of green spaces in Elazığ and similar settlements with high earthquake risk.

Key words: disasters, earthquake, green spaces, urban parks

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