An-Najah National University

Faculty of Engineering

Urban Spaces Development in Nablus

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Abstract

Due to the high population growth in the city of Nablus, and due to its squeezed between two mountains, the expanded vertically and in the mountain slopes. Thus the flat area is no more than streets and the setback between buildings.
Because dramatically attention by the population to housing construction that has resulted in the neglect of other important elements in the formation of the city, namely the urban spaces that play a big role in shaping the overall structure of the city, and even give it a beautiful picture when it's planned in a beautiful and attractive way.

Hence the idea of the study, which means the interest urban space in the city of Nablus, and highlight the deficiencies and problems which through successive steps of diagnosis logical and rational analysis.

Emphasis was placed in this study on the city's urban core blanks being of great importance to the level of the city as a whole and an important aspect to highlight the extent of the city need to develop the field of urban spaces.

In this study, focusing on basic urban spaces in the city being of great importance to the level of the city as a whole and an important aspect to highlight the extent of the city need to develop the field of urban spaces.

It has been analyzing the city as a whole and to reach a shortage in the eastern area of the city after compared with other parts of the city, and then was taken to develop the area which formed the most important and the most prominent element in this research where it was studied and analyzed and the conceptualization and development of proposals and reaching the final developmental scheme.

ملخص

نظرا للزيادة السكانية المرتفعة في مدينة نابلس ونظرا لانها محصورة بين جبلين ، فان التوسع فيها هو بشكل عمودي وفي المنحدرات الجبلية. وبالتالي مساحتها المستوية لا تعدو كونها عبارة عن شوارع وارتدادات بين المباني.

ولان الاهتمام بشكل كبير من قبل السكان بالسكن والبناء فقد ادى هذا الى اهمال العناصر الاخرى المهمة في تكوين المدينة الا وهي الفراغات الحضرية والتي تلعب دورا كبيرة في تشكيل الهيكل العام للمدينة ، بل واعطائها الصورة الجميلة اذا ما خططت بشكل جميل وجذاب.

ومن هنا جاءت فكرة هذه الدراسة التي تعنى بالاهتمام بالفراغات الحضرية في مدينة نابلس ، وتسلط الضوء على النقص والمشاكل فيها من خلال خطوات متتالية من التشخيص والتحليل المنطقي والعقلاني.

وتم التركيز في هذه الدراسة على الفراغات الحضرية الاساسية في المدينة كونها ذات اهمية كبيرة على مستوى المدينة ككل وجانبا مهما في ابراز مدى حاجة المدينة للتطوير بمجال الفراغات الحضرية.

فقد تم تحليل المدينة ككل والتوصل الى النقص في المنطقة الشرقية في المدينة بعد مقارنتها باجزاء المدينة الاخرى، ومن ثم فقد تم اخذ منطقة للتطوير والتي شكلت العنصر الاهم والابرز في هذا البحث. حيث تم دراستها وتحليلها ووضع التصورات والمقترحات التطويرية لها وصولا للمخطط النهائي التطويري.

إقرار:

أنا الموقع أدناه، مقدم الرسالة التي تحمل عنوان:

تطوير الفراغات الحضرية في نابلس

Urban Spaces Development in Nablus

أقر بأن ما اشتملت عليه هذه الرسالة هي نتاج جهدي الخاص، باستثناء ما تمت الإشارة إليه حيثما ورد ، و إن هذه الرسالة ككل ، أو أي جزء منها لم يقدم من قبل لنيل أية درجة أو لقب علمي أو بحثي لدى أية مؤسسة تعليمية أو بحثية أخرى.

Declaration

The work provided in this thesis, unless otherwise referenced, is the research's own work, and has not been submitted elsewhere for any other degree or qualification.

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Chapter 1: Research introduction and methodology

1.1 Introduction:

The increase in the population density and in the number of vehicles continuously in the city are one of the main problems that cities and their inhabitant are facing in the urban environment. After the industrial revolution and the existence of the machine and technology, land in the city had started to be used for streets, residential and commercial benefits. So, that affected the urban green spaces and recreational areas which have become limited and sometimes are not available especially in the Third World. And thus the urban spaces have become unable to provide the minimum amenities for human to practice various activities which led to the conflict over the use of these spaces and the human tended to spend his time isolated from others inside his home front of the television, which led ultimately to the disintegration of social relationships and the sense of alienation, discomfort and not belonging to the space where he lives (Dweikat, 2009, p12).

Therefore, the urban spaces are one of the most important elements of the urban composition of cities. They are not existed primarily for vehicles only, but also to be as public spaces for human activities which could not be exercised in residential units. And the different spaces in cities are indispensable extent and the complement to private spaces. And urban spaces is one of the most important elements of the urban configuration and have a significant role in the creation of physical and psychological comfort to residents and visitors alike, so; must be designed to serve the needs of people of different ages and social categories (Dweikat, 2009, p12).

In general, researchers and specialists in urban design and planning has been defined urban spaces as built-up or non-built such as streets or natural green spaces and woodlands or natural lakes spaces and this definition include urban spaces, public squares, public streets, parks, and parking lots, in addition, the remote outlying areas include extended beaches, forests, lakes, and rivers (Dweikat, 2009, p12-13).

1.2 Research Problem

The city of Nablus of the most important historical, cultural and commercial cities in Palestine, but the value of civilization has not been exploited properly
The growing interest of commercial use dominated the attention of public yards and areas in the city. The city is now heading to economic dimension more than being a social and heritage importance.
Commercial center in the city has become a crowded area of building and it's going to be more and the presence of a large shortage in urban spaces. The easy of transfer and movement of pedestrians and vehicles is not at required extent which reflected negatively on the visitors to the city in general and in particular on the population.
Urban spaces in the city do not achieve optimal purpose of its existence, with no more than a pedestrian-only corridors without affecting the visitors and residents the desired impact.
Hence the need for the existence of such a study to be a reference and prompt to any development process of squares and urban spaces in the city (researcher).

1.3 Research Importance

Urban spaces are of the most important areas in the ancient and contemporary cities, which reflects the cultural and civilizational heritage of the community.
And urban spaces play a major role in influencing the psychological point of view of the population and constitute the lungs of the city that breathes, by including its natural and humanity components.
Therefore it was necessary to interest in these places in the city and bring it real care to achieve the purpose of its existence.
With the development and expansion of cities and neglect their urban spaces and overcrowding and increase this in conjunction with the development of technology and the appearance of the virtual world, which form a large attraction for the population, which led to the increase of human isolation and lack of interest or desire for social interaction spatially.
The development of these areas and make it acquires the minds of visitors and residents of the city will form the nucleus of the process of social transformation and reorientation towards spatial interaction and reduce the default interaction by social networking (Researcher).

1.4 Research purposes

The study aims to achieve the following purposes:

- Study the concept of urban spaces
- The development of the remaining urban spaces in the city and create a distinctive new spaces
- Reduce social isolation and increased spatial and social interaction
- Increase tourism to the city of Nablus pull through this urban spaces
- Increase awareness of the importance of these areas through the optimal use of it (Researcher).

1.5 Research methodology and plan

The study consists of several sections:

To achieve the desired objectives of the study, the study plan was based on the following topics:
1. The first topic : a general and theoretical, and focuses on the concept of urban spaces and their importance, and its historical development and conditions of success and some of the influences that have contributed to its composition in social, economic, aesthetic.
2. The second topic: It is my information framework focuses on the information and data about the reality of urban spaces in the city of Nablus and its evolution through time and affected by the uses and culture spread.
3. The third topic: the analytical and evaluation framework addresses the role of urban spaces in achieving psychological comfort and social interaction by linking the theoretical frame to informational frame, and then come up with some proposals and mechanisms to strengthen the role of urban spaces in raising the attractiveness and vitality level in the city of Nablus and make recommendations to the relevant parties relationship and their role in the field of urban spaces.

The research is based on the following methods:

The historical method is mainly adopted in its review of the theoretical framework, as well as a review of historical and architectural development of urban spaces in the city of Nablus.
In addition to the descriptive method to describe the reality of urban spaces in the city of Nablus. Also, the analytical method is used in the analysis of urban spaces and make several evaluation for these spaces and put some proposals to develop these blanks.

On the other hand, the study relied on some of the scientific research tools such as field visits, interviews and questionnaires on many spaces in the city so as to know their point of view of urban spaces in the city of Nablus, and its current and future uses (Researcher).

1.6 Data resources

The collected information this study is based upon number of sources, including:

- Office sources: includes books, references, periodicals, related to the subject of study and scientific messages.
- Official and unofficial sources: includes studies and documents and the report and releases issued by institutions and government departments such as: Nablus Municipality, institutions and relevant ministries such as the one of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. The unofficial sources include studies and research and working papers issued by research centers, universities, organizations
  civils and researchers.
- Personal sources include information and data collected by the researcher through research and field survey and interviews and personal views and observations in addition to the researcher experience and expertise in the field of urban planning and design.

1.7 Research structure

This research is consist of the following chapters:

- The first chapter: a general introduction and definition of research problem and methodology
- The second chapter: theoretical framework on urban spaces concept and importance and their criteria for successful
- The third chapter: historical development of the city of Nablus and its urban spaces and their hierarchy
- The forth chapter: diagnosis, analysis and evaluation of urban spaces in the city
- The fifth chapter: development strategies for urban spaces
- The sixth chapter: conclusion and recommendations for urban spaces developments

1.8 Research questions

The research start with the following questions to be based on:

1. What is the meaning of urban spaces?
2. What is the role that urban spaces play in cities?
3. How do urban spaces serve city's residents and visitors?
4. How could we develop urban spaces in the city of Nablus?

Chapter 2: Literature Review

In this part of study the researcher shows the previous studies, articles and researches that are related to public spaces.

2.1 Urban properties of the city

The city is considered as a mass of activities, uses and elements. And these uses are complex because they present all at one place. For example, public spaces (squares) where people gather for various activities which could be social, economic, cultural, political and religious ….etc. So, squares or public spaces could not be considered as places for only one activity, but a combination of many which interfere with each other (Dweikat, 2009, p13).

2.1.1 City Morphology

City morphology is the general shape of the city which is different from time to time. And any morphological phase that the city going through is characterized by characteristics and attributes add to the city form models and distinctive architectural forms. This architectural forms characterized as reflecting the culture and civilization of inhabitants of the region at the time. Thus, the city shape produces by these variables in addition to its fixed shape which results from the natural terrain constituent (Dweikat, 2009, p13).

There are four morphological elements which are the most important elements in urban morphology:

1. Land uses: are temporary; the incoming uses lead to redevelopment and the creation of new buildings. displaced land uses are more likely to relocate existing building in older areas and rather than redeveloping them to convert them and adapt them
2. Building structures: some buildings are particularly meaningful for residents and visitors, and often represents the city. Buildings that endure over time often accommodate various uses and intensities of use during their lifetime.
3. The plot pattern: cadastral units are typically subdivided into plots or lots. Plots may also face onto main streets at the front.

4. Street pattern: is the layout of urban blocks and between them. Patterns of streets and spaces have often developed over many hundreds of years (Carmona and others, 2003, p61-p64).

The contents of the city images can be conveniently classified into five elements:

1. Paths: Paths are the channels: (streets, sidewalks, transit lines, canals, railroads) that the observer moves through to see the city and the environmental elements which are arranged and related along these paths.
2. Edges: Edges are the boundaries between two phases or linear breaks in continuity which may be: (shores, railroad cuts, edges of development and walls) that not consider by observer as paths.
3. Districts: Districts are sections of the city having two-dimensional extent which the observer mentally enters and which having a common and identifying character.
4. Nodes: Nodes are points, the strategic spots, primarily junctions, places of a break in transportation, crossing or convergence in paths which an observer can enter.
5. Landmarks: Landmarks are physical objects seen from many angles and distances, over the tops of smaller elements, and use as radial references which may be within the city or at such a distance from that the observer doesn't enter in them, they are externals (Lynch, 1960, p46-48).

2.2 Urban Spaces

2.2.1 Urban spaces definition

The space is triple-dimensional Domain where things and events occur in it and have location and direction in this space to do a particular purpose or the performance of a particular case.
But Urban Space is all the space between the buildings in the city which includes everything that surrounds the corridors and public squares, fields, water bodies, playgrounds, gardens and private and public parking lots and roads.

The space is defined as an empty area bounded by things sometimes, and the concept of square is defined as an empty land where there are no buildings so that they are ready to be used. And the squares or the plaza are spaces surrounded by buildings and is designed to show the surrounding buildings for great usefulness.

In general, urban configuration of the urban environment consists of the physical side of the two poles:
Blocks built and the non-built-up parts (Urban Spaces). The urban environment is the express link and all combined of parts, systems and different things, which are collectively the urban environment. It includes all of those spaces and channels that exist between and around objects and blocks which located in that environment. So the space is an essential part in the urban environment which is determined by certain physical elements based on the concepts of containment and surround are linked to the function of the space (Mustafa, 2010, p14).

2.2.2 Historical development of the concept of urban space:

When the old human began to residence in residential complexes close to each other they worked to determine empty areas around their homes contained and included local activities of economic, political or religious, as well as used as paths and roads to facilitate movement between the housing and other urban elements in the urban complex.

This pattern remained in formatting cities and urban communities continuously even when the development of these communities, and this remained the most prominent squares and spaces reflecting the culture of the community, The urban aspect of the city has been through the ages reflect a true reflection of the content of the daily life of the community who lives there.

Ancient Greek city expressed on a democratic governance and community participation in the running of things in life which is reflected in the form of Agora as administrative and commercial center of the city in the middle of residential areas. The cities in the Medieval was the most important features that replaced the Temple with Church at the spread of Christianity and remained arena moderation in front of the church, streets appeared curved and winding. And the Islamic city in dogmatic concept reflects the daily life of the community in which the penetration of Islam as a religion and doctrine in all of its physical and moral elements. But the spirit of the modern classic appeared in Renaissance cities and began moving again due to some features of the Roman planning, which showed the axes, but the most prominent aspects of city planning was the church and its yard.

Cities of different location and different culture of the population is made up of built and unbuilt elements , the ancient cities of our time even still play in spaces of urban public squares and yards and roads networks and the important role that characterizes this city for the installation of those (Mustafa, 2010, p48-49).

2.2.3 Classification of spaces

Spaces classify into two main types:

1- Natural Spaces:

Are the Spaces formed by the factors, natural elements without human intervention, such as mountains, rivers, valleys, and help the natural identity of the city itself formation For example, note the difference between the city and the other through terrain that give shape For example, there are cities of striping shape like the city of Nablus because it is located between two mountains, while there are other cities was central to the collected focus on the result of the natural terrain formed by, and also there are other cities may be divided by a river or sea works to Identify their parameters.

2- Man-made Spaces:

Spaces are formed by human for example, parks and squares, artificial lakes making so as to meet the social and psychological human needs (physical and psychological comfort) and add these spaces pleasure and beauty to the city.

Urban man-made spaces are divided into the following types:

External spaces:
It is spaces that serve human in public areas, including:

Tracks: spaces which man can find out about it from shops buildings, which is about Sidewalks streets parking spaces.

- Public parks and green areas: extended green spaces which are for rest and recreation.
- Venues: it is stomach areas to exercise in all forms and types of sports
- Open spaces: spaces surrounding cities that are extended and wide to spend the short summer driving like bush or waterfalls, forests.

Interior public spaces:
are public physical spaces built by human such as museums, libraries and services transport train stations.

semi- internal and external public spaces:
Public spaces where people practicing different activities such as restaurants and shopping malls (Dweikat, 2009, p17-p20).

2.2.4 Classification of urban spaces in the city

We note that urban spaces in any urban form is what is left of the city from unbuilt area whether in planned way in advance or produced spontaneously. And these Spaces include: roads and public squares and green areas and playgrounds (Mustafa, 2010, p19).

Urban spaces are broken into two main types:

1. The square: is the first way man discovered of using urban spaces. It's produced by the grouping of houses around and urban space. This type is come to bear a symbolic value and was chosen as a model for construction of numerous holy places (Agora, Forum, cloister, mosque courtyard).
2. The street: is produced of spread of a settlement once houses have been built once on all available space around its central square. It has a more pronouncedly function character than the square, which by virtue of its size is a more attractive place to pass the time than the street, in whose confines one in involuntarily caught up in the bustle of traffic (Krier, 1979, p17).

2.2.5 The importance of urban spaces:

Develop and organize people's relationship with spaces, so that each affects the other. The importance of urban spaces is occurred in design, development and provide comfort for users of spaces process. Social relations are formed by spaces so that spaces design affects largely on the pattern of human activity and social life (Dweikat, 2009, p20).

And the activities of people in space is divided into three main types:

1. The necessary activities are compulsory activities, such as going to work or school and waiting for the bus, this event is affected slightly by physical shape
2. Optional activities, that is, when the time and the place and the weather and the place to sit to do it, such as walking allowed to inhale fresh air, or stop to drink coffee in the cafe and watch other events .. etc.
3. Social activities that depend on the presence of others in the space (reception, discussions, community activities and audiovisual and communicate with others), which occur simultaneously and directly as a result of the movement of people and be at the same time and place (Mustafa, 2010, p42).

2.2.6 For successful of urban spaces:

The need to achieve the following goals to create a successful urban environment, which are:

1. Livable: availability of comfort for all occupants.
2. Identity and control: that individuals living somewhere belong to this space, whether individually or collectively
3. Accessibility: that there is a field out of the traditional mold in which they live so they can evolve lighten up enjoy when they use it.
4. Urban self-reliance: that the city be able to exploit their own resources and their rare sources
5. Environment for all: to be a good city environment that all occupants can reach (Dweikat, 2009, p21-p22).

2.2.7 The needs of the community members within the urban spaces

Community needs and requirements vary according to habits, culture and tradition and therefore these needs vary from one region to another. However, there is a common humanity between the needs of these communities can’t be dispensed.

1. Rest: must achieve urban spaces to their users comfort and belonging so that they can spend time as long as possible. And this is the secret of success in the blanks and thus increase demand people to these spaces.

2. Relaxation: people's sense of psychological comfort by providing the appropriate atmosphere for elements such as trees and water without affecting the aspects of the design.
3. discovery: diversity and difference in the surrounding environment of spaces and diversity helps the viewer developing element of discovery can be achieved with the progress of time and the different seasons of the year, and requires a departure from the habits and routines
4. Effective link: the provision of communication between human beings, whether directly or indirectly, so that they interact with surrounding and that they exist comfort and satisfaction (Dweikat, 2009, p22-p23).

2.2.8 Visual and aesthetic characteristics of urban space

Visual and aesthetic characteristics of urban space include the following:

1. The unity of design:
   The unity of design is the most important of the same design elements, because they reflect the blocks relationship with each other and with the surrounding spaces also shows compatibility between the spaces and spaces untapped because it leads to the show along with aesthetic visual of the city.
2. Ratios and scales:
   The standards of humanitarian and ratios are identifiers or basic things upon which are the design process, because the goal of the design is to satisfy all human needs so the human being is same rates for space and taking into account these ratios measure help to achieve the optical correlation between elements parts of the city.
3. Blocks and surfaces:
   The different kinds and forms of buildings through its constituent raw materials and through architectural differences affect the visitors image of the city which could be positive or negative impact which is different according to human taste and that the spaces reflect the image of the city in general and their relationship their compatibility With each other.
4. Texture:
   The multiplicity of types, shapes and sizes of raw materials used in the buildings the city is a visual appearance of the people while traveling wandering in and gives a different impression according to different raw materials, according to the taste of the person has to give a negative or a positive impression.

5. Building materials:
   Construction materials are the most important things necessary to create elements reflect the nature and the characteristics of this element show how it differs from the other elements in terms of texture and color.
6. Visual perception:
   The mobility and movement between parts of the city helps to meditate and the realization of parts and components and thus a person can draw a picture in his mind for this city can connect relations with each other (Dweikat, 2009, p23-p23).

2.2.9 Space requirements

There are many requirements for urban space to achieve them:

The space must be meaningful to allows people strong communication with the place and with their personal lives and with the larger world around them, and be democratic to protect the rights and be open to groups and gives freedom of activity, and be responsive where space designed and managed for the needs of users, service so there are five basic needs must exist in a space and is pleased with the people: rest, relaxation, positive communication with surrounding. Specifications that make the space more request:

1. Good location, in ways with easy movement, accessible and can be seen.
2. Fenced spaces where the roads are part of the social space but in part must be separated partially from the road.
3. Be on the level or almost at the level of sidewalks space.
4. Provide seating places linked to such stairs or low walls or clear items such as seats and barriers.
5. Availability of seats possible for movement.

Also, there are other specifications such as the availability of umbrellas and the degree of space beauty, shape and size (Mustafa, 2010, p47-p48).

2.3 Case Study

Here are some previous studies on spaces of the city of Nablus:

- This study of Osama Mustafa entitle of: **Formatting Urban and public squares in Old city of Nablus,** focus on the old city of Nablus and analysis all paths and squares in in and put recommendations for developing it. And finally put a guide plan for development.

- Hani Khalil Farran study entitled: **visual and aesthetic characteristics and elements in the city: An analytical study of the city of Nablus**, MA message in Urban and Regional Planning, An-Najah National University, 2003

  This study dealt with the obstacles and difficulties that adversely affect the aesthetic appearance of the center of the city of Nablus and analyzed in all its aspects and then develop solutions and proposals for disposal. And the development of the visual and aesthetic appearance of the city center of Nablus, according to the principles and standards of scientific include all visual and aesthetic effects in the city center. Farran follow several methods in his studies, which is:

  1. The first method
     Based on research in public and private libraries and collect information related to the subject of study and receptacles of various books, magazines, books, studies and articles and images. As well as gather information about the historic buildings and the old town in order to identify the characteristics and features and aesthetic and visual elements in the city of Nablus in general and the study area in particular. Compared to what is currently based and what was formerly located where are recognized the aesthetic development of the city and identify constraints and the policy of the Nablus Municipality in determining the aesthetic areas of the city and then to identify the laws and measures adopted by the municipality to achieve the visual and aesthetic impact of the City

  2. The second method
     Based on fieldwork in the study area (the citer of Nablus) so that is considering various visual and aesthetic aspects, through research in the following: (Morphology of the region, Distribution of urban spaces,

Urban-style buildings, Street furniture, Aesthetic elements, Sky line, Relationship with the downtown streets surrounding it, Visual image to the city center in the mind of people (the city's residents and visitors) and are recognized for the visual image of the people, whether they are visitors or residents of the city of the study area (city center) through the distribution of questionnaires to them).

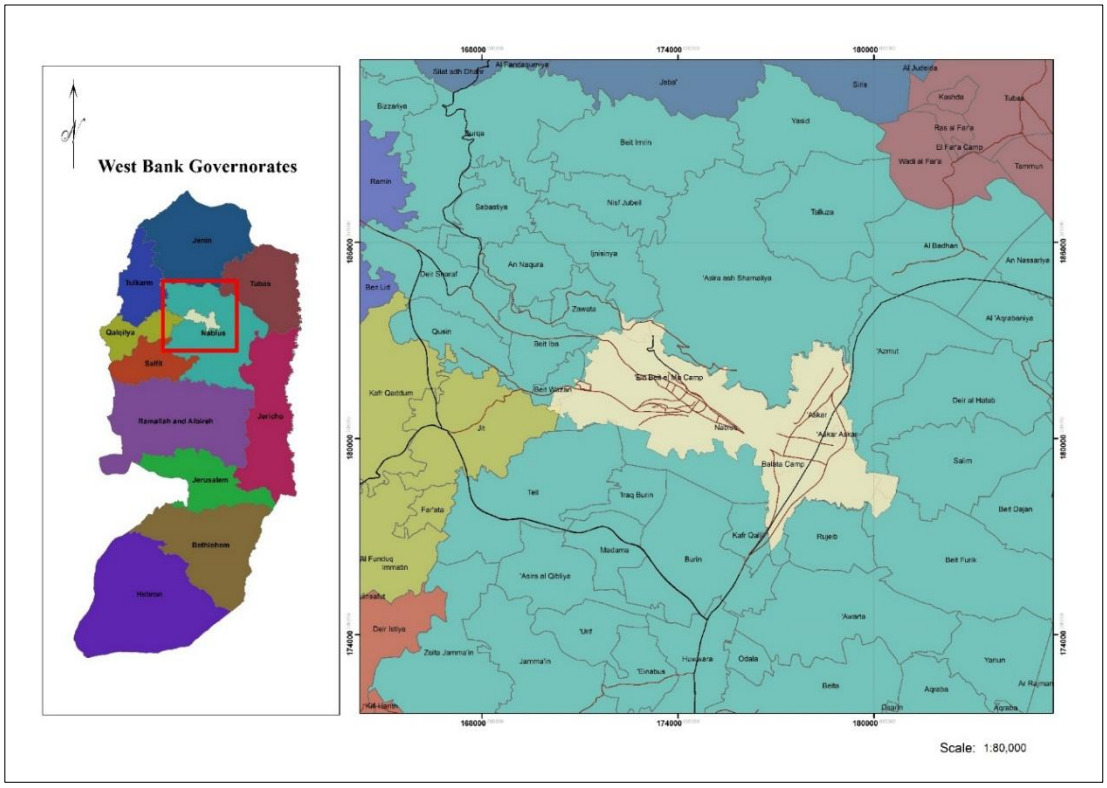
- Sami Salah Kaddoumi study entitled**: Strategies to develop and re-planning the commercial center of Nablus city**, Master Thesis in Urban and Regional Planning, An-Najah National University, 2001.
  This study deals with identifying the problems of the commercial area in the center of Nablus and analyzing it in terms of the uses of buildings, heights, traffic. And has developed some Strategies to guide planning in the region by organizing functions in and find pedestrian zones and green areas as well as handicrafts and tourist areas, and that in the framework of integrated planning for the city.

