

Evaluating the status of entertainment activities in Al-Hashemiya Corniche Park / Babylon province

Karrar Haider Hussein Al-Morshedy

Imad Ali Obaid

Mahmood Haider Selim

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to evaluate the status of entertainment activities in Al-Hashemiya Corniche Park. The study included two axes, the first axis, the theoretical study related to entertainment activities and their global standards, and the second axis is the field study, which included:

- 1- Evaluating the status of entertainment activities in the park.
- 2- Knowing the opinions and desires of visitors regarding entertainment events by conducting a questionnaire.

Through the field study, the problems faced by entertainment activities were identified as follows:

- A- The random spatial distribution of the entertainment activities, in addition to the fact that they are few and inconsistent with each other.
- B- The area of the park is insufficient, which causes it to not accommodate the number of visitors during holidays and events during which the park is witnessing great momentum.
- C- The lack of places designated for young people to practice their hobbies and desires, far from families in the park, due to the customs and traditions of the region.

INTRODUCTION

Recreation in all its types is considered one of the main functions of green spaces and the most important factor in attracting visitors to parks and public parks, so developed countries have set specific standards for these events according to the needs of people and for all age groups so that all of them can enjoy them while they are in the parks. The presence of safe entertainment facilities with sufficient spaces, in addition to the support services for them, including restaurants, kiosks, health facilities, and others, are essential factors for the success of the park in attracting visitors and repeating their visits (Sharpaziri, 2009). Corniche Park in Al-Hashemiya district belonging to Babylon province is considered one of the most important residential neighborhoods in the district due to its attractive location, as it is located on Al-Hillah River, which is visited by visitors to the holy shrines adjacent to the district.

The problem of study:

Corniche Park in Al-Hashemiya district suffers from random design and failure to take into account the basic standards design, where Al-Hashemiya district lacks the existence of parks that attract visitors due to the lack of amenities and enjoyment represented by the diversity of recreational activities, services, and the climatic environment, where the entertainment activities are not designed in accordance with international standards design. It also does not meet the needs of visitors for all ages, in addition to the deterioration of the components of the current recreational, plant, and construction activities, and the lack of supportive and complimentary services for recreational activities such as restaurants, eating places, kiosks, baths ..etc.

The aim of the study :

In order to achieve the general objectives for the research, two main aspects were adopted in the formation of the research material. The first aspect included the theoretical study, which included reviewing the literature review related to the subject of the study.

The second aspect is the field study, which included the following objectives:

- 1- Evaluating the current entertainment activities in terms of space distribution, the spaces allocated to them, and the distribution of the building and construction elements that make up them, in addition to the supporting services such as restaurants, kiosks, health facilities, and others.
- 2- Knowing the wishes and requirements of the park users regarding entertainment activities by conducting a questionnaire.
- 3- Developing solutions and proposals for the current problems.

The literature review

Recreational events are considered one of the important elements for attracting visitors to the park, so attention must be paid to the diversity of these events to include all ages and according to the visitors' desire, and to allocate sufficient spaces for them and distributing them so that they do not conflict with each other and provide walkways that facilitate movement between them, where entertainment services are no longer complementary needs as they were seen where it has become part of the requirements of the population, especially the urban city dwellers. Entertainment means a group of activities that individuals carry out during their spare time, and achieving satisfaction, pleasure, and joy as well as the economic and social effects resulting from it or it is entertainment, renewal of activity, re-mood, changing daily routines, and restoring the vitality of mind and thought (Al-Kinani, 1990; Al-Latif, 2009; Sharbaziri, 2009; Al-Azzawi, 2007).

Recreational area: It is a piece or area of land or water that is designated for public or private recreational uses, and it may include buildings and support services.
<https://www.momra.gov.sa>.

Recreation services are the services directed to the community of the city and its regions that target fun, entertainment, physical and mental comfort, and the acquisition of new knowledge aimed at people and their growth of various ages during leisure and rest times. These services are represented by public gardens, parks, game cities, youth welfare centers, swimming pools, theaters, cinemas, museums, religious places, all sports activities, cafes services and the Internet. (Al-Jumaili, 2007).

