

Abstract

“Bringing Colour to History”: Revitalization of Historical Parks in Seoul

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Since the Seoul Metropolitan Government has been promoting projects such as ‘Parks with Themes’, ‘Historical Seoul Park Trails’ and ‘100 Cultural Heritages in Seoul’, the prudent utilization of historical resources has become increasingly more important. Although many historical resources are available that relate to the history and historical research of this area of study, very little material is available that relate to the utilization of historical resources. Therefore, this study organized information on theme parks and neighbourhood parks that have historical features in Seoul, and devised plans to utilize the historical characteristics of these historical parks.

First, the historical and cultural characteristics of theme parks and neighbourhood parks in Seoul that have historical features were categorized. The basic information included the location, area and overview; historical and cultural origin; and the original purpose of the parks. A source book with keywords was then created to identify such characteristics of each park. Also, parks with historical features were selected from neighbouring parks, and were included in the theme park source book.

Second, the eight historical parks were classified in this study, among the park types of Seoul, into seven areas, and historical materials were organized so that storytelling could be possible. Then, park trails and themes were established in connection with neighbouring resources

in order to characterize the historical parks. In addition, this study suggested improvement plans to address the current issues of the lack of historical realization. The improvement plans were proposed according to the park trail area, and mostly related to spatial improvement that would enable the parks to display historical features, planning of the facilities with the publicnature area and the placement of history commentators.

- ① Gyeonghui Palace Historical Park area: A park trail where the history of the reign in the late Joseon Dynasty is displayed consecutively.
- ② Dongmyo/Seonnongdan Historical Park area: A park trail where visitors can experience multicultural historical scenery and a vibrant market.
- ③ Singye Historical Park area: Pilgrims' route of Catholic martyrs.
- ④ Itaewon Bugundang Historical Park area: A park trail where an attractive multicultural business district is formed; visitors can see and experience the history of Itaewon.
- ⑤ Yanghwajin Historical Park area: A park trail where visitors can experience the sacred places of various religions and the history of Yanghwajin.
- ⑥ Sayuksin Historical Park area: A park trail where visitors can experience the beliefs of loyalty and filial piety of the movement to restore King Danjong during the Joseon Dynasty.
- ⑦ Bongeun Historical Park area: A park trail where visitors can experience the Buddhist culture in the Joseon Dynasty.

Based on this study, Seoul city council will be able to develop ‘Seoul Park Trails where History Lives’. Also, the content of this study can be used to create a storytelling based commentary program and can be applied to a range of history-themed storytelling.

Contents

01 Introduction

- 1_Background and Purpose of the Study
- 2_Main Contents and Research Methods

02 Changes related research and historical characteristics of Seoul Park

- 1_Changes to Seoul Park
- 2_History Gender-related Research

03 Status of the Seoul theme park and historical characteristics

- 1_Seoul Park System and Status
- 2_Seoul Theme Park Status
- 3_Designation and Processes of the Theme Park

04 Historical characteristics of the realized plan for the historical Park

- 1_Status of the Historical Park
- 2_Segmentation of the Historical Park and Surrounding Resource Distribution
- 3_Historical Park Area According to Park Road Concrete

05 Conclusion and Suggestions

- 1_Conclusion and Discussion
- 2_Policy Suggestions

References

Appendices