- Sahera Blableh study entitled: **Parameters of People's Satisfaction towards streets in Nablus City: the case of Rafidia Street.** Master Thesis in Urban and Regional Planning, An-Najah National University, 2001.
  The main objective of the study is to determine the criteria for the consent of the population and their belief in the streets in the city of Nablus, in terms of availability of aesthetic and visual elements and street furniture. And the study shows the lack of those elements sufficiently and has developed proposals for the development of aesthetics to the streets in the light of a set of standards and the foundations of urban planning and design.

Chapter 3: Nablus Historical Aspects

3.1 City Location

Nablus has an important geographic location. It is located in the valley between Ebal Mountain in the north and Gerizim Mountain in the south. It mediates the highlands region in the Palestine, located at the intersection of latitude 32.13 north of the equator and longitude 35.16 east of Greenwich line, and rising from the sea of 550 m. And this location gave strategic and economic importance that it is located at the crossroads linking the coastal cities in the west area to the Jordan Valley and the Jordan River to the east. And it still as an important trade routes in the four directions. It is the first economic center and economic capital of Palestine. (Mustafa , 2010 ,page 64).
It is also a rich of water sources like springs and running water, and it is famous for its many local industries as building stones, soap and Knafeh.



Map 1: Nablus Location
Source: Researcher

3.2 Nablus History:

Nablus, known and crossed for the next stage. And the first of these names was Shechem which means high place or shoulder, which named by the Canaanites when they founded and built in the mid-third millennium BC over a large hill called Tell Balatah and it is located at the eastern entrance of the open city of Nablus and the current is 1.5 km from the modern center of Nablus.

The city has gone through several cultural developments in terms of construction and demolition and successive sweeps, however, the city fell into Romans hand in the year 63 BC.
In 67-72 AD the Romans destroyed the city and built it again on the slopes of Mount Gerizim south bounded inside the valley, and they named it Neyablos means the new place in Latin Romanian, then it has been misrepresented and called Nablus.

After that, the Muslim Arabs opened the city by Amr Ibn al-Aas in the year 636 AD, where the city began a new era which had seen a range of architectural, linguistic and population shifts and its language became the language of the Koran 'Arabic' and its construction system subjected to Islamic architecture.
In the year 1099, it fell into the Crusader occupation that Saladin edited by the year 1187 and then alternating the ruling successors of Mamluks and Turks, Ottomans , that last till the city fell into the British occupation in 1918 and then the plight of Palestine in 1948 to become later in 1950 AD part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, then occupied by the Israelis in 1967, then became by Oslo Accords in 1995, after the first intifada, one of the cities of the Palestinian Authority, till what it is now. (Dwaikat, 2009, p27-p28)

3.3 Historical development of the urban form of the city

3.3.1 Nablus in the Roman era

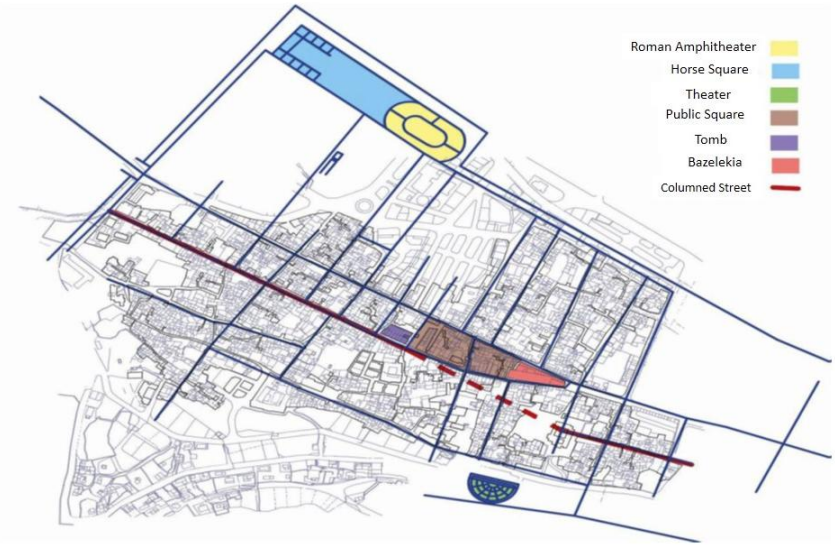
The city in the Roman era characterized of many urban elements, which were built by the Romans in their cities, below we review the most important elements of urban spaces and which was characterized by Naapaulss city:

- The road network in the city:
  The elongated shape of the city stretching from east to west and the main street (Cardo) in the middle and from this main street feeder roads branch off perpendicular it, which is surrounded by columns on both sides which extends from the Al-khader mosque in the west to the eastern region where the

remnants of columned street are found, so the current Nasr Street is what remains of this street, and another part of it was discovered in the place where newly Zafer Al-Masri School was built upon, there were in the bottom of this street channel to drain the water and this indicates that the Romans when they constructed the city they used the drainage and water distribution in a sophisticated system.

The city was known since ancient times of the abundance of its springs inside and around because of its location adjacent to the foot of Mount Gerizim. The excavations indicate that the width of the main street was approximately 12 meters, according to the main streets display in other Romanian cities in the region such as the cities of Jarash and Caesarea.

However, with the passage of time and the city had a lot of earthquakes and the rebuilding many times and the construction of houses and shops on both street sides, which worked to reduce the width to what it is now in Nasr Street.
As for the urban elements of the city, which parts of them remained or discovered during excavations and archaeological research, are as the following:



Map 2: Nablus in Roman Era
Source: Mustafa,2009

- Forum: the basic elements of any Roman city, which is about" Cardo" public central square usually located in the city center and adjacent to the main street here in the city, it has not any noticeable remains to it, but archaeological studies in the city indicate that the forum, Square was located in the current area of An-Naser (victory) mosque and Al-Manarah (minaret) square .

- Basilica: Archaeological and Historical Studies indicate where the mosque of Al-salahi al-kabeer (Grand), the site the building of Basilica was there in the reign of Emperor Philip the Arab, and there were a large area between Korean temple in formic and basilicas and in the middle of the square was Albaydarah bath which was built in the time of Vacepcian, it was built at the site al baath (resurrection) church in the Crusader occupation time, and after the opening of the city by Ayyubid, it has been converted to a large mosque, and became known today as Al-salahi Al-kabeer mosque.

- Opened amphitheater: which was discovered in 1979 south of Qaysariyya quarter. Studies indicate that the outer diameter was 100 m and the internal diameter was 55 m, which is one of the large amphitheaters discovered in the cham region. The drawing of the half ring in the Madaba Map of the city of Neapolis refer to the same current location of the amphitheater.

- Horse racing stadium(Al-hepidrom), which was discovered in the north-west of the old town, where length was 400 m and width of 91.5 m with brackets, and the existence of such a facility like this,shows the importance of the city in the Roman era, which was of large size.

- Circular amphitheater: discovered in the east of the horse racing stadium, and currently is the same width Al-hepidrom and stood at approximately 95 m in length.

- Public bathrooms: one of the distinctive public places in any Roman city, the bathroom only found from the Roman era, believed to be more than that, Al-baydarah bath.

- Temples and churches: a pagan temple to the god Jupiter on Mount Gerizim, the top place of the temple of the Samaritans built during the reign of Emperor Hadrian, and then built during the reign of the Byzantine Empire church on the top of the mountain during the reign of Emperor Zeno and was called the Church of the Virgin Mary, inclusive of victory now was the temple of God, Korean (fertility god) in the Roman era, and when the population turned to Christianity it was converted into a Byzantine church. According to historical readings that Muslims when they entering the city it was converted into a mosque called "Al-Nasr" (victory).

- Public squares in each quarter, where each quarter of the seven quarters has a yard and a bath, in addition to having a home for the municipality as public facility in the site where Karsou building currently in the city center.

- The city has walls enclose the sides and gates were opened in them, where part of it was discovered in Sakia Street in the northern part of the city, in addition to the discovery is believed to be the ancient Roman Wall in the south-western region near a school Ibn Hazm now.

- But in the Byzantine era it has been neglecting many public facilities such as theaters and stadium of horse racing and the amphitheater and temples that have been converted to churches. (Mustafa, 2010, page70-73)

3.3.2 Nablus in the Islamic era

We find that the city of Nablus planning as in the case of the Islamic city planning took into account the gradient space process in the planning and design of the quarters and residential blocks.
Mobility through urban spaces in the city is by moving from public space like a public road and then move on to the semi-public space (residential courtyards) access to the house, as the courtyard in the Islamic city express the social coherence of a number of families that have homogeneity among them. And due to the people need there some time has been built in the part of the public spaces and architectural spaces, which led to urban changes.

For public squares have been limited like other Islamic cities on the squares and mosques.
The rest of the open squares between residential neighborhoods has been around population groves planted various fruit trees, taking advantage of the abundance of water from springs or rainwater, and continued the case until the takeover of the Crusaders on the city in 1070, when they persecuted Muslim population and have turned many mosques into churches and built new churches in the city to fight the Muslim population, notably the construction of the Baath Church placed the Romania basilicas (currently Al-kabeer mosque. But the city is back under Muslim rule led by Saladin, was re-transform churches into mosques, including: the Al-salahi Al-kabeer mosque (which is named for its commander Saladin), Al-khader mosque and Al-baik mosque.

3.3.3 Nablus in the Ottoman era

During the transmission of succession to the Ottomans was annexed cham which contain Nablus to Ottoman rule. And the urban form of the city did not face drastically or remarkably change, but it has been done the minister Lala Mustafa Bachavi in 16th century when he constructed traders Khan in the existence of Khan Street and he opened road from the west entrance near Khan Al-wakakah to Al- kabeer mosque. And the most prominent development for public squares in the city was the paving of Al-manarah yard after it was called (Hadra) and the pacing of pedestrian path in 1301 AH

While the clock tower and the new Khan were built in the reign of Sultan Abdul Hamid between (1316 – 1318) AH. And the public squares in that era were as they are now including Alkerion Square and other squares in the six quarters.

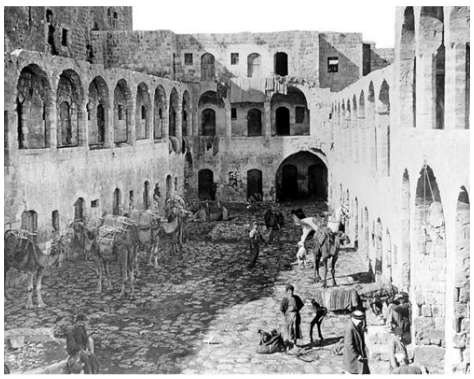


Photo 1: Khan Al-wakalah
Source: Mustafa,2009

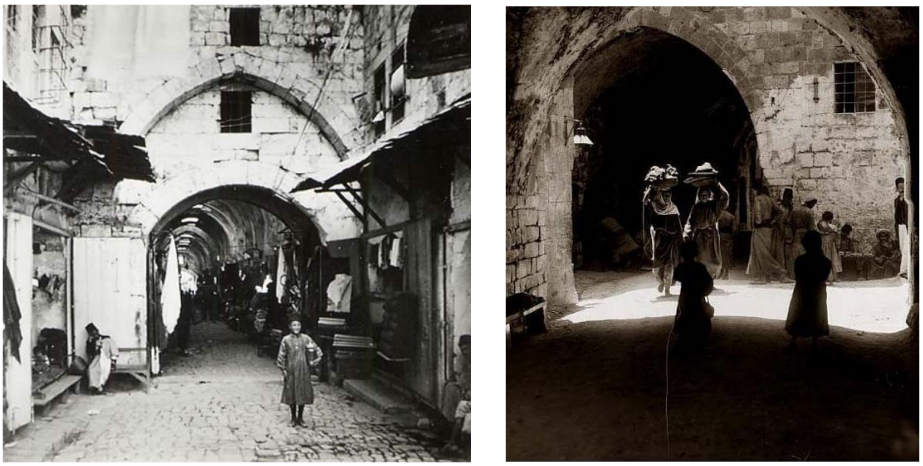


Photo 2: Paths inside the old city during Ottoman era
Source: Mustafa, 2009

3.3.4 Periods of British Mandate and the Jordanian Government and the Israeli Occupation

Through this period of time the city had an expansion outside the boundaries of the old town and many of the facilities built in this period, such as An-Najah school in 1919 in the now Al-makhfeyeh district and many schools in the old town such as schools that were built in the eastern area of the city. Several roads have been expanded in the city and new ones were opened.

Photo 3: Nablus western area in 1918
Source: Mustafa, 2009

Up to the famous 1927 earthquake, which hit most cities in Palestine that time.
But the city of Nablus were the most city affected by the earthquake, which damaged and destroyed many homes and damaged many roads and public facilities.

Photo 4: Nablus earthquake 1927
Source: Mustafa,2009

And continued the case until the war of 1948, which the administration has moved in the West Bank to the Jordanian Kingdom. And no development in the areas of planning or construction was happened during this period. The city continued its extension of urban eastward along the valley, and during this period there was no significant development in the city only made a new plan in 1961 and the appearance of four refugee camps due to the 1948 Nakba.

In the period of the Israeli occupation of the city in 1967, the construction and planning were subjected to the laws of the Israeli occupation, and in 1985 the Israeli governor decided to prepare land use plan for the city, but it was arrested and has not been ratified.
Nablus suffered in general and the old town in particular from the acts of repeated attacks in 1994 AD, and from the acts of bombing buildings and the destruction of property in the town - during the first intifada in 1987.

3.3.5 The advent of the Palestinian Authority until now

The Nablus municipality, since the arrival of the Palestinian Authority in 1994 and through political stability that has happened during this era, focused on the cultural heritage in the city of Nablus, especially the old town, this legacy of cultural values and which threatened due to negligence and random interference, especially after the earthquake in 1927, which is the latest change radically in the urban form of the city's old town. (Mustafa, 2010, page 73-p85)

It became the most important concern is toward the buildings, streets and there is a sufficient amount of important public squares and gardens as it was before this time.

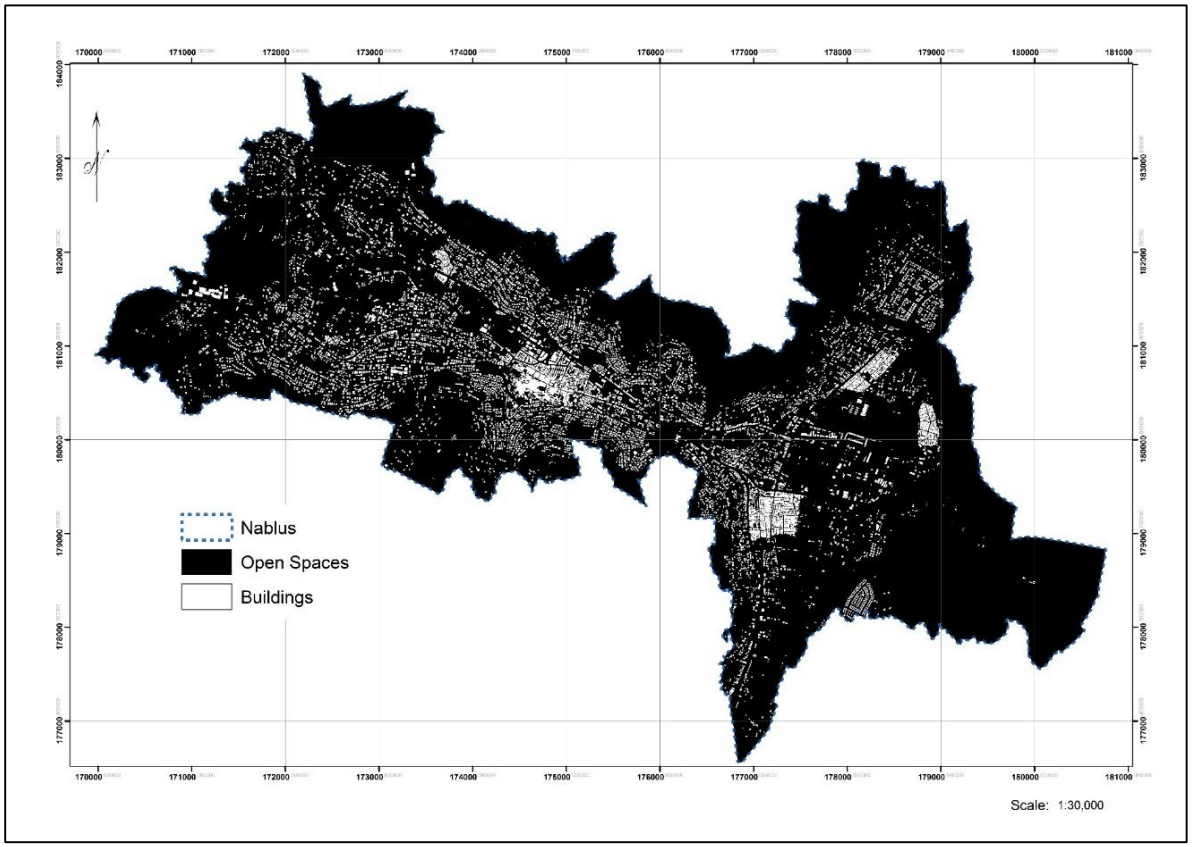
But form few years ago, the population of the city become high and the necessary of urban spaces exist to accommodate those high dense people and meet their social and recreational needs.

Chapter 4: Nablus Urban Spaces Analysis

This chapter focuses on the analysis of the urban spaces in the city of Nablus in general, and it explains the types and distribution of the important ones of those spaces and shows the areas that need to be developed and selected for required development work.

4.1 Figure Ground Plan:

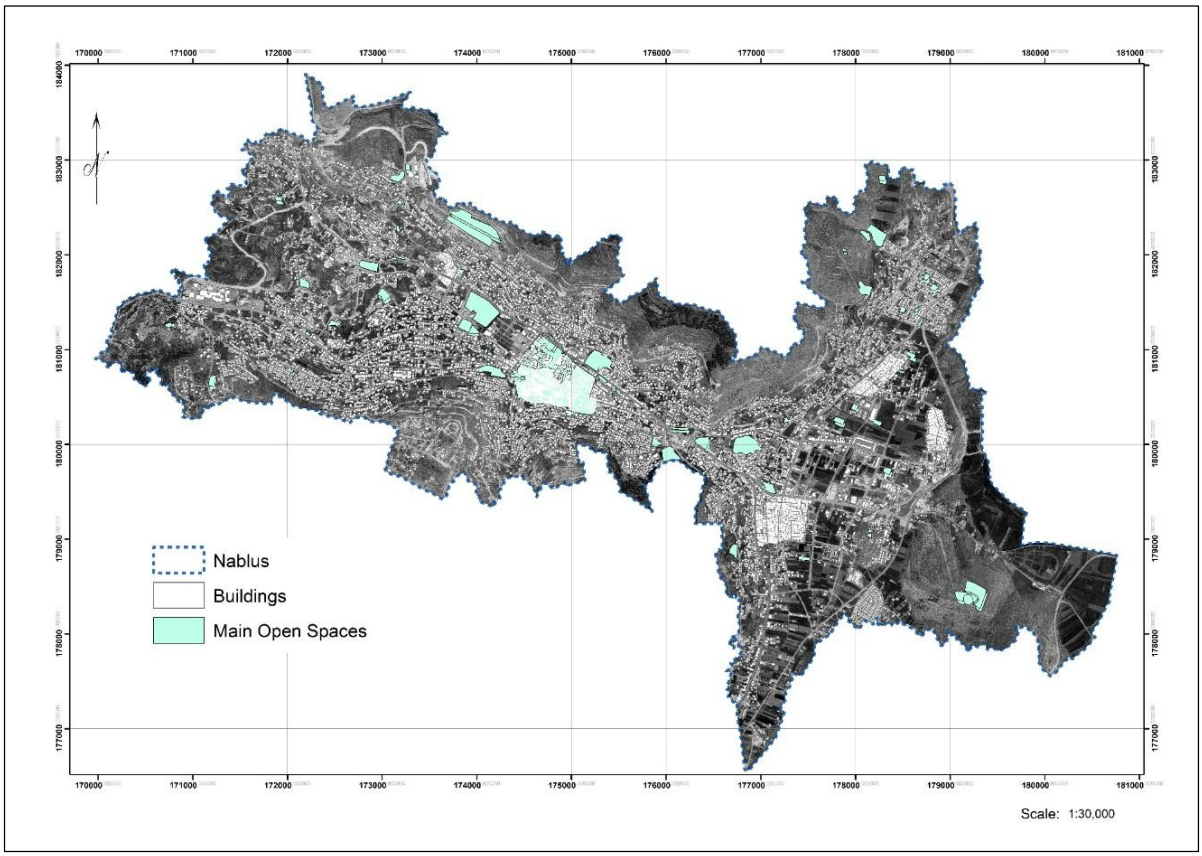
As shown in the following map, Nablus has 26,349 donums of open spaces represents 90% from the area of Nablus but most of them are located in high slope of mountain and the rest of it is the private ownership of land which cannot take advantage of them to the extent possible.



Map 3: Figure Ground Plan of Nablus
Source: Researcher

4.2 Nablus Main Urban Spaces:

The following map shows the distribution of the main urban spaces in the city of Nablus, which are destination of the purposes of entertainment, shopping and sports.



Map 4: Main Urban Spaces in Nablus
Source: Researcher

The following table shows some of the important uses in the city of Nablus and the area of each of them and the percentage as well.

The use type	Area in Donums (1000 m2)	The percentage of the area of Nablus
Other Open spaces	19712	67 %
Roads	6400	22 %
Buildings	2610	9 %
Parks and Green Areas	260	0.90 %
Old City Spaces	116	0.40 %
City center	86	0.30 %
Cultural Heritage	20	0.07 %
Playgrounds	16	0.05 %
NABLUS	**Total = 29400**	**Total = 100 %**

Table 1: Nablus land uses and their areas
Source: Researcher

And the percentage of each one of these urban spaces is illustrated in the following pie :

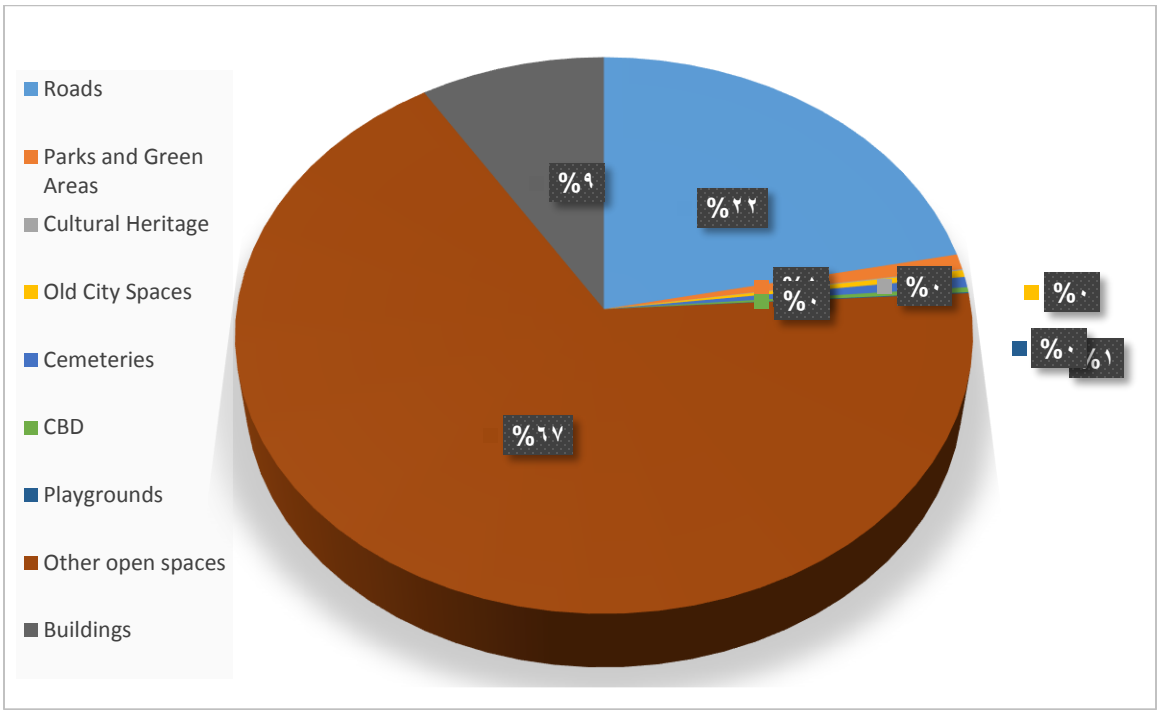
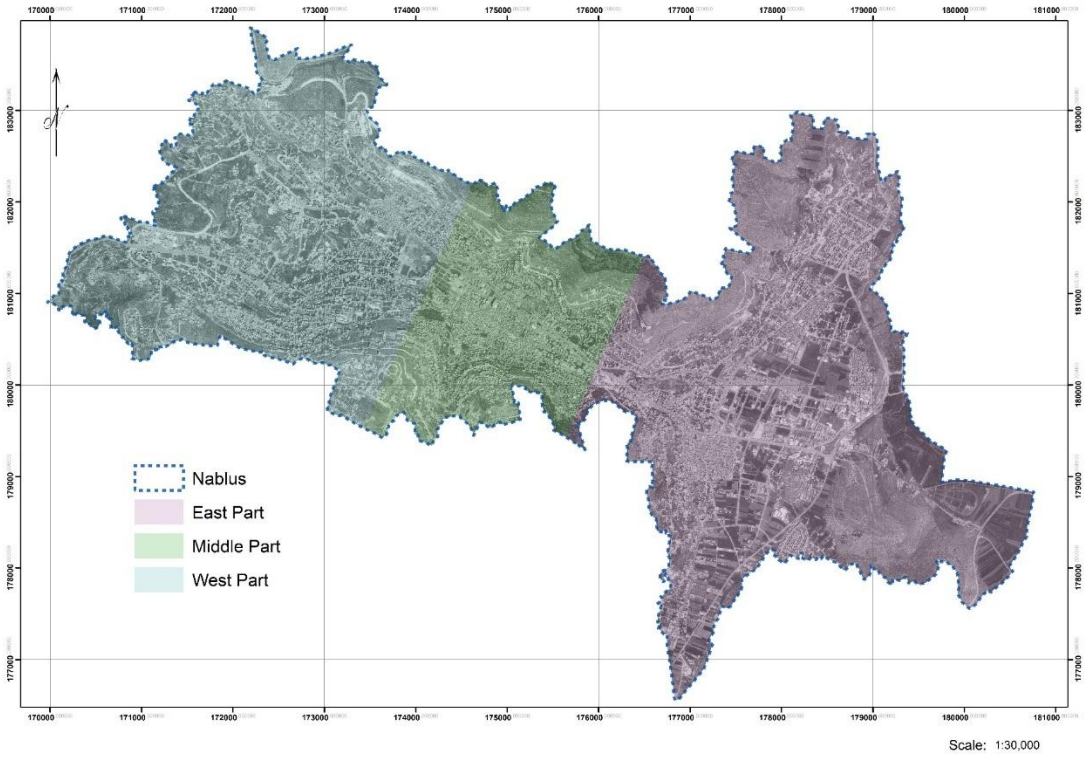


Figure 1: Percentage of land use types in Nablus
Source: Researcher

The previous pie shows that the dominant use in Nablus is a free open space which consists of public and private properties and high slope lands in mountains.