The importance of entertainment:

Health and physical importance

Entertainment works to meet the physical needs of the individual through:

- 1- Regular participation in recreational activities such as walking for long distances, rowing and jogging.
- 2- Reduces depression

Where recreational activity is a good way for people to change their psychological state and their sense of comfort and self-confidence.

- 3- It provides both mental and physical relaxation from work and other necessary household chores, Comfort, relaxation and vitality through participation in recreational events is essential to relieve stress.
- 4- Effective exercise of agility and fitness can increase longevity and reduce many causes of death (Paffenbarger et al, 1991).
- 5- Promoting physical activity by practicing recreational programs and activities for at least 30 to 60 minutes (preferably daily) can lead to significant mental health benefits.
www.parks.ca.gov/planning.

Social importance

People need places and opportunities to socialize, such as meeting each other and spending time together. Many people do not have opportunities near their homes or neighborhoods to socialize with each other. One

of the goals of entertainment is to face this deficiency (Cay, 2015).

Educational importance

Entertainment programs offer many opportunities to encourage pre-school education where programs that run in play areas can prepare children to work together to develop skills that need reading, numeracy, etc., and to improve confidence that will increase learning ability (Guggenheimer, 1970).

Economic importance

Recreational and tourism facilities evaluate the surrounding properties, and a well-designed leisure program makes the city more lively and attractive. Attracting commercial projects is an important goal to revitalize the economy in the city (2015, Cay).

Environmental importance

Improving the location climate, biodiversity, and contact with nature. (1993Kaunda,).

The division of entertainment activities

The park includes recreational facilities such as picnic and relaxation areas and sporting events such as children's play areas, a fitness area equipped with the necessary devices, seating areas, a jogging track, a cycling track, a basketball court, and a tennis court in addition to service facilities such as toilets, parking for bicycles and parking spaces and a network of paved roads to facilitate the movement of visitors and the administration building (Abdul Karim, 2012). Most sources divided entertainment activities into two types:

1- Active recreation facilities

They are the events organized in the open air or inside the halls, such as sports fields, children's play areas, swimming pools, golf courses, meeting spaces, and games halls. Wicker, (2017) defined them as public health activities that include traditional games. Dantter, (1969) referred to two types of active event venues

within amusement parks, the first being the Children's play area, and the second is the sports courts for youth and adults.

Active entertainment includes:

Children play areas, fitness zone, and sports courts, including:

Football, basketball, volleyball, handball, tennis, table tennis, hockey, badminton, water polo, weapons games, judo, boxing, gymnastics, golf, snow game, athletics, and field.

Children Play Area

Psychologists define play as behavior and activity for children, and sociologists define it as a general phenomenon for different age groups, so play for adults means Entertainment happiness and for children, it means creativity and innovation, Where the child discovers himself while playing and It is considered a measure of its mental and physical ability. where the child needs to play in a clean environment away from pollution and noise and at the same time provide comfort and relaxation to the child. Children are the neediest of ages to go out and play freely in public parks, especially in the case of densely populated residential areas and traffic. In crowded cities, some or part of public parks is reserved for children who go alone or with their supervisors (Badr et al., 2003).

The importance of children's gardens

Children's gardens work to develop the social, sensory, and motor abilities of children. Playing helps children develop their imagination, ingenuity, health, awareness, and strengthening their emotions. Play develops children's thinking and increases their interaction with the world around them. It is also the best way to overcome obesity (Collyer, 2013).

Collyer, (2013) mentioned that games for children to play must meet the following requirements:

- 1- It develops social, sensory, mathematical and cognitive abilities.
- 2- The development of children's desire to mix with each other.
- 3- develop the child's sense of beauty.

Standards design for children's play areas and game spaces

The sources differed among themselves in some aspects of the standards design for children's gardens, especially in the area of allocating spaces for age groups, spaces for each child, and the nature of the games in which they are located. Children's play areas include two sections of age group classifications, The pre-school stage is for children 2-5 years old and for school age children between 5-12 years old, and each age group has a space that must clearly differ from the other:

- 1- Play areas for pre-school children, where children are from (2-5) years old, where the proposed area is not less than 225 square meters.
- 2- Play areas for school-age children, where children from (5-12) years old, where the proposed area is not less than 450 square meters.
- 3- Compound play areas that serve children from (2-5) years and (5-12) years, where their area must be no less than 630 square meters, with space or a barrier to separate the two age stages (Wicker, 2017).

