

# CO-DIAGNOSTICS: INCIRALI CITY FOREST

Measuring the Quality of Public Life



## CO-DIAGNOSTICS- İNCİRALTI CITY FOREST: MEASURING QUALITY OF PUBLIC LIFE

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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>FOREWORD</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1. METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. İNCİRALTI CITY FOREST</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.1. Spatial Observations and Face to Face Interviews</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2.2. Survey Results</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>2.3. Observations</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PUBLIC SPACE</b>	<b>65</b>

## FOREWORD

Cities are not merely physical environments; they are complex systems where social interactions, cultural expressions, and environmental dynamics intersect. The sustainable and equitable management of urban systems depends, in particular, on the inclusive, accessible, and livable planning of public spaces.<sup>1</sup> Public spaces play a significant role in individuals' daily lives, contributing to the formation of social bonds, the support of physical and mental well-being, and the strengthening of collective identity.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, the qualitative assessment and user-centered transformation of public spaces have become a priority in contemporary urban planning.

The subject of this study, İnciraltı City Forest, located in the Balçova district of İzmir, constitutes a significant public open space at the urban scale, both in terms of its natural assets and its coastal ecosystem. Despite its considerable potential, there is a need for a comprehensive assessment of the area's current conditions with regard to user profiles, accessibility, climatic comfort levels, and opportunities for social interaction. This publication aims to document a multi-layered Co-Diagnostics process conducted as part of the Citizen Design Science approach.

Citizen Design Science<sup>3</sup> is a participatory design methodology that brings together expert knowledge and citizen knowledge, aiming to democratize decision-making processes related to urban space. One of the core stages of this approach, the "Co-Diagnostic" phase, directly incorporates users' needs, experiences, and observations into the process, thereby contributing both to qualitative data production and to collective learning<sup>4</sup>. The methods employed in this study; on-site spatial observation, semi-structured interviews, and user surveys; were evaluated as integral components of the Co-Diagnostics process.

The study addresses quality of life in public spaces within a multidimensional framework encompassing accessibility, safety, comfort, and social interaction, and comparatively analyzes the experiences of users with diverse age, gender, and usage profiles. The findings not only provide an assessment of the current situation but also offer multidimensional recommendations for enhancing İnciraltı City Forest as a more inclusive, equitable, and climate-responsive public space.

**Ass. Prof. Pelin Özden**

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<sup>1</sup> Carmona, M. (2019). Principles For Public Space Design, Planning To Do Better. *Urban Design International*, 24, 47-59. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41289-018-0070-3>.

<sup>2</sup> Gehl, J. (2011). *Life Between Buildings: Using Public Space* (6th ed.). Island Press.

<sup>3</sup> Özden, P., & Velibeyoğlu, K. (2023). Citizen Science Projects In The Context Of Participatory Approaches: The Case Of İzmir. *Journal of Design for Resilience in Architecture & Planning*, 4(1), 31-46.

<sup>4</sup> Pak, B., Van Dessel, J., & Verbeke, J. (2021). Co-Diagnostic Workshops In Citizen Design Science: Urban Design Through Experiential Knowledge. *CoDesign*, 17(4), 309-327.

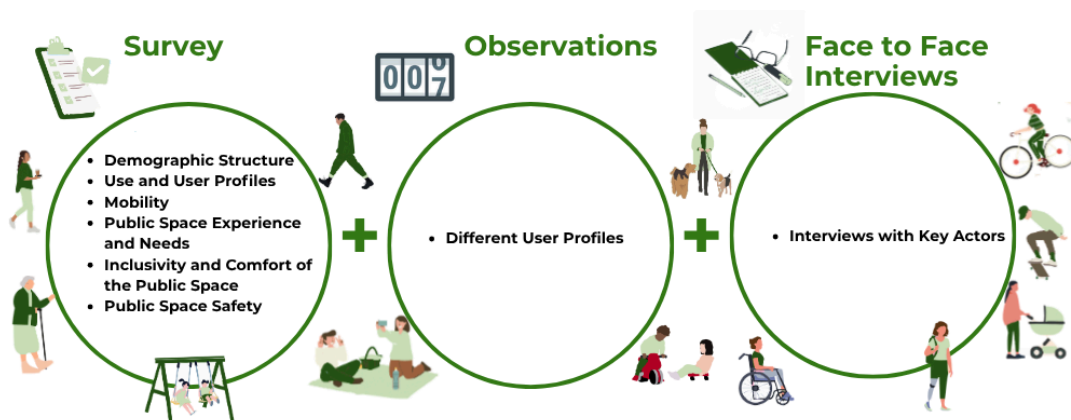
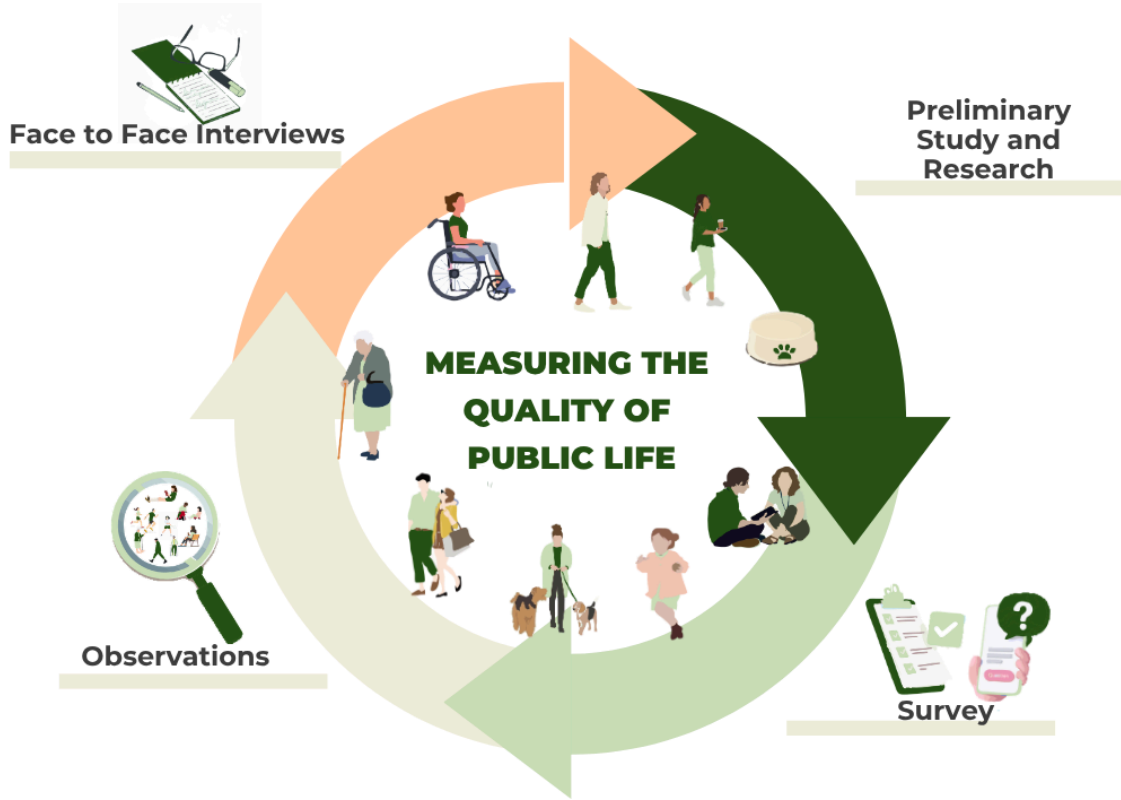
# METHODOLOGY

# 1



# Co-Diagnostics İnciraltı City Forest: Measuring Quality of Public Life

## Process Cycle



# INCIRALI CITY FOREST

# 2



The fieldwork was conducted between 17.02.2025 and 20.02.2025 and between 28.02.2025–03.03.2025 in İnciraltı City Forest to measure the quality of life in public spaces. The observation days were selected to ensure coverage of the entire week, allowing the area to be examined during its most active periods and enabling the observation of diverse user groups. In order to experience the area under varying weather conditions, the initial phase of the fieldwork was carried out between 17.02.2025 and 20.02.2025 (Monday–Thursday), when colder weather conditions prevailed. With the subsequent rise in temperatures, a second phase of fieldwork was conducted between 28.02.2025 and 02.03.2025. As sufficient participation from individuals with special needs could not be reached during the seven-day field study, an additional one-day field visit was conducted at the Center for People with Disabilities on 03.03.2025 to enhance inclusivity.



**Figure 1: Study Area**

As a core step of the Citizen Design Science methodology<sup>5,6</sup>, aimed at measuring the spatial quality of life in public spaces, the study employed face-to-face interviews, surveys, and observational methods. In Zone 1, these activities were conducted over seven days (17.02.2025–20.02.2025 and 28.02.2025–02.03.2025) between 09:00 and 20:00. In Zone 2, face-to-face interviews and surveys were carried out on 03.03.2025. In addition, a digital survey was implemented, taking into account the visitor profile of the area. To broaden participation, a digital survey was disseminated through communication networks established among key stakeholders using the area, including tennis club members, healthcare workers, and tradespeople operating in the fishermen’s harbor.

<sup>5</sup> Müller et. al. (2018). Citizen Design Science: A strategy for crowd-creative urban design, Cities.

<sup>6</sup> Özden, P., Velibeyoğlu, K. (2023). Co-Design of a Public Space and the Implementation: Atakent (Car) Park, Mimarlık Bilimleri ve Uygulamaları Dergisi (MBUD).

The field study was completed through face-to-face interviews with 26 users, a survey with 158 respondents, and observation of 9,182 users. The findings provide insights into the demographic composition, usage patterns, and user profiles of İnciraltı City Forest, as well as transportation mobility, on-site experiences and needs, inclusivity and comfort, and perceptions of safety. These data, derived from users' needs and expectations, are intended to serve as a guiding foundation for the spatial transformation of the area.

İnciraltı Urban Forest and its surroundings, one of the city's most significant green spaces, have undergone various spatial interventions and investment initiatives over time. Historically, the İnciraltı area has been recognized in the urban memory as a site for agricultural production and recreational use by city residents. In the 1940s, it was commonly used for swimming and picnicking, whereas by the 1970s coastal activities declined due to sea pollution, and greenhouse cultivation gained momentum driven by the potential of warm groundwater.<sup>7</sup> In the 1980s, the construction of the Balçova Dam, followed by the opening of the Özdilek Shopping Center in the 1990s, contributed to a decline in agricultural activities due to lowered groundwater levels and increased salinity.<sup>7</sup>

Construction activities in the İnciraltı area began in 1971 with the development of athlete accommodation units as part of the Mediterranean Games; these structures were later used as the İnciraltı Student Dormitories<sup>8</sup>. In 1989, the designation of İnciraltı as a "tourism center," together with the "cloverleaf loop and highway zoning plan," intensified development pressure in the area and began to disrupt its ecological balance. In response to increasing urbanization pressures, the İzmir No. 1 Cultural and Natural Heritage Conservation Board declared the area a first-degree natural protected area by decision no. 8050 dated 01.07.1999.<sup>7, 8</sup>

The other two proposed interventions that would affect the spatial development of the İnciraltı area were the EXPO site proposal and the İzmir Bay Crossing Project. The intensive construction and physical interventions proposed under these projects would not only transform the spatial character of İnciraltı but also weaken the urban green space fabric and threaten the habitats of species living in the Çakalburnu Dalyan. Consequently, these projects were canceled following court rulings and public backlash.<sup>9</sup>

The area where İnciraltı City Forest is located began to be used as a rubble dumping site in 1987 and was officially declared a landfill site in 1994. The area, which continued to be used as a rubble dumping site until 1999, was rehabilitated by the İzmir Metropolitan Municipality and converted into a city forest in 2006 (Figure 2).

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<sup>7</sup> Kayın, E. (2012). İnciraltı Boşluğu İçin Ekolojik Kentsel Bir Gelecek Modeli: Kentliler İçin Bir Kıyı, Ege Mimarlık, 38-43

<sup>8</sup> Yüksel, N. (2013). Merkezi ve Yerel Yönetimlerin Yetkisinde İnciraltı Süreci, TMMOB 2nd İzmir City Symposium, 39-55

<sup>9</sup> Hacıoğlu, G. (2020). A Study On Social Sustainability In Urban Green Spaces: The Case Of İnciraltı City Forest



Figure 2: Spatial Change of the İnciraltı City Forest and its Surroundings (Source: Google Earth)

## 2.1. Spatial Observation and Face-to-Face Interviews

The İnciraltı City Forest, located in the İnciraltı neighborhood of Balçova district in İzmir province, is situated between Yenikale Burnu and Üçkuyular (Figure 3). One of İzmir's most important oxygen sources, the City Forest is approximately 3.5 times the size of Kültürpark.<sup>10</sup> İnciraltı City Forest, a first-degree natural site, contains Çakalburnu Dalyanı, an important wetland area.<sup>11</sup>. This area, which is critical in terms of biodiversity, is home to various bird and plant species.

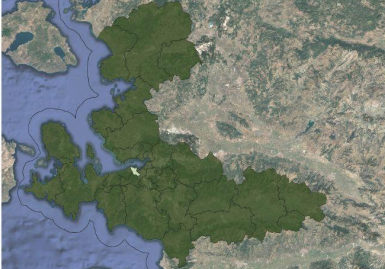
<sup>10</sup> URL: O Ağacın Altında."İzmir Metropolitan Municipality (2018). [www.izmir.bel.tr/tr/Haberler/39058/156](http://www.izmir.bel.tr/tr/Haberler/39058/156).

<sup>11</sup> Egercioğlu, Y., Erçoşun Ö. (2015). İzmir'de Sürdürülebilir Kentsel Planlama İçin Expo Alanının Sunduğu Riskler ve Fırsatlar, Planlama, 15(1):8-20 doi: 10.5505/planlama.2015.36855

**Türkiye**



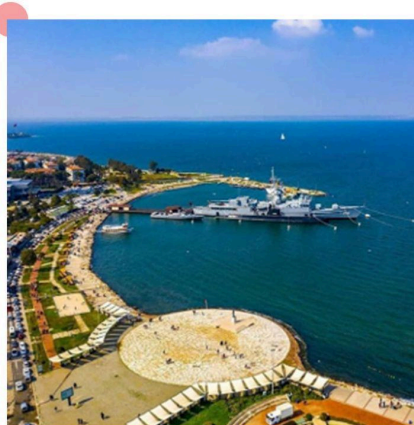
**İzmir**



**Balçova**

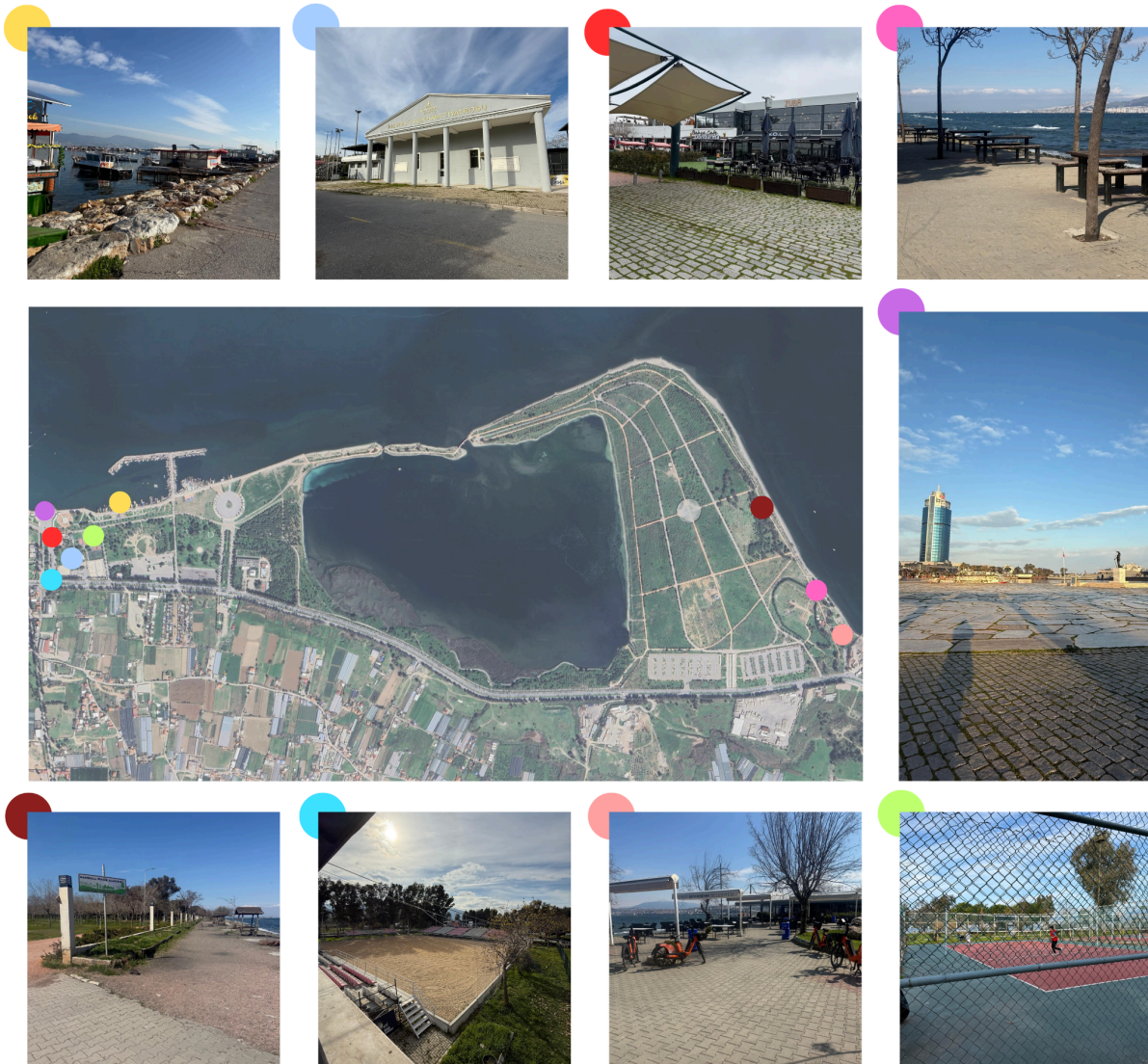


**İnciraltı City Forest**



**Figure 3: Vicinity of the Area**

İnciraltı City Forest, distinguished by its coastal ecosystem and recreational functions, is characterized both by its biological diversity and by its role as a multifunctional public space serving diverse user profiles. The area comprises children’s playgrounds, picnic areas, sports facilities, an open-air theatre, and fishermen’s harbor (Figure 4). Although the İnciraltı Open-Air Theatre previously hosted festivals, award ceremonies, and folklore performances, it is currently not in active use. The immediate surroundings of the theatre include various sports facilities, green spaces, and commercial areas. European-standard courts and fields are available for multiple sports, including volleyball, football, basketball, tennis, beach volleyball, beach football, and handball. The fishermen’s harbor, particularly active on weekends, are popular destinations for residents who visit to eat fish sandwiches. The area also accommodates a center for people with disabilities, and an accessible café.



**Figure 4: Inciralti City Forest and its Vicinity**

Access to Inciralti City Forest is provided through various transportation modes, including private cars, public transport, and bicycles (Figure 5). In addition to public transport access to the area via ESHOT and minibus routes, the surrounding bicycle lanes increase the accessibility of the area. There is a parking lot and a campsite for caravans in the area.

Furthermore, during field interviews, it was reported that Izmir Metropolitan Municipality provides transportation support to facilitate access for individuals with special needs visiting the Center for People with Disabilities.



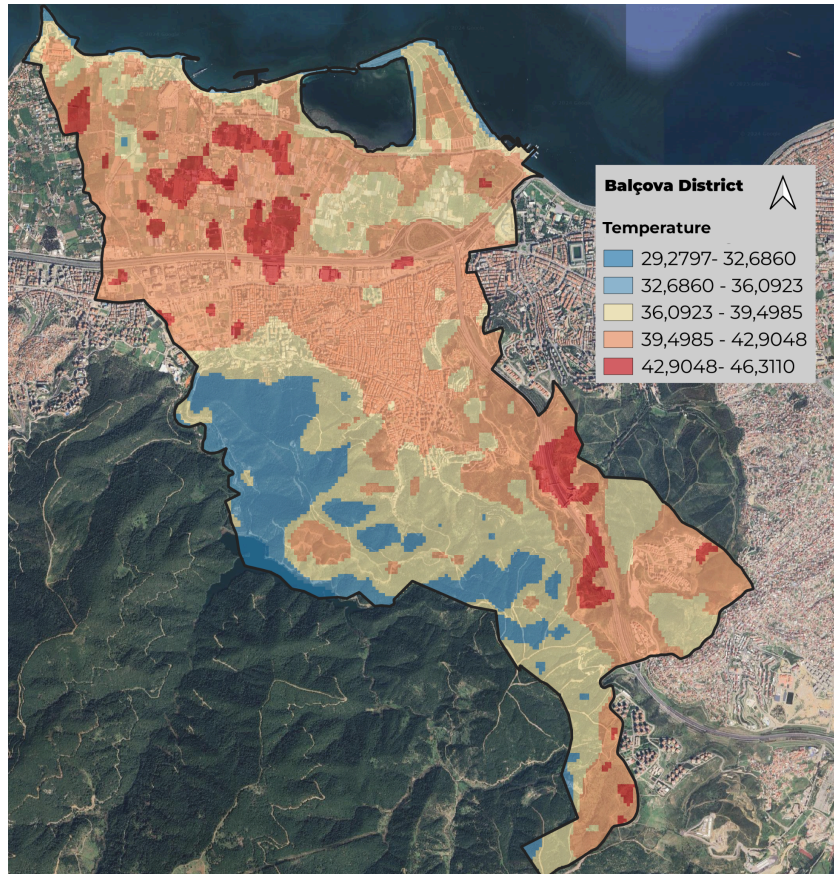
Figure 5: Connectivity

The temperature in Balçova district, which has a warm climate, reaches up to 46°C in the summer months (Figure 6). In İnciraltı City Forest, in July 2024, air temperatures rose to 33°C in coastal areas due to sea breezes, while temperatures in inland areas with dense impervious surfaces reached 42°C (Figure 7). Although limited in number, climate-sensitive street furniture such as shade-providing seating elements is present in the area (Figures 8 and 9).

The insufficient number of street furniture in the area and the lack of integration of seating elements with vegetative shading contribute to reduced thermal comfort, particularly during summer months, limiting the area's potential.

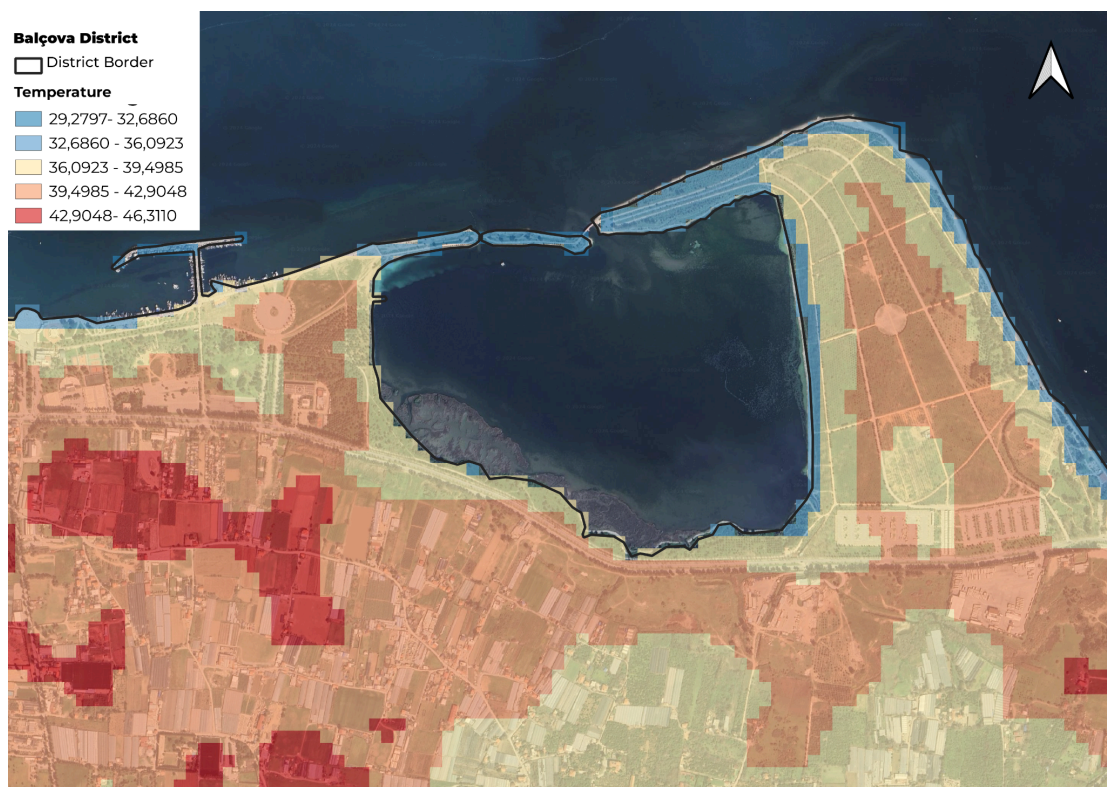
“ On hot days, due to the lack of shaded areas, we usually prefer to use the area in the early morning or evening hours. ”

**48-year-old female user from Karabağlar**



**Figure 6: Balçova District Surface Temperature Map**

(Source: Created in Qgis using Landsat 8 satellite image data from July 2024.)

