

**The urban park system heritage having been left by the expanding city:
the case of Shenyang City, China**

Hui LI¹

¹Hui LI (The University of Tokyo), yamabiko_g@hotmail.com

Keywords: park system, urban expanding, open space

With the rapid large-scale-construction in China, the value of open space concentrates more and more interests as environment pollution problems get worse and life quality is emphasized widely. This study clarifies the history of the park system, and explores the relationship between park system and urban sprawling in Shenyang City, the largest city in Northeast China. Furthermore, according to an analysis of the park system's spatial structure, it indicates the plan's problems which have been left since the expansion of the city in this study.

The birth of Shenyang's park system involves three periods. First, at the end of Qing Dynasty before the year of 1905, a location-based park, Wanquan Park, was provided to public by merchants. Wanquan Park was in the northeast edge of Shenyang City which had ramparts until 1950's. This area had become a holiday resort long ago since a spring came out hatching beautiful waterside landscape. It is the starting point of Shenyang's park system with the concept of harmonizing green and water. The second period is from 1905 to 1945, the term Japanese power irrupted into Shenyang and occupied the city in 1931. Based on the western urban planning theory, Japanese mapped out a plan for the future mega-city which included a park system plan. This park system plan was updated several times and some separate parks were built through the period. However, the whole plan was not finished at last. The third period begins with the end of the World War , the Chinese power controlled the city of Shenyang again. In 1956, as a portion of rainwater-drainage system, the park system, utilizing the spring's watercourse from Wanquan and connecting six parks, was built under the urban comprehensive plan.

With the fast urban expansion, open spaces are likely solitary islands in a flood. This study clarifies that all of the parks (and park system) were located on the edge of Shenyang City or in the suburbs at the time when they were built. While the city gets bigger and bigger, parks remain and become urban parks in the downtown.

These open spaces are the valuable heritages. However, since the park system was designed on the city edge, it represents a barrier for today's city traffic and had a low utilization rate. Though there are some bridges connecting north and south, the road from east to west is only on the north side along the park system facing the old town. On the south side, there is a residence area next to the park system which blocks access from the south.