4.3 Nablus Urban Spaces analysis:

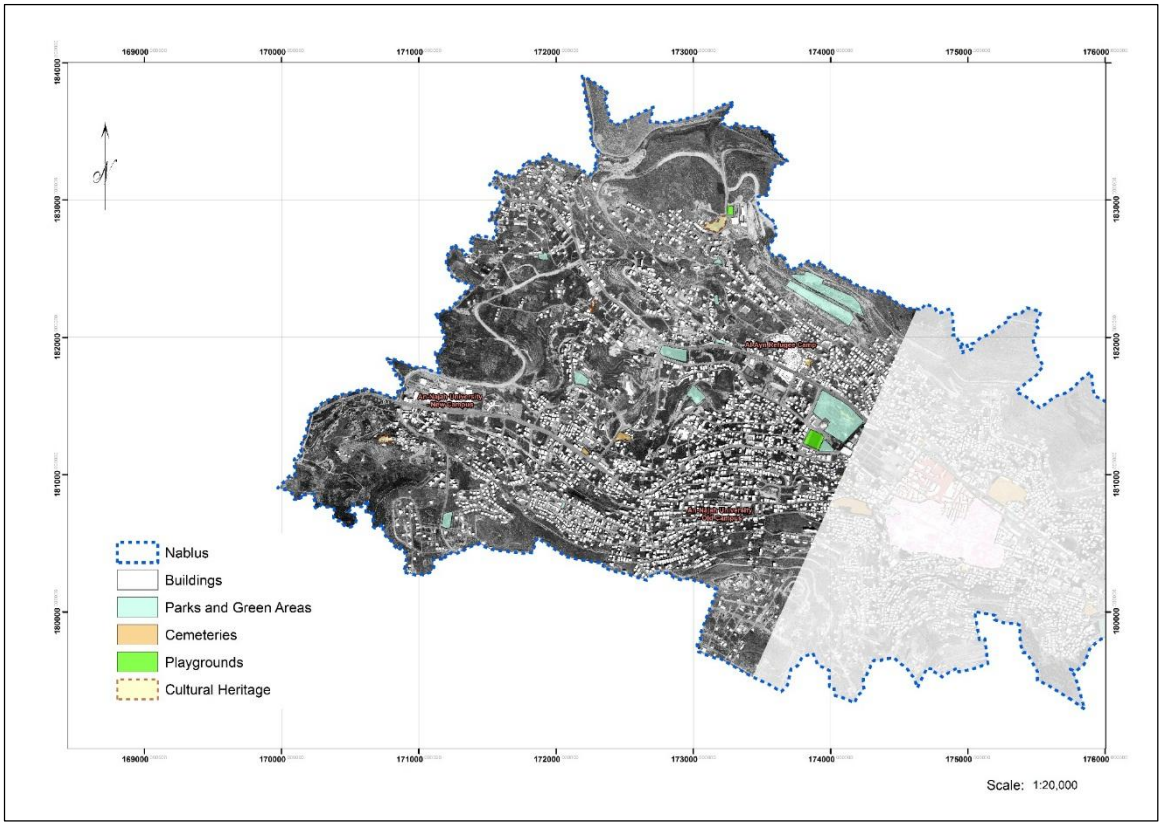
To be able to understand the main urban spaces in the city, and assess the need to develop them, or even to create new urban spaces; the city of Nablus was divided into three main parts: the eastern part, middle part, the western part.
The following map shows the distribution of urban spaces in the city, depending on each of these parts:



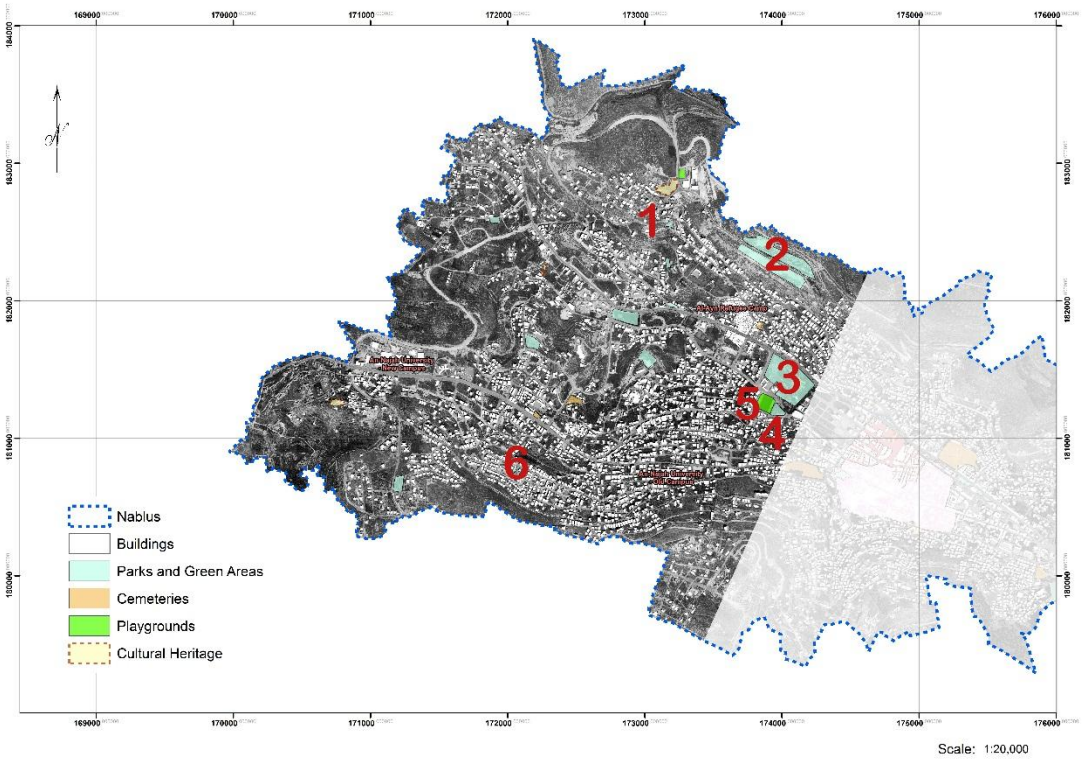
Map 5: Three parts of Nablus to be studied
Source: Researcher

4.3.1 Western Part:

The western part of the city is very important, which contains many urban spaces like public parks such as Jamal Abulnaser Park and Families Part. It also contains the municipal stadium.
As it is shown in the following map:



Map 6: The Western Part of Nablus and its main urban spaces
Source: Researcher



Map 7:The Western Part of Nablus and its main urban spaces
Source: Researcher

The previous map shows six main public spaces as the following:

1. Al-Bayarah Park: and located in Al ma'ajeen neighborhood has a simple area. Here are some photos to it:

Photo 5: Al-Bayarah Park
Source: Municipality of Nablus

Photo 6: Al-Bayarah Park
Source: Dooz.ps

2. Sama Nablus Park: has an area of 50 Donums and located in North Mountain. Here are some photos to it:

Photo 7: Sama Nablus at North mountain
Source: Municipality of Nablus

Photo 8: Sama Nablus
Source: Nablustv.net

3. Jamal Abulnaser Park: has an area of 80 Donums, 50 Donums of them are being developed by the Municipality of Nablus to represent monuments from all over the world and the rest 30 donums will be developed in later. Here are some photos:

Photo 9: Jamal Abdulnaser Park (Development Part)
Source: Nablus Municipality

Photo 10: Jamal Abdulnaser Park (Development Part)
Sourch: Nablus Municipality

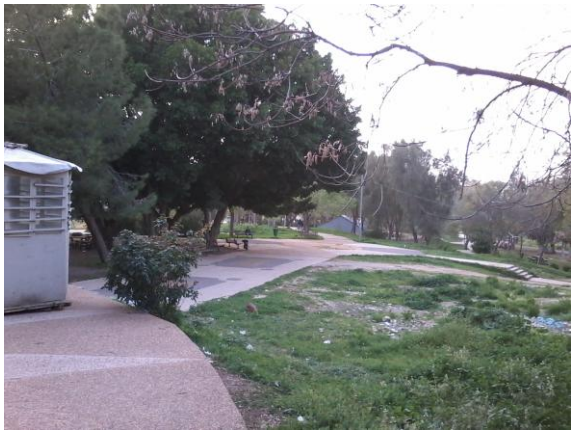


Photo 11: Jamal Abdulnaser Park
Source: Researcher

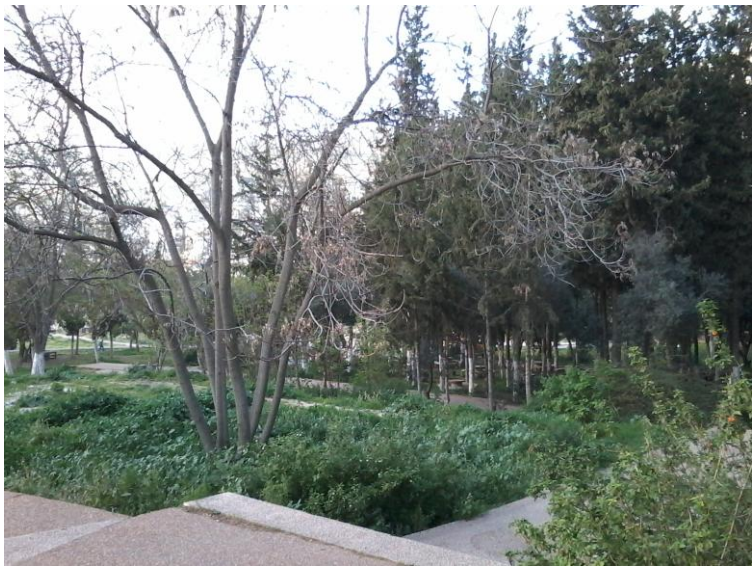


Photo 12: Jamal Abdulnaser Park
Source: Researcher

4. Families Park: Has an area of about 6 donums it's just for families and not allowed to individuals to be in. Some photos for it below:

Photo 13: Families Park
Source: Researcher

Photo 14: Families Park
Source: Researcher

5. Municipality Stadium: its area is approximately 7 donums and it accommodates about 4000 audiences. The following photos on were taken to it:

Photo 15: Nablus Municipality Stadium
Source: wafainfo.ps

Photo 16:Nablus Municipality Stadium
Source: Palestinetoday.net

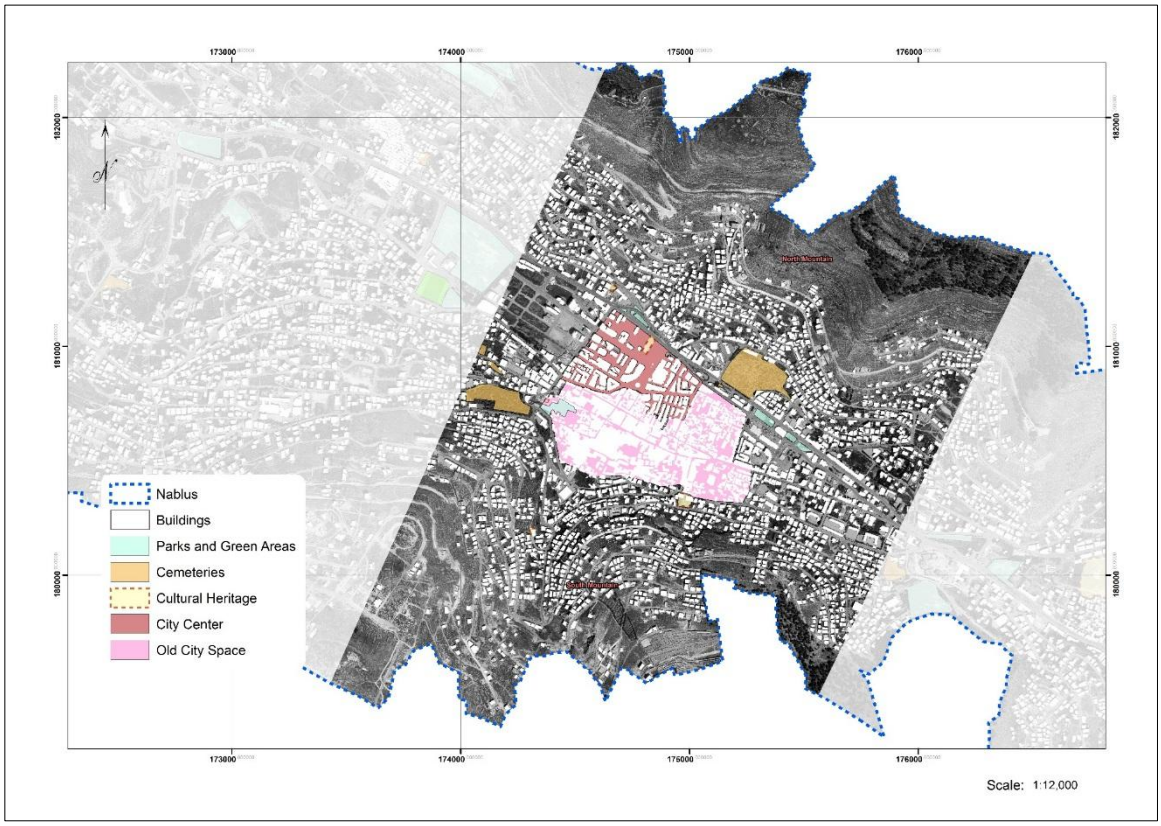
6. Al-makhfyeh Park: it has a simple area. As shown in the following photos:

Photo 17: Al-makhfyeh Park
Source: Nablus Municipality

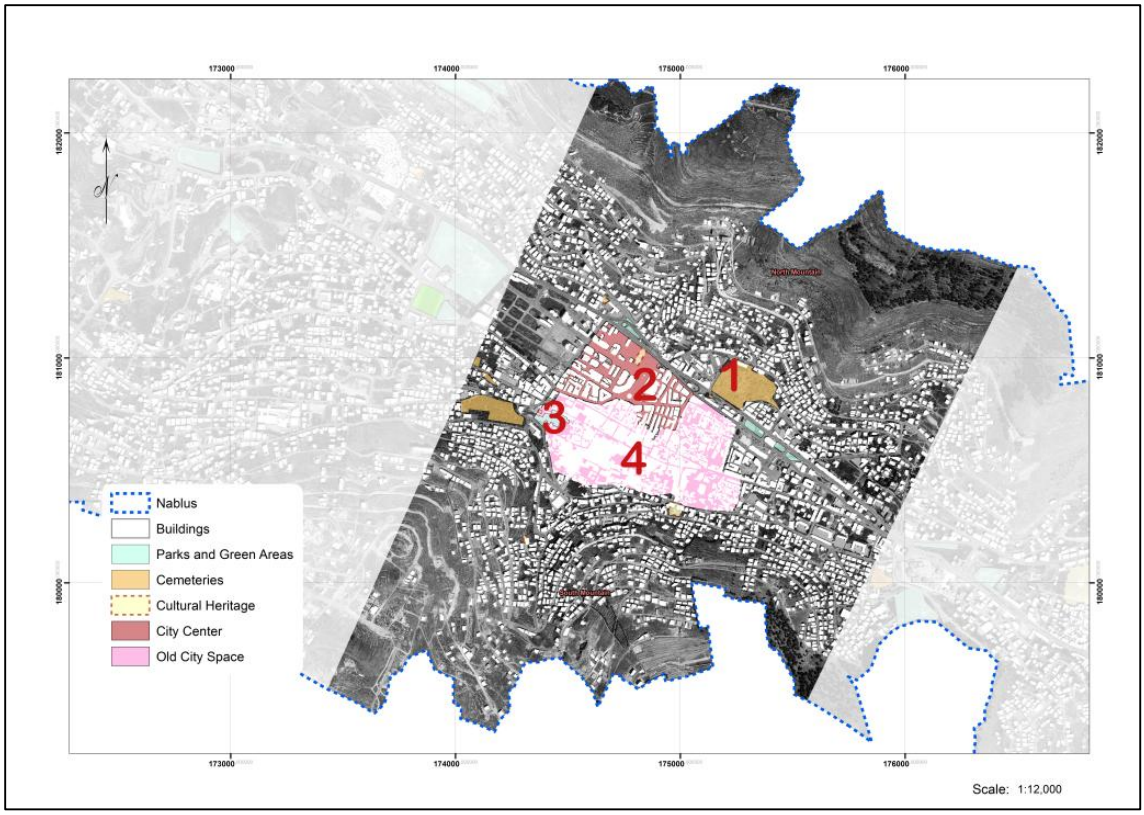
Photo 18: Al-makhfyeh Park
Source: Nablus Municipality

4.3.2 Middle Part

The central part of the city is considered a vital part throughout the day and has a central business district that thrives with many shops, offices and services and the old town, which is considered as an important cultural heritage of the city.



Map 8: Middle Part of Nablus
Source: Researcher



Map 9: Middle Part With numbers
Source: Researcher

The previous map shows main urban spaces in the city of Nablus and in the middle part specifically:

1. Eastern Cemetery: has an area of about 40 donums used for buried and as a path for pedestrians to pass through to other places.

Photo 19: Western Cemetery
Source: alwatanvoice.com

2. City Center or CBD (central business district): has an area of 86 donums.

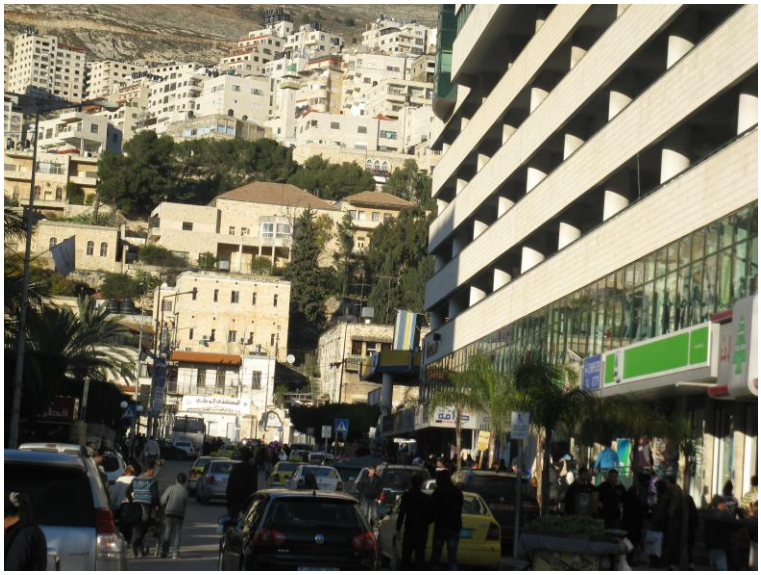


Photo 20: Nablus City Center
Source: Researcher

Photo 21: Nablus City Center
Source: Researcher

3. Nablus Old City: it has urban spaces of approximately an area of 116 donums.

Photo 22: Nablus Old City
Source: Researcher

Photo 23: Nablus Old City
Source: Researcher

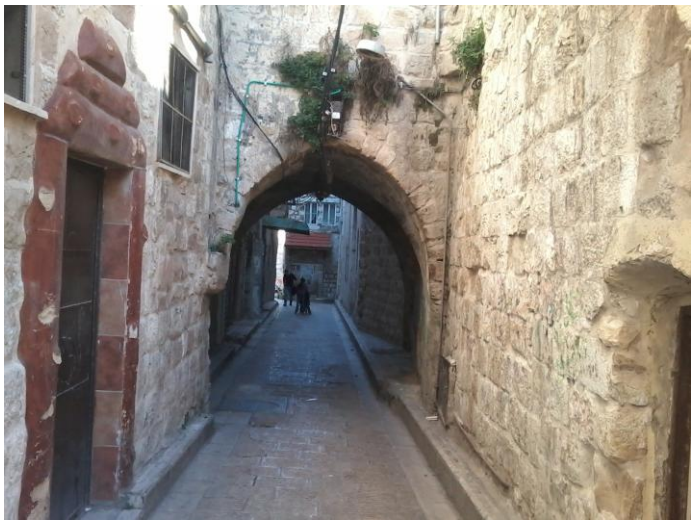


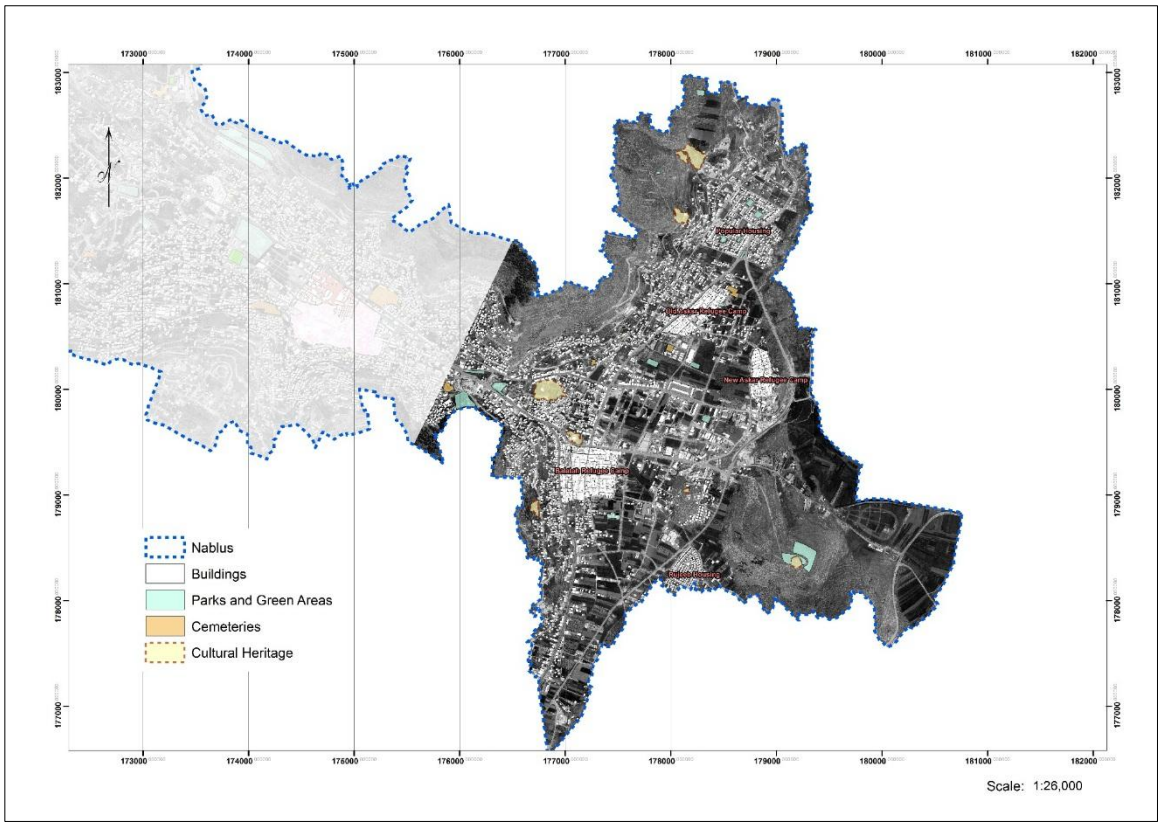
Photo 24: Nablus Old City
Source: Researcher

4. Denmark Park: contain 6 donums of land and it's located in the northern edge of the old town.

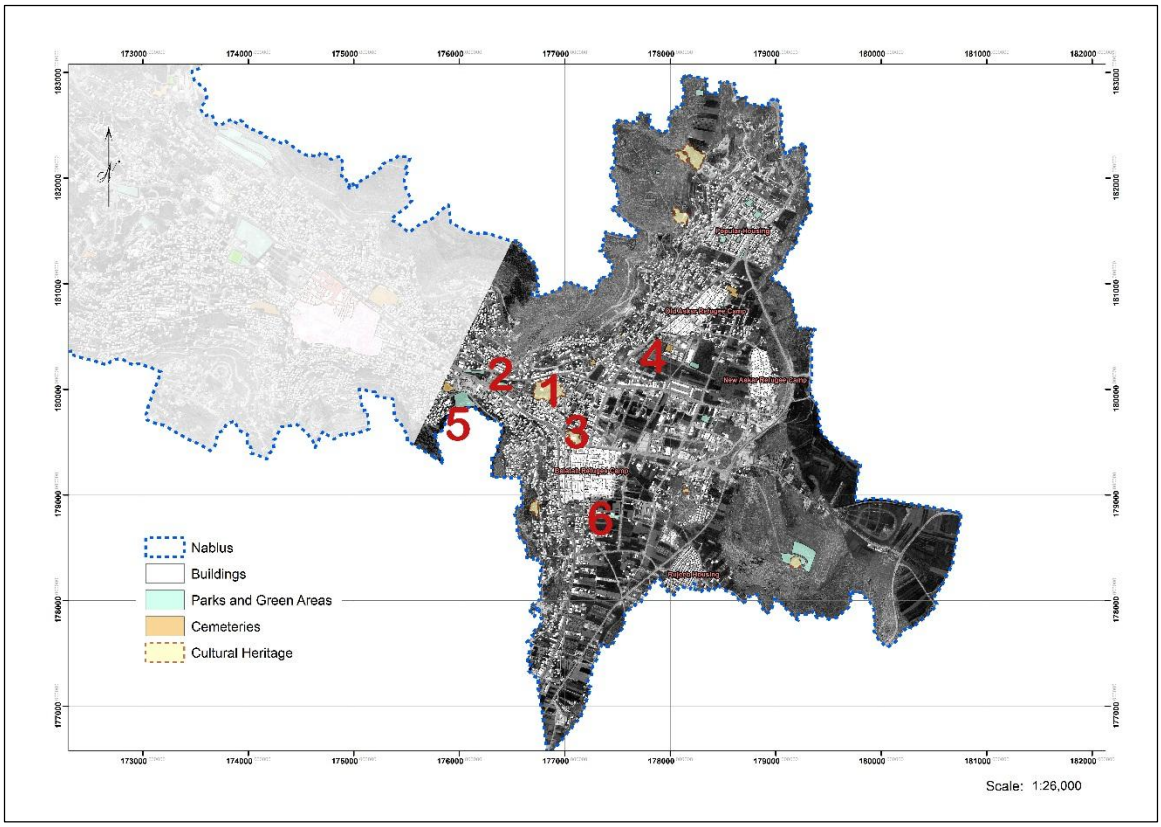
Photo 25: Denmark Park
Source: FB page: Nablus City

4.3.3 Eastern Part:

The importance of the eastern part of the city comes as it contains refugee camps and it has a high population density compared to other parts of the city.
And it is also a gateway to the city from the eastern part.