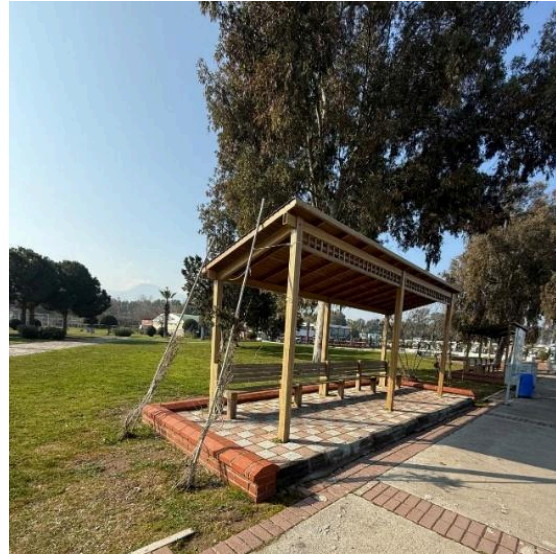


**Figure 7: Inciraltı City Forest - Surface Temperature Map**

(Source: Created in Qgis using Landsat 8 satellite image data from July 2024.)



**Figure 8: Top Cover**



**Figure 9: Seating Elements with Top Cover**

Spatial observations made on rainy days revealed that puddles formed around sports facilities and in areas with food and beverage outlets (Figures 10-11). Furthermore, the absence of enclosed or semi-enclosed public spaces in the area during rainy weather restrict user mobility, reducing spatial comfort for users.

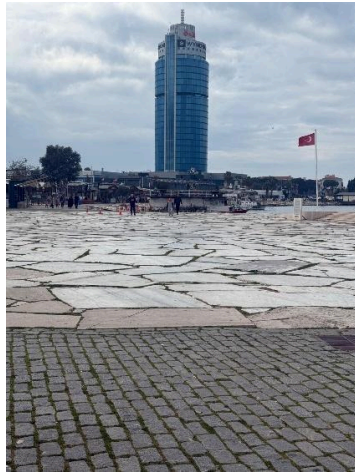


**Figure 10: Area with Food and Beverage Outlets**



**Figure 11: Area with Sports Facilities**

Pavement of different materials is found throughout the area. It has been observed that the pavement used in the main square creates difficulties for baby stroller and bicycle users. Additionally, cracks and potholes are present in the pavement at certain locations (Figures 12-13). This particularly limits access for individuals with disabilities or those using strollers.



**Figure 12: Pavement of the Main Square**



**Figure 13: Potholes in the area**

Spatial observations revealed that lighting elements are insufficient in the evenings. Although there are a limited number of lighting elements around the children's play area, sports facilities, and food and beverage outlets, there are dark spots throughout the area (Figures 14-15). Furthermore, the use of motorcycles on pedestrian walkways has been observed, posing a risk to pedestrians (Figure 16).

“ We cannot leave our children unattended in the playground due to fast-moving motorcycles and bicycles. Therefore, we believe that motorcycle use should be prohibited and the playground should be separated from pedestrian lanes with boundary elements. ”

**33-year-old female user from Buca**



**Figure 14: Children's Playground**





**Figure 15: Area Where Lighting Is Insufficient**







**Figure 16: Motorcycle Use on Pedestrian Walkways**



Face-to-face interviews were conducted with a total of 26 users, including 14 men and 12 women, over a period of 7 days to understand the current state of İnciraltı City Forest and to identify the needs of its users. The principle of inclusivity was taken into account, and seven people who used assistive devices such as strollers, canes, and wheelchairs were interviewed.



These interviews provided important information about the current problems of the area and the desires of users.



Demographic Information	Interview No:1
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Male</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 57</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>A 57-year-old male</b> user who said he came to the area <b>every day to fish</b> was interviewed.</li> <li>● The user pointed out that the most important issues in the area are <b>safety</b> and <b>cleanliness</b>.</li> <li>● Despite <b>regular cleaning activities</b> in the area, the area is being <b>contaminated by the people who use it</b>. He noted that informational signs aimed at raising environmental awareness should be added at specific points.</li> <li>● The user mentioned <b>the lack of security cameras</b>, stating that the <b>disabled parking area</b> in particular was <b>heavily used by refugees</b>.</li> <li>● He also mentioned <b>the lack of public restrooms</b> in the area.</li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No:2
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Male</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 66</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>66-year-old male user</b> said that he visited the area to have a <b>fish sandwich</b> and to <b>bring his grandchildren to the playground</b>.</li> <li>● He mentioned that <b>the capacity of the playground is insufficient</b> particularly during the summer</li> <li>● He suggested that there should be <b>more activities for children</b> in the area</li> <li>● The user also said that the area was <b>deserted during the nighttime</b>, that the <b>number of lighting elements was insufficient</b> and the <b>control was inadequate</b>.</li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No:3
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Female</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 38</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 38-year-old female user <b>visiting the area every morning to have walk</b> was interviewed.</li> <li>• The user noted that the <b>number of BiSiMs in the area dropped</b>, there is a <b>lack of public restrooms and seating elements</b>, and there should be <b>water selling outlets</b> in the area.</li> <li>• She also noted that there are <b>not enough shaded areas for hot days</b>.</li> <li>• She said that a <b>walkway with a top cover made of materials suitable for human health and extreme weather conditions</b> should be constructed.</li> <li>• She reported finding <b>the area generally safe</b>, and noted that there are <b>stray and uncontrolled dogs</b> in the area where the fishing shelter is located.</li> <li>• The respondent stated that the potential of the <b>İnciraltı Open-Air Theater</b> has not been sufficiently explored. She noted that <b>organizing concerts specifically for young musicians</b> would not only provide artists with a platform to express themselves but also make the venue more appealing to a younger audience.</li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No:4
 <p><b>Gender:</b>Male</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 62</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>62-year-old retired male</b> user stated during the interview that he <b>enjoys walking along the seashore</b> in the area.</li> <li>• He mentioned that there are no covered or semi-covered areas to take shelter on very <b>windy or rainy days</b>.</li> <li>• He noted that existing food and beverage outlets do not cater to different user profiles, particularly low-income users. He referred to the importance of creating affordable social spaces.</li> <li>• He also noted that the area lacks public restrooms.</li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No:5-6
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Female</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 21-22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two female users aged 21-22 reported the infrequency of public transportation services, stating that they had to take three transfers to reach the area.</li> <li>• Users mentioned the <b>inadequacy of bus capacity particularly on the weekends and in the summer.</b></li> <li>• They also pointed out the <b>lack of lighting elements, restrooms, fountains for people visiting the area for picnicking, and venues for events</b></li> <li>• They said that concerts and festivals should be organized in the area.</li> <li>• They also said that there were too many <b>stray animals</b> in the area and there were no <b>shelters, feeding and water stations</b> for them.</li> <li>• They reported that they could not use the area during the summer, particularly in midday hours because of lack of a top cover.</li> <li>• They also mentioned that there were too many motorcyclists in the area.</li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No:7
 <p><b>Gender:</b>Male</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 42</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 42-year-old male user stated that he came to the area to get some <b>fresh air.</b></li> <li>• He said that he <b>had to drive to İnciraltı City Forest</b> since <b>bus service is not sufficient</b>, and had to <b>park at the Özdilek Shopping Center</b> as the <b>parking capacity is not enough, particularly during the summer.</b></li> <li>• The user reported experiencing <b>traffic problems</b> in the area on days when the weather was nice.</li> <li>• He also suggested that the shoreline should be redesigned to <b>separate bicycle and pedestrian lanes, shading</b> should be provided by <b>adding canopies, and restrooms and seating areas</b> should be added to the area.</li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No:8
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Female</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 35</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>35-year-old female user</b> mentioned that there are problems with <b>noise and heavy use by refugees</b> in the area, especially during the summer.</li> <li>• She noted the lack of basic amenities such as <b>shading structures, restrooms, picnic areas, and children's play areas</b></li> <li>• She stated that <b>children's play areas</b> suitable for different age groups should be developed.</li> <li>• She reported that she had difficulty with the stroller because of the <b>pavement</b>.</li> <li>• She also said that she could not leave her child unattended in the playground because of <b>reckless motorcyclists and cyclists</b>.</li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No:9
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Female</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 31</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31-year-old- female user, who is a shopkeeper in the area complained about the <b>insufficiency of public transport</b>.</li> <li>• She mentioned the <b>inadequacy of drinking water fountain, lighting elements, public restrooms and regular fishermen harbor</b>.</li> <li>• She noted that there was a need for <b>covered or semi-covered areas for excessively windy days</b>.</li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No:10
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Male</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 44</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 44-year-old male user stated that the area is predominantly preferred by <b>families</b>.</li> <li>• The user stated that they usually come to eat fish sandwiches, and pointed out the lack of <b>affordable public areas and public restrooms</b> owned by the municipality in the area.</li> <li>• He stated that <b>kiosks</b> that can be temporarily set up during the summer months can both meet users' needs and add <b>vibrancy</b> to the area.</li> <li>• The user, who stated that they sometimes felt unsafe in the area due to a <b>lack of oversight</b>, especially in the evening hours, mentioned that there were individuals <b>riding fast motorcycles</b> in the evening.</li> <li>• He also reported an odor coming from the bay at certain times in the area.</li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No:11
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Female</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 38</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 38-year-old female user stated that she usually came to the area with her baby in the <b>afternoon</b>.</li> <li>• She also mentioned that it is difficult to navigate the area with a stroller due to the <b>pavement and potholes</b>, and she has <b>trouble finding a seat on public transportation</b> when coming to the area.</li> <li>• She reported that there are <b>not enough shaded seating areas and restrooms</b> in the area.</li> <li>• She noted that there are individuals using illicit substances and riding high-speed motorcycles in the area in the evening hours.</li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No:12
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Female</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24-year-old female user said that she generally visited the area to <b>walk her pet</b>.</li> <li>• She stated that <b>water stations and shelters for street animals</b> should be added to the area.</li> <li>• She said that she generally found the area <b>dirty</b> and stated that there was a need for <b>better cleaning and maintenance</b>.</li> <li>• She suggested that there should be <b>activities targeting young people</b> in the area.</li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No:13
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Male</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 33</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 33-year-old male user complained that he could not use the area when it is <b>heavily raining and windy</b>, because of the inadequacy of the infrastructure</li> <li>• He said that <b>windbreaks and top covers</b> should be added at specific points.</li> <li>• He has difficulty when walking with a stroller in the area because of the pavement.</li> <li>• He said that there was a need for <b>children’s play areas for different age groups and sports areas</b>.</li> <li>• The user also mentioned the lack of <b>affordable social facilities and kiosks</b>.</li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No:14
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Female</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 69</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An interview was made with a 69-year-old female user who came to the center for people with disabilities with transportation support provided by the municipality.</li> <li>• <b>The respondent, using a cane</b> mentioned that she has difficulty walking because of the potholes in the area.</li> <li>• She also noted that the capacity of the Center for People with Disabilities is insufficient during the summer</li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No:15
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Male</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 67</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 67-year-old- male user noted that he was the head of a group of people with disabilities, which had 16-20 members, and pointed out the <b>lack of a sheltered space during extreme weather events.</b></li> <li>• He also mentioned that they placed a <b>simple cover</b> with their own funds <b>to break the wind</b> at the entrance of the Center for People with Disabilities to be able <b>to use the area during windy days.</b></li> <li>• He reported safety problems in the area because of <b>individuals using illicit substances.</b></li> <li>• He also pointed out the <b>lack of affordable municipal social facilities due to the insufficient capacity of the Center for People with Disabilities.</b></li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No: 16
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Female</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 31</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31-year-old female user stated that there were <b>no seats around the sports facilities.</b></li> <li>• She had safety concerns around the children’s playground.</li> <li>• She pointed out that the playground should be separated from the pedestrian axis <b>with boundary elements since the children could be hit by a cyclist or a motorcyclist if they left the playground unattended.</b></li> <li>• She also stated that there should be more <b>Wi-Fi spots</b> in the area.</li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No: 17
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Female</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26-year-old female user mentioned that there are <b>no regular or seasonal events</b> held in İnciraltı City Forest.</li> <li>• She said that organizing <b>outdoor sports activities such as yoga</b>, as well as <b>cultural events including concerts and theatre performances</b>, would both increase the attractiveness of the area for young users and promote more active use of the public space.</li> <li>• She also mentioned the inadequacy of <b>bicycle parking spots and lighting elements</b>.</li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No: 18
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Male</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 69</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 69-year-old male user reported <b>safety concerns, especially during the summer period, in the vicinity of the Center for People with Disabilities, referring to the presence of refugees, youth substance use, and unmanaged stray dogs.</b></li> <li>• The respondent highlighted the overall <b>insufficiency of sheltered spaces</b> in the area, noting that the <b>lack of canopy coverage at the drop-off point of the center for people with disabilities creates difficulties under rainy conditions.</b></li> <li>• He also mentioned that the area lacked public restrooms and affordable social facilities run by the municipality.</li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No: 19-20
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Male- Female</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 52-48</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The couple in their fifties reported that they travel <b>from Karabağlar to the area primarily to get fresh air.</b></li> <li>• The couple using <b>a leg prosthesis</b> reported that <b>they generally have difficulty finding available parking spaces.</b></li> <li>• They reported that they <b>could not find any space at the Center for People with Disabilities due to refugees,</b> particularly during the summer.</li> <li>• Respondents highlighted that the insufficient capacity of the Center for People with Disabilities in the summer months underscores the need for <b>accessible and affordable municipal social facilities, including restrooms and designated prayer areas.</b></li> </ul>



Demographic Information	Interview No: 21
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Male</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 50</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>56-year-old male user</b> emphasized the <b>lack of public restrooms and affordable food and beverage outlets within the area.</b></li> <li>• He stated that he has <b>difficulty in finding a parking spot during the summer.</b></li> <li>• He pointed out to the lack of <b>wifi spots and charging stations.</b></li> </ul>

Demographic Information	Interview No:22
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Male</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 58</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>58-year-old male user</b> stated that he came to the area to go <b>for a walk.</b></li> <li>• He stated that there was no affordable area where he could sit and pass the time.</li> <li>• The user reported that there are <b>three public restrooms</b> in the area and that they are located at a distance.</li> <li>• The user reported feeling unsafe while walking due to cyclists and motorcyclists using the pedestrian walkway.</li> </ul>

Demographic Information	Interview No:23
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Male</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 39</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>39-year-old male user</b>, who is a business owner, pointed out the <b>lack of public restrooms</b> in the area.</li> <li>• He reported that user of the area frequently visited his shop to use the restroom.</li> <li>• He noted the lack of <b>bicycle parking spaces and lighting elements</b> in the area.</li> <li>• He stated that the area is usually very crowded on weekends.</li> </ul>

Demographic Information	Interview No:24
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Female</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 33</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 33-year-old female user stated that, due to <b>insufficient lighting and the presence of individuals using illicit substances</b>, she generally prefers to use the area during daytime hours.</li> <li>• The user mentioned that there are not <b>enough picnic tables and fountains in the area</b>.</li> <li>• She stated that <b>directional signage and “You are here” maps</b> should be installed in İnciraltı City Forest to facilitate wayfinding.</li> </ul>

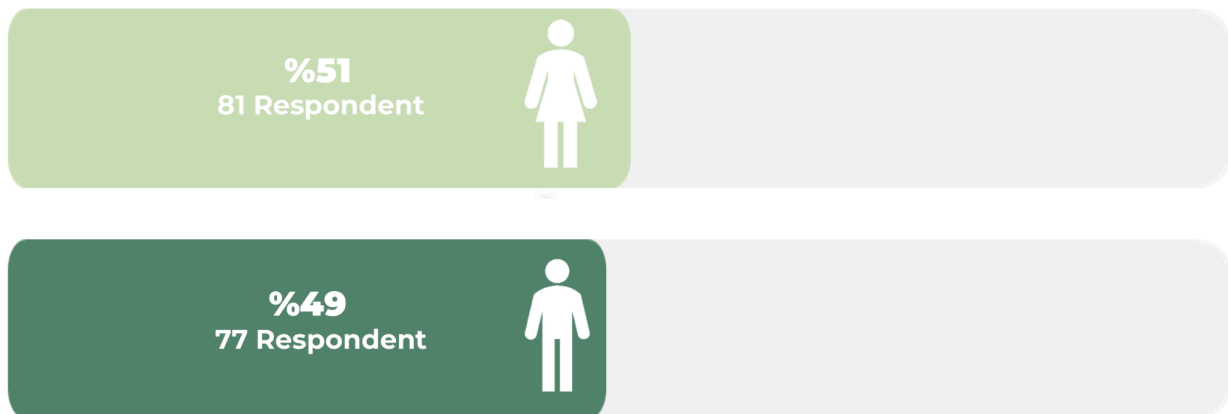
Demographic Information	Interview No:25
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Male</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 41</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 41-year-old male user stated that there was a need for <b>coastal regulation</b> in the area.</li> <li>• The user emphasized the need to <b>separate pedestrian walkway and bicycle lane, provide bicycle parking, install additional lighting elements, and increase the number of seating elements</b>.</li> <li>• He mentioned that the area where the <b>fishermen's harbor are located is particularly dirty</b>.</li> <li>• He mentioned that the area is safe as long as there are shopkeepers or users.</li> </ul>

Demographic Information	Interview No:26
 <p><b>Gender:</b> Male</p>  <p><b>Age:</b> 25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 25-year-old male user stated that he came to the area to socialize with his friends.</li> <li>• The user mentioned the lack of <b>wayfinding signage, designated picnic areas, and spaces for activities such as cinema and theater</b>.</li> </ul>

## 2.2 Survey Results

For the survey study, which constituted the second phase of the fieldwork, survey questions were prepared with reference to the study “People & Public Spaces – Usage Patterns of Public Spaces in Munich,” published by Gehl Web and Partners<sup>12</sup> and previously used to measure more than 1,000 public spaces. Designed to assess the quality of life in public spaces, the survey examined six main dimensions: demographic characteristics of users; usage patterns and user profiles; mobility and transportation; public space experience and needs; inclusivity and comfort; and perceptions of safety. Comprising a total of 36 questions, the survey aims to provide a multidimensional and in-depth analysis of user experiences and recommendations for improving the public space.

When determining the sample for the survey, convenience sampling method was used, taking into account the visitor profile of the area. The survey was completed with a total of 158 people, both through face-to-face field survey and online (digital) survey application.



**Chart 1: Gender Distribution of Respondents**

Chart 1 shows the gender distribution of respondents. Of the **158 users of the area** who participated in the survey, **81 were female and 77 were male**. In other words, **51%** of field users who participated in the survey **were female, and 49% were male**.

<sup>12</sup> Gehl & Partners (2023). People&Public Spaces-Usage Patterns of Public Spaces in Munich

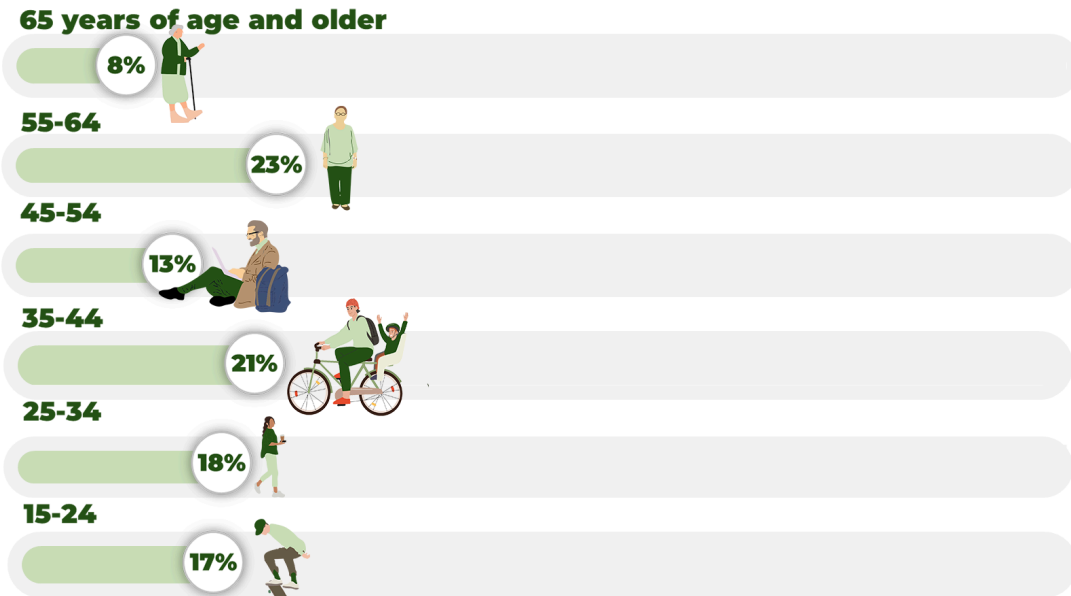


Chart 2: Age Distribution of Respondents

Chart 2 shows the age distribution of users who participated in the survey by age group. There were **27 people** in the **15-24 age** group, **29 people** in the **25-34 age** group, **33 people** in the **35-44 age** group, **21 people** in the **45-54 age** group, **36 people** in the **55-64 age** group, and **12 people** in the **65 and older age** group. The highest participation rate was **23%** in the **55-64 age** group, followed by **21%** in the **35-44 age** group.

