

Thesis Summary

As urban areas, particularly in "*Greater Tunis*", experience rapid population growth, green spaces are dwindling significantly, placing natural environments at gigantesque risks. The southern governorate of "*Ben Arous*," among all the main cities of "*Greater Tunis*", has seen a significant decline in public green spaces over the last two decades, despite a growing population and increasing demand. This trend is evident in both reality and recent statistics, especially in the southern suburbs, where urbanization clashes with environmental preservation.

The consequences of this unchecked growth, as well as the noticeable lack of valorizing green spaces in general, are starkly evident in the diminishing presence of green covers across the territory. As populations demand for open green spaces intensifies, the imbalance between development and environmental preservation becomes increasingly pronounced.

Two key natural areas in this region, the "*Bougarnine*" Mount and "*Bir-elBey*" forest, cover approximately 2000 hectares. Despite their presence within the urban fabric, these green spaces have been underutilized and inaccessible to the public for a considerable time, raising inevitable concerns.

This paradoxical scenario underscores the urgency of addressing the challenges facing these natural environments. As explained in the early phases of the thesis, the focus will be oriented to "*Bir el-Bey*" Forest for several reasons. Therefore, through a comprehensive analysis at both the mesoscale and micro-scale levels, this work endeavors to shed light on the multifaceted dimensions of the issue. Central to this inquiry is a deep dive into the state of "*Bir el-Bey*" Forest, unraveling its untapped potential and confronting its inherent challenges.

By dissecting the interplay of factors shaping the landscape, topography, water networks, vegetation, and socio-economic dynamics, a coherent strategy for intervention will take shape. This strategy aims not only to revitalize the "*Bir el-Bey*" forest but also to catalyze broader socio-ecological transformation.

At the heart of this proposed intervention, which will be expressed through an urban park project, lies among many, the concept of connectivity, through which the proposed project will aim to establish connections between cities that surround the “*Bir el-Bey*” Forest, enabling us to create an inviting environment for inhabitants, establishing appealing functions and valorizing the different hidden ambiances, while preserving biodiversity and sustainably enhancing the landscape character.

In charting a path forward, the emphasis will shift from preservation to empowerment, as by delicately integrating a park within “*Bir el-Bey*” forest, this green space will stand poised to reclaim its rightful place as a thriving hub of biodiversity, a mixed landscape component and as a contributing urban element in the southern suburb’s fabric.

As this thesis unfolds, it seeks not only to diagnose the challenges of the present but also to envision a future where nature and urbanity coexist harmoniously, a future where the history of the “*Bir el-Bey*” Forest is not one of loss and neglect but of renewal and revival.

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