Map 10: Eastern Part of Nablus and its main urban spaces
Source: Researcher



Map 11: Eastern Part and its main urban spaces
Source: Researcher

The previous map shows western part of Nablus and its main urban spaces which are illustrated as the following:

1. Tell Balata: represents the origin of Nablus city from ancient years and has a high cultural value. It has an approximately area of 45 donums.

Photo 26: Tell Balata
Source: Researcher

Photo 27: Tell Balata
Source: Researcher

Photo 28: Tell Balata (City Wall)
Source: Researcher

2. Childhood Happiness Park: located near Tell Balata and has an approximately area of 13 Donums.

Photo 29: Childhood Happiness Park
Source: Researcher

Photo 30: Childhood Happiness Park
Source: Researcher

3. Jacob’s Well: it’s close to Balata refugee camp and Has a total area of 10 donums.

Photo 31: Jacob's Well
Source: Researcher

4. Yasser Arafat Park: near Old Asker refugee camp in the north and has a proximately 1 donum of area.

Photo 32: Yasser Arafat Park
Source: wardabluo.yoo7.com

5. Al-Hursh Park: it's located in Khallet Al-amoud neighborhood and has an area of 20 donums.

Photo 33: Al-Hursh Park
Source: nablustechmeetups.wordpress.com

Photo 34: Al-Hursh Park
Source: nablustechmeetups.wordpress.com

Photo 35: Al-Hursh Park
Source: Researcher

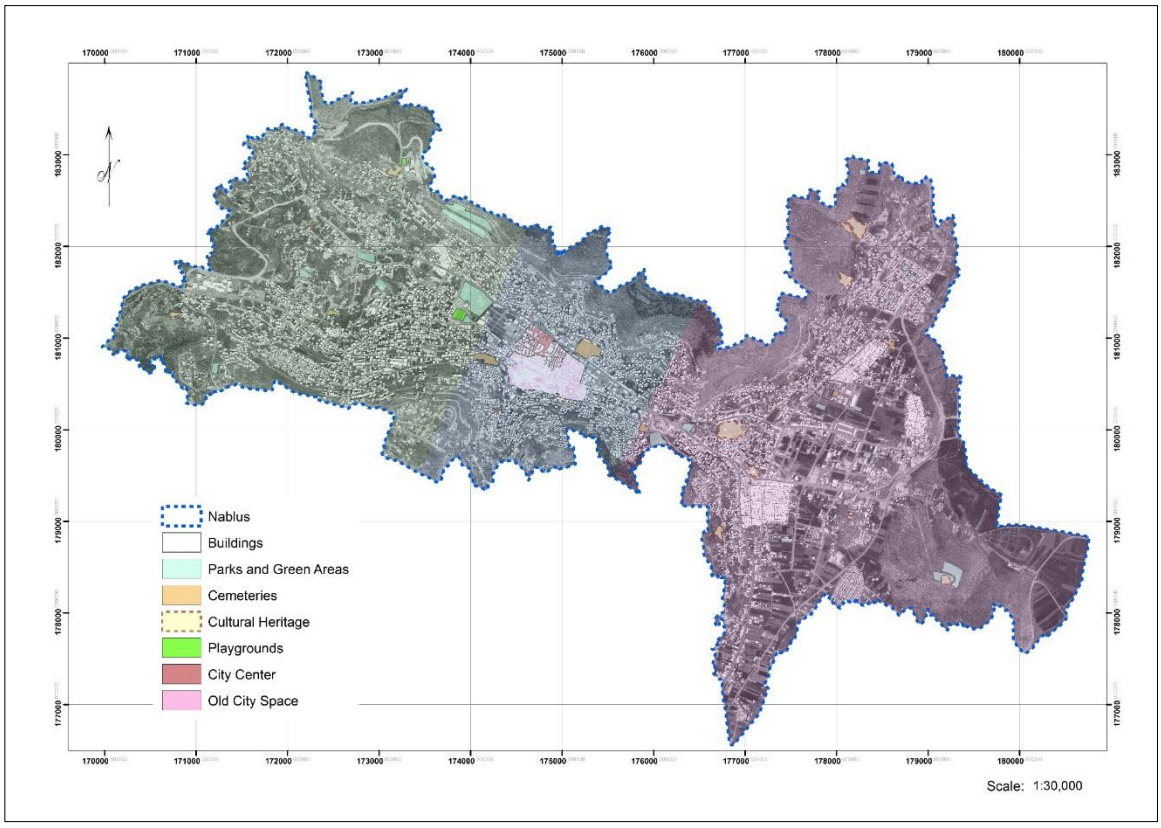
6. Al Pheneq Park: in the south of Balata refugee camp and has a proximately area of 4 donums.

Photo 36: Al-Pheneq Park
Source: nablustv.net

Photo 37: Al-Pheneq Park
Source: pcs-balata.org

4.3.4 Comparing between those three parts of Nablus:

After clarifying the distribution of the main urban spaces for each part of the city, we turn now to a comparison between these parts in terms of ratio between the total area of urban spaces in every part for the total area of that part.



Map 12 : Nablus three parts and main urban spaces
Source: Researcher

If we look at the last map and comparing between these three parts of area and their urban spaces we notice that despite the eastern part has a largest area between them, it has the fewest area of urban spaces, the following table prof the idea:

Western Part (10,059 Donums)	
Public Spaces (in use)	95 Donums
Percentage	0.94 %

Middle Part (4,836 Donums)	
Public Spaces (in use)	125 Donums
Percentage	2.6 %

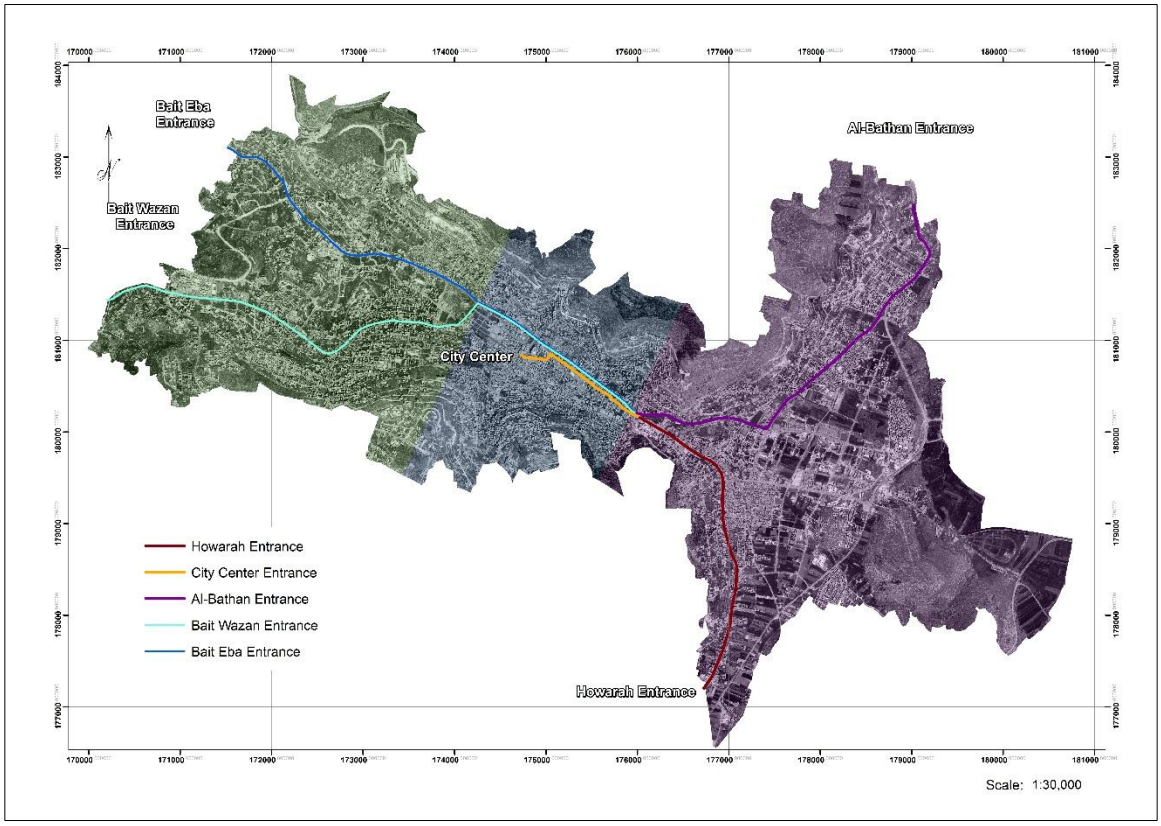
Eastern Part (14,479 Donums)	
Public Spaces (in use)	94 Donums
Percentage	0.65 %

From the previous tables, we conclude that the Eastern Part has 0.65 % of urban spaces from its area which should be raised in order to accommodate the high population number in the Eastern Part of Nablus including camps residents of Balata, Old Asker, and New Asker.

4.3.5 Accessibility to the Eastern Part from city entrances:

To reach the eastern part of the city from its entrances, the passed distance depends on which entrance of them is entered, as the following table :

The entrance	Traveled distance (in Km)
Howarah	5.175
City Center	1.917
Bait Wazan	10.596
Bait Eba	10.745
Al-Bathan	4.697



Map 13: The Accessibility to Eastern Part from Nablus main entrances
Source: Researcher

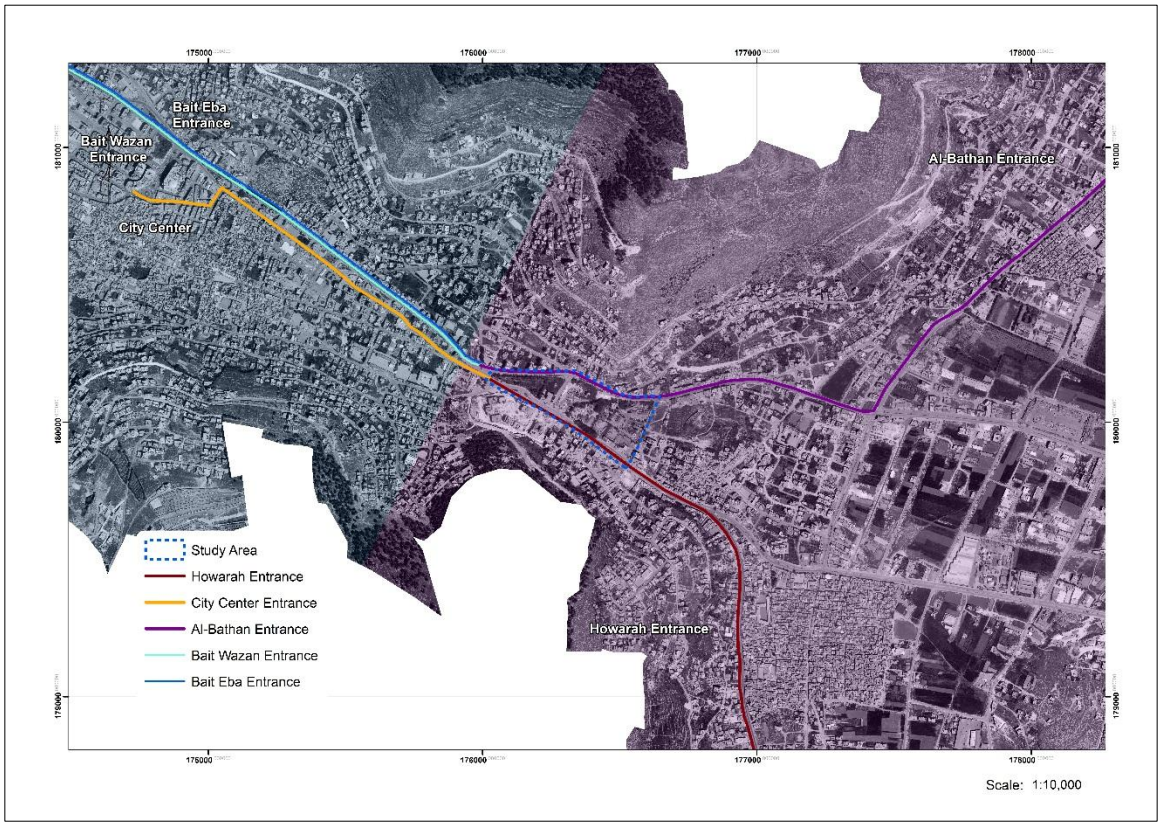
Based on map 13, we choose the area in front of governorate complex due to the following:

- The main point of accessibility is located close to Childhood Happiness Park and its surrounding area.
- Moreover, the majority of this area is owned by the Nablus Municipality.
- Located in an area of the most properties of the municipality.
- Also, it's opposite of new governorate complex.
- It's on main streets.

- Needs development to work effectively and to accommodate the numerous visitors to the park

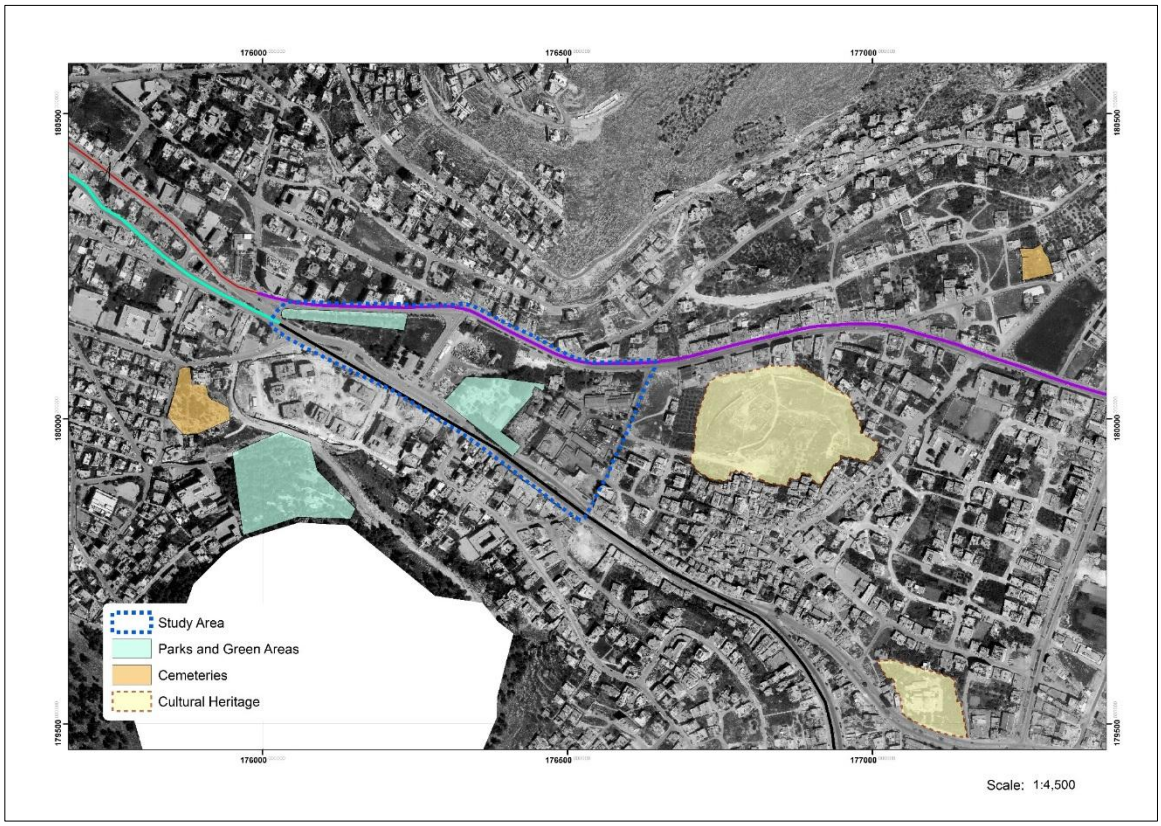
4.3.6 Site Selection:

The area that all entrances intersected in the Eastern Part of Nablus, which has the lowest percentage of urban spaces, is chosen to development process. The selected site is located in the area in front of the new government complex.



Map 14 : Accessibility to Site
Source: Researcher

4.3.7 Study Area:



Map 15: Study Area
Source: Researcher

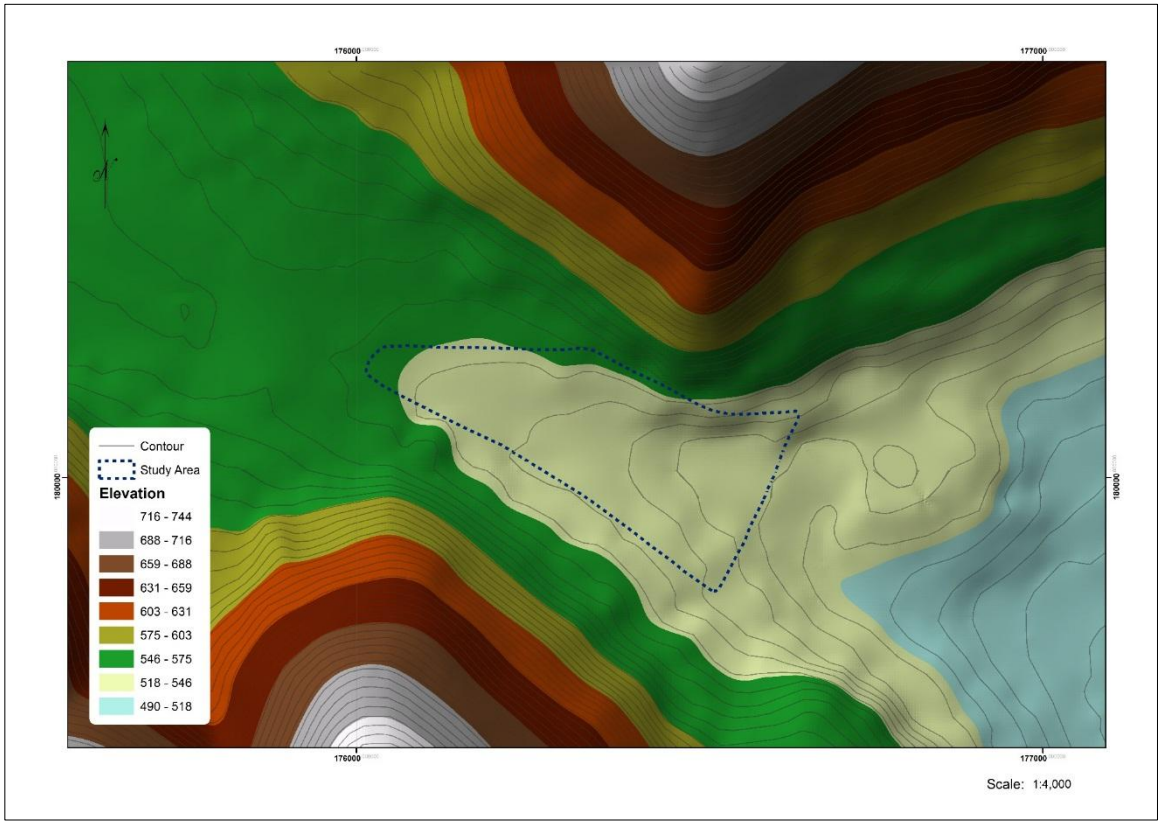
This study area:

- Has an approximately area of 103 donums
- Located in a low agricultural area
- Followed administratively to Nablus Municipality

Chapter 5: Study Area Analysis

5.1 Topography:

The study area is the nature of the terrain of plains squeezed between the two mountains, a bottleneck area, which constitutes a very important in the transition to and from the city of Nablus in the eastern side.
A height ranges between 518-550 meters above mean sea level. And therefore it is easy to deal with these geographical nature of the site in terms of design and even in the implementation process



Map 16: The topography of Study area
Source: Researcher

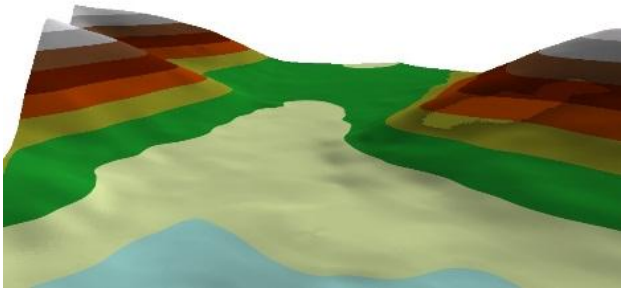
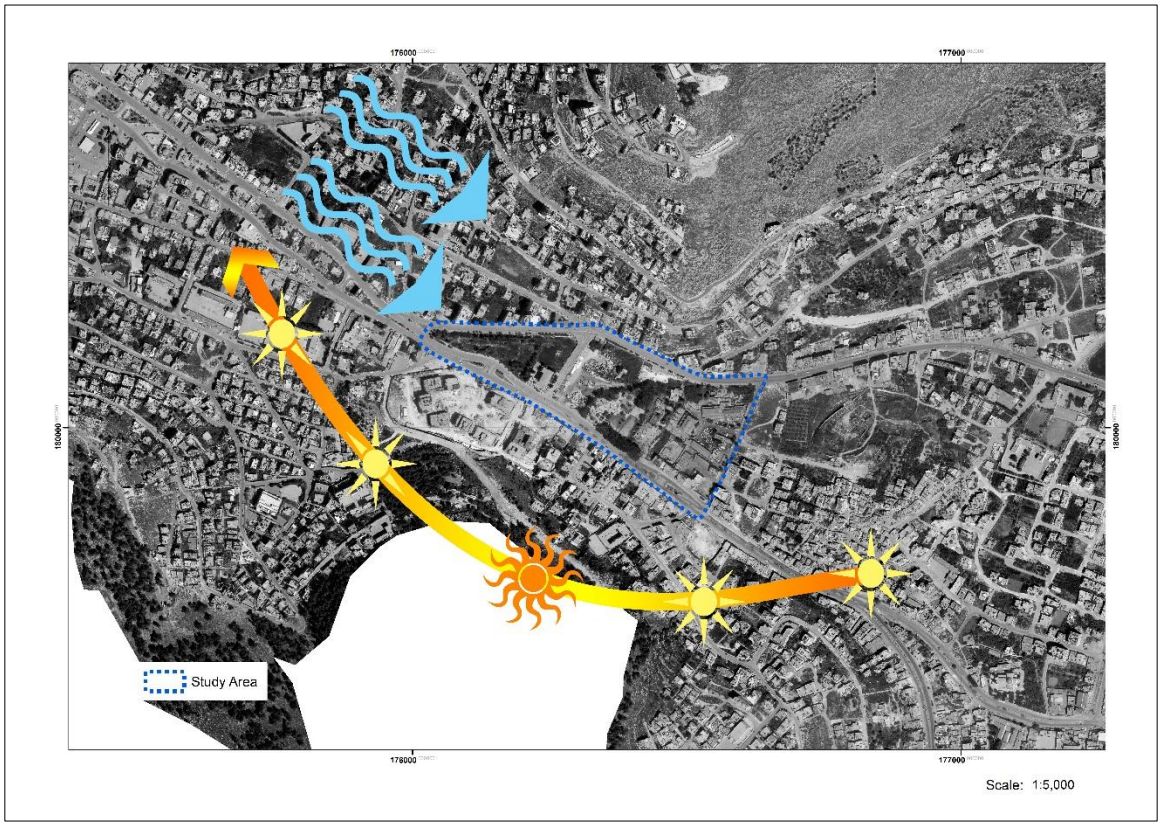


Photo 38: Study Area Topography
Source: Researcher

5.2 Sun and Wind:

It has the climate of relatively temperate Mediterranean which brings hot, dry summers and cool, rainy winters to Nablus.
Sun brightens to the area from south as Palestine is located north equator. And the area is affected generally by the western northern wind which has an approximately annual speed of 10 km/h.