**Literate but Without any Diploma**

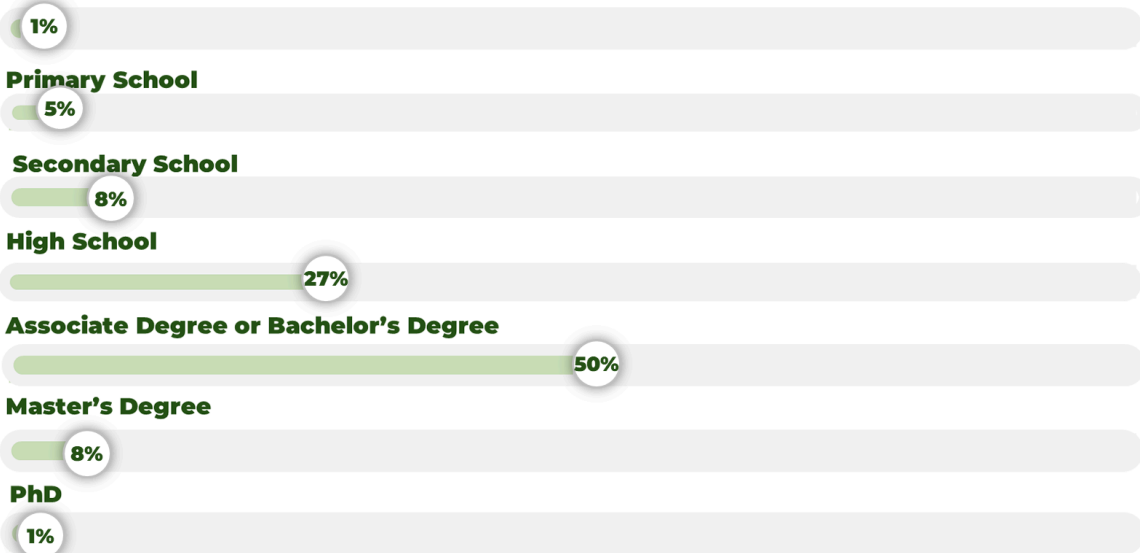
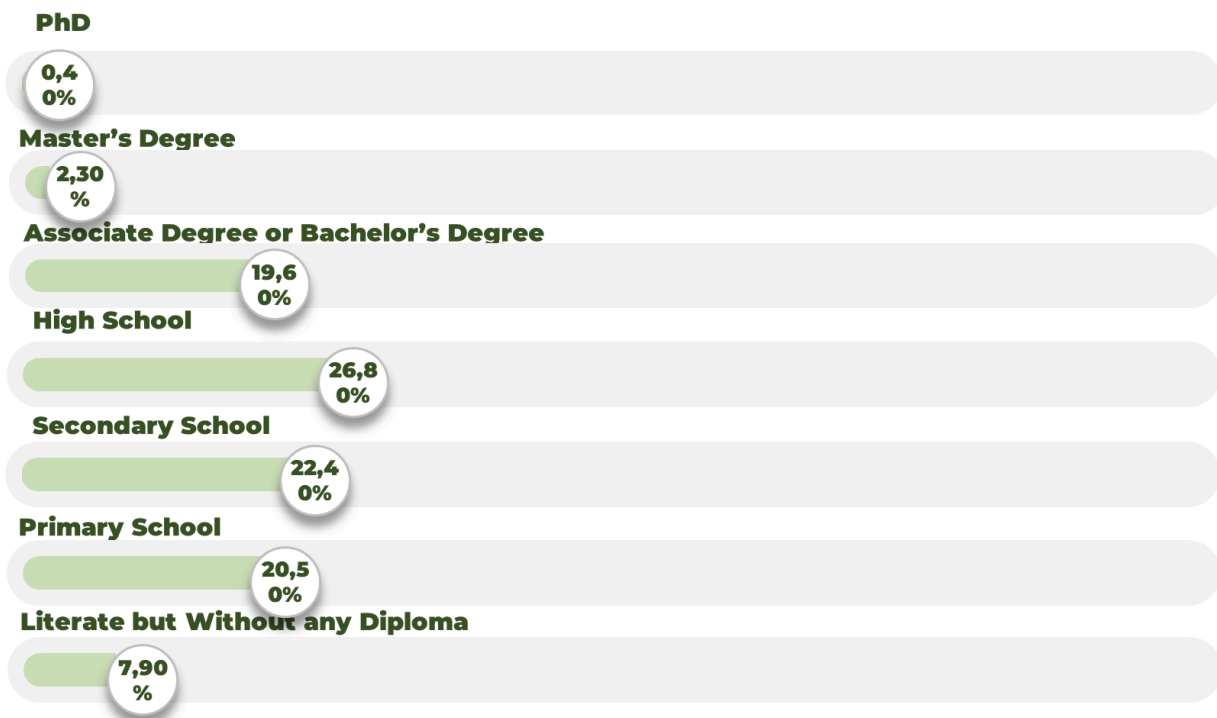


Chart 3: Educational Background of Respondents

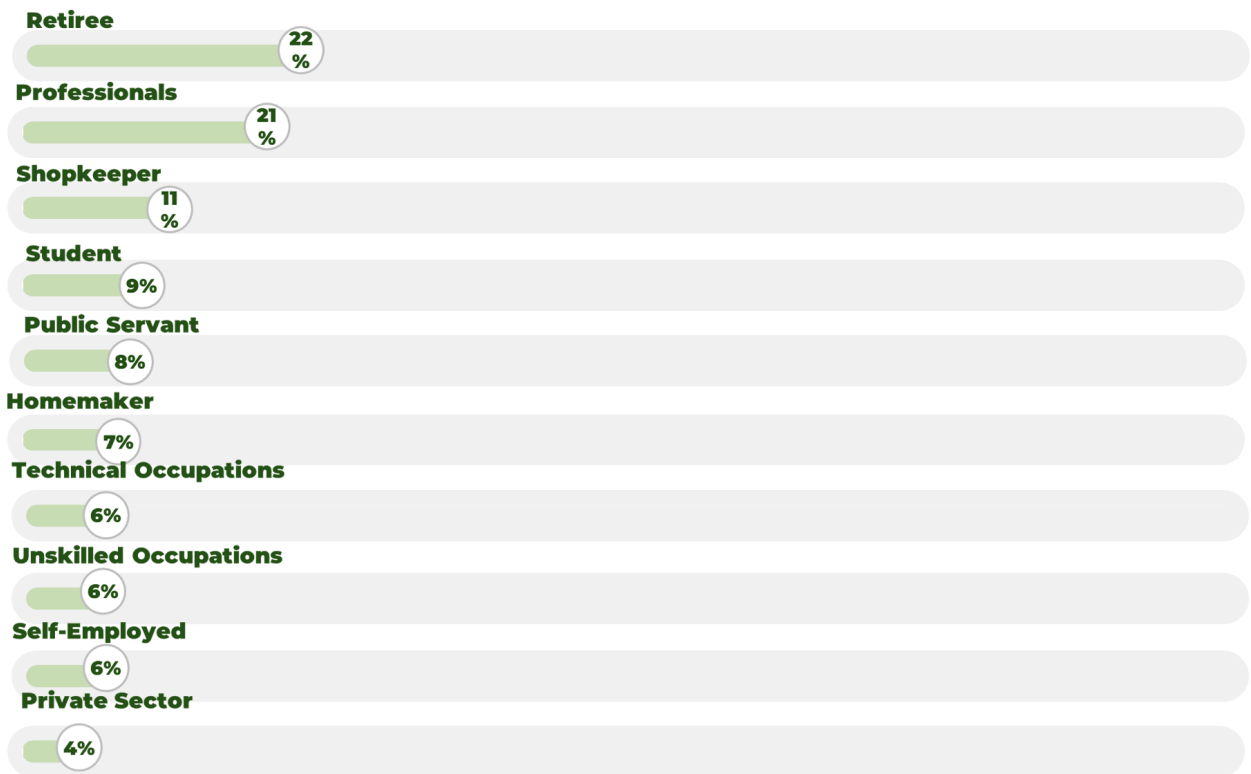
Chart 3 shows the educational background of the respondents. According to the distribution in the chart, **1 respondent can read and write but has not completed any schooling (1%), 8 respondents are primary school graduates (5%), 13 respondents have completed secondary school (8%), 42 respondents high school (27%), 79 respondents an associate's degree and/or bachelor's degree (50%), 13 respondents a master's degree (8%), and 2 respondents have PhD (1%).**



**Chart 4: Distribution of Educational Levels Among the Population Residing in Balçova, Buca, Karabağlar, Konak, and Narlıdere (Educational Levels for Ages 6 and Above)**

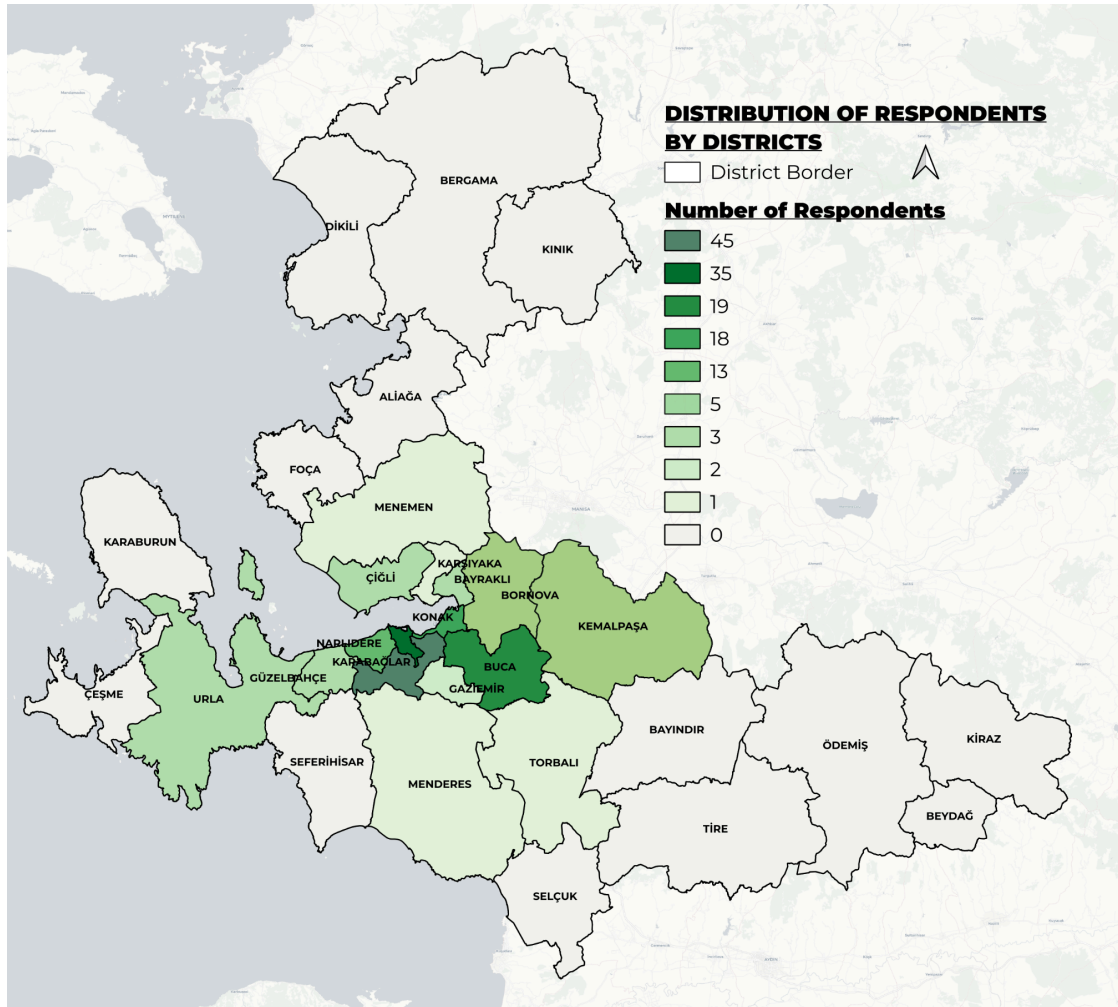
Chart 4 shows the distribution of the educational background of the population residing in Balçova, Buca, Karabağlar, Konak, and Narlıdere, which are the five districts with the highest percentage of respondents to the survey, according to Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) data<sup>13</sup>. The chart shows that the average educational background **in these five districts is high school**. When comparing the educational levels of users of the area (Figure 3) with the averages of the five districts (Figure 4), it is noted that the proportion of individuals with **associate degrees and higher** among those using the city forest is high. This indicates that the area is **preferred by user groups** with a **relatively higher educational profile**.

<sup>13</sup> TURKSTAT <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/> Access Date: 08.11.2024



**Chart 5: Occupational Distribution of Respondents**

Chart 5 shows the occupational status of the respondents. **35 respondents were retirees (22%), 33 were professionals (21%), 18 were shopkeepers (11%), 14 were students (9%), 13 were public servants (8%), 11 were homemakers (7%), 10 were in technical professions (6%), 9 were self-employed (6%), 9 were in unqualified professions (6%), and 6 were private sector employees (4%).** Architects, urban planners, graphic designers, engineers, economists, pilots, and veterinarians are included in the category of professional occupations. Ship-engine technicians, communications technicians, and electrical technicians are included in the technical occupations category, whereas street vendors and freelancers are included in the occupational groups that do not require qualifications.



**Figure 17: Map Showing the Distribution of Respondents by their District of Residence**

Figure 17 shows the distribution of respondents by district. An analysis of the distribution of the 158 respondents by their district of residence reveals participation from 16 different districts. **The highest participation rates were from Karabağlar (45 respondents, 28%), Balçova (35 respondents, 22%), Buca (19 respondents, 12%), Konak (18 respondents, 11%), and Narlıdere (13 respondents, 8%).** Five respondents came from each of the districts of Bornova (3%) and Kemalpaşa (3%), while three respondents came from each of the districts of Güzelbahçe (2%), Urla (2%), Çiğli (2%), and Bayraklı (2%). The districts with the lowest participation were Gazimир (1%) with 2 respondents, Karşıyaka (1%), Menemen (1%), Torbalı (1%), and Menderes (1%) with 1 respondent each. Although the highest participation was from Balçova and the surrounding districts, the participation from distant districts such as Menemen, Torbalı, and Kemalpaşa, as well as from different districts, shows that **the area is highly attractive and serves as an inclusive public space that brings together different user groups with diverse socioeconomic profiles.**

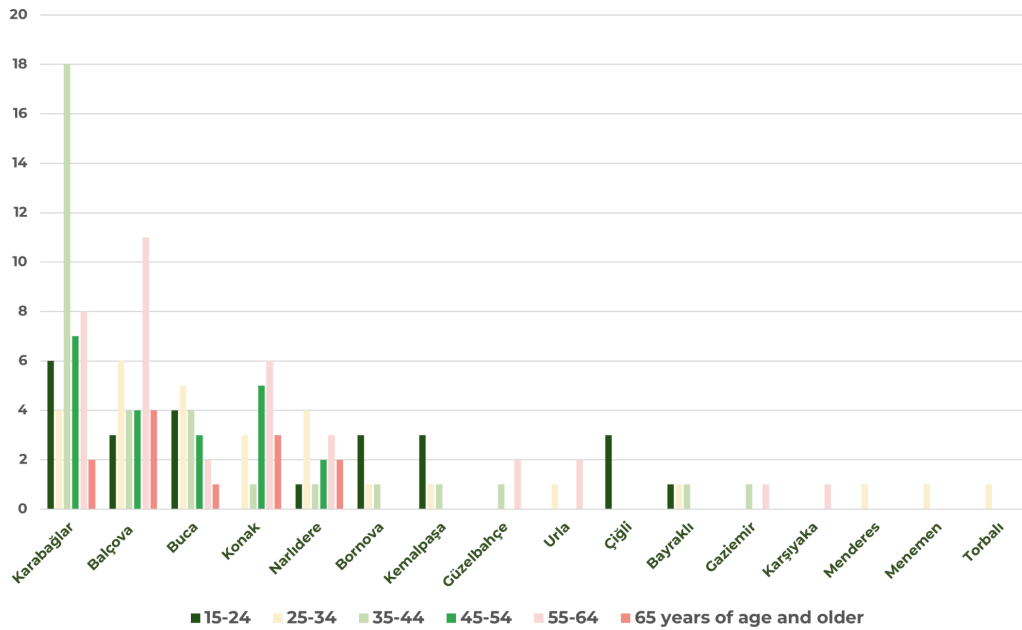


Chart 6: Distribution by Districts and Age

The examination of the districts spatially closest to the city forest revealed that users from **Balçova and Konak were predominantly in the 55–64 age group**, while those from **Karabağlar were concentrated in the 35–44 age group**. When examining the districts that are spatially the farthest away, it was observed that users coming from **Menderes, Menemen, and Torbalı are predominantly in the 25–34 age group**, while those from **Kemalpaşa are predominantly in the 15–24 age group**.

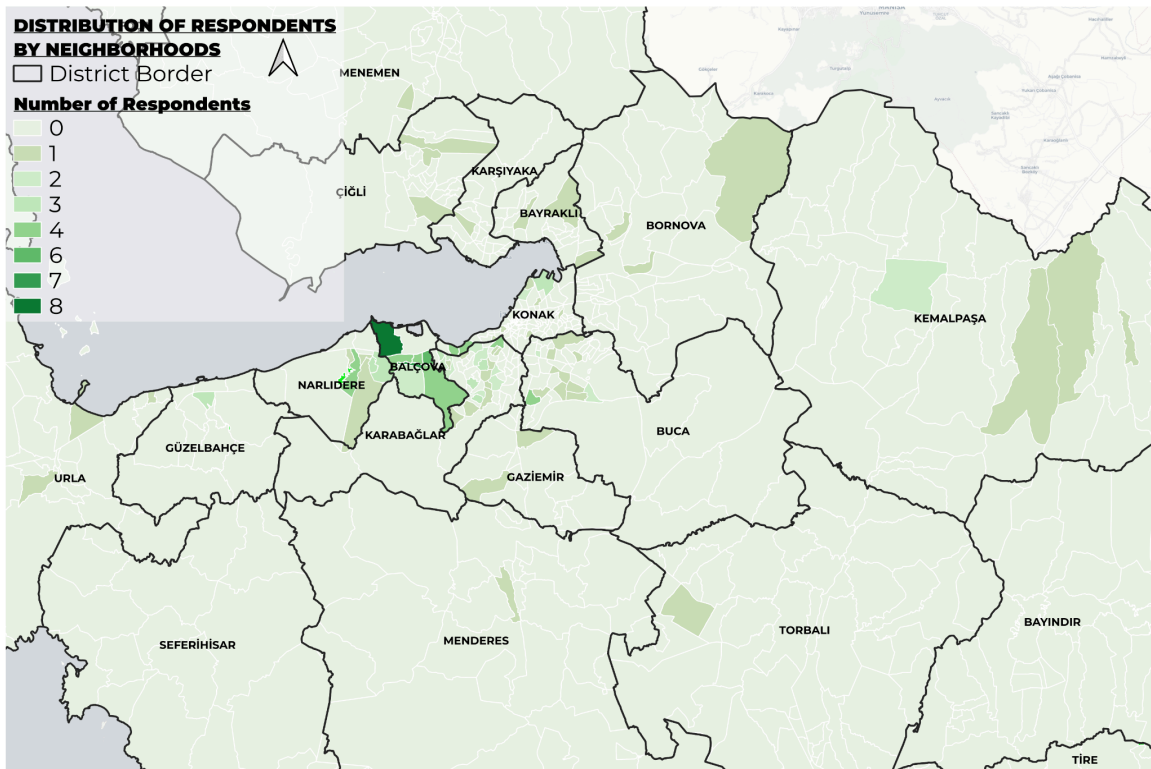


Figure 18: Distribution of Respondents by their District of Residence

Figure 18 shows the distribution of respondents by neighborhood. The distribution of the 158 respondents by their neighborhoods shows that the highest participation came from **Balçova district**, with **8 respondents from İnciraltı Neighborhood**, **7 respondents from Fevzi Çakmak Neighborhood**, and **6 respondents from Eğitim Neighborhood**. It was observed that **4 respondents came from the neighborhoods of Çetin Emeç, Onur, and Korutürk in the Balçova district**; from the neighborhoods of **Göztepe and Güzelyalı in the Konak district**; from the **Bahçelievler neighborhood in Karabağlar**; and from the **Göksu neighborhood in the Buca district**.

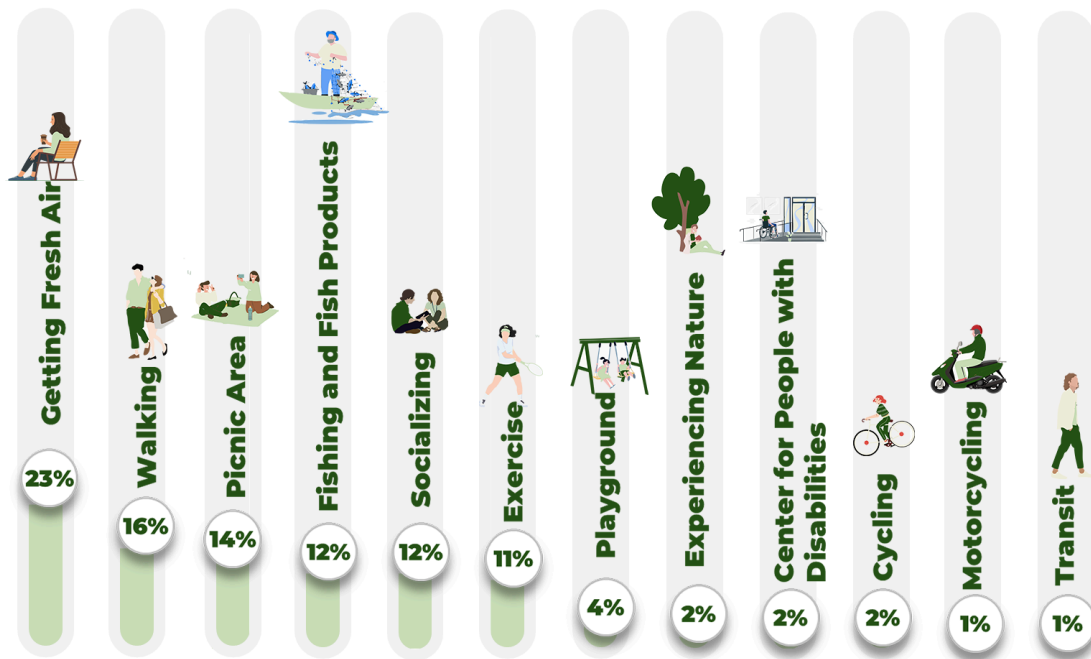


Chart 7: The Most Important Use of İnciraltı City Forest\*

Chart 7 illustrates the distribution of survey respondents' views regarding the primary uses of İnciraltı City Forest. The most frequently reported uses were **“getting fresh air” (48 respondents, 23%)**, **“walking” (33 respondents, 16%)**, and **“using the area as a picnic site” (29 respondents, 14%)**. The least frequently reported uses were **“transit” and “using motorized vehicles,” each mentioned by 2 respondents.**

\* This open-ended question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 158 respondents giving a total of 206 responses.

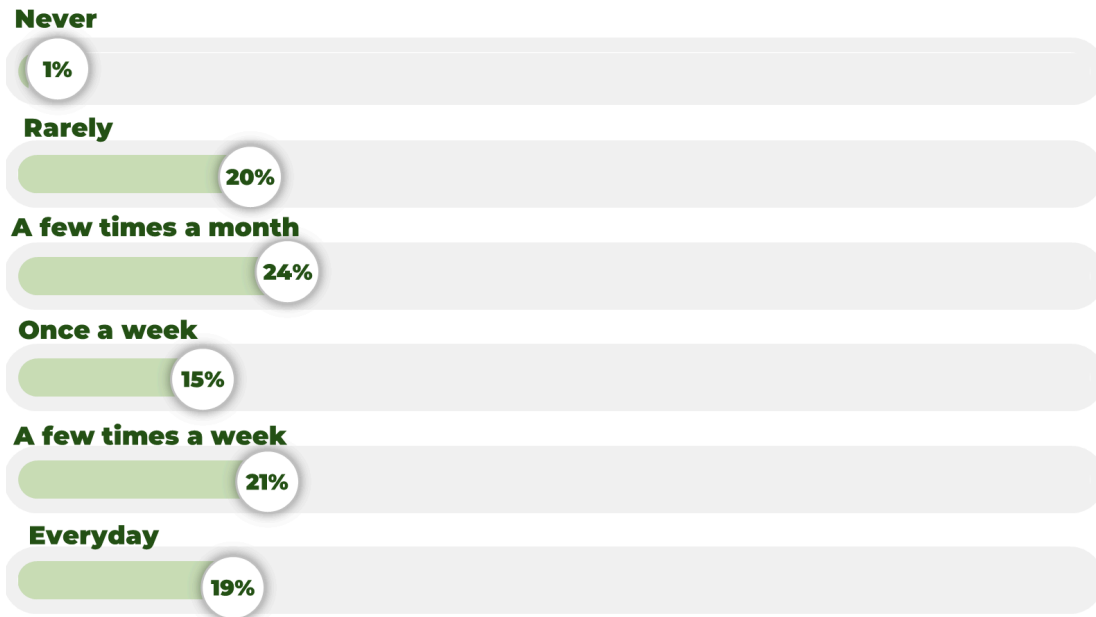


Chart 8: Distribution of Respondents by Frequency of Use of İnciraltı City Forest

Chart 8 shows the distribution of respondents by frequency of use of the area. Among the 158 participants, **30** use İnciraltı City Forest **every day (19%)**, **33** use it **several times a week (21%)**, **24** use it **once a week (15%)**, **38** use it **several times a month (24%)**, **32** use it **rarely (20%)**, and **1** never uses it (1%).

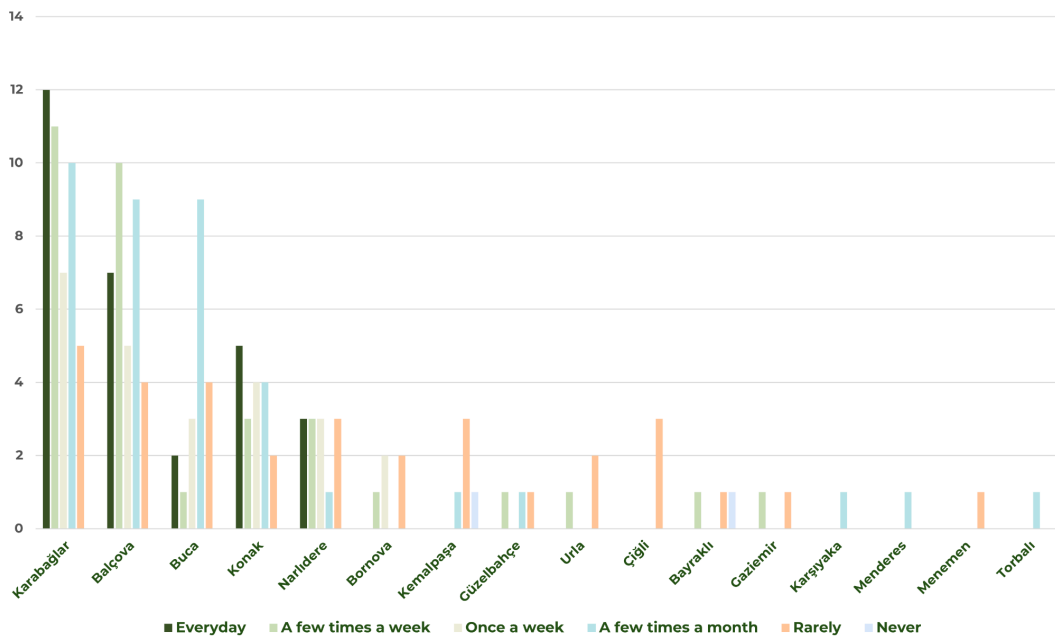


Chart 9: Visitor Frequency by District

Chart 9 presents the distribution of respondents' frequency of use of the area according to their district of residence. Among the districts closest to the city forest, users from Karabağlar and Konak visit the area on a daily basis, while those from Balçova tend to come several times a week. For districts located farther away, visitors from Menderes and Torbalı generally visit a few times per month, whereas those from Menemen and Kemalpaşa visit rarely.

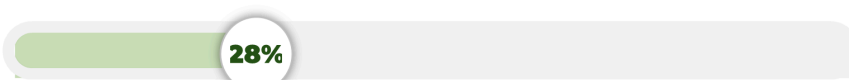
“ Although İnciraltı City Forest is far away, we prefer to come here twice a month, especially in spring, to have picnics with our friends and enjoy the sea air. ”

**23-year-old male user from Torbalı**

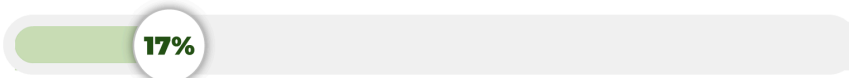
**Both on the weekdays and weekends**



**Only on the weekends**



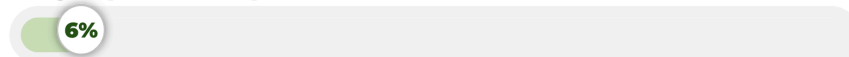
**Only on the weekdays**



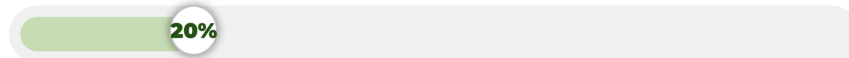
**Chart 10: Distribution of Respondents by Days They Visit İnciraltı City Forest**

Out of 158 respondents, **87** visit İnciraltı City Forest **both during the week and on weekends (55%)**, while **27** visit **only during the week (17%)** and **44** visit **only on weekends (28%)**.

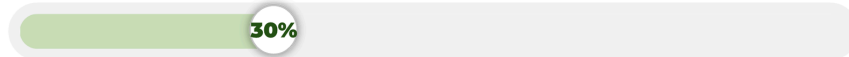
**Night (after 22:00)**



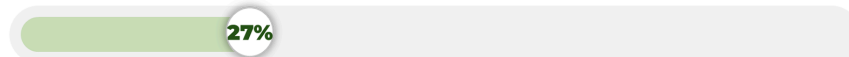
**Evening (18:00 – 22:00)**



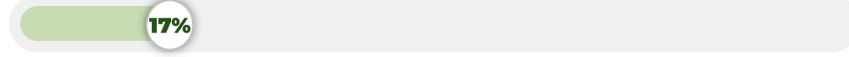
**Afternoon (15:00 – 18:00)**



**Midday (11:00 – 15:00)**



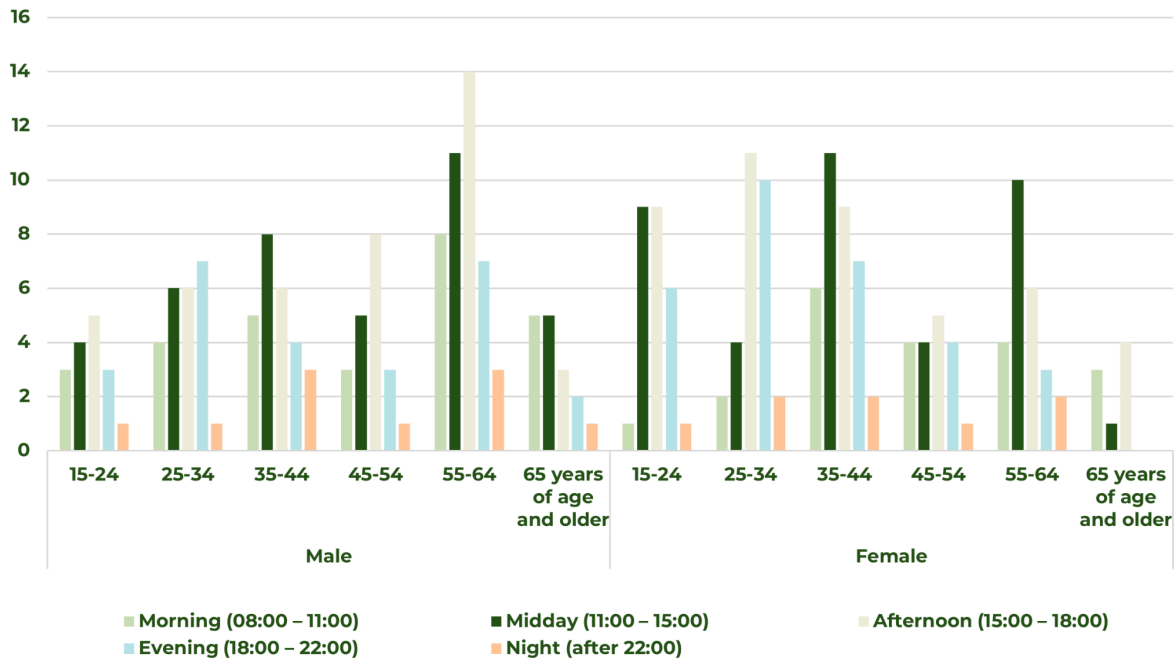
**Morning (08:00 – 11:00)**



**Chart 11: Distribution of Respondents' Visits to İnciraltı City Forest by Time\***

\*This open-ended question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 158 respondents giving a total of 286 responses.

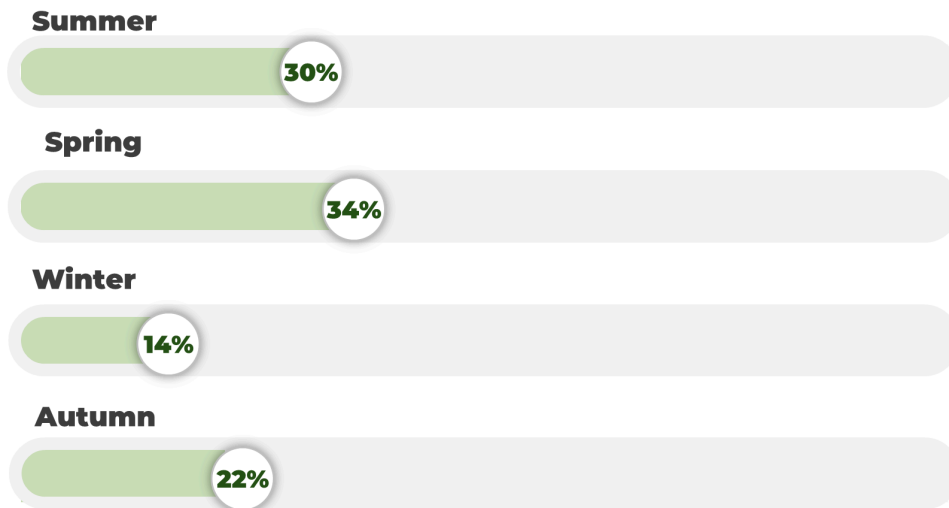
Chart 11 shows the distribution of the time periods during which respondents visit the area. Upon examining the total of 286 time period preferences of 158 respondents, it was observed that **48 preferred the morning (17%), 78 the midday (27%), 86 the afternoon (30%), 56 the evening (20%), and 18 the night (6%).**



**Chart 12: Distribution of Visiting Hours at İnciraltı City Forest by Gender and Age**

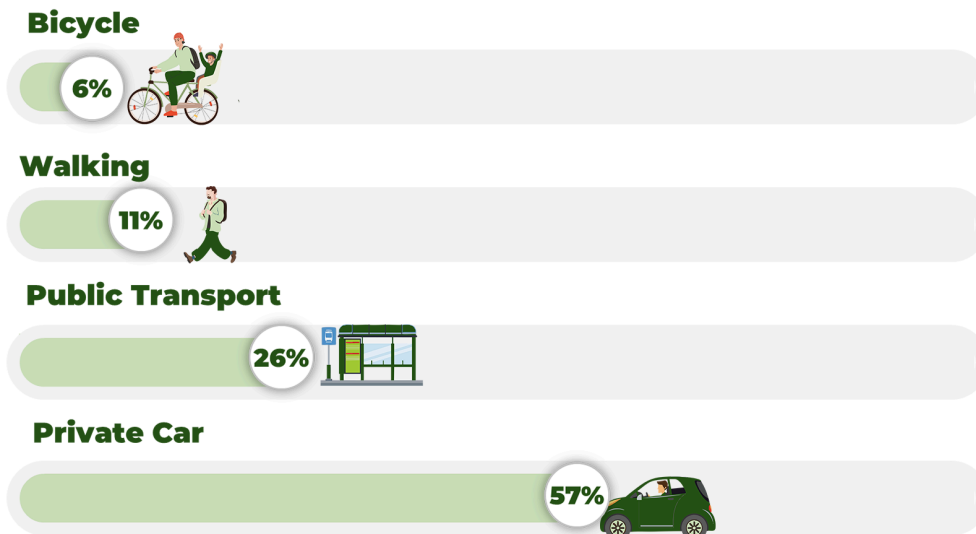
Chart 12 presents the distribution of respondents' visiting hours by gender and age group. **Male users aged 15–24 and 55–64 generally prefer to use the area in the afternoon, while males aged 25–34 tend to visit in the evening, those aged 35–44 during midday, and those aged 65 and above primarily in the morning and during midday. Female users aged 15–24 generally prefer midday and afternoon visits; females aged 25–34, 45–54, and 65+ tend to use the area in the afternoon, whereas those aged 35–44 and 55–64 mainly visit during midday.**

*As a result, while male users' time of use vary by age group, female users predominantly prefer to use the area in midday hours and in the afternoon.*



**Chart 13: Distribution of Respondents by Seasons They Enjoy Spending Time in the Area \***

Chart 13 shows the distribution of the seasons in which respondents enjoy spending time on Inciralti City Forest. **112** respondents reported enjoying spending time outdoors in **spring (34%)**, **98** respondents in **summer (30%)**, **71** respondents in **autumn (22%)**, and **45** respondents in **winter (14%)**.



**Chart 14: Distribution of Respondents by Means of Transportation They Use to Access Inciralti City Forest \*\***

\*\*This open-ended question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 158 respondents giving a total of 326 responses.

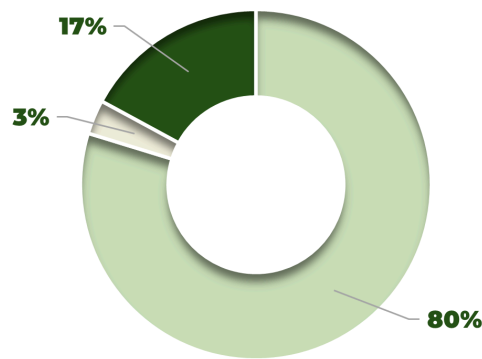
\*This multiple-choice question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 158 respondents giving a total of 178 responses.

“ Although there is access to İnciraltı City Forest by minibus and bus, bus services particularly inadequate during the summer months. ”

**27-year-old male user from Konak**

Chart 14 shows the distribution of respondents by means of transport they use to access İnciraltı City Forest. 102 respondents said they came by private vehicle (57%), 47 by public transport (26%), 19 on foot (11%), and 10 by bicycle (6%).

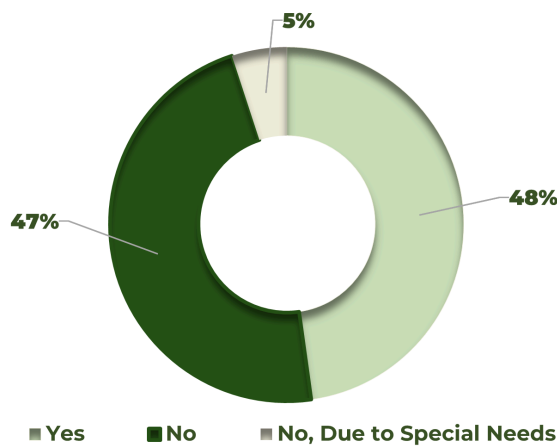
*These findings are consistent with the field interviews conducted in the area; it is noteworthy that respondents noted the scarcity of bus services and that the high rate of private vehicle use was attributed to insufficient capacity (Interviews 5, 6, 7, 9).*



■ Direct Transport   ■ 1 transfer   ■ 2 or more transfers

**Chart 15: Distribution of Transfers Required to Access İnciraltı City Forest by Respondents**

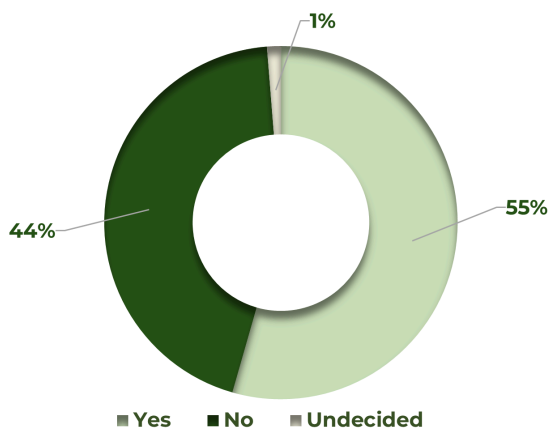
Chart 15 shows the distribution of transfers required to access İnciraltı City Forest by respondents. **126** respondents come to the area by **direct transport (80%), 5 by 1 transfer (3%), and 27 by 2 or more transfers (17%).**



■ Yes   ■ No   ■ No, Due to Special Needs

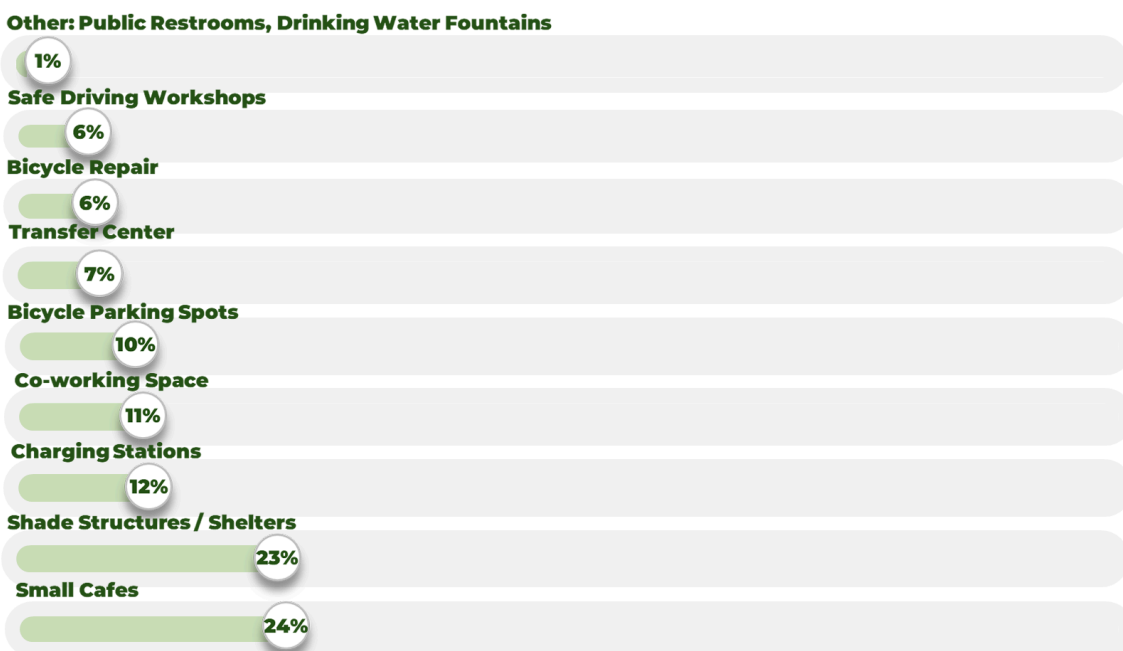
**Chart 16: Ratio of Users Considering Using Shared Bicycles or E-Scooters in İnciraltı City Forest**

Chart 16 shows the ratio of users considering using shared bicycles or e-scooters in İnciraltı City Forest. **76 respondents said they would consider using shared bicycles and e-scooters in the area (48%), while 75 respondents said they would not consider using shared bicycles and e-scooters (47%), whereas 7 respondents said that they would not consider because of their special needs (5%).**



**Chart 17: Perceived Adequacy of Pedestrian and Bicycle Lanes in İnciraltı City Forest**

Chart 17 shows the proportional distribution of respondents' perceptions regarding the adequacy of pedestrian and bicycle lanes in İnciraltı City Forest. While **86 respondents (55%) believe that the area has adequate pedestrian and bicycle lanes, 70 respondents (44%) stated that pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure is insufficient, and 2 respondents (1%) said that they were undecided.**



**Chart 18: Distribution of Local Access Services Respondents Desire to See in the Area \***

\*This open-ended question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 158 respondents giving a total of 441 responses.

Chart 18 presents the distribution of local access services that respondents desire to see in Inciraltı City Forest. The most frequently requested services are **small cafés (105 mentions, 24%), shaded areas/shelters (103 mentions, 23%), and charging stations (52 mentions, 12%).** The least requested services included **transfer hubs (30 mentions, 7%), bicycle repair stations (27 mentions, 6%), and safe riding workshops (25 mentions, 6%)**



Chart 19: The Main Accessibility Issues Observed by Respondents in the Area \*

Chart 19 shows the distribution of the main access problems faced by respondents in the Inciraltı City Forest. The most fundamental access problems observed by area users are insufficient public transportation capacity, mentioned **by 36 respondents, and access delays due to traffic congestion, mentioned by 18.5 respondents stated that they did not experience any access problems during the winter season.**

***During the interviews respondents mentioned that they have to make too many transfers when using public transportation to access the area, and that the capacity of public transportation vehicles is not sufficient during the summer months (Interviews 5, 6, 7, 9, 11).***

\* Among 58 respondent, 68 responded to this open ended question.

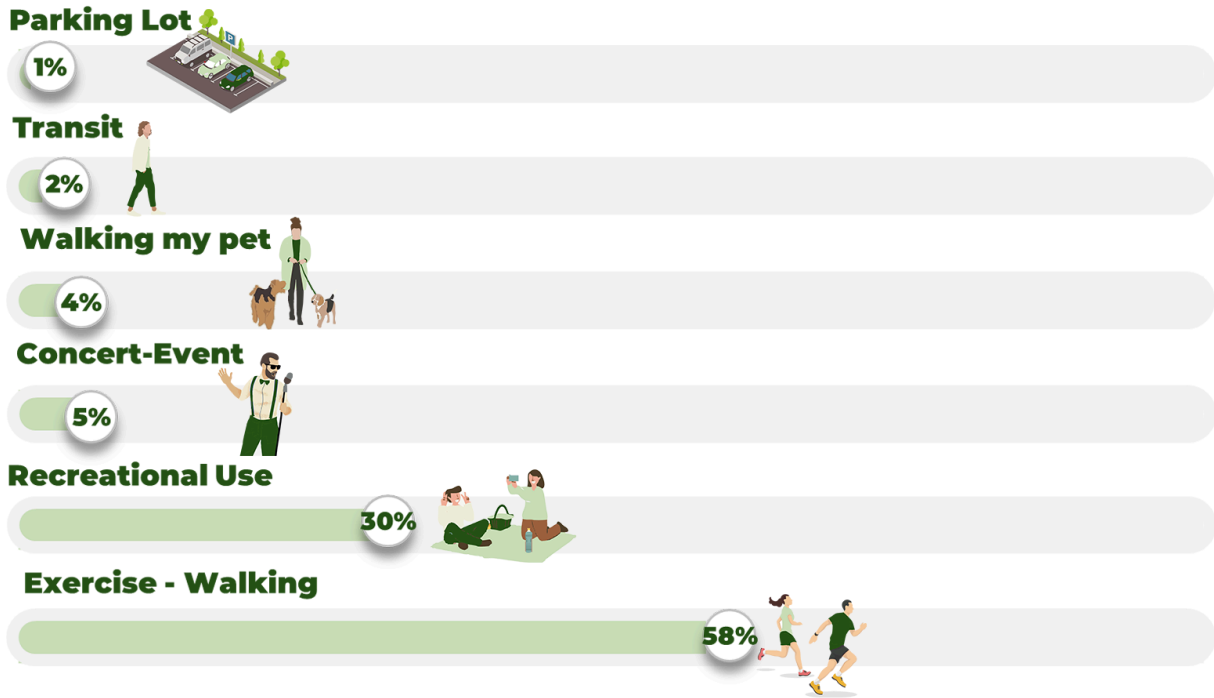


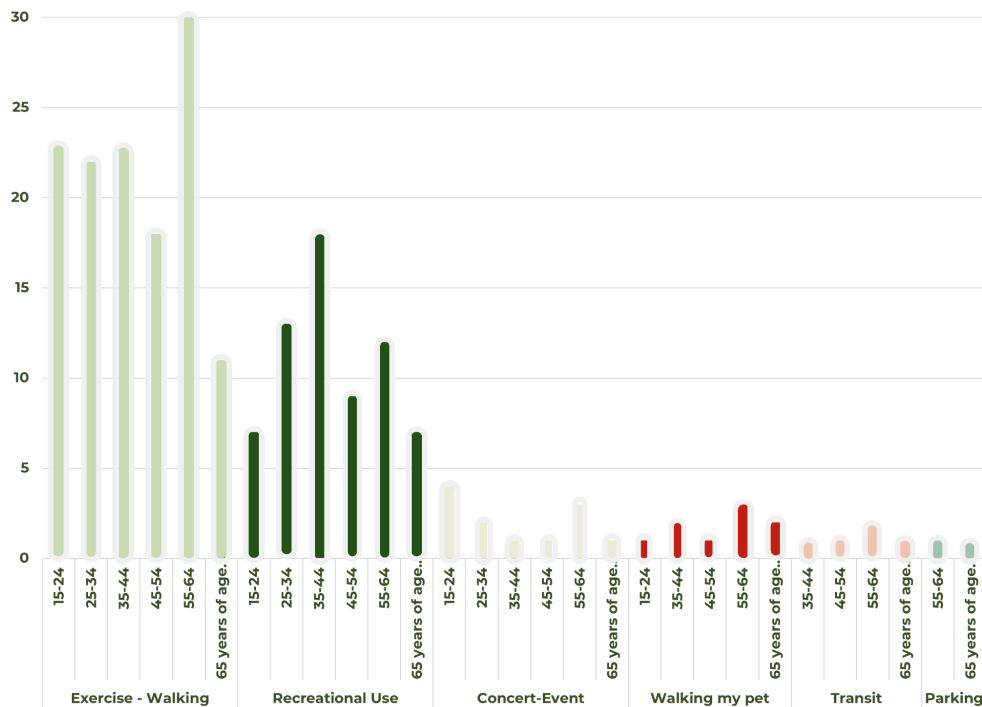
Chart 20: Distribution of Respondents by Purpose of Use of İnciraltı City Forest\*

Chart 20 shows the distribution of respondents by purpose of “use of İnciraltı City Forest. Among the respondents, **127 individuals (58%)** reported using the area for sports and walking, **66 respondents (30%)** for recreational purposes, and **12 respondents (5%)** for attending concerts or events. *Recreational activities primarily included fishing, picnicking, enjoying the fresh air by the sea, and having coffee.*

“ On weekends, we go to İnciraltı City Forest for my child's sports class. During this time, my wife and I sit on a camping chair and enjoy the fresh air. ”

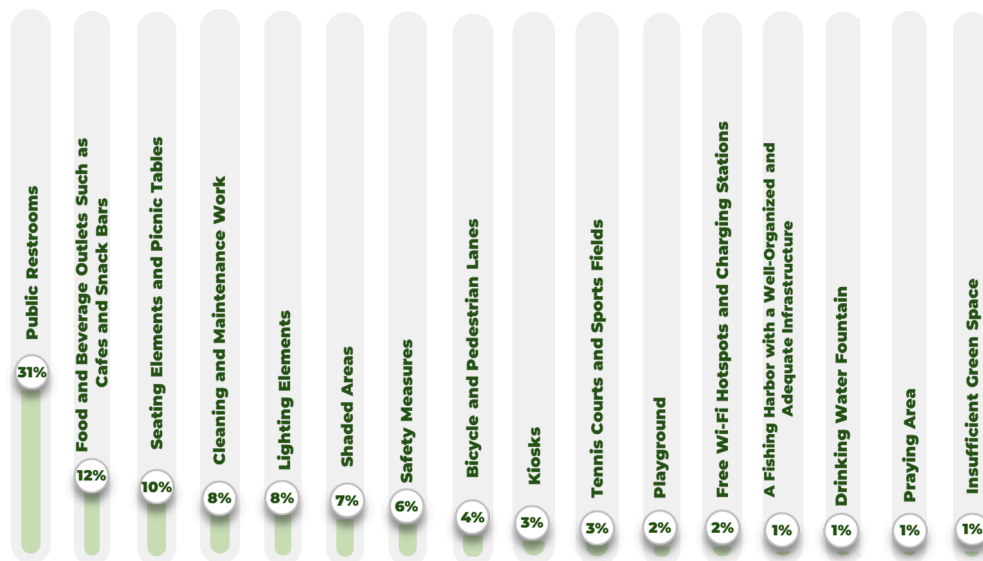
**42-year-old male user from Balçova**

\*This multiple-choice question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 158 respondents giving a total of 221 responses.



**Chart 21: Distribution of Purpose of Use of Inciraltı City Forest by Age Group**

Chart 21 shows the distribution of purpose of use of the area by age group. **It has been reported that users aged 55-64 come for sports and walking purposes, users aged 35-44 for recreational purposes, and users aged 15-24 for concerts and events.**



**Chart 22: Deficiencies in Inciraltı City Forest\***

Chart 22 illustrates the distribution of deficiencies observed by area users in Inciraltı City Forest. Users mentioned the **inadequacy of public restrooms, food and beverage outlets such as cafes and kiosks, seating areas, and picnic areas.**

\*This open-ended question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 158 respondents giving a total of 248 responses.