Map 17: Sun and Wind in Study Area
Source: Researcher

5.3 Land Use Based on Master Plan:

The uses of the area based on Nablus master plan are illustrated in the following map:

Map 18 : Land uses Based on Nablus Master Plan
Source: Researcher

The following table shows the area of each use:

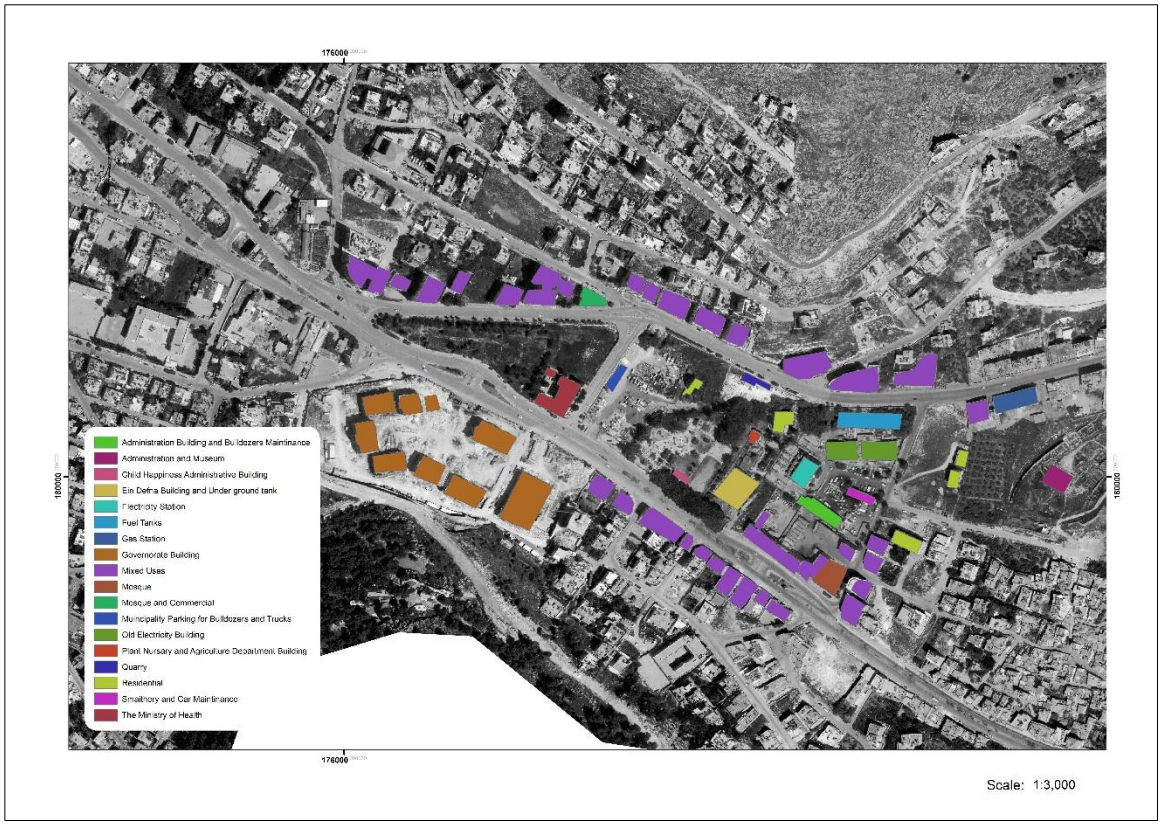
The usage based on Nablus master plan	Area (in donums)
Cultural Heritage	43.747
B Residential Area	91.230
Green Area	8.797
Parks	30.953
Public Buildings Area	89.539

Table 2: Areas for each use according to Nablus Master Plan
Source: Researcher

5.4 Buildings:

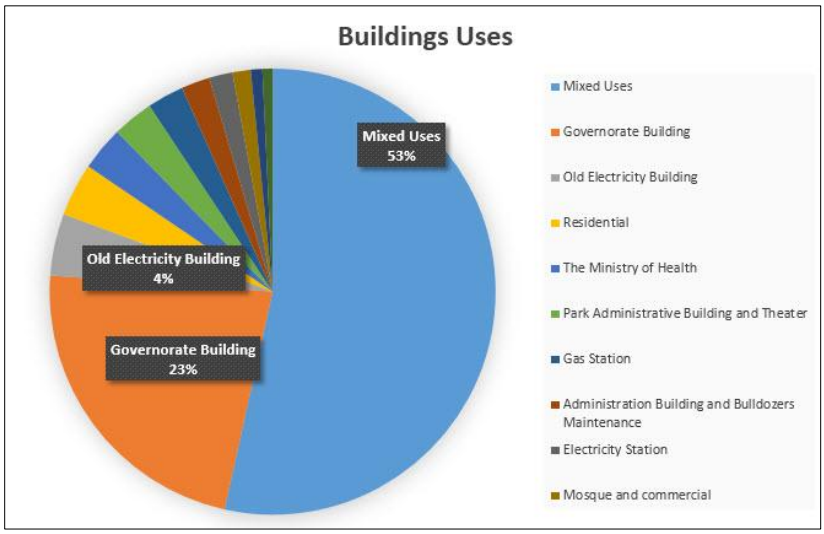
The buildings close to site and in it have an acceptable construction status and have many types of uses and diversity of floors number.

5.4.1 Existing Use of Buildings



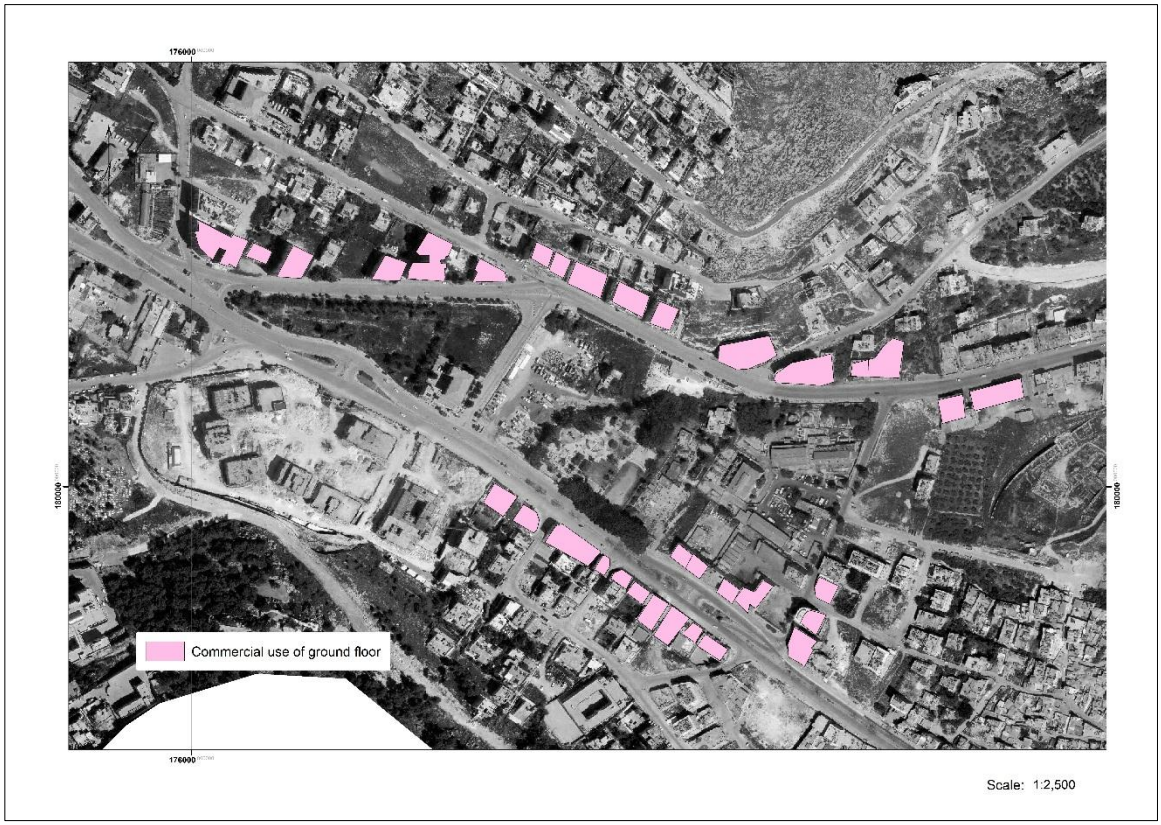
Map 19: Existance use of Buildings
Source: Researcher

The most use in this area is the mixed use which is generally residential but commercial at the ground floor as it shown in the following figure. And comparing to city's other neighborhood uses, this area is consider and known to have cars maintenance, selling points and pieces selling.



5.4.2 Ground floor use

The predominant use of the ground floor is a commercial use, which ranges between maintenance and selling automobiles parts and some grocery stores.



Map 20: Ground floor use
Source: Researcher

5.4.3 Buildings Floors Number:

The floors in the region with multi heights, ranging from one floor to nine floors. The average height is four floors.

Map 21: Buildings floors number
Source: Researcher

The following chart illustrates that the third floor is the dominate floor among them.

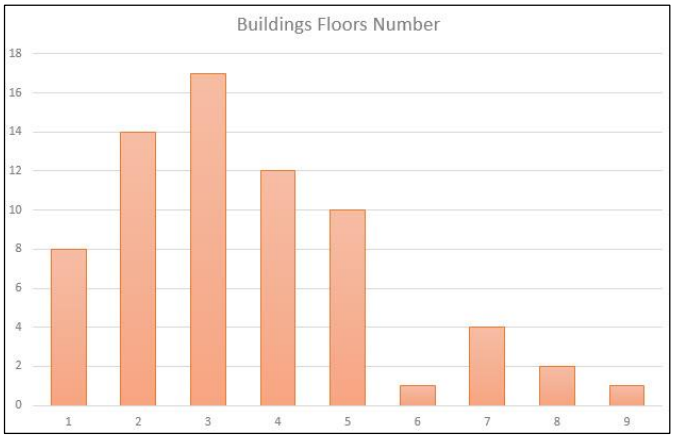


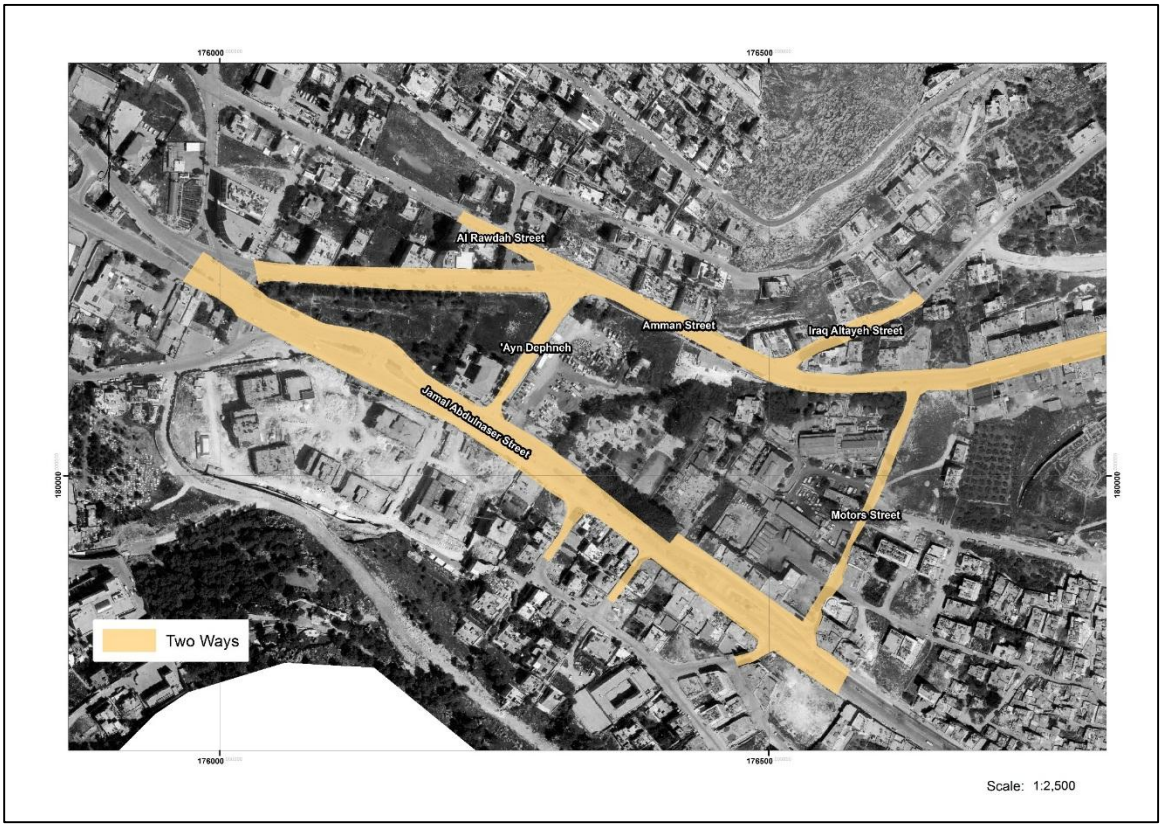
Figure 2: Buildings Floors Number
Source: Researcher

5.5 Roads:

This area is located in between two main roads (Amman Street and Jamal Abdunnasir Street) which connect the western part of Nablus to its eastern part.

5.5.1 Directions:

The direction of roads in the site and surrounding it is in both direction of movement as shown in the following map:



Map 22: Roads Directions
Source: Researcher

5.5.2 Width:

The width of roads in meters is vary from 8 in collector roads to 40 in main roads as illustrated in the following map:

Map 23: Roads Width
Source: Researcher

5.6 Plantation:

One of the advantages of this site is green elements it has since it's considered as a park and green area in Nablus master plan. The following map shows how some surveyed green elements are distributed:

Map 24: Plantation in study area
Source: Researcher

The types of trees in the site are:

- Ficus netida
- Eucalyptus
- Phoneix canariansis
- Washingtonia
- Pinus Halepensis

Which will be preserved in the developing operation.

Here are some photos of green elements in the site:

Photo 39: Plantation photos in the site
Source: Researcher

5.7 Other Infrastructures

As this area is followed to Nablus Municipality, it's totally served by electricity, water, waste water and garbage services form the municipality. The following map shows such a descriptive image of the services that the area has:

Map 25 : Desciptive network to infrastracure services
Source: Researcher

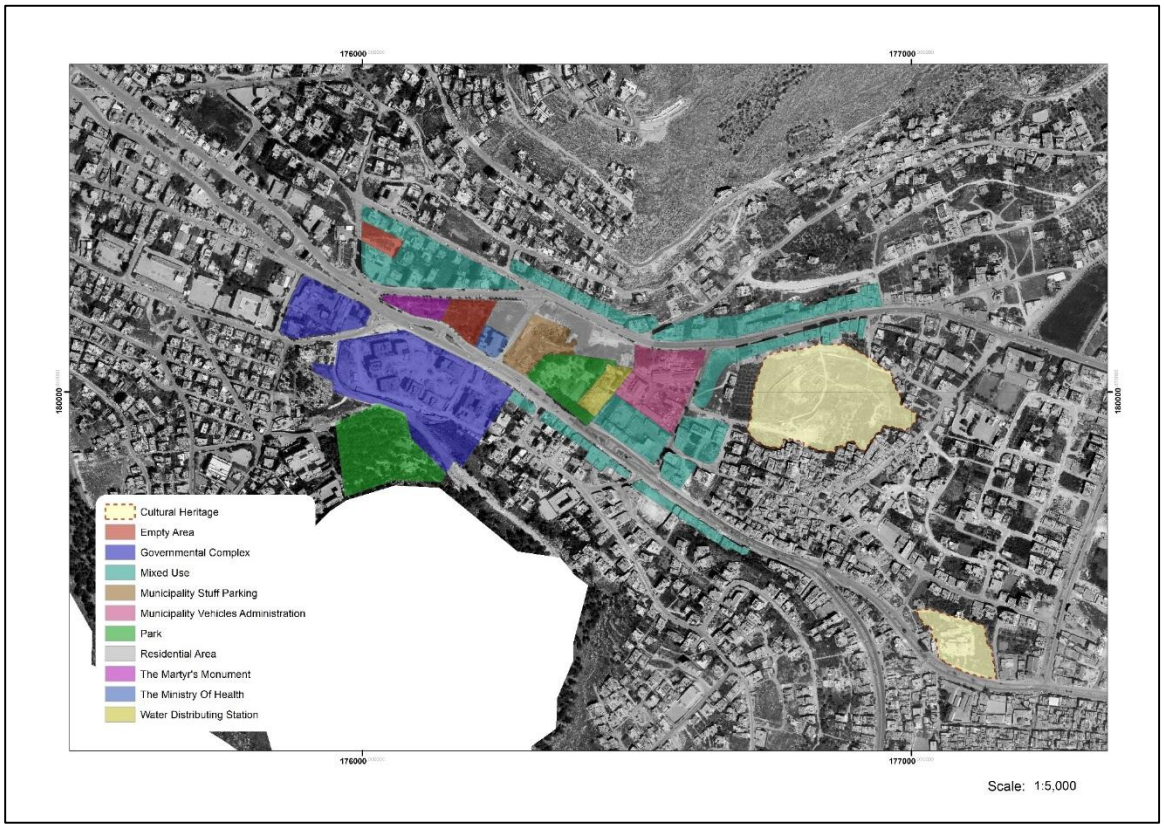
5.8 View:

The view from site to the area around is mostly limited because it's located between two high mountains as shown previously in topographic analysis. The following map shows some kinds of views form the site:

Map 26: Site view
Source: Researcher

5.9 Main Features in The site:

The main features in the site is described in the following map:



Map 27: Site main features
Source: Researcher

The following table describes the area for each feature:

Main Feature	Area (in donums)
The Ministry Of Health	2.212
The Martyr's Monument	3.627
Water Distributing Station	4.077
Municipality Stuff Parking	7.857
Empty Area	7.897
Residential Area	12.512
Municipality Vehicles Administration	15.579
Park	30.953
Governmental Complex	59.814
Mixed Use	75.990

Table 3 : Main Features Areas
Source: Researcher

Here are some photos of them:

Photo 40: Governorate Complex
Source: Researcher

Photo 41: Bulldozers and Trucks Parking
Source: Researcher

Photo 42: The Ministry of Health Building
Source: Researcher

Photo 43: Municipality Vehicles Administration
Source: Researcher

Photo 44: Cultural Heritage (Tell Balata)
Source: Researcher

Photo 45: Cultural Heritage (Jacob's Well)
Source: Researcher

Photo 46: Old Electricity Generation Station
Source: Researcher

Photo 47: Al-Hursh Park
Source: nablustechmeetups.wordpress.com

Photo 48: Childhood Happiness Park
Source: Researcher

5.9 Pollution:

There are many types of pollution the area suffers from:

5.9.1 Air Pollution:

Resulted from heavy traffic in the two main streets and quarry in the site and car garages of bulldozers. As in the following:

- due to quarry to the north of the site:

Photo 49: Quarry
Source: Researcher

- From Bulldozers Parking and Maintenance:

Photo 50: Bulldozers Parking and Maintenance
Source: Researcher

- High traffic density:

Photo 51 : High traffic density
Source: Researcher

5.9.2 Noise:

The noise is occurred from the following:

- Quarry

Photo 52: Noise from Quarry
Source: Researcher

- High traffic density:

Photo 53: Noise From Traffic
Source: Researcher

- Water Distribution Station (Ein Defnah):

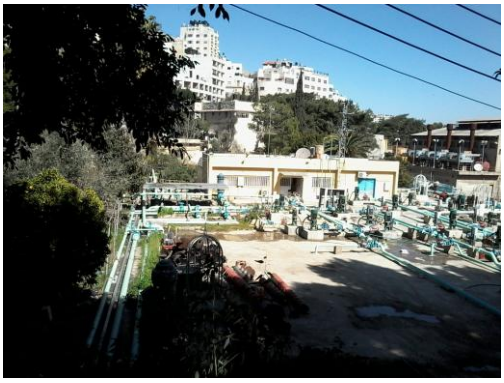


Photo 54: Noise from Water Distribution Station
Resource: Researcher

5.9.3 Visual Disturbances:

The visual disturbance comes from disharmony between features and monuments, and is affected by many factors, such as:

- Difference between buildings heights:

Photo 55: Height differences
Source: Researcher

- Old Fuel Tanks:

Photo 56: Old Gas Tanks
Source: Researcher

- Parking in pedestrian path in front of childhood happiness park:

Photo 57: Parking in pedestrian path
Source: Researcher

5.10 Strengths:

The area has many strengths like:

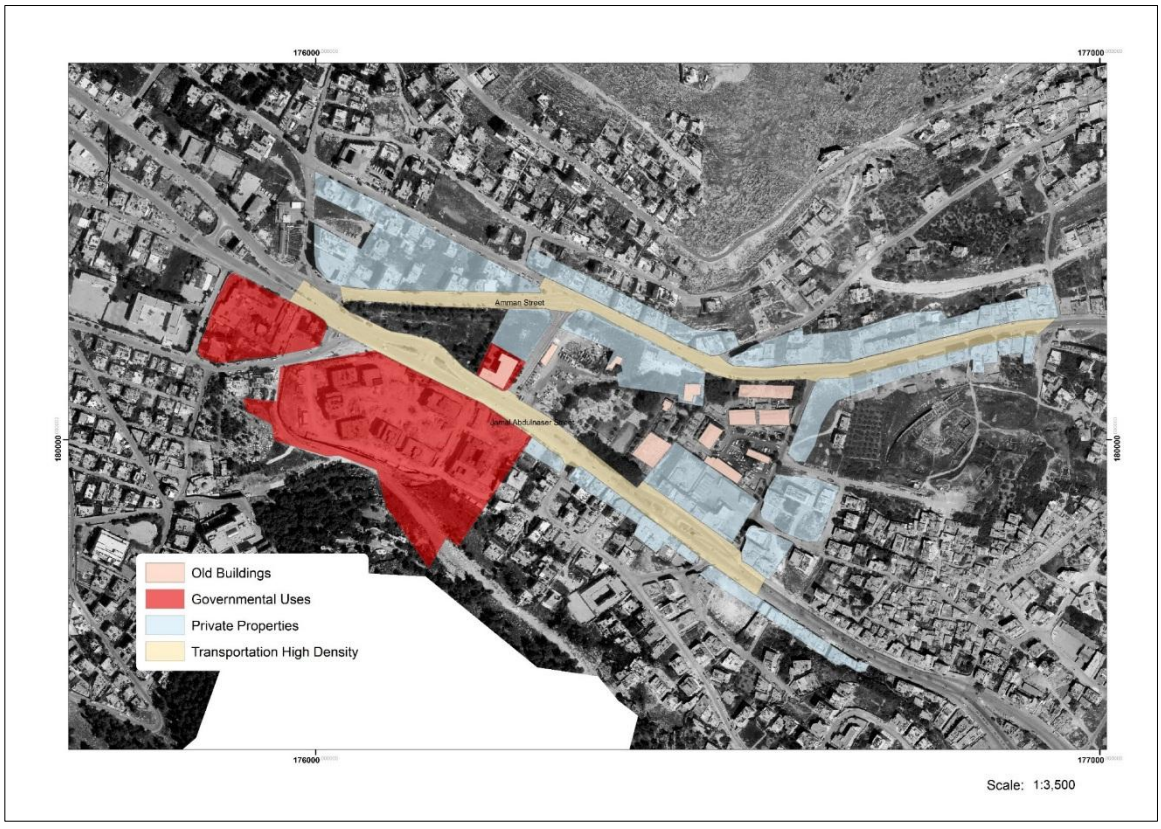
- It's located between two main streets
- Most lands in the area are owned by the municipality
- Has an important features in the site like Tell Balata
- Considered as a connecting point between the western and the eastern part of the city

Map 28: Some study area Strengths
Source: Researcher

5.11 Weaknesses:

Some weaknesses the area is facing:

- Old buildings in the site
- Private properties surrounding
- Governmental Complex which cause pollution and make visual disturbance
- Congested roads
- Unsuitable pedestrian paths
- Some roads furniture not existing
- Parking is not enough
- Noisy uses around the site
- No enough services



Map 29: Weaknesses in the site
Source: Researcher

Chapter 6: Study area development

6.1 **Objectives**

From the previous analysis, we realize many issues which should be taken into consideration when making developments for the study area. Here are some important objectives when developing the area:

- Preserve the existing trees
- Reduce air pollution, noise, and visual disturbances as much as possible
- Develop traffic movement and decline high density and congestion and increase traffic flow
- Use the properties of Municipality in a best way
- Highlighting on the importance of Tell Balata
- Attract people to the eastern part of the city of Nablus
- Use the old buildings
- Preserve the surrounding private properties
- Create suitable pedestrian paths
- Develop roads furniture
- Create parking locations

6.2 Vision:

Towards a recreational urban space that preserves cultural identity, enhances social interaction, makes a balance between city parts and attracts the importance to eastern part of the city.