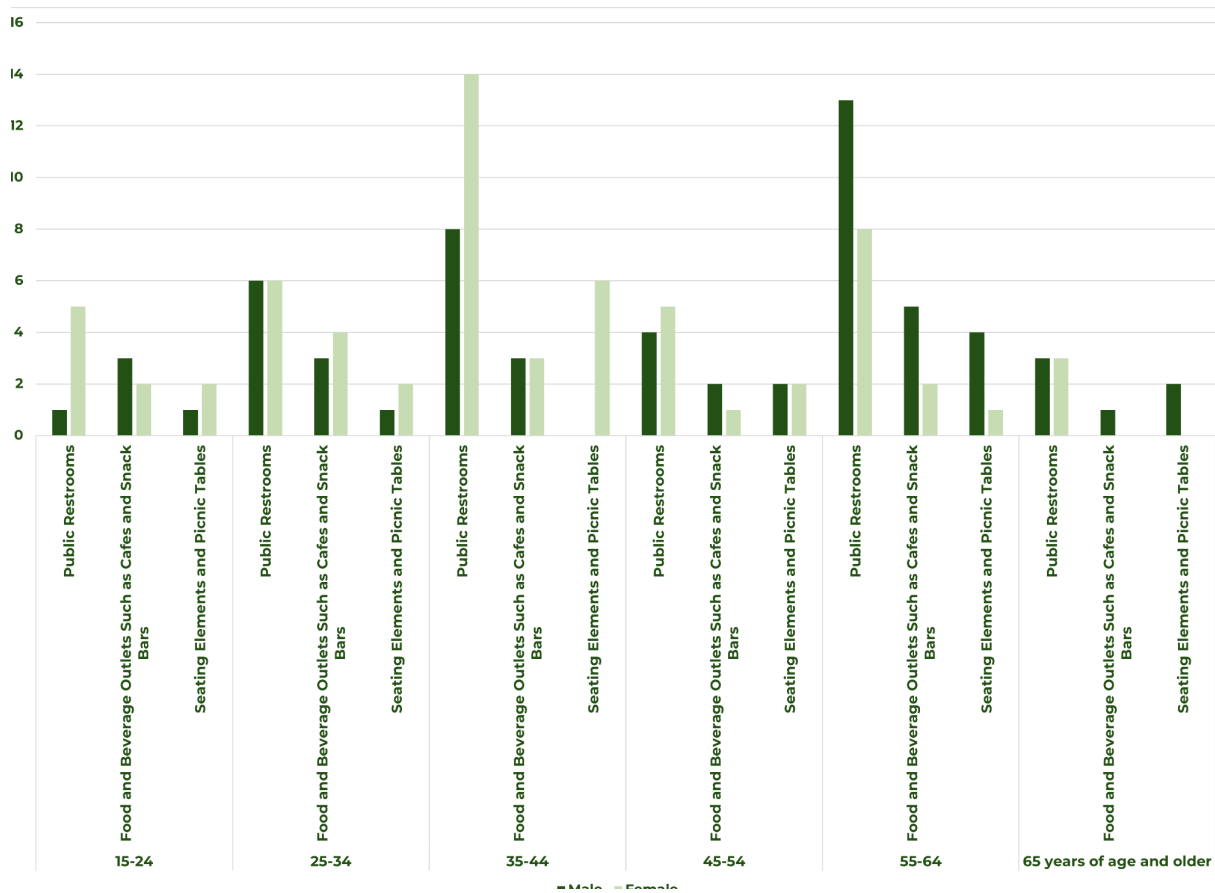


Chart 23: Most Frequently Mentioned Deficiencies (Distribution by Age and Gender)

Chart 23 shows the distribution of the three most frequently observed deficiencies in Inciralti City Forest by gender and age group. Regarding **the shortage of public restrooms**, the concern was most pronounced among **female respondents aged 35–44** and **male respondents aged 55–64**. For the **absence of food and beverage outlets** such as cafés and buffets, the issue was primarily reported by **female respondents aged 25–34** and **male respondents aged 55–64**. Concerning the **shortage of seating elements and picnic tables**, the concern was again most notable among **female respondents aged 35–44** and **male respondents aged 55–64**.

*The fact that respondents aged 35–44 and 55–64 highlighted both the shortage of seating elements, picnic tables, and public restrooms indicates that, aside from paid food and beverage outlets such as cafés and kiosks, they tend to spend extended periods of time outdoors. In contrast, younger respondents aged 25–34 primarily indicated a preference for spending time at food and beverage outlets such as cafés and kiosks.*



Chart 24: The Key Issues Observed by Respondents in the Area\*

Chart 24 shows the distribution of the key issues observed by respondents in İnciraltı City Forest. The most frequently reported issues include the **lack of street furniture (109 respondents, 18%), insufficient shaded areas (93 respondents, 16%), and areas heavily used by refugees (92 respondents, 15%). Other reported issues include bay pollution (74 respondents, 12%), safety concerns (68 respondents, 11%), general cleanliness problems (67 respondents, 11%), lack of accessibility for disabled users (49 respondents, 8%), unsuitable walking lanes (24 respondents, 4%), high noise levels (24 respondents, 4%), and the presence of uncontrolled and unattended dogs (4 respondents, 1%)**

\* This multiple-choice question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 158 respondents giving a total of 604 responses.

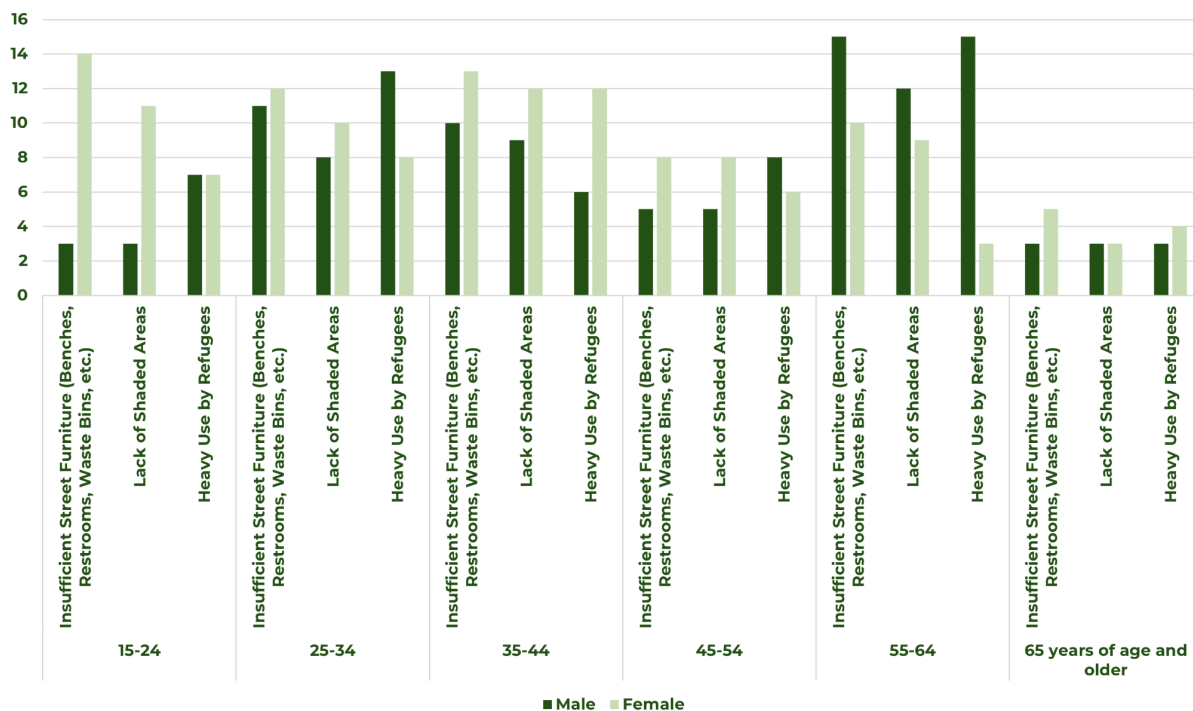


Chart 25: Most Frequently Reported Issues (by Age and Gender)

Chart 25 illustrates the distribution of the three key issues in İnciraltı City Forest by gender and age group. **Regarding the lack of street furniture, the concern was most pronounced among male respondents aged 55–64 and female respondents aged 25–34 and 35–44. This aligns with the age–gender comparison for key deficiencies observed in Chart 23,**

“ In the summer, the area around the Center for People with Disabilities is heavily used by refugees for activities like swimming and picnicking.”

**28-year-old female user from Narlıdere**

where shortage of public restrooms and seating elements were highlighted, indicating that concerns are particularly prominent among older males and females aged 35–44. For the lack of shaded areas, the demand is observed primarily among the age groups most active in the city forest (Chart 2), namely females aged 35–44 and males aged 55–64. Regarding areas heavily used by refugees, this issue was most frequently reported by male respondents aged 25–34, female respondents aged 35–44, and male respondents aged 55–64.

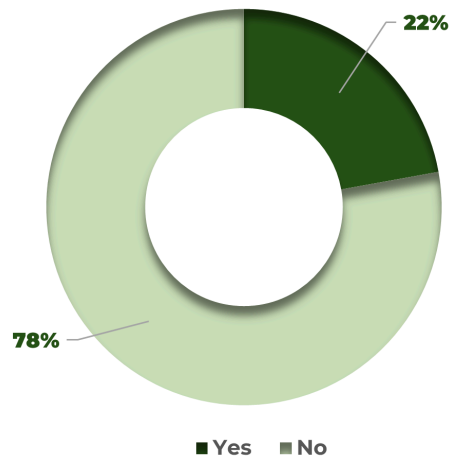


Chart 26: Rate of Assistive Device Use Among Respondents

Chart 26 illustrates the distribution of respondents' use of assistive devices in the area. While **123 respondents (78%) do not use** an assistive device in the area, **35 respondents (22%) use** an assistive device.

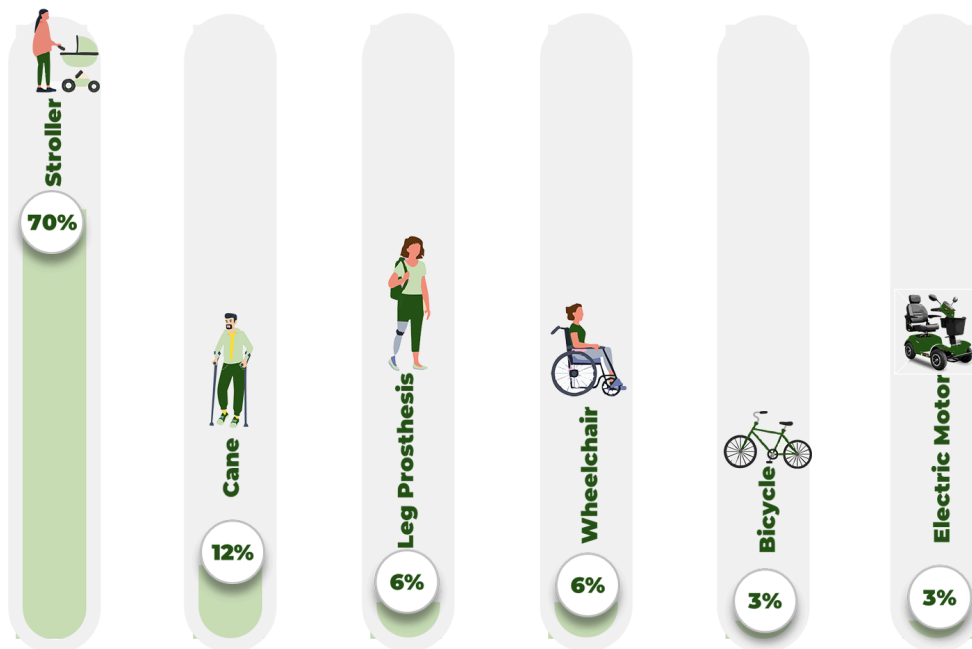


Chart 27: Distribution of Respondents by Type of Assistive Device Used

Chart 27 illustrates the distribution of respondents by type of assistive device used in the area. Among 35 respondents using assistive devices, **24 use a stroller (70%), 4 use a cane (12%), 2 use a leg prosthesis (6%), 1 uses a bicycle (1%), and 1 uses an electric motor (1%).**

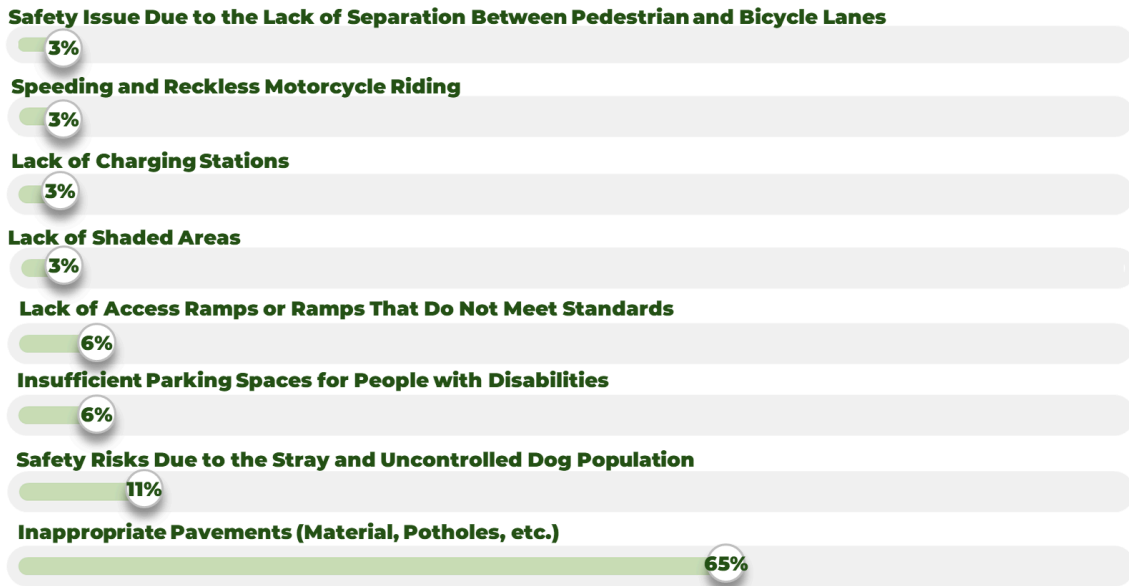


Chart 28: The Most Challenging Issues for Individuals Using Assistive Devices in Inciralti City Forest

Chart 28 shows the distribution of the most challenging issues for individuals using assistive devices. Among **35 respondents who use assistive devices**, **23 cited unsuitable pavement (65%)**, **4 safety risks due to stray and uncontrolled dog populations (11%)**, and **2 each highlighted the lack of disabled parking spaces and ramps (6%)**.

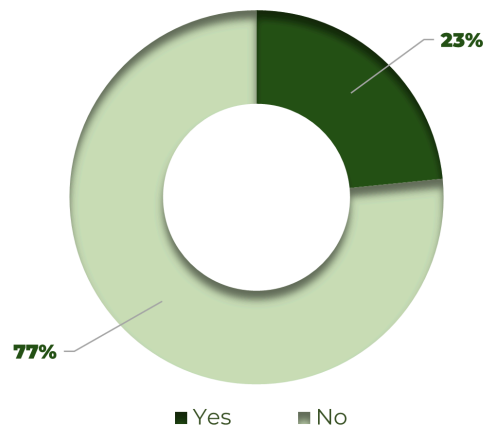


Figure 29: Distribution of Respondents By Their Use During Extreme Weather Events

Chart 29 shows the distribution of respondents' use of the area during extreme weather events. Among the respondents, **121 (77%) reported that they do not use the area during extreme weather events**, while **37 (23%) indicated that they are able to use the area even under such conditions**.

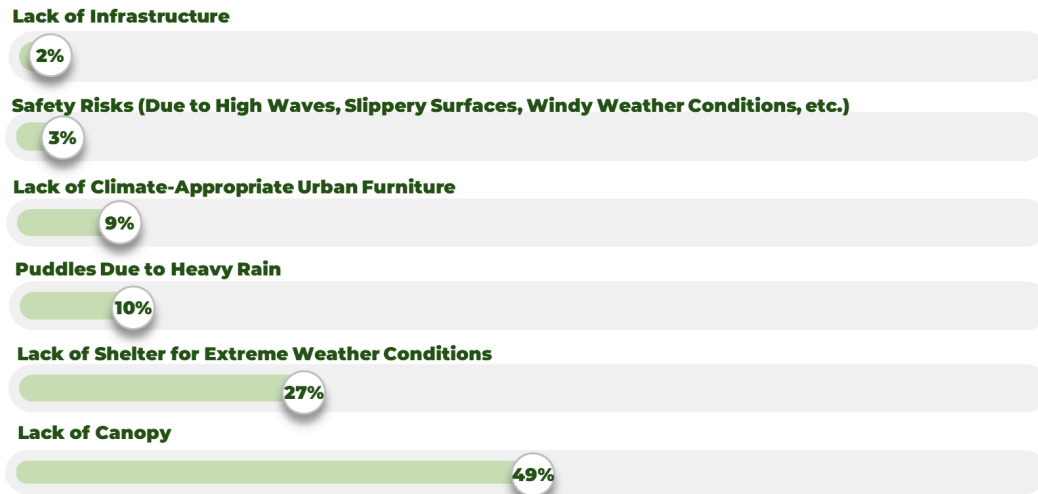


Chart 30: Reasons for Not Being Able to Use İnciraltı City Forest During Extreme Weather Events \*\*

Chart 30 presents the distribution of reasons why respondents could not use the area under extreme weather conditions. Among the **issues most frequently observed** by respondents, the **lack of overhead canopy** was reported by **55 respondents (49%)**. This is followed by the **lack of sheltered areas during extreme weather**, reported by **30 respondents (27%)**, and **water accumulation after heavy rainfall**, reported by **11 respondents (10%)**.

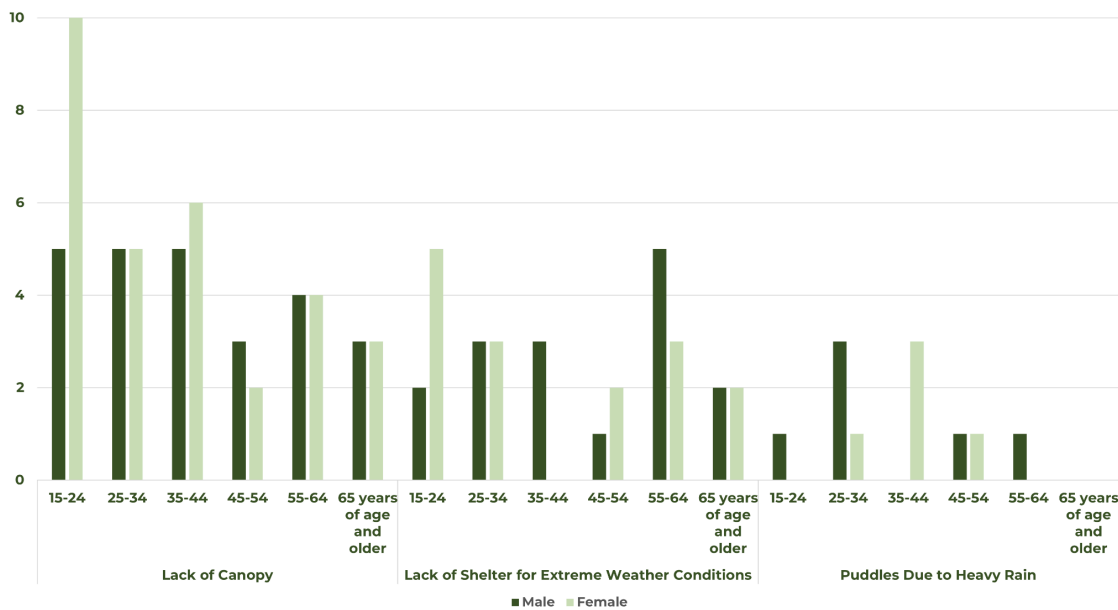
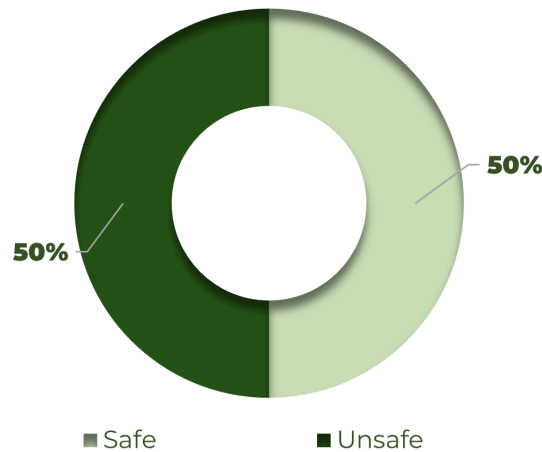


Chart 31: Seasonal Suitability of the Area (Distribution by Gender and Age)

\* This open-ended question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 158 respondents giving a total of 111 responses.

Regarding the most frequently reported issue, the **lack of overhead canopy**, is most commonly reported among **female respondents aged 35–44**. For respondents indicating a **lack of sheltered areas during extreme weather**, the concern was most pronounced among **male respondents aged 55–64**. Finally, the issue of **water accumulation and flooding due to heavy rainfall** is most frequently reported by **male respondents aged 25–34**.

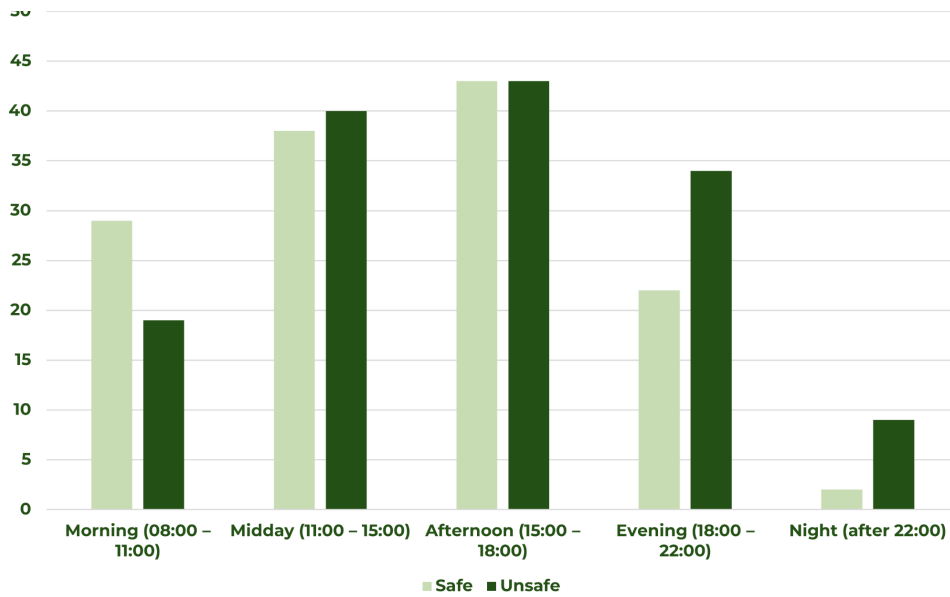


**Chart 32: Distribution of Opinions of Respondents Regarding the Safety of İnciraltı City Forest**

“ While the İnciraltı City Forest is generally safe at times when it is heavily used, but the area becomes very deserted in the evenings during the winter months, which can raise safety concerns. ”

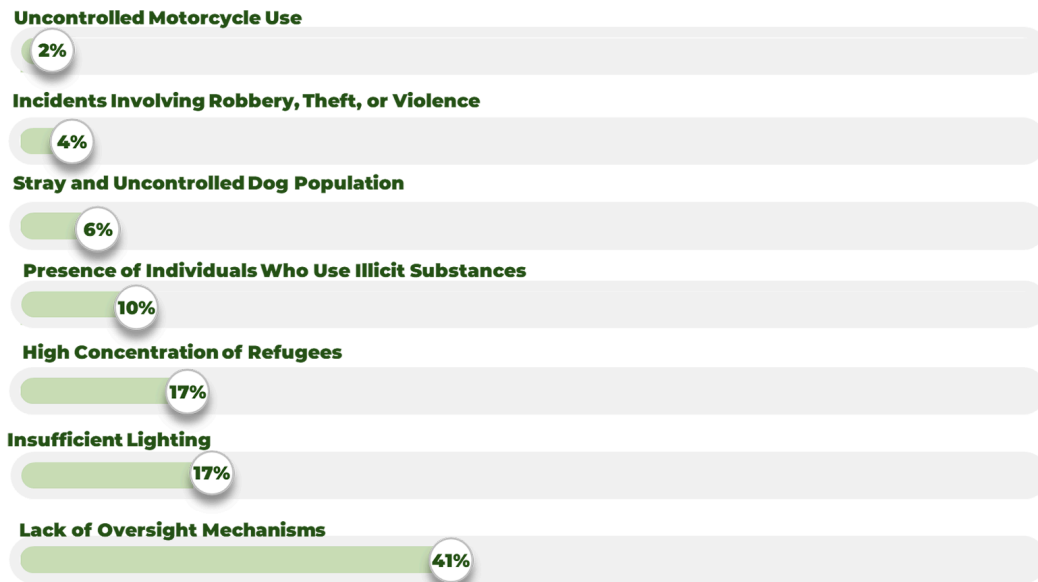
**51-year-old female user from Güzelbahçe**

Chart 32 shows the distribution of respondents' opinions regarding the safety of İnciraltı City Forest. **79 respondents feel safe in the area (50%), while 79 believes it is unsafe (50%).**



**Chart 33: Distribution of Respondents’ Perceptions of Safety According to the Time Periods during which they visit İnciraltı City Forest**

Chart 33 illustrates the distribution of respondents’ perceptions of safety according to the time periods during which they visit İnciraltı City Forest. **60%** of users visiting the area in the morning find it safe, while only 39% of users visiting in the evening and 18 percent of users visiting at night find it safe.



**Chart 34: Reasons for Safety Concerns regarding the Area \***

\*This open-ended question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 64 respondents giving a total of 83 responses.

Chart 34 shows the distribution of respondents' reasons for safety concerns regarding İnciraltı City Forest. When examining findings related to perceived safety, the most frequently reported reason for unsafety among respondents was the **lack of oversight mechanisms, such as security cameras and security personnel, cited by 37 respondents**. This was followed by **insufficient lighting and the high presence of refugees, each reported by 14 respondents**.

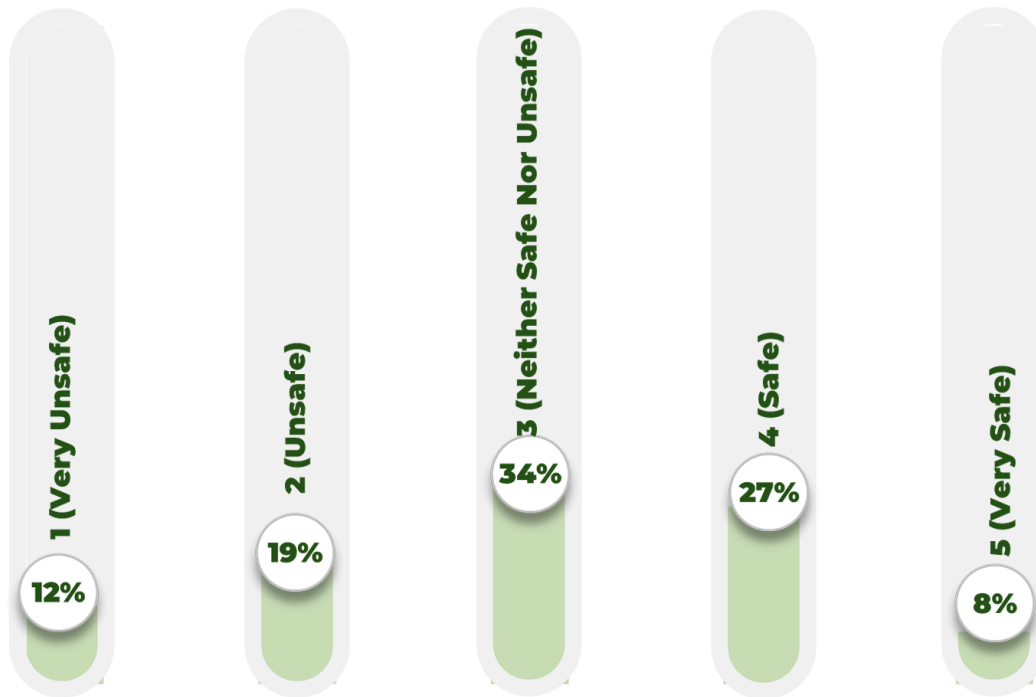


Chart 35: Safety Level City Forest According to Users (1-5 Scale)

Chart 35 shows the distribution of respondents' assessments of the safety level of İnciraltı City Forest on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (very safe). Findings related to the level of safety indicate that **54 respondents (34%) stated that they perceived the area as neither safe nor unsafe, 43 participants (27%) perceived it as safe, and 29 respondents (19%) felt unsafe**.

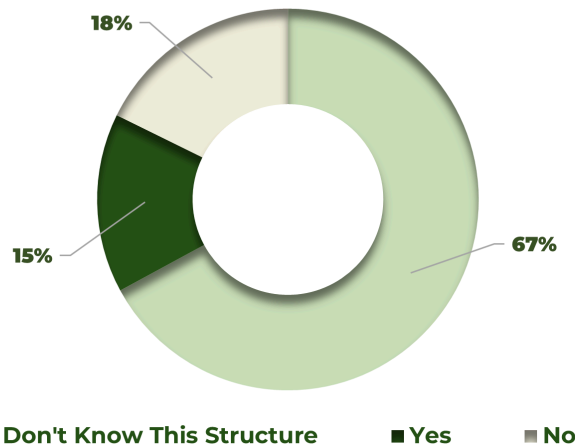


Chart 36: Participants' Opinions Regarding the İnciraltı Open-Air Theater

Chart 36 shows the distribution of respondents' opinions regarding the Open-Air Theater located in İnciraltı City Forest. Of the 158 respondents, **106 stated that they were not familiar with the Open-Air Theater (67%), 28 stated that they were dissatisfied with the structure (18%), and 24 stated that they were satisfied with the structure (15%).**



Chart 37: Reasons for Satisfaction and Dissatisfaction with İnciraltı Open-Air Theater\*

Chart 37 illustrates respondents' reasons for satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the Open-Air Theater in the İnciraltı City Forest. Among the **dissatisfaction reasons**, the most frequently mentioned were the **lack of regular and active use of the area (21 respondents)**, insufficient number of events (6 respondents), and lack of information and promotion (3 respondents). Reasons for **satisfaction** included the **opportunities for social interaction (7**

\*This open-ended question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 44 respondents giving a total of 47 responses.

respondents), the cleanliness and maintenance of the area (5 respondents), and the accessibility of events at affordable prices due to its status as a public facility (2 respondents).

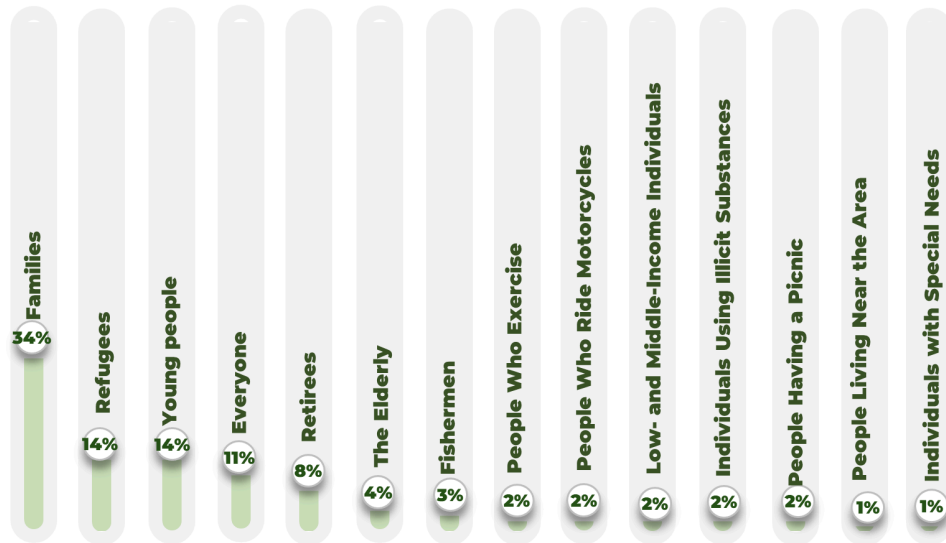


Chart 38: Profiles of Users frequently using Inciraltı City Forest\*

Chart 38 shows the distribution of profiles of users frequently using Inciraltı City Forest. **Families, refugees, and young people are among** the most frequent users of the area. These groups are followed by **everyone, retirees, seniors, and fishermen, respectively.**



Chart 39: Distribution of Respondents By Desired Changes in the Area \*\*

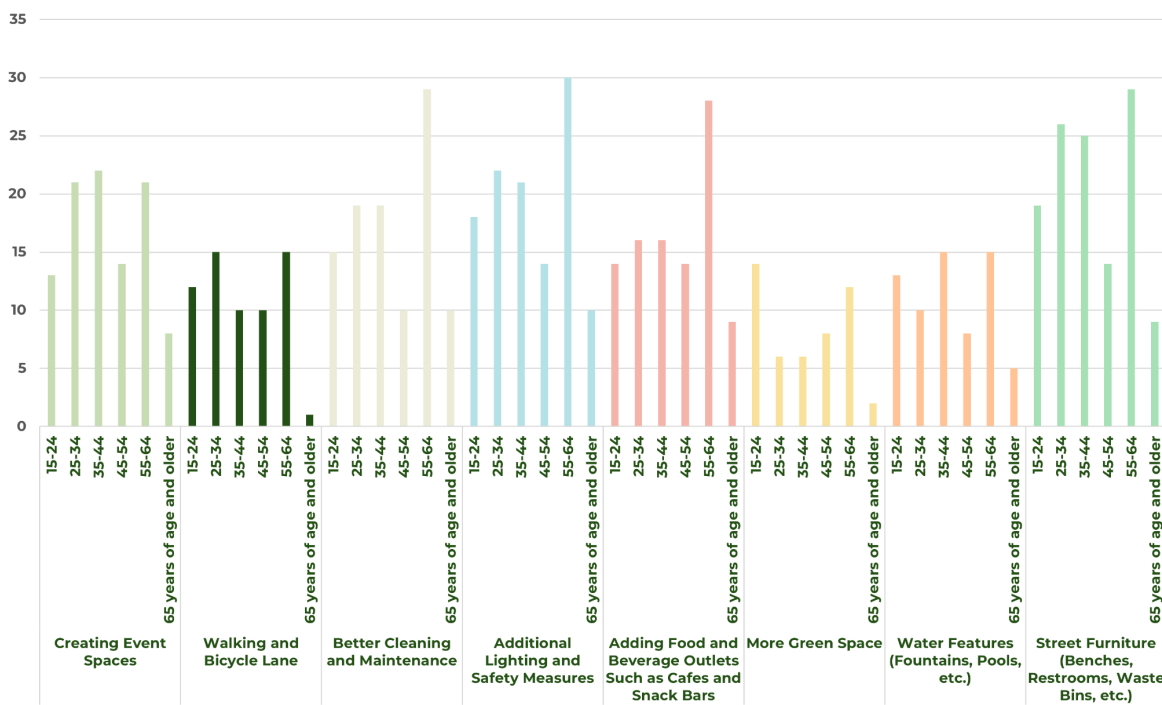
\* This open-ended question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 158 respondents giving a total of 195 responses.

\*\* This multiple-choice question allowed respondents to provide multiple answers, with 158 respondents giving a total of 713 responses.

“ There is a need for a municipal facility where we can spend time drinking affordable tea and coffee, such as the Center for People with Disabilities.”

**63-year-old male user from Balçova**

Chart 39 illustrates the distribution of changes respondents would like to see to make the Inciraltı City Forest more attractive. The most frequently requested improvements include the addition of street furniture such as **benches and public restrooms**, followed by **enhanced lighting elements and security measures**, **better cleaning and maintenance**, **the introduction of food and beverage facilities such as cafés and kiosks**, and **the creation of venues for events**.

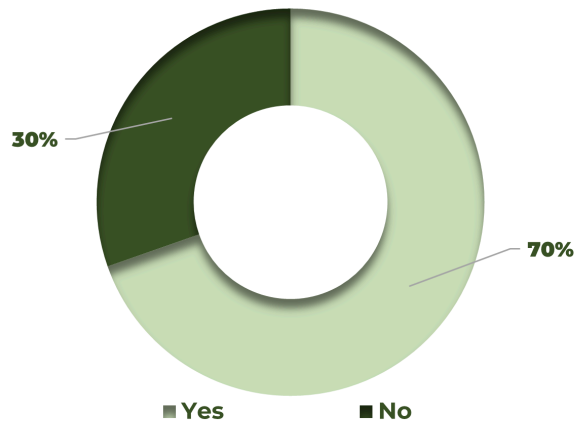


**Chart 40: Distribution of Respondents By Desired Changes in the Area (by Age)**

Chart 40 presents the distribution of changes respondents would like to see in the Inciraltı City Forest to make it more attractive, broken down by age group. Regarding **street furniture**, the most frequently requested improvement, the demand was highest among respondents **aged 25–34 and 55–64**. **Additional lighting elements and security measures, food and beverage outlets such as cafés and kiosks, and better cleaning and maintenance** were also primarily requested by these **same age groups**. The **creation of event venues** was most frequently demanded by respondents **aged 35–44**.

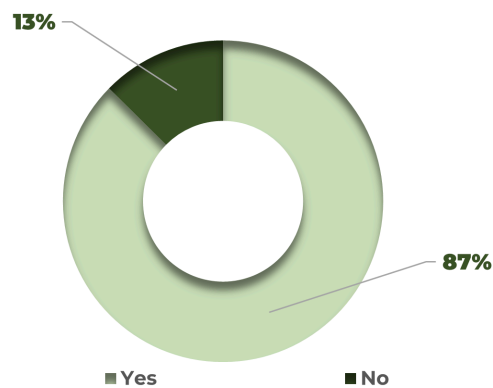
The responses regarding the desired improvements to make the area more attractive (Chart 23) coincide with the **most frequently mentioned issues** in the question about deficiencies in the area (Chart 22). Users aged 35-44 and 55-64 mentioned **the lack of public restrooms and seating elements**, while users aged 25-34 and 55-64 mentioned **the lack of food and beverage outlets such as cafes and kiosks**. (Chart 23) and **this align with their responses regarding what they would like to see to make the area more attractive**.

*The findings indicate that the age groups in question have established a consistent relationship between current issues and improvement demands. On the other hand, while better cleaning and maintenance and additional lighting elements and security measures are mentioned at similar rates in Chart 22, it is seen that the need for lighting stands out more prominently than the need for cleaning and maintenance in the context of "making the area more attractive."*



**Chart 41: Distribution of Respondents by Car Ownership Rate**

Chart 41 shows the distribution of respondents by car ownership rate. Among the 158 respondents, **110 stated they owned a car (70%)**, while **48 stated they did not own a car (30%)**.

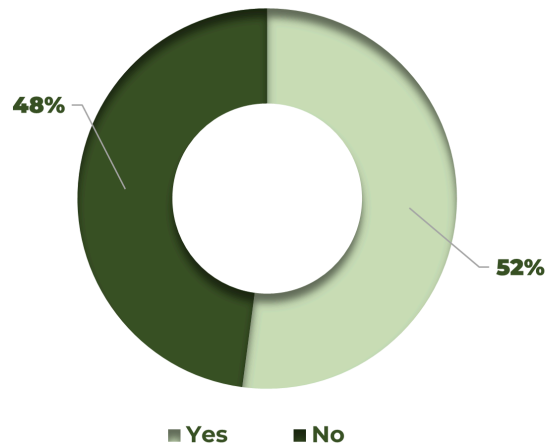


**Chart 42: Distribution of Respondents Based on Active Car Use \***

Chart 42 shows the distribution of respondents' active vehicle usage rates. Among the respondents, **104 actively use their vehicles (87%)**, while **15 indicate that they do not actively use their vehicles (13%)**.

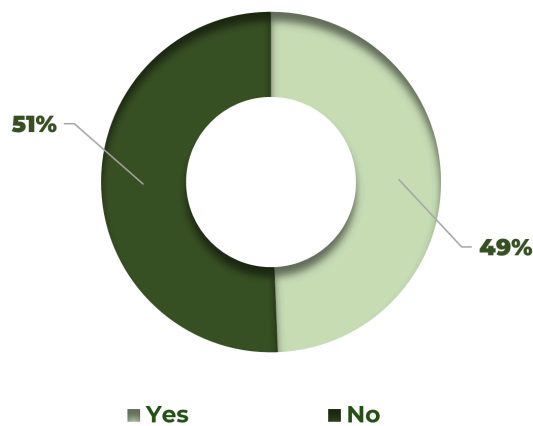
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\* 119 respondents responded to this multiple-choice question.



**Chart 43: Distribution of Respondents by the Availability of Parking Spaces for Their Cars \***

Chart 43 shows the proportional distribution of respondents' ability to find parking space. Among the respondents, **62 indicated that they were able to find parking for their cars (52%), while 57 reported that they could not (48%).** Additionally, during interviews (Respondent Nos. 7, 19, 20, 21) and the survey, several respondents noted that they were **able to find parking during the winter period but experienced difficulties securing a parking space in the summer months.**

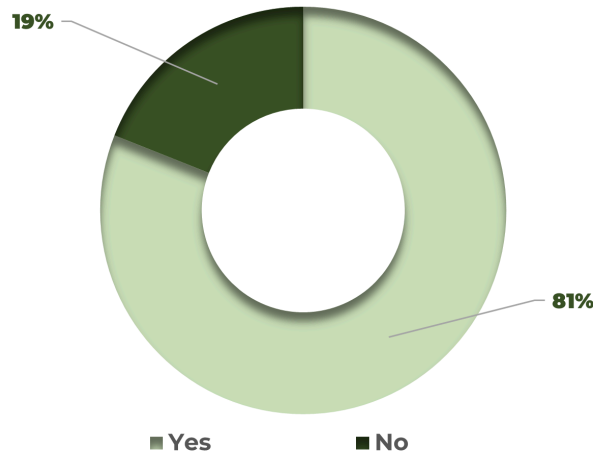


**Chart 44 Opinions Regarding Caravan Parking in Inciraltı City Forest**

Chart 44 shows the distribution of respondents' opinions regarding caravan parking in Inciraltı City Forest. **80 respondents stated that they were dissatisfied with caravan parking in the area (51%), while 78 respondents stated that they were satisfied with caravan parking in the area (49%).**

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\*119 respondents responded to this multiple-choice question.



**Chart 45: Distribution of Respondents by their Desire to Participate in the Mock-up Application**

Chart 45 shows the percentage of respondents who expressed a desire to participate in the mock-up application. **128 indicated they wanted to participate in the mock-up application (81%), while 30 stated they did not want to participate in the application (19%).**

### 2.3. Observations

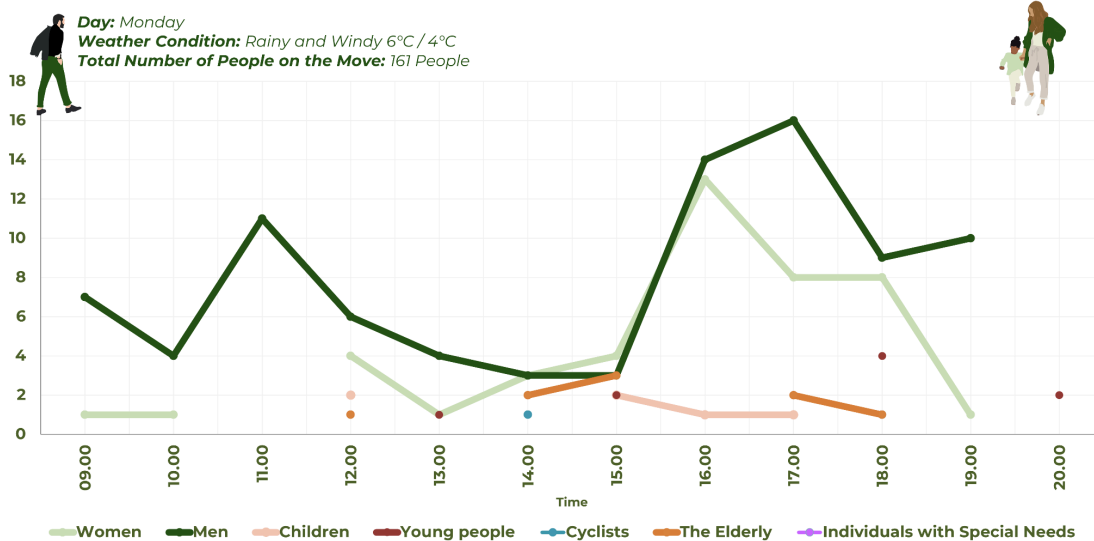
In the third phase of the fieldwork, observations were conducted using the “*Great Public Spaces Evaluation Tool for Public Space and Public Life*<sup>14</sup>” developed by Transport for NSW (2021). In the first 2 stages of the 3-stage observation study, a count is taken to calculate the number of users in the area, while in the third stage, personal observations are noted throughout the day.

The counting exercise was conducted at different time intervals throughout the day: **09:00–11:00, 12:00–14:00, 15:00–17:00, and 18:00–20:00**. Observational counts were carried out for various user groups, **namely women, men, children, young people, elderly, cyclists, and individuals with special needs, distinguishing between users that were moving and those who were seated**. In line with the methodology of the study, observations were initially planned to be conducted for 5 minutes at the beginning of each hour, with the recorded figures multiplied by 12 to estimate hourly averages. However, **due to adverse weather conditions, observations in the field were, in most cases, carried out continuously for the entire hour**. *This helped to improve data accuracy and enabled a more precise analysis of fluctuations in user density within an hour.*

The survey was conducted at the circular plaza and the intersection of the coastal walking lanes between the Monument to the Independent Judiciary and the Council of State and the Inciraltı Open-Air Theater (Figure 1).

<sup>14</sup>Transport for NSW (2021), Great Public Spaces Evaluation Tool for Public Space and Public Life, Transport for NSW

The counting point is located at the intersection of multiple functional areas, including the **walking axis, food and beverage outlets, the children’s playground, the fishermen’s harbor, and sports facilities**, thereby serving as a **convergence zone for diverse user profiles**. The location functions both as a transit route and as an **active space** for spending time, resting, and socializing. As a result of the observation study conducted over **7 days** between 09:00 and 20:00, a total of **9,182** users were recorded.



**Chart 46: Distribution of People on the Move on Monday**

As a result of the counting exercise conducted on a **rainy and windy Monday** between 09:00 and 20:00, a total of **161** people were observed **moving** within the area. An examination of the hourly distribution of user profiles indicates that the highest levels of activity in the area occur between **11:00 and 17:00**. **Male users** were observed in the area **throughout all hours of the day** and exhibited a more consistent profile in terms of distribution. However, **female users** were observed in the area during specific time intervals, with a **noticeable decline particularly after 18:00**. The elderly were observed between **14:00 and 15:00 and 17:00 and 18:00**, while **children and young people were observed at low levels during specific time slots**.

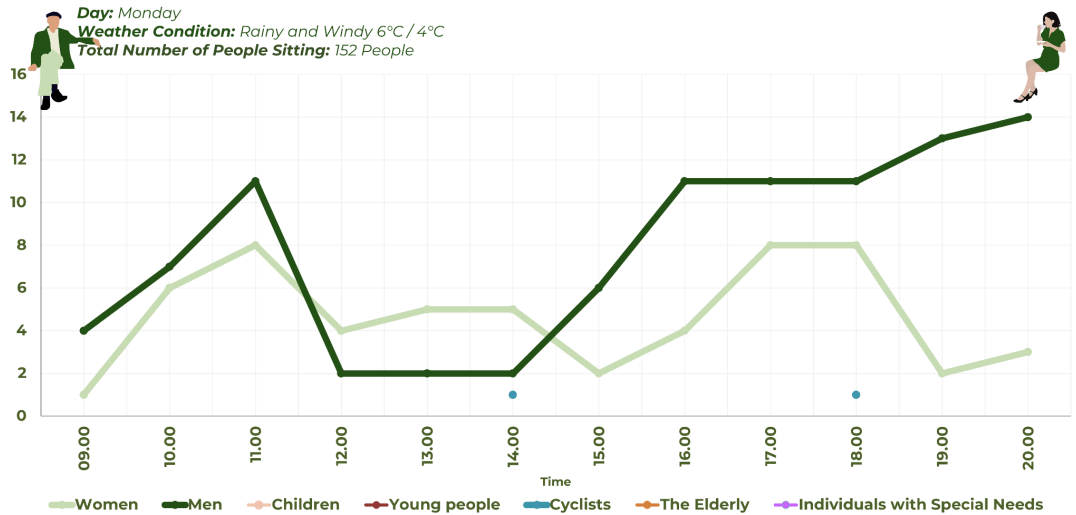


Chart 47: Distribution of People Sitting on Monday

When the people sitting on Monday were examined, it was observed that there were a total of **152** people in the area. An analysis of the hourly distribution of user profiles shows that the number of seated users peaks between **11:00 and 20:00**. A decrease in the number of **female users** were observed between **11:00 and 12:00** and between **18:00 and 19:00** for both **female and male users**. The **elderly** was observed in small numbers between **14:00 and 18:00**, while **children, young people, and individuals with special needs were not observed at all**.