6.3 Approaches:

6.2.1 Recreational approach

In this approach many recreational areas are needed to achieve it such as:

- Main park
- Recreational zones
- Amphitheater

6.2.2 Cultural approach

This approach is achieved by the following services:

- Preservation of cultural heritage (Tell Balata and historical buildings in site)
- Link/path between site and Tell Balata
- Museum
- Exhibition
- Tourism services office
- Cultural Center

6.2.3 Social approach

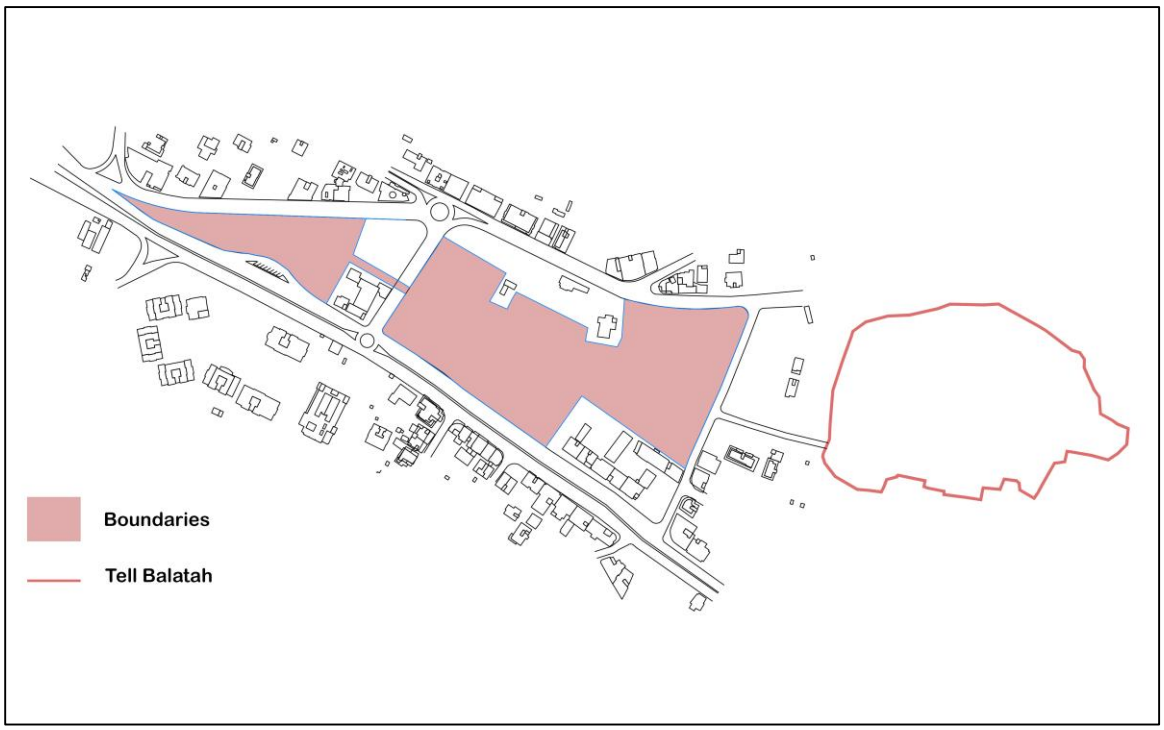
This approach aims to promote social interaction by the following:

- Social centers

The previous approaches are very close together because there is an overlap between them. And when one exists, the other two approaches will also be done by it.

6.4 Boundaries

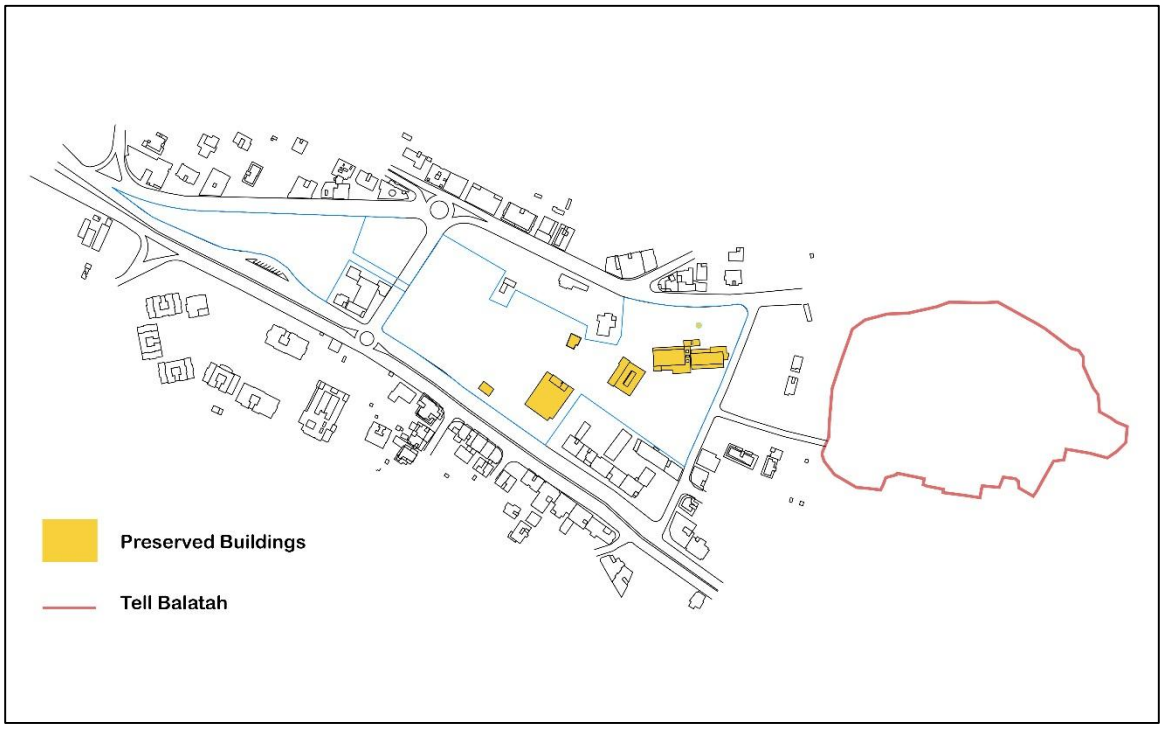
Before starting the development stage of the project, land shape should be for development. And thus the boundary is changed in the section to the north side of the childhood happiness park by giving and taking in equal area of land (sorting of land). The resulted boundary as it's illustrated in the following map:



Map 30: New boundary
Source: Researcher

6.5 Preserved Buildings

The selection of these buildings to maintain them and use them in the development of the project.
This is based on logic, avoid as much as possible to the process of demolition, and using them in the project facilities. The following map shows the selected buildings for preservation:

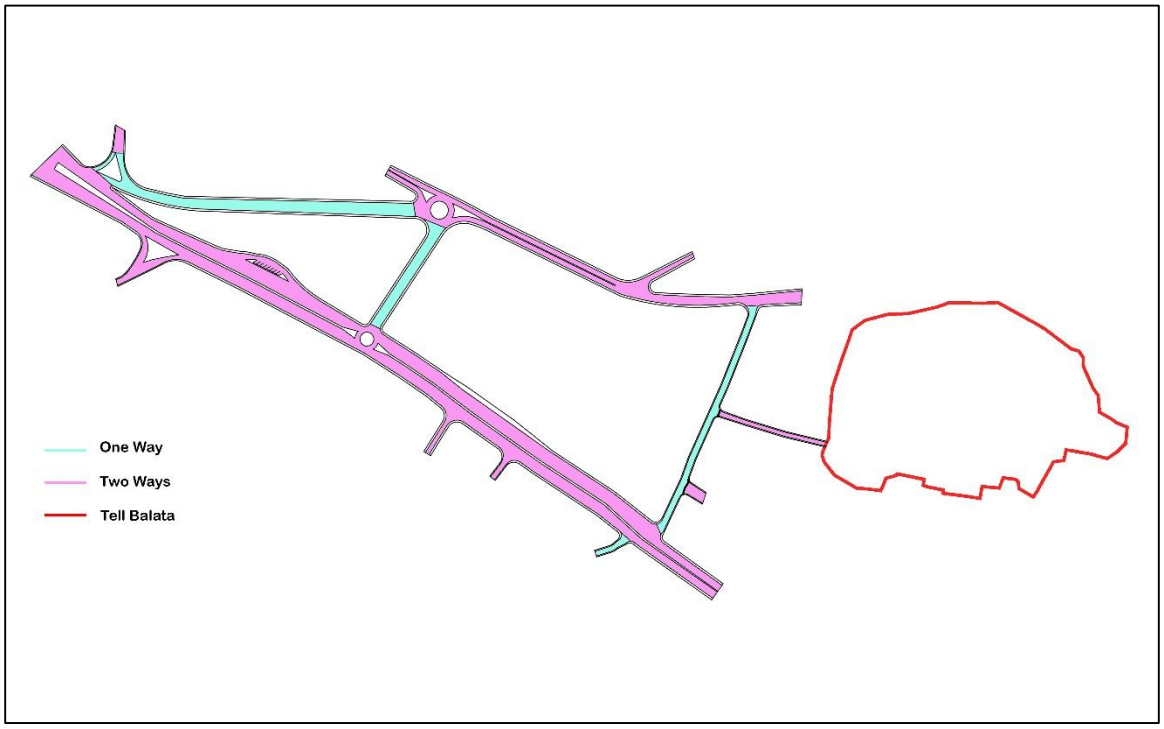


Map 31: Preserved buildings
Source: Researcher

6.6 Traffic System

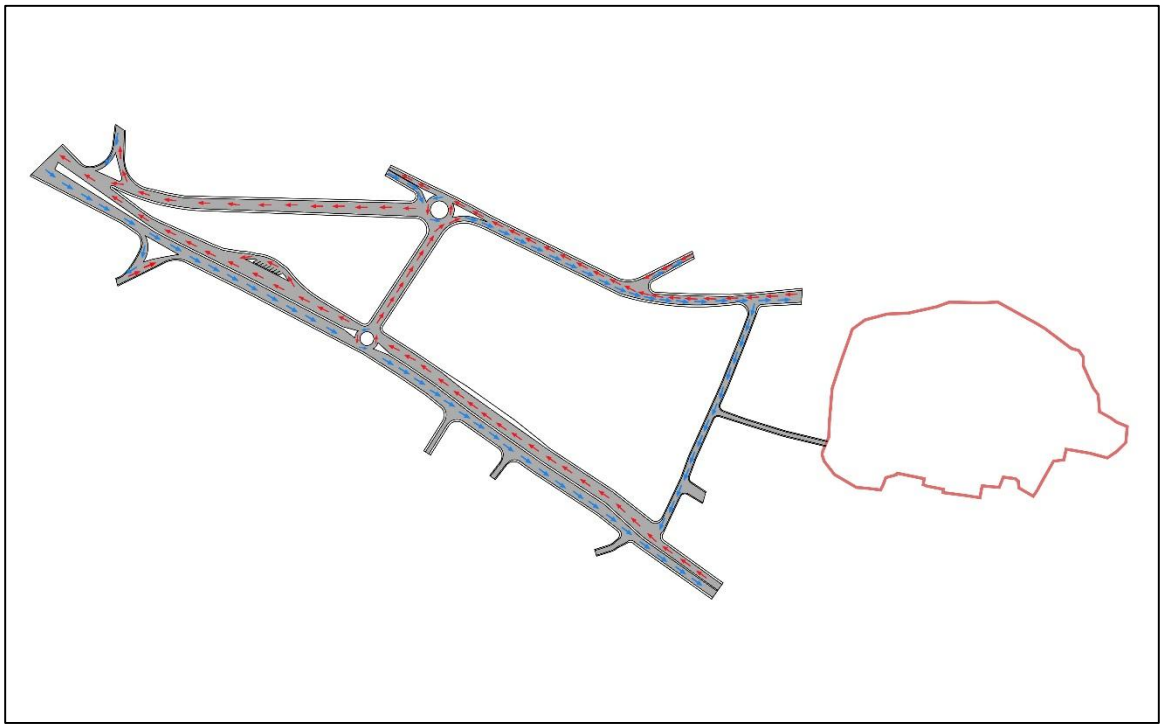
The transportation system has had a share in development, where the focus was on the street directions and traffic system circulation as shown in the following maps:

6.6.1 Directions



Map 32: Roads new directions
Source: Researcher

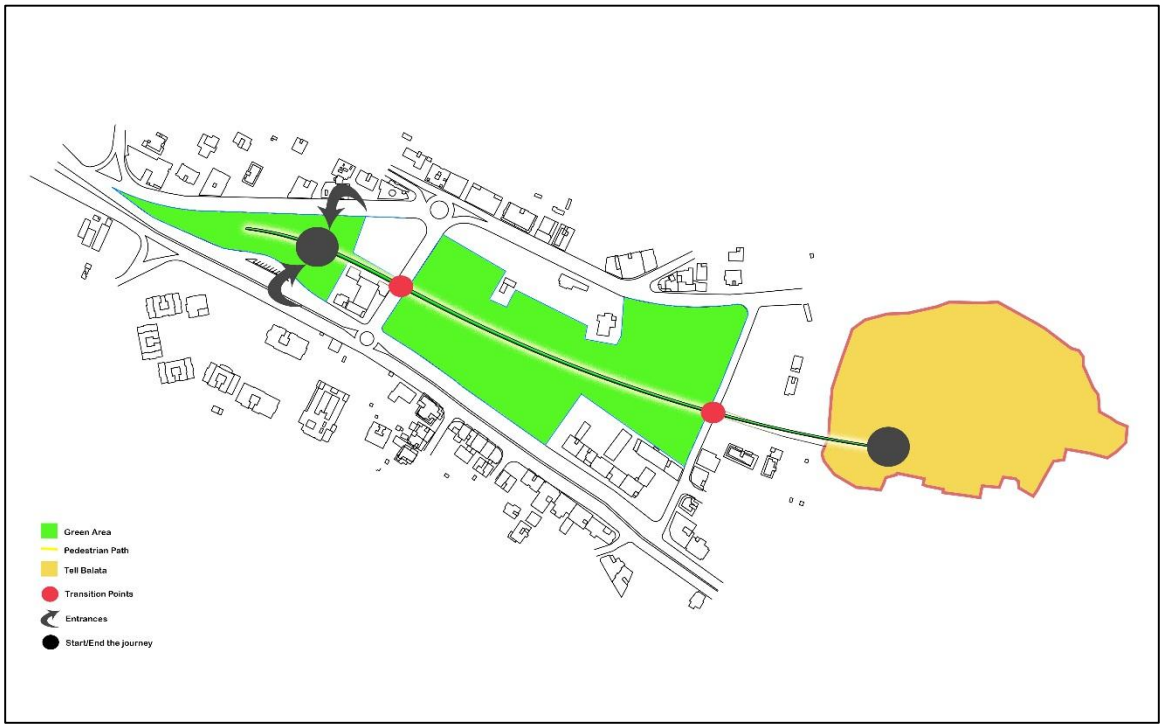
6.6.2 Circulation



Map 33: Circulation system
Source: Researcher

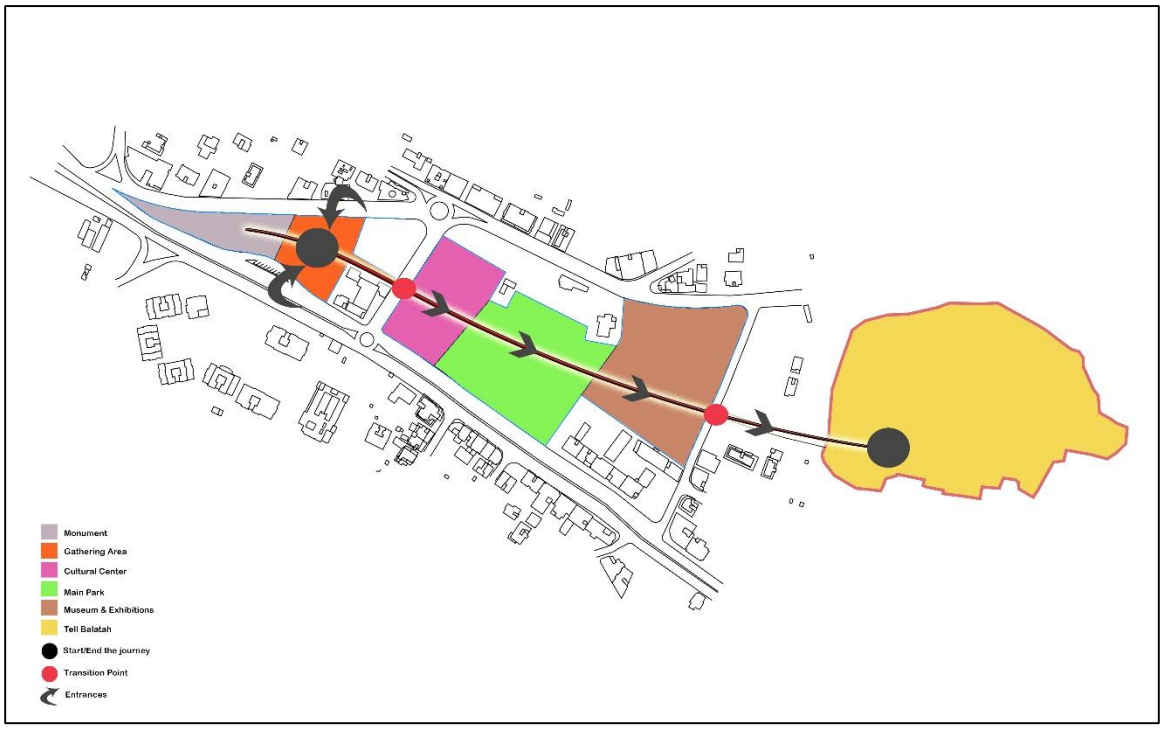
6.7 Conceptual Plan

Such a project must be developed in a way to benefit from most of it, and serve the surrounding population, and to meet the shortage of recreational and cultural services and related services in the eastern region of Nablus.
Therefore services has been selected a carefully, and after studying the existing shortage in the eastern region of the city.
The main objective is to make it a green area primarily, to form as a lung-breathing for the region and to highlight the importance of Tell Balata.



Map 34: Conceptual plan as green area
Source: Researcher

The second phase of the concept, is to clarify the proposed services and the relationship between them as in the following map:



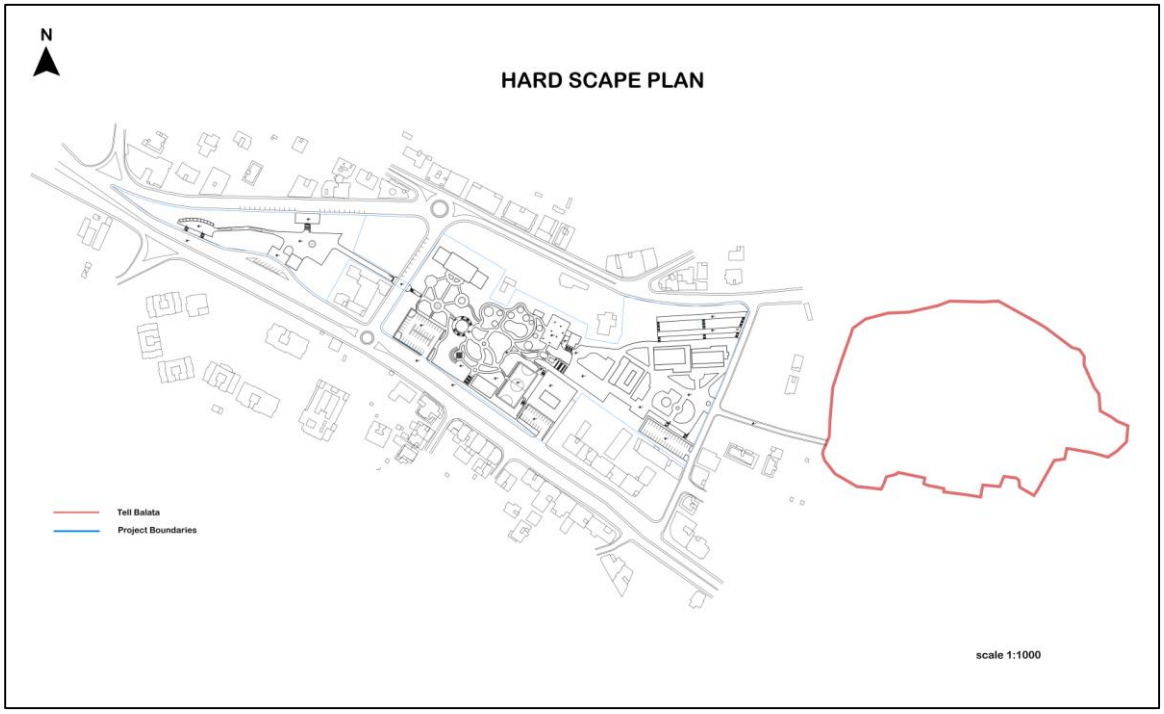
Map 35: Proposed services
Source: Researcher

The project consists of six regions distributed as follows:

1. Area of the Martyr's Monument
2. Gathering area which is considered a big yard with some quiet sessions, to form the starting point for the tourist track within the project
3. Cultural Center area, which embraces many of the cultural and knowledge activities
4. Main park area which contains many leisure activities
5. Exhibitions and museum district, an area dedicated to the work of the conference and to view many of the components of the cultural heritage, and the lack of a particular museum in the city, this museum will be have a great importance
6. Tell Balata area, which is an archaeological area in its history, reflects the period of time for the emergence of the city

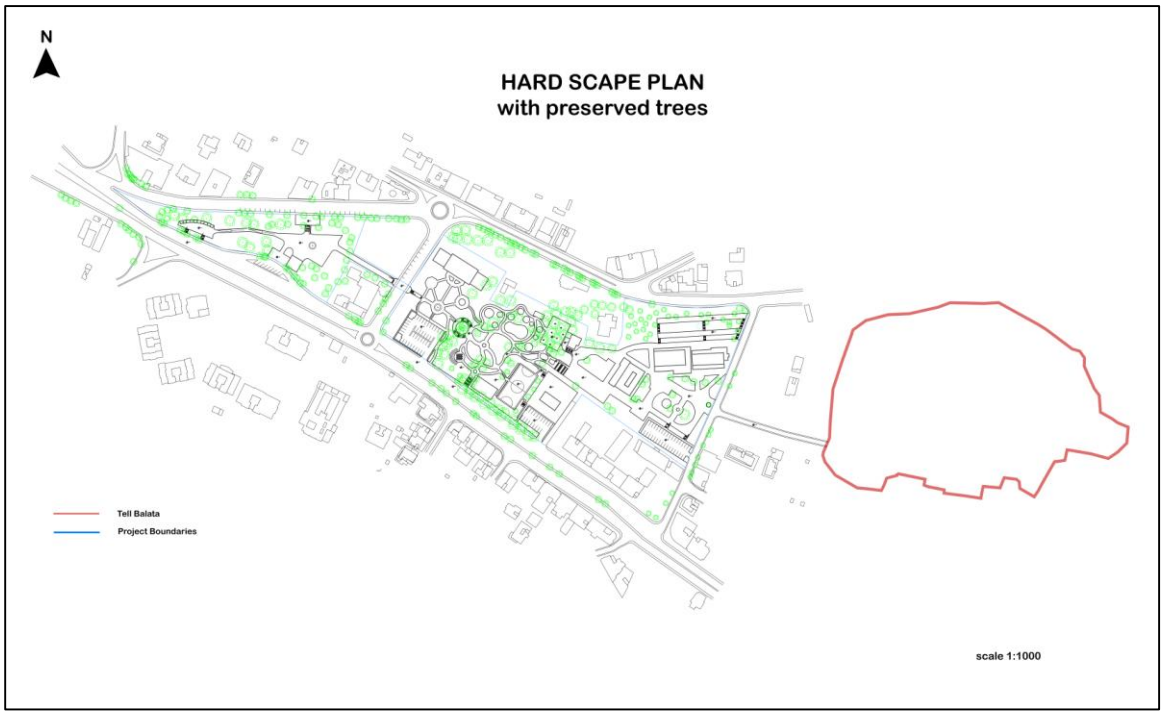
6.8 Hard scape plan

after long period of sketches, drawings, brainstorming, and after days of continuous thinking, and taking into account the proposed service-elements in the region and ranging in contour, it has been reached to the next hard scape plan:



Map 36: Hard scape plan
Source: Researcher

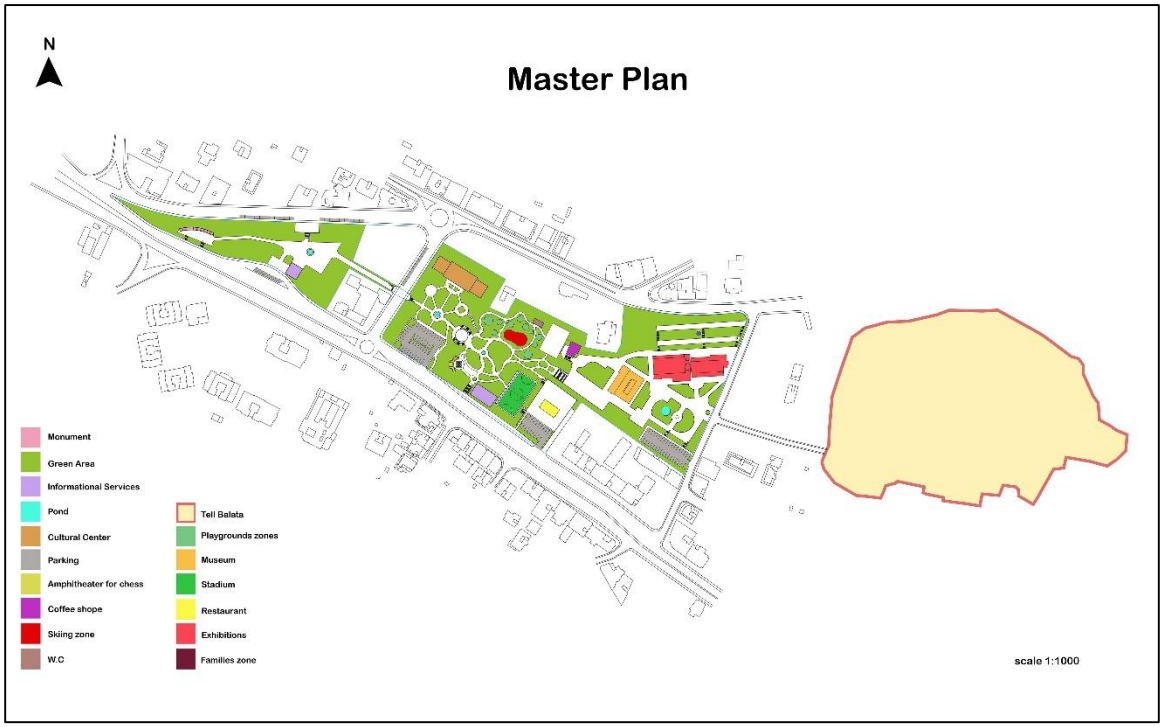
And also it has been a focus in maintaining the value of existing plants in the region and the making of the corridors, hearings and services around.