*On Monday, a total of 313 individuals were observed. Due to adverse weather conditions, the area was predominantly used by municipal employees and shopkeepers. Both moving and seated users were observed to peak around 11:00. A decrease in the number of female users was recorded between 11:00–12:00 and 18:00 – 19:00*

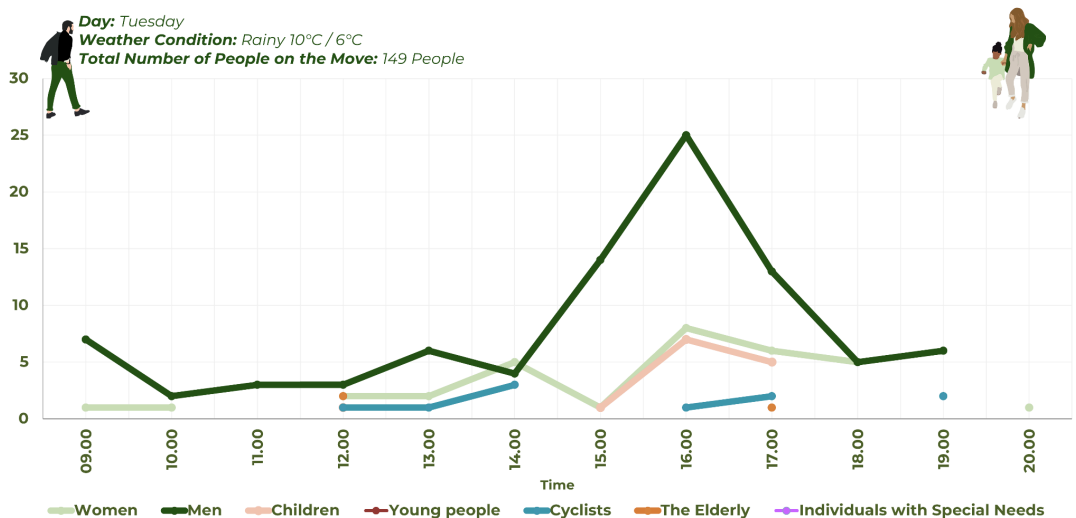


Chart 48: Distribution of People on the Move on Tuesday

As a result of the counting exercise conducted on a **rainy Tuesday** between 09:00 and 20:00, a total of **149** people were observed moving within the area. An examination of the hourly distribution of user profiles indicates that the highest levels of activity in the area occur at **16:00**. Although a **noticeable decline in male users was observed after 16:00**, they were present in the area throughout the day. However, **female users** tended to concentrate within specific time intervals and their number showed a **significant decline, particularly after 18:00**. **Cyclists** were most frequently observed between **12:00–14:00 and 16:00–17:00**, while **children were primarily present between 15:00 and 17:00**. **Young people and the elderly were observed at relatively low levels and only during limited time periods.**

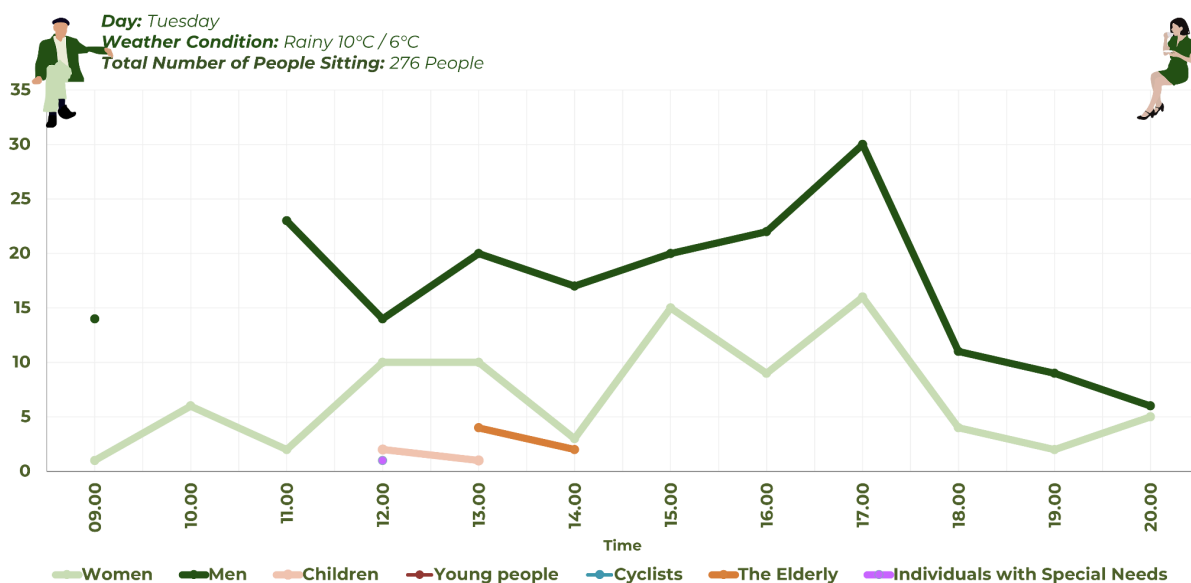
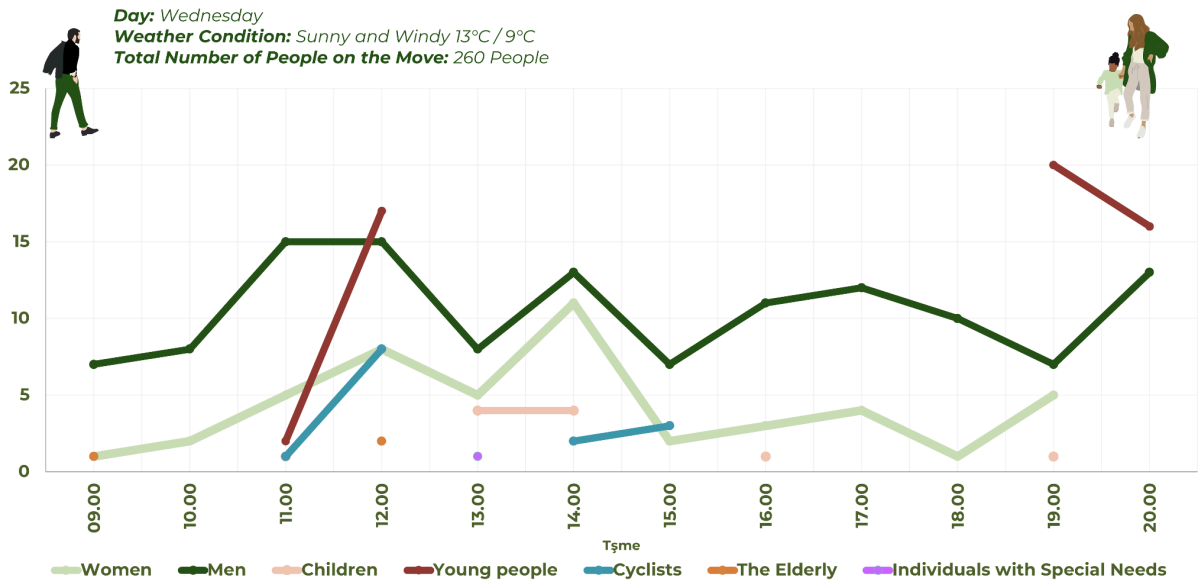


Chart 49: Distribution of People Sitting on Tuesday

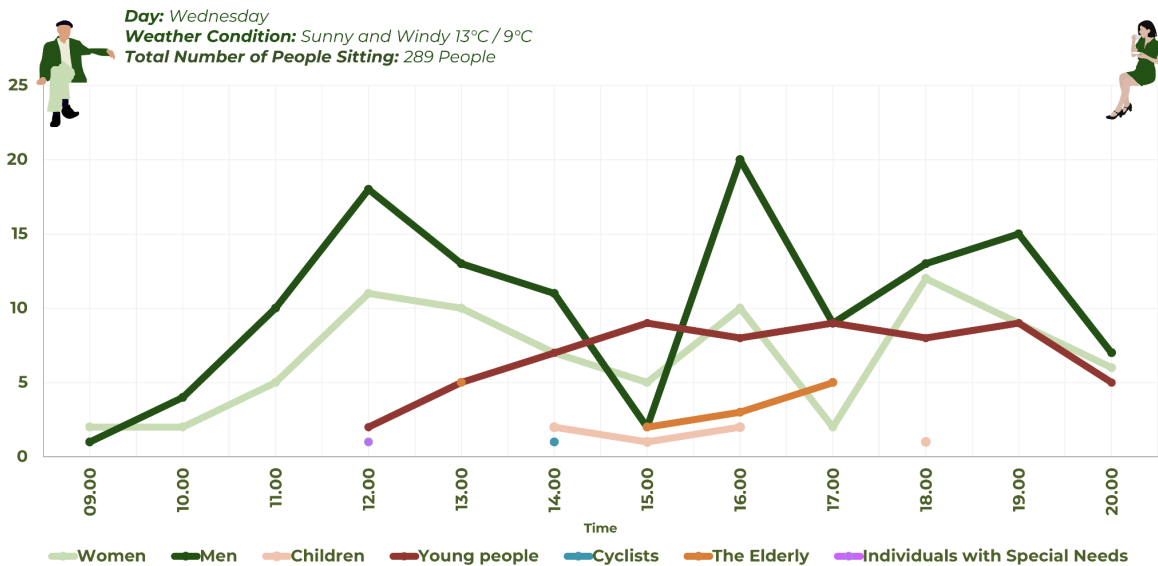
On **Tuesday**, it was observed that there were a total of **276** people sitting in the area. Examination of hourly user distributions reveals peak presence of **male users at 17:00** and of **female users at 15:00 and 17:00**. Between **12:00 and 13:00**, **children** were observed; between **13:00 and 14:00**, **the elderly** were observed; and **at 12:00, individuals with special needs** were also observed, albeit in limited numbers. **No young people or cyclists were observed.**

*On Tuesday, a total of 425 individuals were observed. Due to adverse weather conditions, users generally preferred spending time in sheltered areas rather than engaging in physical activities. Although short-term increases in movement were observed at certain hours, overall use of the area remained limited throughout the day because of low temperatures and rainfall.*



**Chart 50: Distribution of People on the Move on Wednesday**

As a result of the counting exercise conducted on a **windy and sunny Wednesday** between 09:00 and 20:00, a total of **260 people** were observed **moving** within the area. **Male users** were observed **throughout the day**, while **female users** were observed in the area between **9:00 and 19:00**. Young people were observed in the area between 11:00 and 12:00 and between 19:00 and 20:00, children between 13:00 and 14:00, and cyclists between 11:00 and 12:00 and between 14:00 and 15:00. **Elderly individuals and individuals with special needs were observed at low levels during specific time slots.**

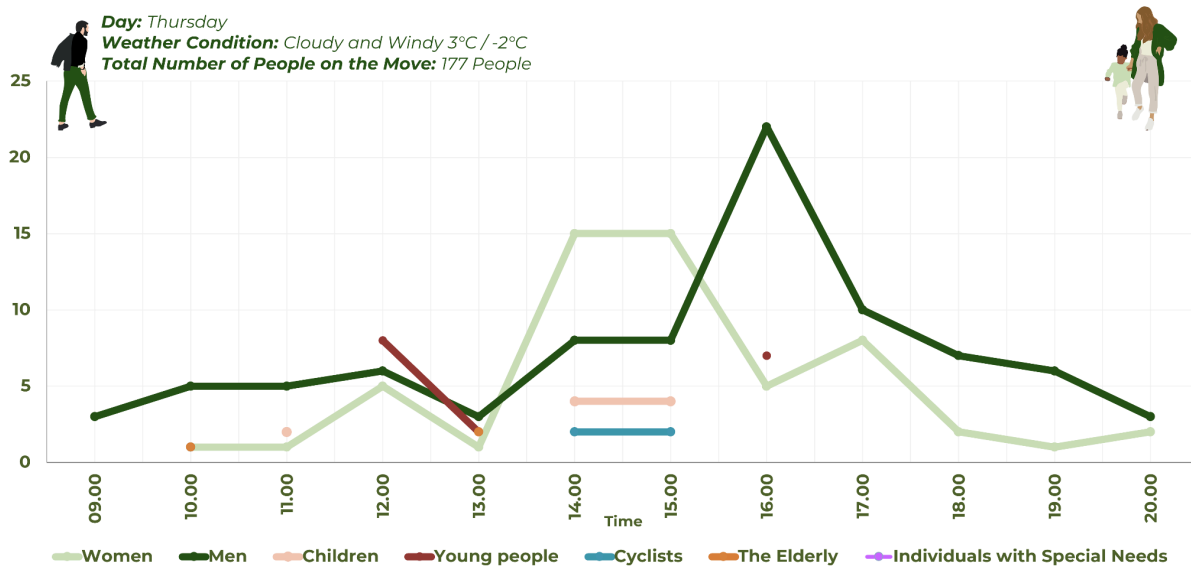


**Chart 51: Distribution of People Sitting on Wednesday**

On **Wednesday**, a **total of 289 seated individuals** were observed in the area. The hourly distribution of user profiles indicates **that male users peaked at 16:00, while female users reached their highest presence at 18:00**. Young people were observed between 12:00 and

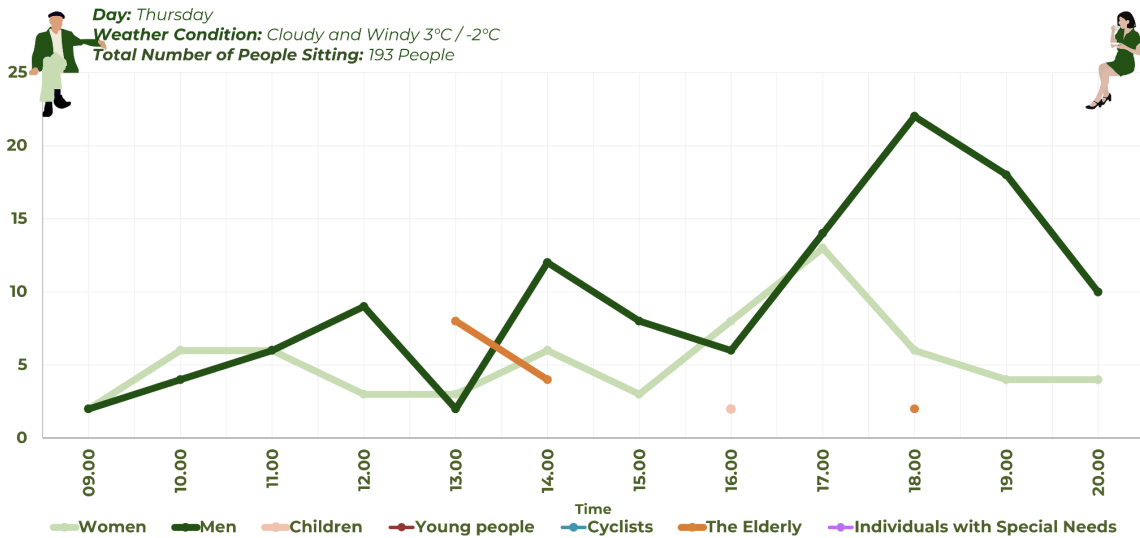
**20:00, children between 14:00 and 16:00, and the elderly between 15:00 and 17:00. Cyclists and individuals with special needs were observed at relatively low levels and only during specific time slots.**

*Compared to Monday and Tuesday, Wednesday had milder weather conditions, and a total of 549 individuals were observed. During the relatively warmer hours, individuals with camping chairs were seen spending time in the area. However, as the day was generally cold and windy, users predominantly preferred to stay in food and beverage outlets such as cafés and kiosks. In the evening, increased movement was observed in the vicinity of the sports facilities due to a football match, with a noticeable presence of young users.*



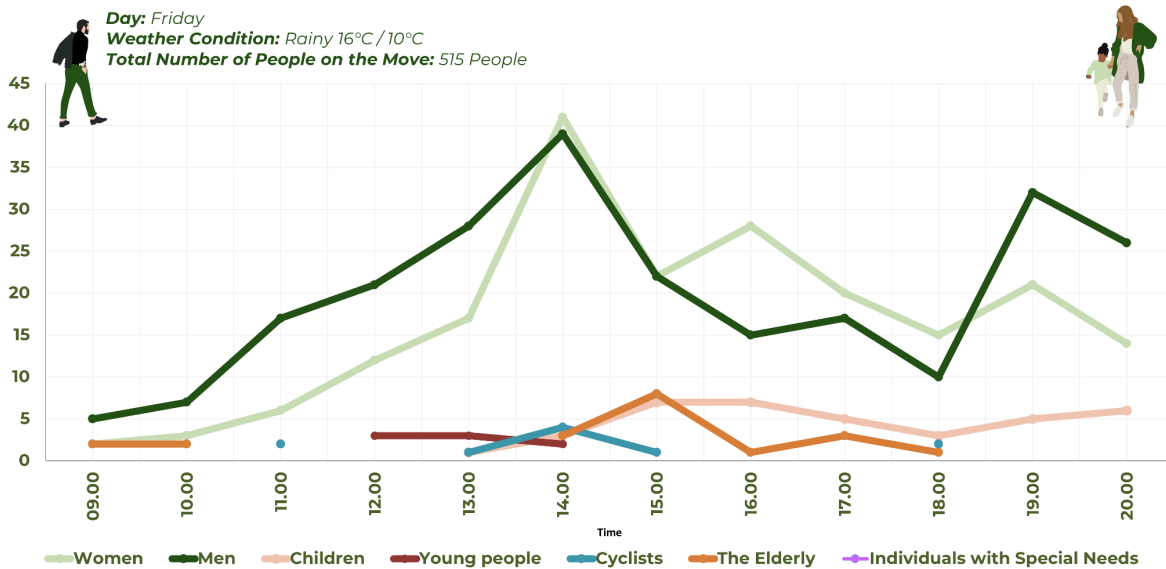
**Chart 52: Distribution of People on the Move on Thursday**

On **Thursday**, which was cloudy and windy, a total of 177 moving individuals were observed between 09:00 and 20:00. An analysis of the hourly distribution of user profiles indicates that **male users peaked at 16:00, while female users were most concentrated between 14:00 and 16:00. Young people were observed between 12:00 and 13:00, whereas children and cyclists were primarily present between 14:00 and 15:00. The elderly was observed at relatively low levels and only during specific time slots.**



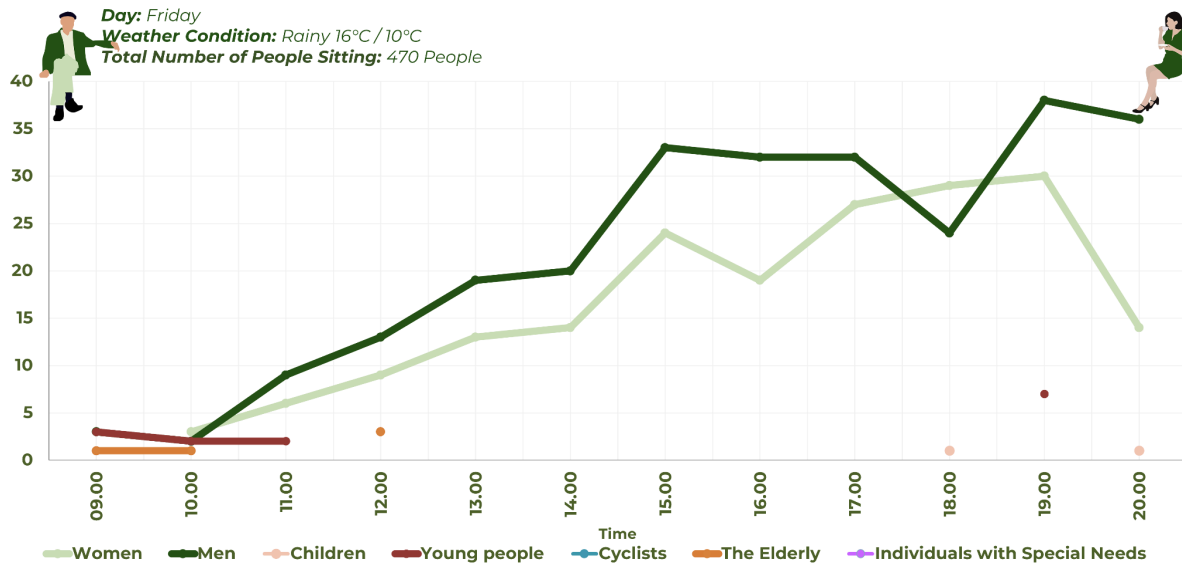
**Chart 53: Distribution of People Sitting on Thursday**

On **Thursday**, a total of **193 seated individuals** were observed in the area. The hourly distribution of user profiles indicates that **male users were most concentrated at 18:00**, while **female users peaked at 17:00**. The **elderly** was observed between **13:00 and 14:00**, and **children at 16:00**. **No seated young people or cyclists were observed during the day**. As the coldest day among the observation period, Thursday recorded a total of 370 individuals in the area. *Users generally preferred to spend time in sheltered spaces.*



**Chart 54: Distribution of People on the Move on Friday**

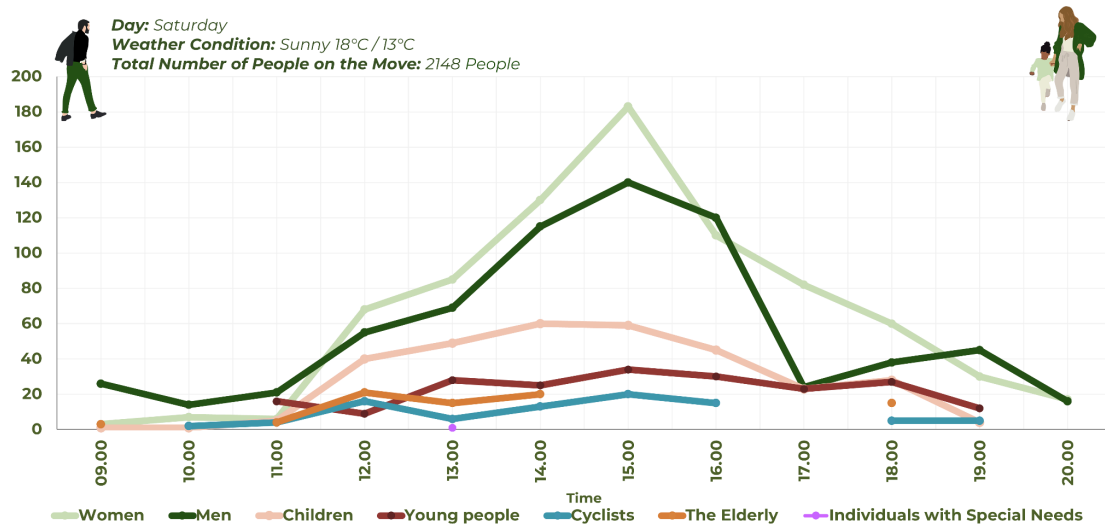
On **Friday**, which was rainy, a total of **515 moving individuals** were observed between **09:00 and 20:00**. An analysis of the hourly distribution indicates that overall movement peaked at **14:00**. Young people were observed between **12:00 and 14:00**, cyclists between **13:00 and 15:00**, and older adults between **09:00–10:00 and 14:00–18:00**. No individuals with special needs were observed during the day.



**Chart 55: Distribution of People Sitting on Friday**

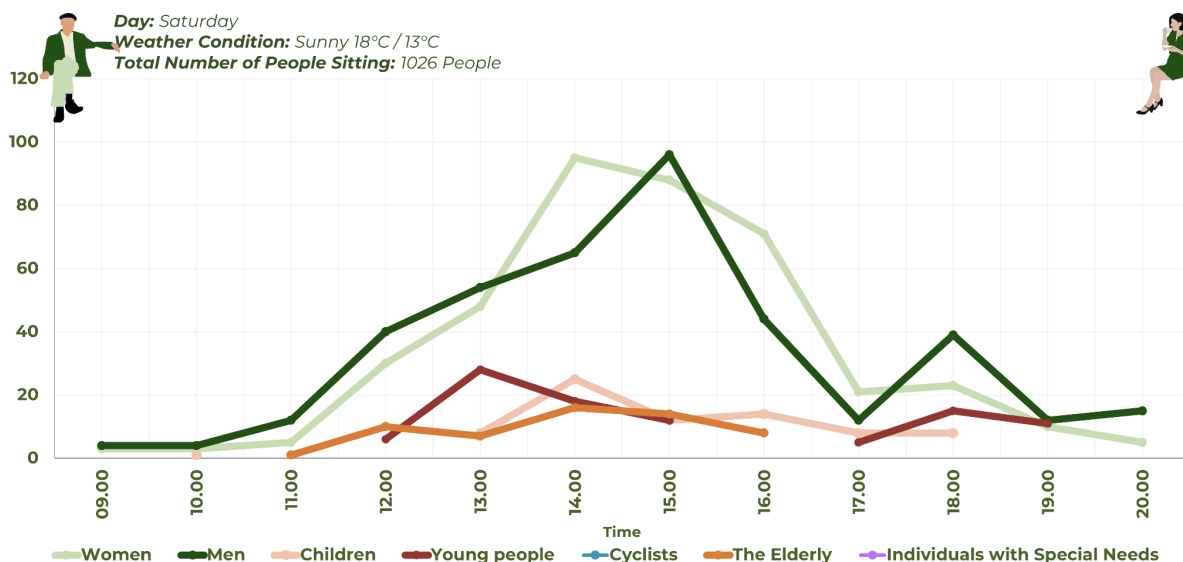
On **Friday**, a total of **470 seated** individuals were observed. The hourly distribution of user profiles indicates that the peak number of **seated users** was at **19:00**. After **19:00**, the **number of female users showed a noticeable decline**. The elderly was observed between **09:00 and 10:00**, while young users were observed between **09:00 and 11:00**.

*A total of 985 people were observed on Friday. Although the area was mainly used for transit due to rainy weather, it was observed that the number of people moving was higher than on previous days.*



**Chart 56: Distribution of People on the Move on Saturday**

On sunny **Saturday**, a total of **2,148 individuals in motion** were observed between 09:00 and 20:00. Analysis of hourly distribution indicated that **peak activity** occurred at **15:00**. **Children** were observed in the area between **09:00 and 18:00**, **young adults** between **11:00 and 19:00**, **cyclists** between **10:00 and 16:00** and between **18:00 and 19:00**, and **elderly** between **11:00 and 14:00**. The number of female and child users showed a declining trend after 15:00.



**Chart 57: Distribution of People Sitting on Saturday**

On Saturday, a total of **1,026 seated individuals** were observed. The hourly distribution of user profiles indicates that the peak number of **male users was at 15:00**, while the **peak number of female users was at 14:00**. The **elderly** was observed between **10:00 and 16:00**, **children** between **13:00 and 18:00**, and **young users** between **12:00–15:00** and **17:00–19:00**.

On Saturday, a total of 3,174 individuals were observed. With sunny weather, high levels of activity were noted in the area from midday onwards. In particular, the playground and its surroundings were very active, and families were observed spending time around the park with camping chairs.

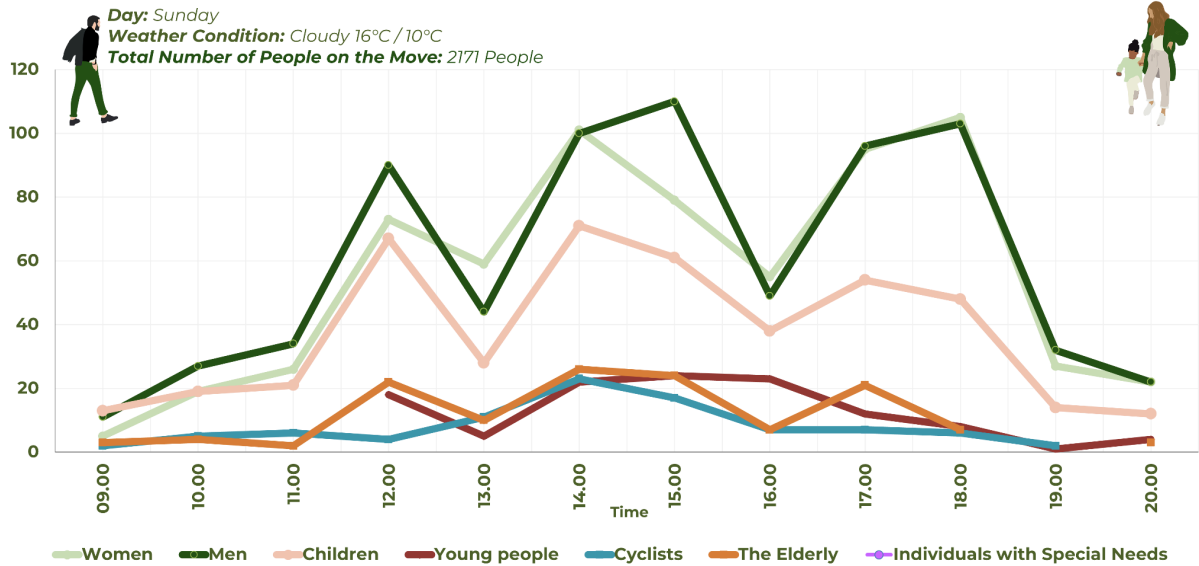


Chart 58: Distribution of People on the Move on Sunday

On the **cloudy Sunday**, a total of **2,171 individuals** in motion were observed between 09:00 and 20:00. The hourly distribution of user profiles indicates that **male users peaked at 15:00**, while **female users peaked at 14:00**. **Children and cyclists were observed throughout almost all hours of the day**, young users were primarily observed after 12:00, and the elderly between 09:00 and 18:00.

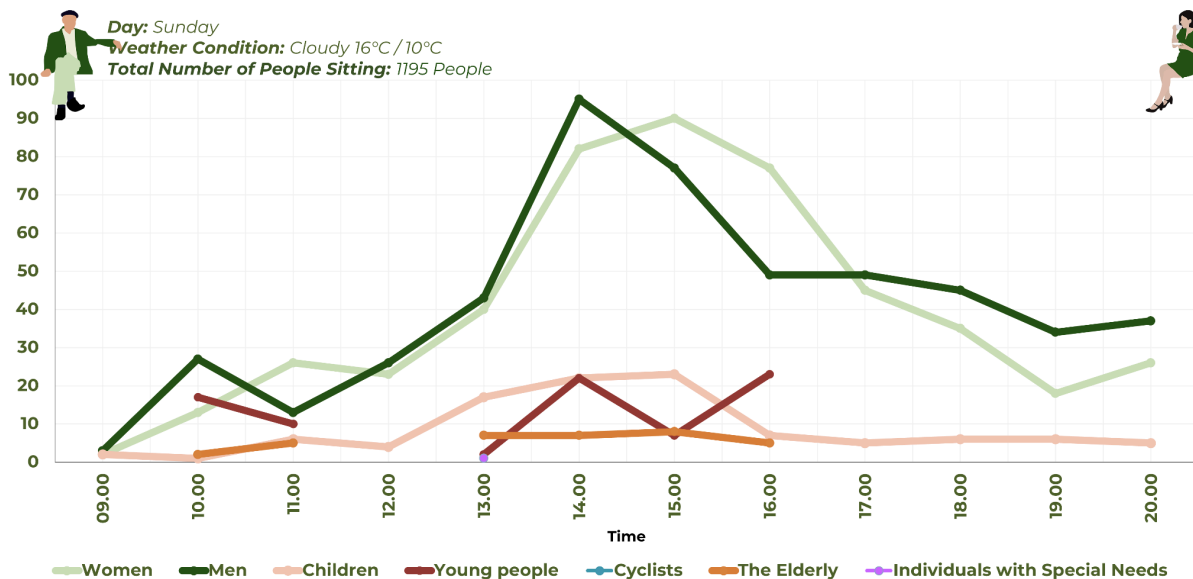


Chart 59: Distribution of People Sitting on Sunday

On Sunday, a total of **1,195** seated individuals were observed. The hourly distribution shows that **male users peaked at 14:00**, while **female users peaked at 15:00**. Children were observed in the area throughout the day, whereas **young and elderly users** were primarily observed **between 10:00–11:00 and 13:00–16:00**. **Users with special needs were observed at low levels during specific time slots.**

A total of **3,366** people were observed on Sunday. Although it was cloudy, the playground, sports facilities, and picnic areas were actively used. Users waiting for their children were observed around the sports facilities. Families barbecuing were observed.

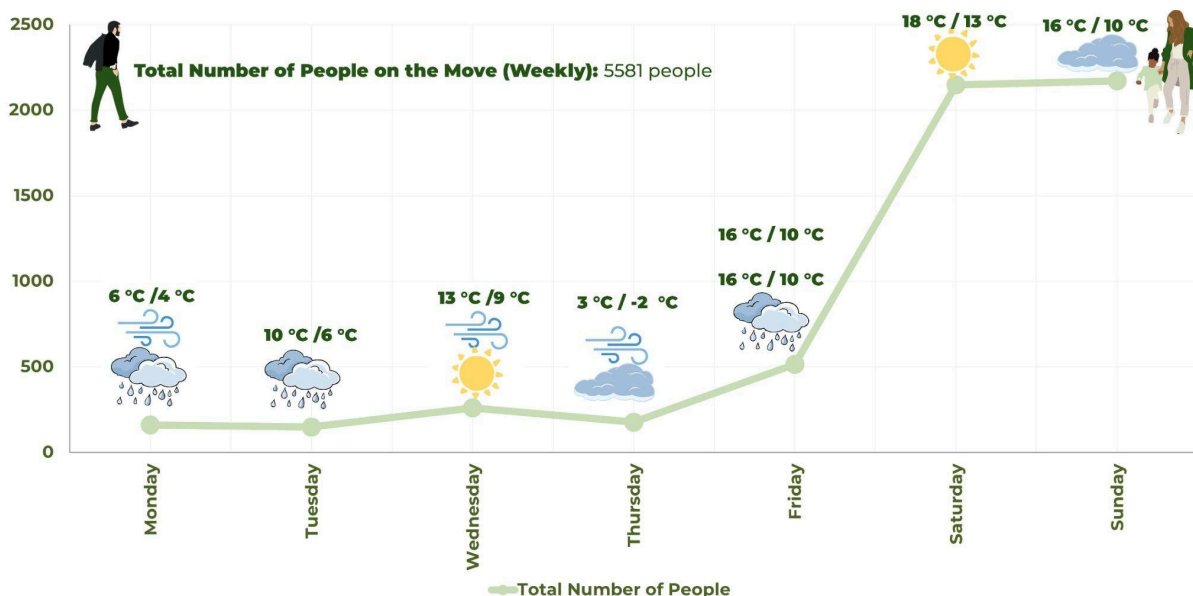
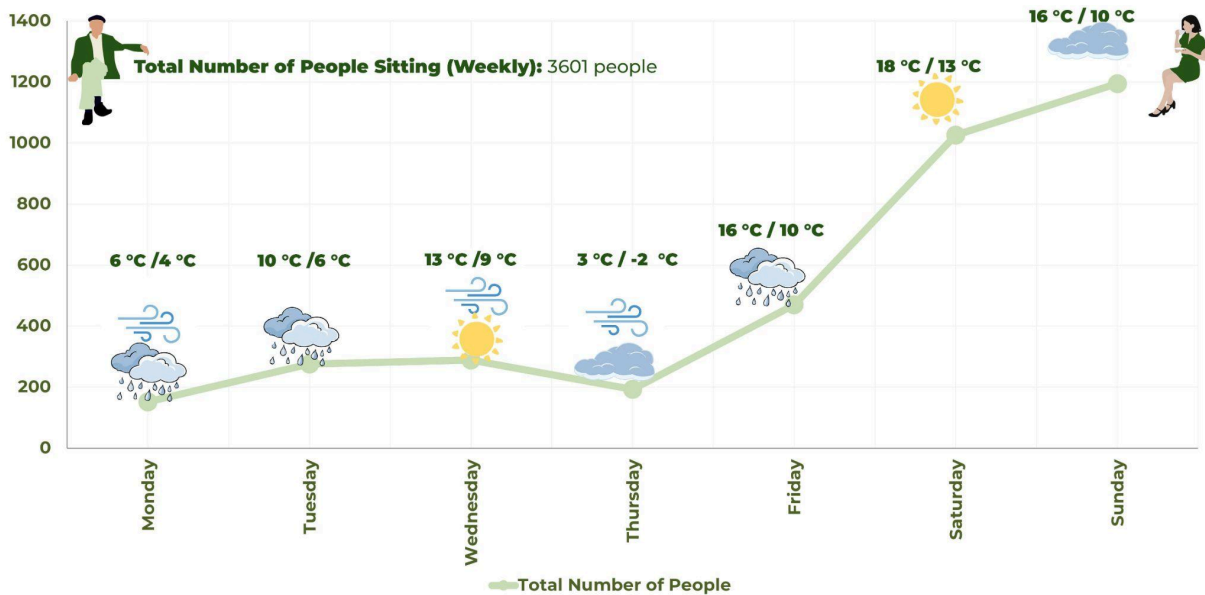


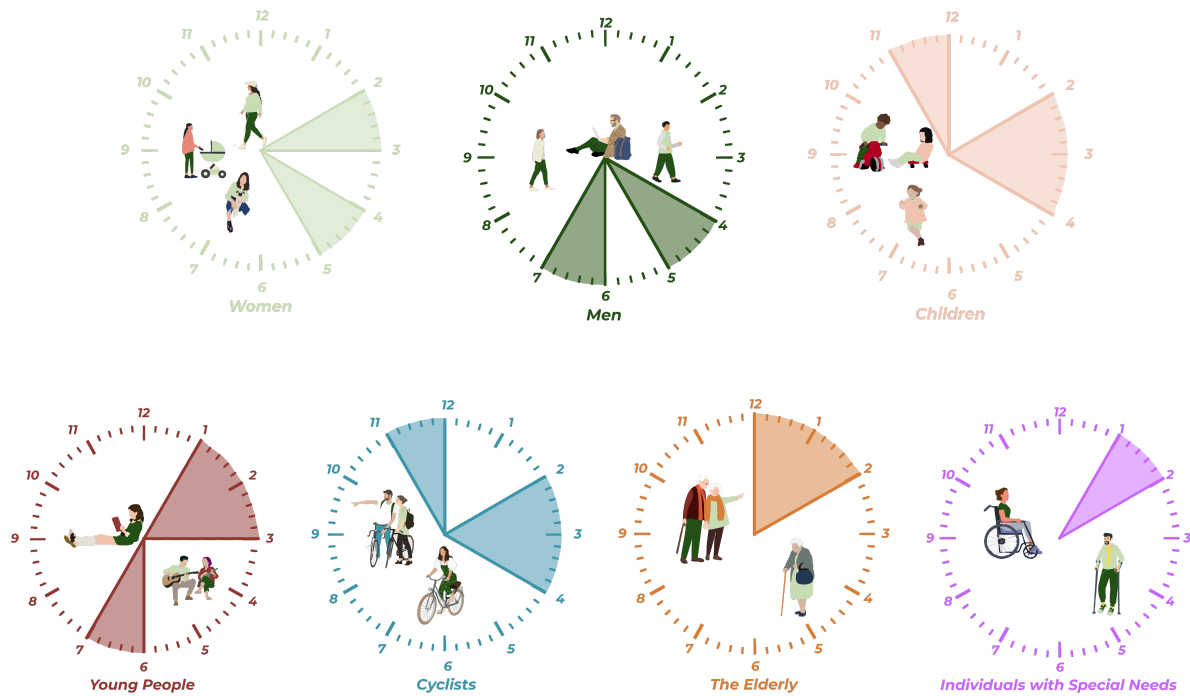
Chart 60: Distribution of Total Number of Moving Users Over 7 Days

Based on observations conducted over seven days, a total of 5581 moving users were recorded. On Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, when air temperatures were relatively low, the number of moving users remained limited. During these days, the area was mainly used by male and female users, while children and young people were observed only at low levels and **during certain hours** (Charts 46, 48 and 52). On Wednesday, a slight increase in user numbers was recorded as weather conditions became partially sunny. On Saturday and Sunday, which had the highest levels of use, the number of moving users increased significantly; from **161 to 2,171** as weather conditions improved and more people visited the area during the weekend.



**Chart 61: 7 Distribution of Total Seated Users Over 7 Days**

Over the 7 days of observations, a total of 3,601 seated users were recorded. On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, when weather conditions were poor, no seated young users were observed (Charts 47, 49 and 53). Over the course of the week, on days when the weather was warmer, the number of seated users ranged from **152 to 1195**.



Over the seven days of observations, **a total of 9182 users were recorded, including 3699 male users, 3178 female users, 1,032 children, 672 young users, 372 elderly individuals and 5 users with special needs.** The most frequently recurring time period was determined by examining the total values obtained from user profiles on an hourly basis as a result of the observation.

Female users were most frequently observed between **14:00 and 15:00**; male users between **16:00–17:00 and 18:00–19:00** ; children between **11:00–12:00 and 14:00–16:00** ; young users between **13:00–15:00 and at 18:00–19:00** ; cyclists between **11:00–12:00 and 14:00–16:00**; the elderly between **12:00–14:00**; and users with special needs between **13:00–14:00**.

When these findings are compared with the cross-tabulation of age and gender for the survey question on “the time period during which you use the area most frequently” (Chart 12), they correspond with the responses of female respondents, while the time preferences of male respondents vary across age groups.

# RECOMMEN- DATIONS FOR PUBLIC SPACE

# 3



The field study at İnciraltı City Forest, conducted to assess public life quality and identify user needs, was completed through a survey of 158 respondents, face-to-face interviews with 26 individuals, and observation of 9,182 users. According to the survey results, the area is most frequently visited by users aged 55–64 and 35–44. The region, heavily used by retirees, is generally utilized for sports-walking and recreational purposes. Users aged 55–64 predominantly visit for sports-walking, while those aged 35–44 prefer the area for recreational activities. Users aged 35–44 most frequently reported a lack of shaded areas, lack of activity spaces, and insufficient street furniture, whereas users aged 55–64 noted the lack of shaded areas, seating elements, picnic tables, and public restrooms. To better understand usage patterns, respondents’ preferred visiting hours by age group, purposes of use, perceived deficiencies, key issues, and requested improvements were analyzed. Table 1 presents a summary of these data organized by age group.

		Age Distribution					
		15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 years of age and older
Trends in Land Use	<b>Most Common Time Zone</b>	Afternoon (15.00-18.00)	Afternoon/Evening (15.00- 22.00 )	Midday (11:00-15:00)	Afternoon (15.00-18.00)	Midday (11:00-15:00)	Morning (09:00-11:00)
	<b>Most Common Use</b>	*Concert – Event / *Exercise- Walking	*Exercise-Walking / *Recreational	Recreational Use	*Exercise-Walking / *Recreational	Exercise - Walking	*Exercise-Walking / *Recreational
	<b>Most Frequently Mentioned Deficiencies</b>	*Public restrooms, *Cafes, and snack bars	*Public Restrooms – *Food and beverage outlets such as cafes and snack bars	*Public Restrooms, *Seating Elements and Picnic Tables	*Public Restrooms, *Seating Elements and Picnic Tables	*Public Restrooms, *Seating Elements and Picnic Tables	Public Restrooms
	<b>Most Frequently Mentioned Key Issues</b>	Lack of Street Furniture	Lack of Street Furniture	*Lack of Street Furniture, *Lack of Shaded Areas	Heavy Use by Refugees	*Lack of Street Furniture, *Lack of Shaded Areas	Lack of Street Furniture
	<b>Most Frequently Mentioned Suggestions</b>	*Street Furniture (benches, restrooms, waste bins, etc.) *Additional Lighting and Safety Measures	*Street Furniture (benches, restrooms, waste bins, etc.) *Additional Lighting and Safety *Measures, Creating Event Spaces	*Street Furniture (Benches, Restrooms, Waste Bins, etc.) , *Creating Event Spaces	*Street Furniture (benches, restrooms, waste bins, etc.) , *Public Restrooms, *Additional Lighting and Safety Measures, *Creating Event Spaces, Food-Beverage Outlets	*Street Furniture (benches, restrooms, waste bins, etc.) , *Public Restrooms, *Additional Lighting and Safety Measures, *Cleaning and Maintenance Work	*Additional Lighting and Safety Measures, *Food-Beverage Outlets such as Cafes-Snack Barks, *Better Cleaning and Maintenance

**Table 1: Trends in Use of the Area by Age Group**

The recommended planning and design strategies and urban design elements are as follows:



**Strategy 1- An Inclusive City Forest**

The results of the field study indicate that İnciraltı City Forest is used by diverse age groups, genders, and individuals with varying physical and social needs. Inclusive design guidelines should be developed to accommodate the needs of these different groups. Adaptations should include appropriate pavement for ease of movement for individuals with special needs and the elderly, accessible public restrooms, and seating elements that can be used by a variety of users. Additionally, street animals, which are natural co-inhabitants of urban spaces, are present in the area without any control. Therefore, the inclusion of cat and dog shelters, as well as water and feeding stations for animals, is recommended.



### **Strategy 2- A Safer City Forest**

The field study revealed that 50% of the users perceive İnciraltı City Forest as unsafe. Therefore, improvements should be made to the lighting infrastructure across the area, and monitoring mechanisms such as security cameras and security personnel should be strengthened. Boundary elements should be installed to prevent motorcycles from entering pedestrian walkways, and pedestrian and bicycle lanes should be separated. In addition, informational boards addressing coexistence in public spaces and appropriate behavior in shared environments should be installed throughout the area. Measures should also be taken regarding the uncontrolled stray animal population, including the provision of care facilities and the establishment of a dog park.



### **Strategy 3: An Accessible City Forest**

The field study showed that 57% of users arrive at the area by private car, indicating a high level of dependence on private cars. Users also stated that one of the main accessibility problems is the insufficient capacity of public transportation. Accordingly, improvements such as increasing the frequency of public transport services, separating pedestrian walkways and bicycle lanes, and encouraging shared mobility options should be implemented.



### **Strategy 4- A More Vibrant City Forest**

The field studies indicate that **despite its spatial potential, the area currently exhibits limited social vitality.** Multifunctional spatial arrangements should therefore be developed to meet the needs of different user groups at different times of the day. Since **exercise-walking are among the main purposes of visiting the area for all age groups,** spaces should be created to support various forms of physical activity such as **yoga and pilates,** taking into account the needs of different age groups, particularly **the elderly.**

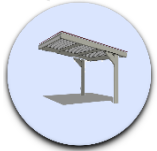
In the survey, respondents, particularly those in the 25–34, 35–44, and 45–54 age groups, expressed a demand for an increase in event spaces. Both the survey and face-to-face interviews also highlighted the need for sheltered playgrounds suitable for different age groups and children’s activity areas such as nature experience points, children’s villages, and adventure parks. Socio-cultural activities such as festivals, exhibitions, concerts, and film screenings aimed at different age groups should also be increased.

The İnciraltı Open-Air Theatre located in the area has the potential for more active and continuous use. Cultural and social events organized in the area would not only increase the diversity of users in the İnciraltı City Forest, but would also support more balanced use of the space throughout the day.

Among the proposals aimed at making the area more attractive are food and beverage outlets such as cafés and kiosks. Users generally suggested that these should be affordable

venues operated by the municipality, similar to the Center for People with Disabilities. The establishment of kiosks at certain intervals to meet daily needs, such as the sale of newspapers, coffee, and food, could also serve as spaces where women and other local producers can sell their products.

The field study further revealed that picnicking is one of the most frequently preferred activities in İnciraltı City Forest. Despite this, users highlighted the lack of picnic tables as an important spatial need. For users who tend to spend longer periods in the area, it is recommended that the number of shaded picnic tables and drinking fountains be increased.



### **Strategy 5- A Climate-Resilient Urban Forest**

According to the field study, 77% of users stated that they do not use the area during extreme weather conditions. Therefore, design elements that enhance urban comfort in public spaces, such as canopy structures, should be increased, particularly in areas experiencing extreme heat. The lack of sheltered spaces during extreme weather events was also noted by users, indicating the need for additional arrangements. The area should therefore include shaded walking walkways and cycling lanes, shaded bus stops, and shaded seating elements, along with vegetated street furniture. Water elements such as drinking fountains, water curtains, and misting systems should also be incorporated. In landscape design, climate-resilient plant species should be preferred.



### **Strategy 6- A City Forest with a Strong Infrastructure**

The field study also identified the formation of puddles in certain locations after heavy rainfall. Drainage systems should therefore be improved in areas where puddles occur, particularly around sports areas and food-and-beverage zones. The use of permeable paving surfaces should be encouraged, and rainwater management should be considered in future spatial arrangements. In addition, pits and surface irregularities that create obstacles in pavement surfaces should be repaired.

Finally, the matrix containing the proposed urban design recommendations developed in accordance with the identified strategies is presented below.

		Strategies					
		Strategy 1- An Inclusive City Forest	Strategy 2- A Safer City Forest	Strategy 3- An Accessible City Forest	Strategy 4- A More Vibrant City Forest	Strategy 5- A Climate-Resilient Urban Forest	Strategy 6- A City Forest with a Strong Infrastructure
Elements of Urban Design	Public Restrooms	x	x	x	x		
	Lighting Elements	x	x	x	x		
	Wi-Fi / Charging Stations	x			x		
	Shaded Seating Elements	x			x	x	
	Eco-friendly Seating Elements	x			x	x	
	Drinking Water Fountain	x					
	Bicycle Park		x	x	x		
	Bicycle Lane		x	x	x		
	Pedestrian Walkway		x	x	x		
	Activity – Performance Venue	x	x		x		
	Sports Fields	x			x		
	Picnic Tables	x	x		x		
	Cat and Dog Shelter	x	x				
	Animal Water-Food Station	x	x				
	Kiosks	x	x		x		
	Security Camera		x				
	Information Boards	x	x	x			
	Boundary Elements		x				
	Shaded Bus Stops	x				x	
	Skate Park				x		
	Hobby Garden	x			x		
	Playground	x			x		
	Permeable Surface					x	x
	Surface Painting				x		
	Soft Ground		x				
	Pergola / Canopy					x	
	Rain Swale					x	x

Table 2: Urban Design Elements Proposed for İnciraltı City Forest

Prepared in line with the six core strategies developed for İnciraltı Urban Forest, this matrix in Table 2, provides a holistic evaluation of 27 urban design elements that can be implemented in the area. Under the “*Inclusive City Forest*” strategy, design elements addressing diverse age groups and user needs; such as children’s playgrounds, informational panels, shaded seating areas, and animal water and feeding stations, are proposed. The “*Safer City Forest*” strategy introduces physical interventions, including lighting systems, security cameras, boundary elements, and dedicated bicycle lanes, to enhance users’ sense of safety. The *Accessibility* strategy places particular emphasis on lighting solutions to improve pedestrian safety and wayfinding. Whereas, the “*More Vibrant Urban Forest*” strategy seeks to strengthen social and cultural vitality through the provision of activity areas, picnic tables, and child-oriented spaces. The *climate-sensitive City Forest* approach prioritizes the integration of canopy systems to mitigate extreme heat and rainfall. Finally, the “*City Forest with Strong Infrastructure*” strategy recommends the implementation of permeable surfaces and rainwater drainage systems. Overall, the matrix developed for İnciraltı aims to enhance the quality of public life through a holistic and strategic design framework.