Map 37: Hard scape with preserved plants
Source: Researcher

6.9 Master plan

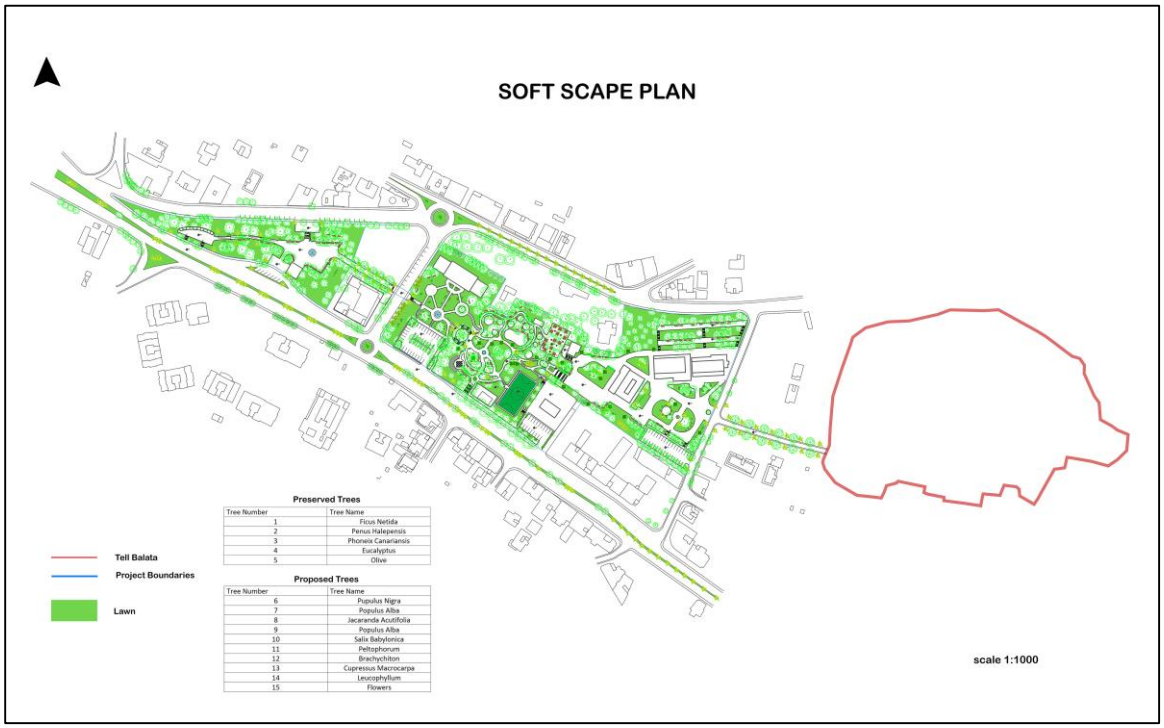
The following Master Plan shows the distribution of uses in the project before the final stage of the work of detailed plans:



Map 38: Master plan
Source: Researcher

6.10 Soft scape

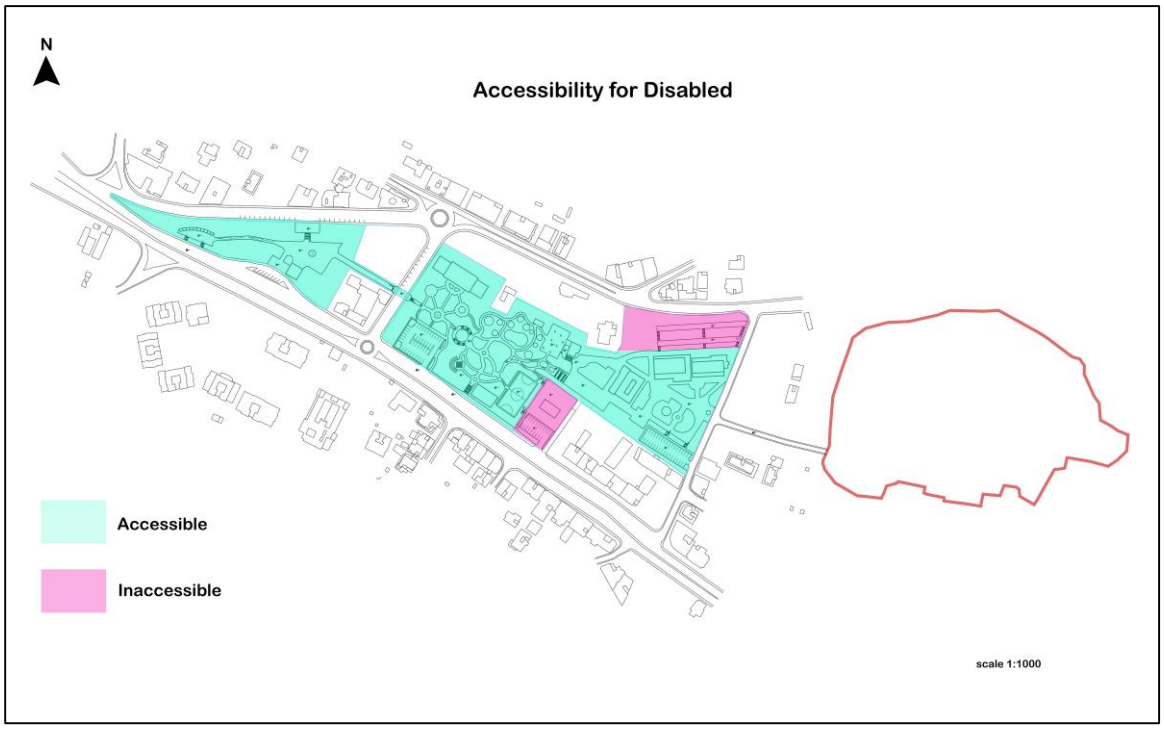
The following map shows the plant elements distributed in the project in addition to their names, where they were distributed to achieve harmony between height and harmony between colors.
It was also distributed in accordance with the perspective from multiple angles in the project to achieve an aesthetic purpose.



Map 39: Soft scape plan
Source: Researcher

6.11 Accessible areas for disabled

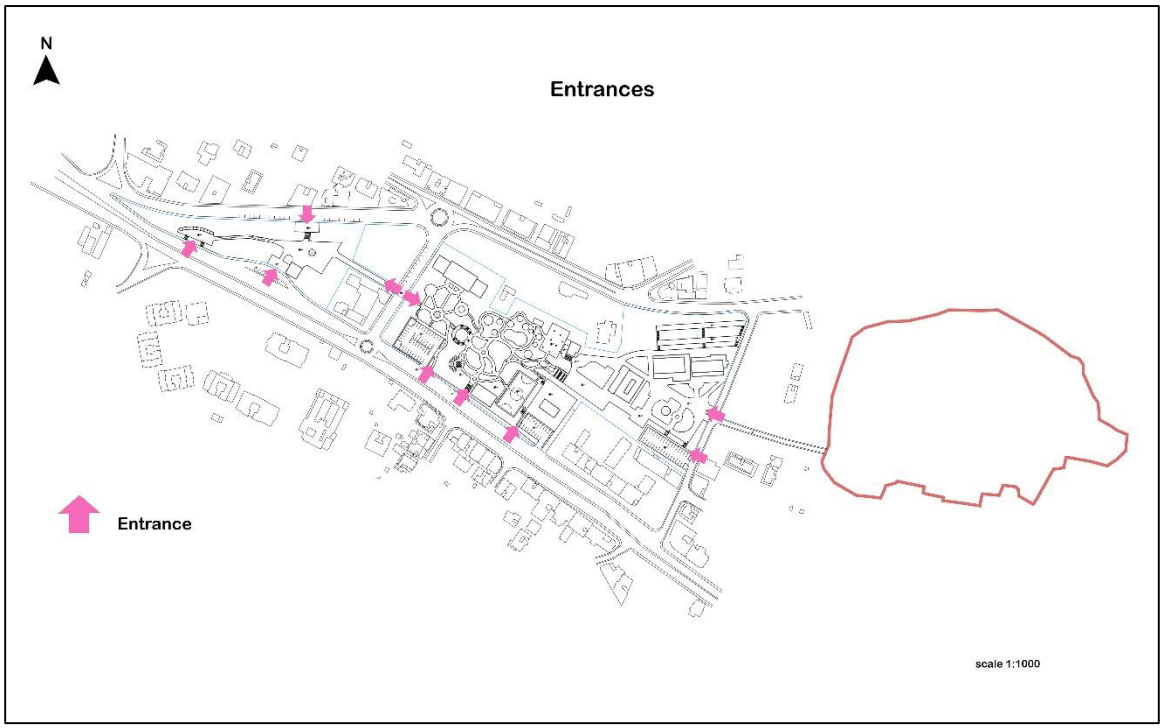
The design takes into account the disabled people and they have an access for more than 75% of the project except in two areas since the acceptable slope for ramps should be within 0.12 and that is impossible there in these areas. The following map shows the areas in the project which designed to be accessible for disabled:



Map 40: Accessibility for disabled
Source: Researcher

6.12 Entrances

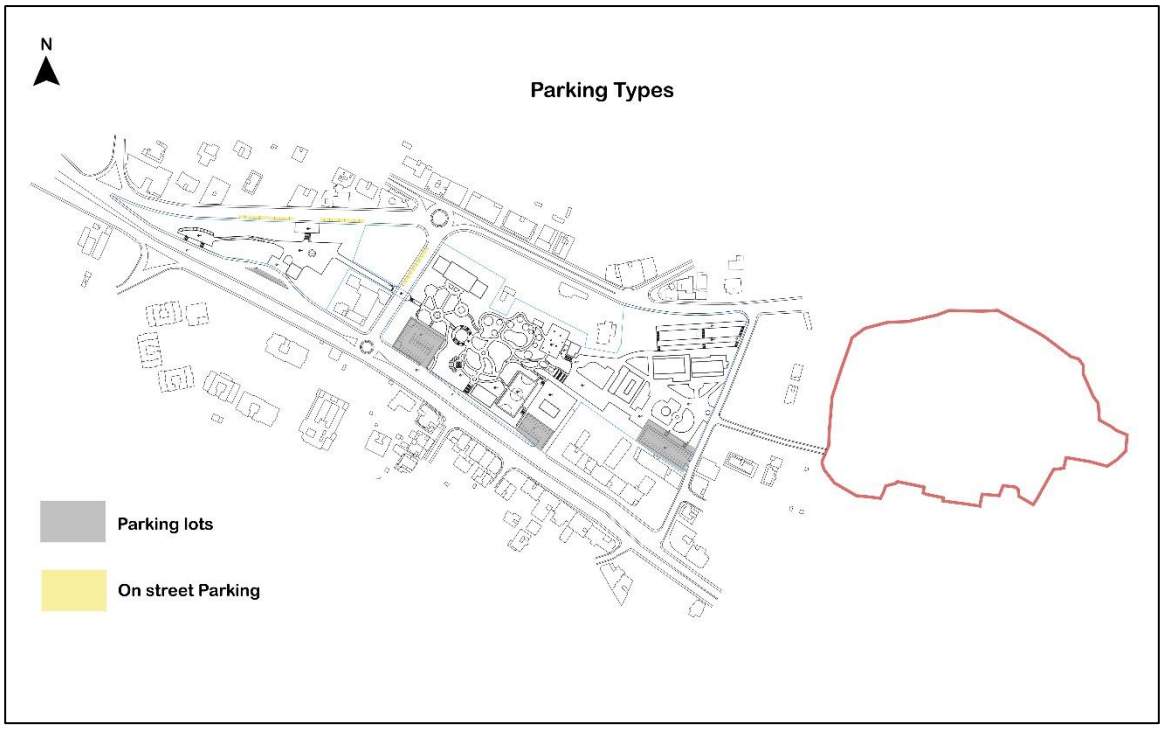
The following map shows the distribution of entrances in the project. And actually, the project is designed to work each activity separately as they work in an integrated manner as one unit.



Map 41: Entrances
Source: Researcher

6.13 Parking types and demand

Since parking has a very great importance in any activity, especially near the main streets and not to constitute a nuisance to traffic in these streets.
Parking in this project is designed to meet the current needs of the demand on parking and to help activities surrounding the project to use them as well.



Map 42: Parking Types
Source: Researcher

The following table shows parking according to type and capacity:

Parking type	Capacity (of car)
On street parking	29
Parking lots	100

Table 4: Parking type and capacity
Source: Researcher

The following figure describes the demand for parking of many activities in the area during the hours of the day:

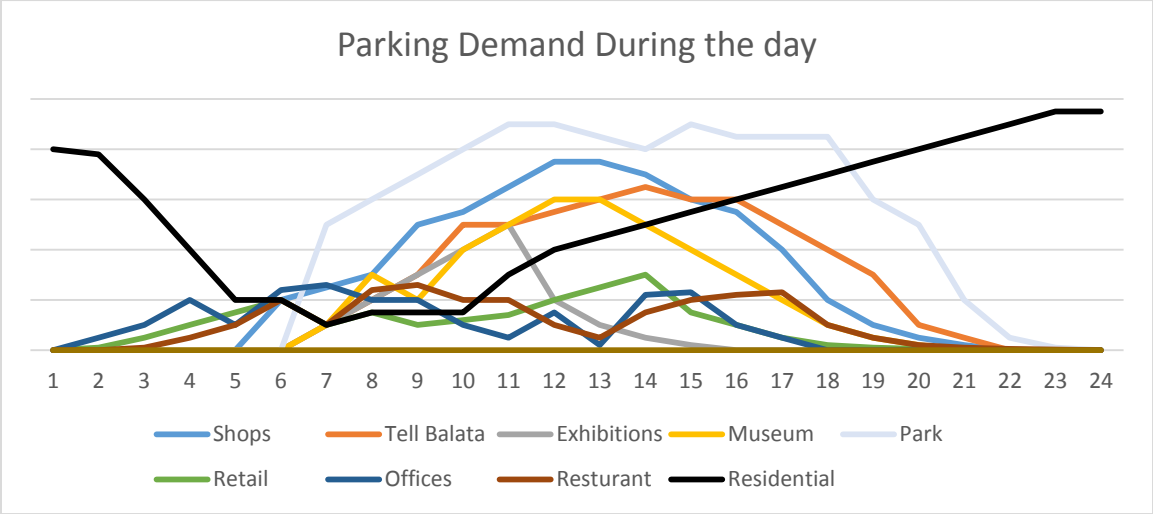
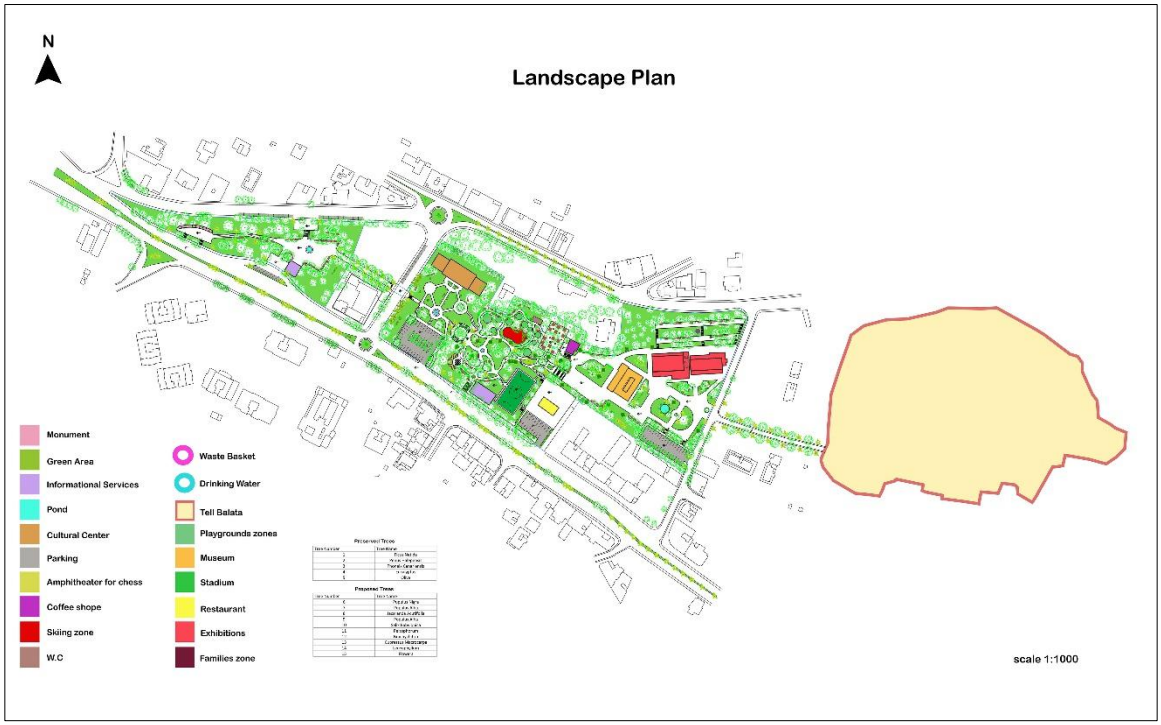


Figure 3: Parking demand during day hours
Source: Researcher

6.14 Landscape plan

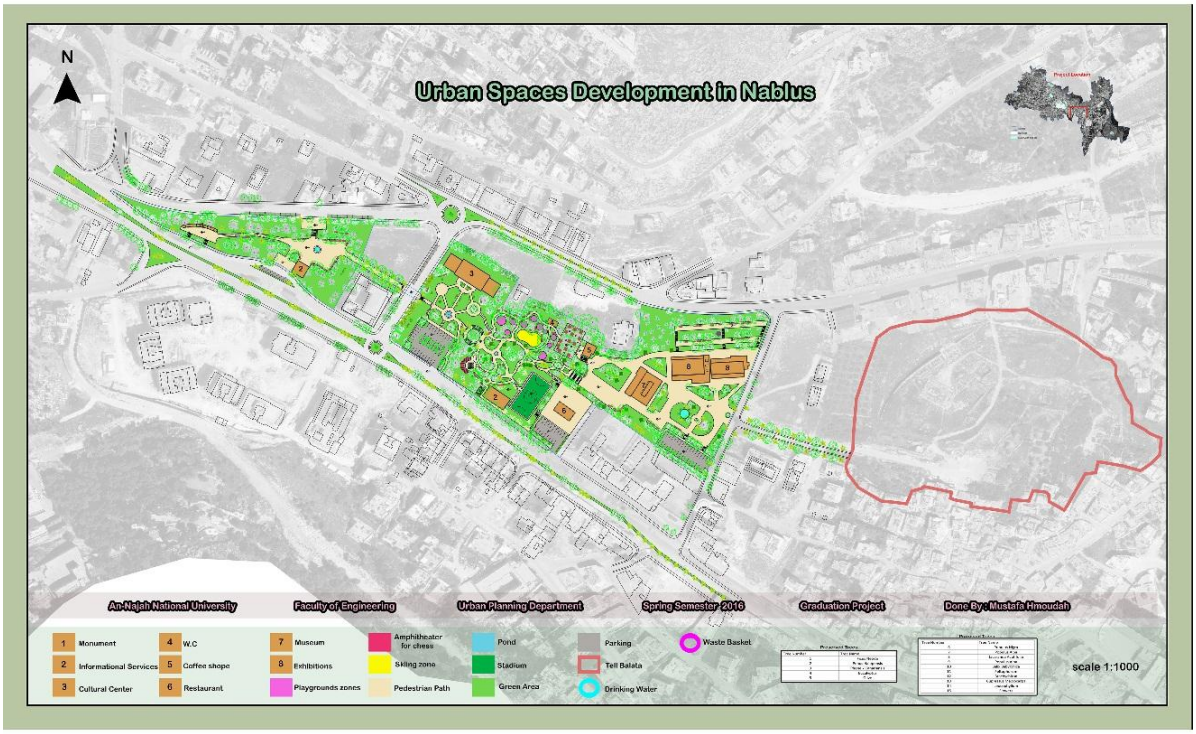
The following map describes the details of the work and the kinds of uses for all of what mentioned in the previous sections.
This project is considered a vital project for the region, because it will bring significant benefits.in the short and long term.



Map 43: Landscape Plan
Source: Researcher

6.15 Final developing plan

At the final stage of development, the following plan shows all the details that are in the project linking to the aerial photo to be more understood.



Map 44: Final Development Plan
Source: Researcher

And below, each area of the project is described separately:

1. Area of the Martyr's Monument:

The Martyr's Monument represents and expresses an important aspect of the culture of the community in the present era. It has its own entrance and therefore can work independently and within the project:

Map 45 : Martyr's Monument
Source: Researcher

2. Gathering area :

Beside it is a gathering area to start your trip from, it's considered as arena for the exercise of certain activities that require a large area, it is also considered comfort zone far from the main activities of the project as described.

Map 46: Gathering Area
Source: Researcher

3. Cultural Center area

The Cultural Center practices in the project an important role in cultural and social terms, it will provide many training sessions for the participants and will contribute in raising the cultural level as well as provide some recreational activities inside.

Map 47: Cultural Center
Source: Researcher

4. Main park area:

Main Park in the project is somewhat similar to the previous one with addition of some new activities such as skiing district and chess amphitheater and many other playground districts. And the use of organic style in the design of the park is to create an aesthetic appearance and to overcome the different in topography.

Map 48: Main Park
Source: Researcher

5. Exhibitions and museum district

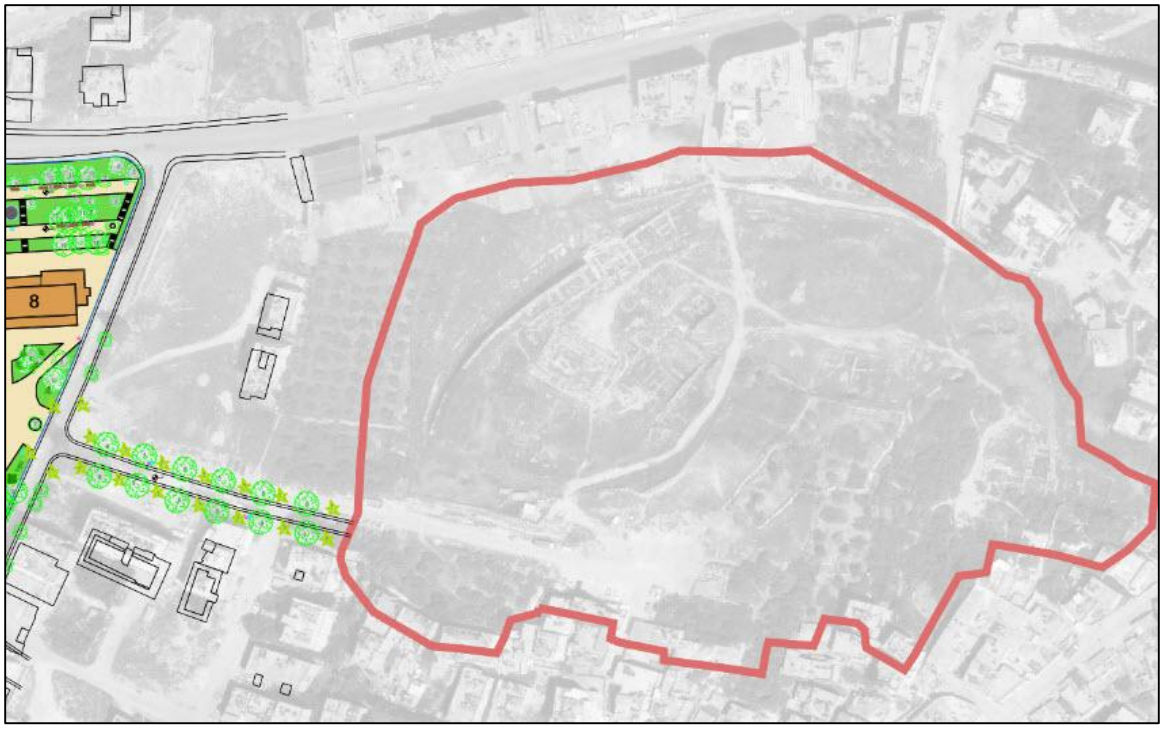
The exhibitions and museum area is considered one of the important areas of cultural and social point of view, and because the city does not have a museum and therefore this museum will be the mayor and main museum of the city, which will express its culture.

The exhibitions will be the other side of the current culture of the city, which can be rented by private companies for financial income to the municipality.

Map 49: Exhibitions and Monument Area
Source: Researcher

6. Tell Balata area

It will remain the same as it is, but it needs future excavation works to highlight the ancient history and the origin of the city.



Map 50: Tell Balata
Source: Researcher

6.15 Cross sections

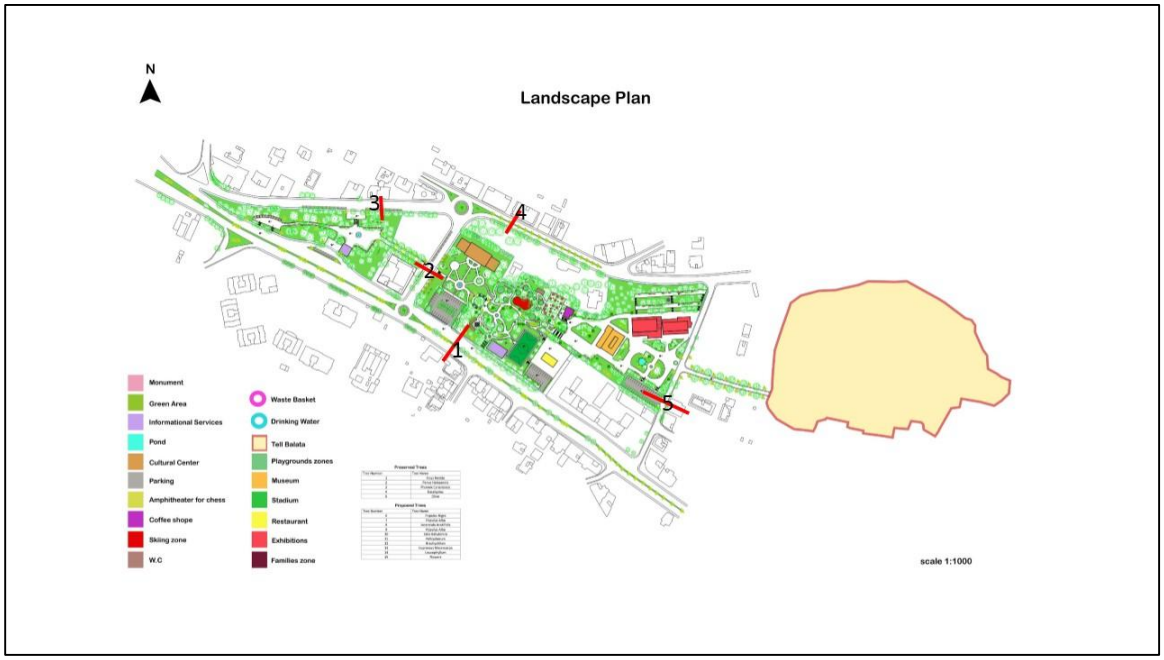
To understand the project as an output, the cross sections of project and the surrounding roads show the overall shape of it:

6.15.1 Project cross section

Map 51: Cross section
Source: Researcher

6.15.2 Streets cross sections

The following map shows cross sections of many of the streets that will be explained later in case of their width and divisions:



Map 52: Streets cross sections
Source: Researcher

- Section 1 :

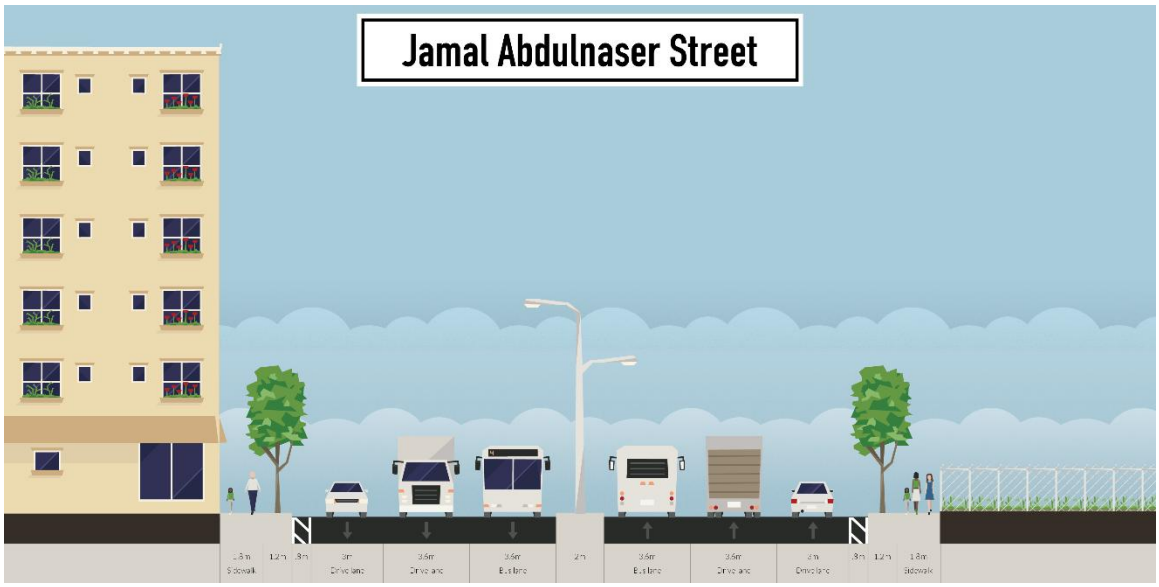


Photo 58: Section 1
Source: Researcher

- Section 2:

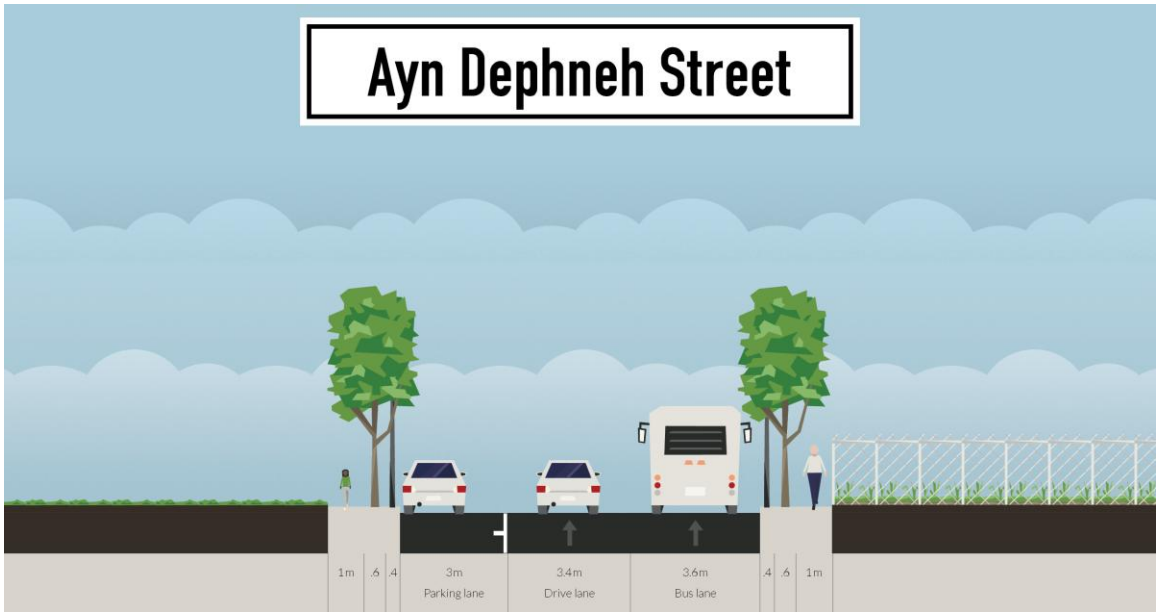


Photo 59: Section 2
Source: Researcher

- Section 3:

Photo 60: Section 3
Source: Researcher

- Section 4:

Photo 61: Section 4
Source: Researcher

- Section 5:

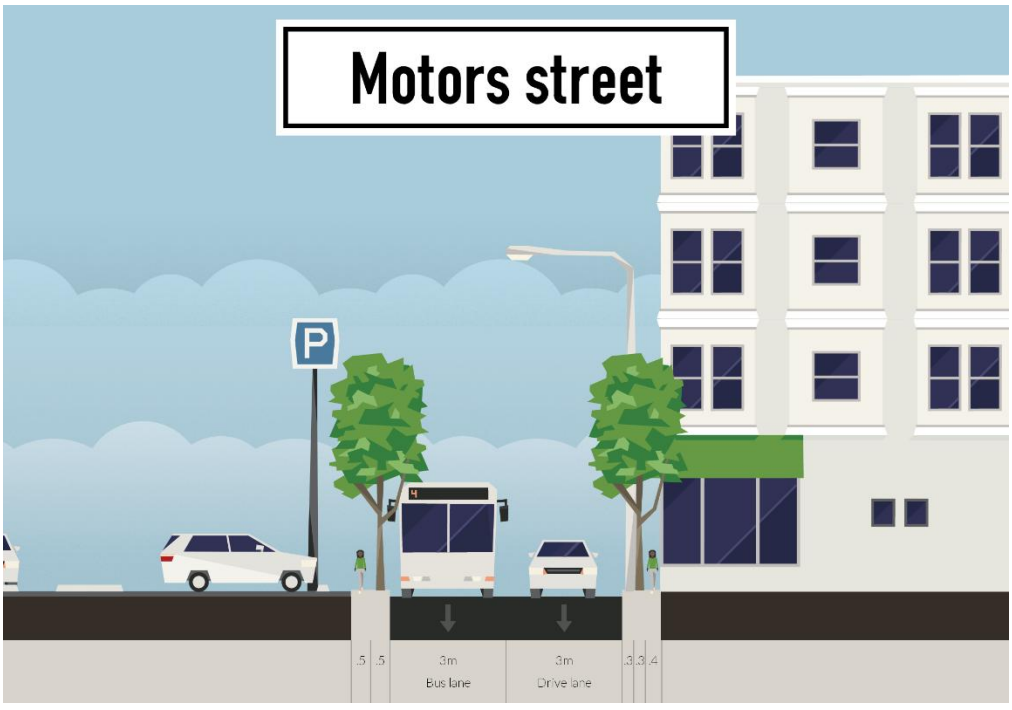
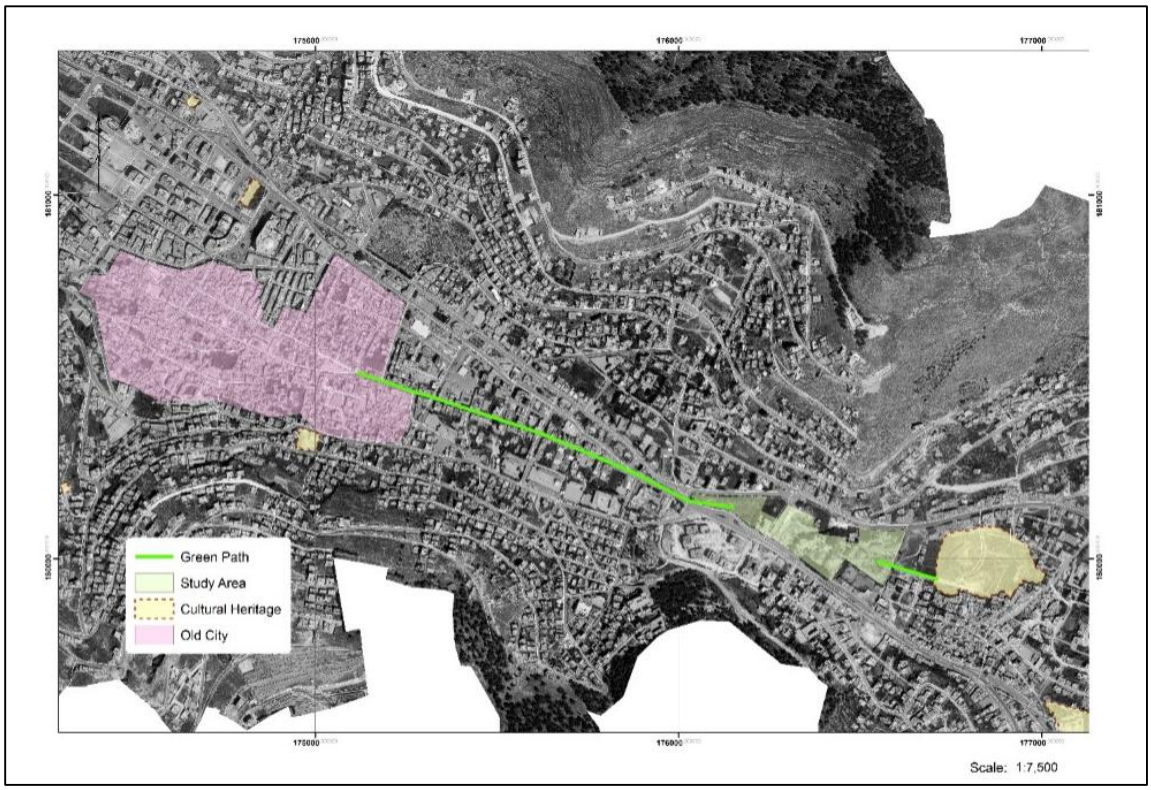


Photo 62: Section 5
Source: Researcher

6.16 Project complement development

In order to achieve complementarity in the project, it is suggested a green path linking it with the old city of Nablus and therefore this will form an interesting tourist trip linking the sprawling distant past to the latest past and the present as well. As shown in the following map:



Map 53 : Proposed green path
Source: Researcher

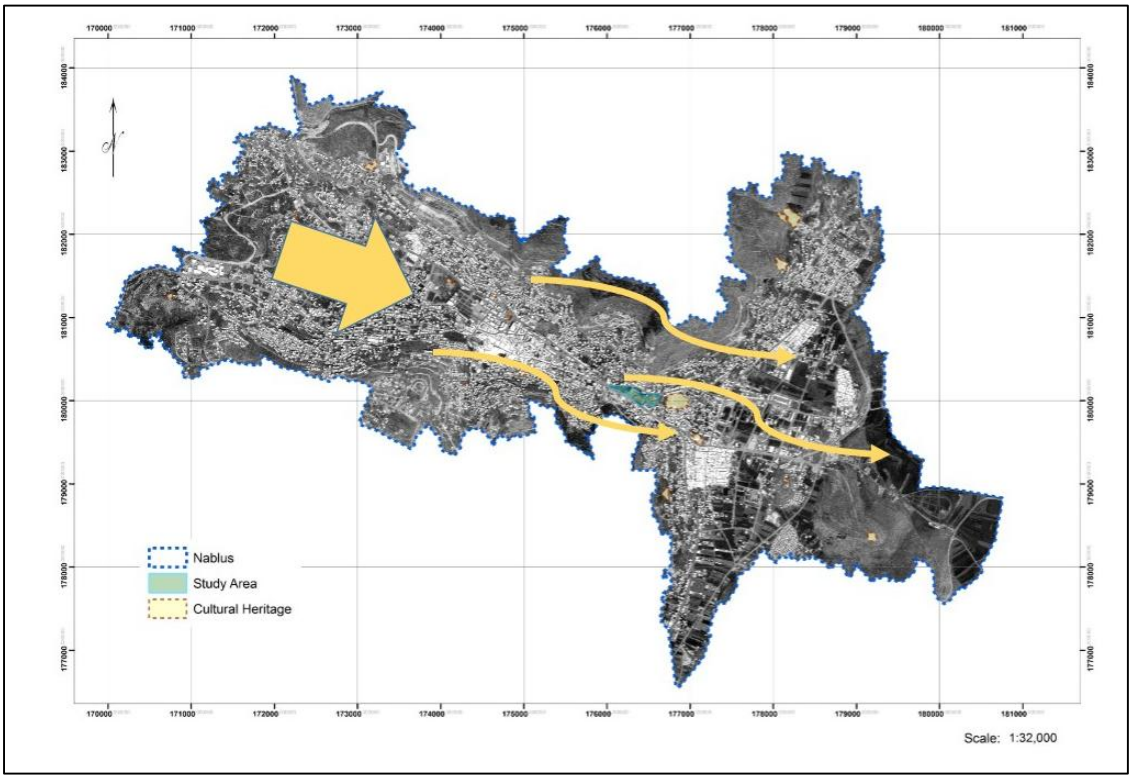
6.17 Project impact assessment

There are areas which reflected those affected by the project:

1. At the social level: the existence of such a project and the offering of the interaction between members of the community, it will have positive effects

2. At the cultural level: Due to the existence of a cultural center and in addition to its facilities that will enrich visitors with the knowledge, science, and thus would have a significant impact on the lives of many people and will be a quantum leap in the level of knowledge

3. The developmental level: Since this project is unique in the eastern area of the city, will be an important attraction for expansion and development in the eastern region of the city. The following map shows the development directions:



Map 54: Development directions due to the project
Source: Researcher

4. On the psychological level: The project is rich of green elements which are vital and that will have an impact in the psyche of the population towards the positive side and will be a place for entertainment and leisure time with something useful wholesome.

5. Environmental: the existence of this project will increase green elements in the region and thus reduce pollution and hassle and improve the visual aspect and reduce the temperature of the air, where it will contribute to the urban climate of the positive side and will help to improve it, as described in the following photos:

Before project, the area totally participate in raising air temperature as described in this picture:

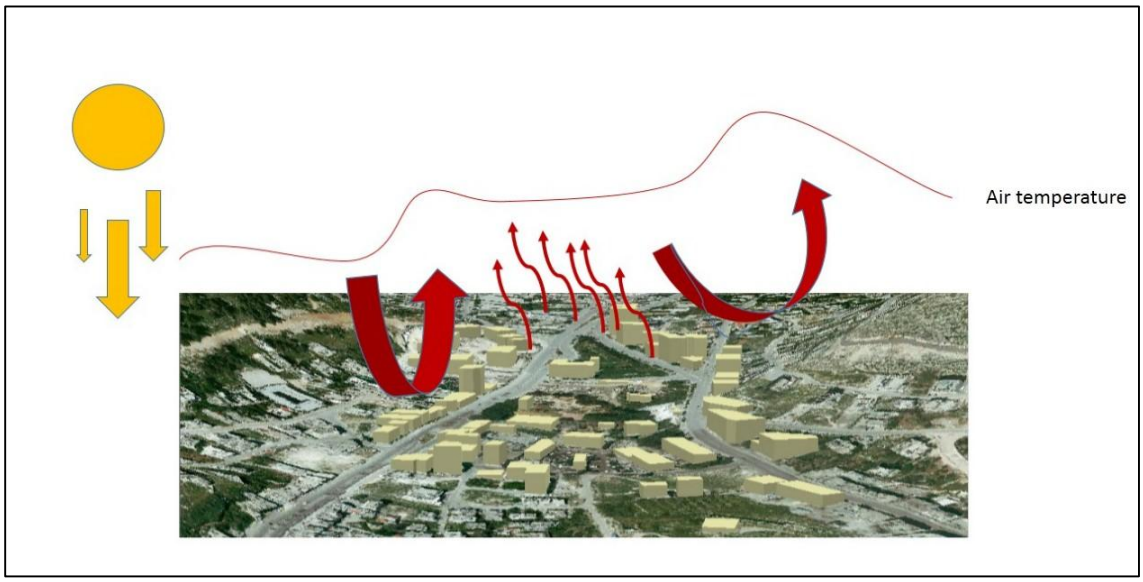


Photo 63: Urban climate befor the project
Source: Researcher

After finding the project the plant item will increase which will contribute in absorption of the emitted heat by the sun and thus reducing the air temperature and the urban climate as a whole in the region. And the following photo shows who this will be:

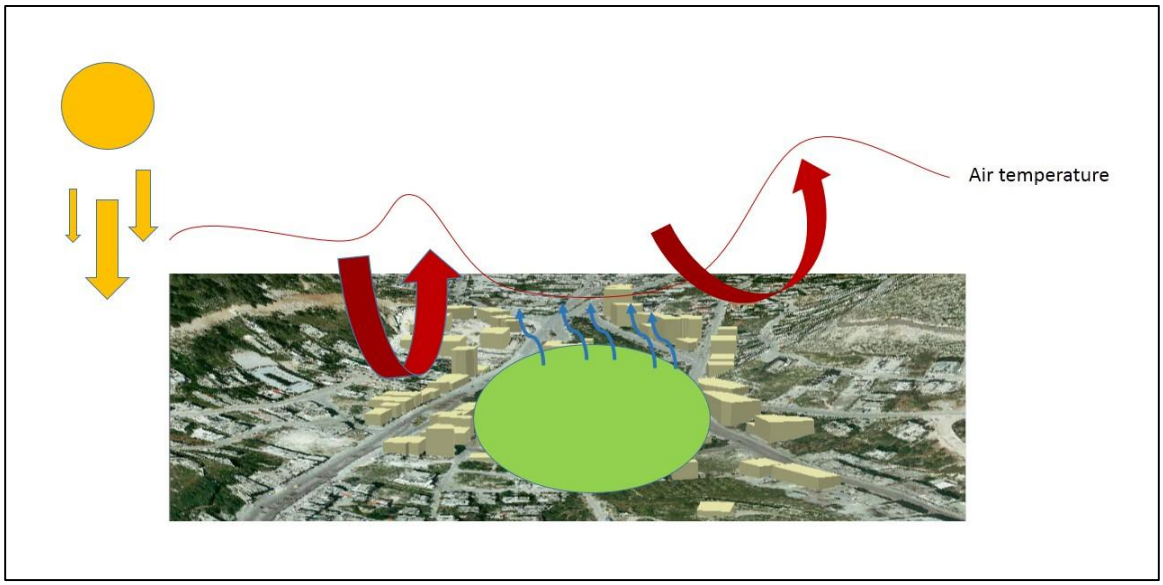


Photo 64: Urban climate after the project exists
Source: Researcher

Chapter 7: Conclusion and recommendations

7.1 Conclusion

Through analysis and evaluation of proposals and the previous development of the area we note the following:

- The city of Nablus as a whole suffers from a lack of urban spaces and the eastern region in particular, where he concentrated high density of the population
- The project area suffers from traffic congestion and pollution
- The lack of cultural and recreational services in the eastern region
- Urban spaces are distributed randomly in the city and therefore difficult sometimes take advantage of them
- Lack attention to the cultural heritage which should be deal in special ways
- Negligence of some of the old places, which makes them constitute impediment to the development of any area of operations
- Clear visual disturbance and disharmony between structural elements

7.2 Recommendations

Based on the results that have been reached by this research, there are some recommendations relating to the project area in particular and the city of Nablus, Palestinian cities in general:

- The transfer of last uses in the project area to the territory of the municipality or take advantage of land sorting in the allocation of land plots for the transfer of these uses have
- Sensitize the population about the importance of these urban spaces and conservation
- attention to areas and green spaces in the city and in each neighborhood

- Legislation to the laws and regulations set specific area for urban entertainment space in every neighborhood in the city

- Maintaining the cleanliness of urban spaces and particularly the setback among buildings through the cleanups program held on a regular basis

- The requirement of green open spaces for each unit of building area

- Planting any new street is open during the first phase of construction

- The imposition of a certain number of trees planted for each residential floor

- Start a new phase of development and attention to urban space

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