Sharpaziri, (2009) mentioned that these places are used by children between the ages of 2-11 years, and the play areas are surrounded by sitting benches or terraces where parents sit while watching their children play time, and the children's play areas are considered one of the important parts in the parks. These areas have different types of play facilities for different ages of children. Statistics indicated that a child needs 8 square meters of children's gardens and that the garden is used by a third of the neighborhood's children at one time, and the number of children under the age of 5 years from each neighborhood is 0.1 percent of the

neighborhood's population (Badr et al., 2003). Al-Taie (2012) mentioned that the proposed area for children's playgrounds in residential neighborhood parks and gardens, parks and public parks is 6091 square meters for every 1000 children.

Fitness Facilities

This event includes open spaces and closed halls, which include a group of stations of up to 60 stations, including sports equipment so that it covers all the muscles of the body and that the area of the fitness suites depends on the intensity of participation and the number of residents in the city (Thorneas, 2008). The fitness areas are considered external recreational facilities designed with physical exercise equipment, and used to promote public health by encouraging active participation with high-quality outdoor equipment.

Passive recreation facilities

it is defined by (Sharpaziri, 2009) as the activities that do not require equipment, such as stadiums and internal sports arenas or entertainment without stadiums, where the quiet entertainment activities are well compatible with natural resources and the protection of wildlife. The quiet entertainment activities include the following activities:

Open play area, Walking, Sitting, Picnic, Swimming, Biking, Running, Jogging, Equestrian facility, Climbing, Fishing, Bird watching and BIRD Watching, Watercraft (Boating, Camping, Hiking, Skiing (Jefferson, 2006; Ransom, 2008; Sharpaziri, 2009; Wicker, 2017).

Open play area:

It is an open green space without any hindrance from the plant and constructional elements whenever possible. Among the activities practiced in these squares are throwing the ball, flying saucers, table, kites and other games that are not joined. Among the conditions that must be taken into account when designing open play areas:

- 1- Quiet open play areas are defined near picnic areas and children's play areas.
- 2- Providing shade trees in the vicinity of open play areas.
- 3- Providing boards to describe the permitted uses inside the open play areas.
- 4- Providing seating on both sides of the shaded area, providing sanitation facilities and drinking fountains (Wicker, 2017).

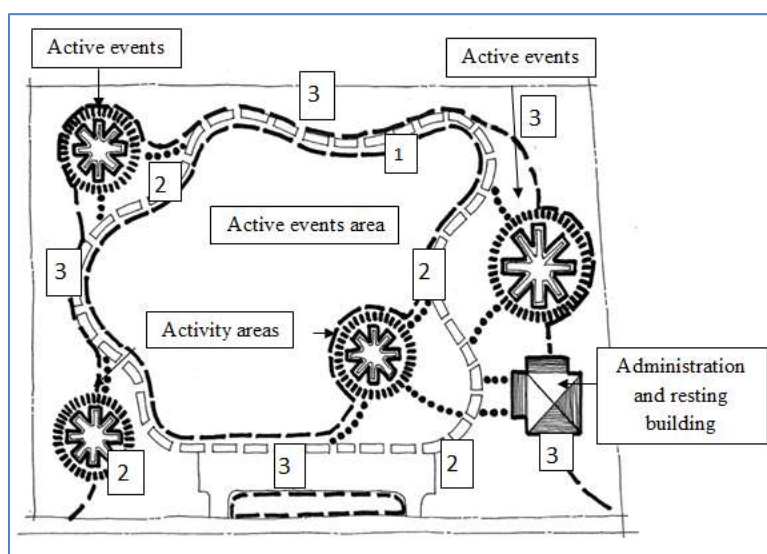
Picnic:

The picnic is known as a quiet event that takes place in private external places within coordinated or natural places in parks during weekdays after work is completed or on holidays and special occasions, and the picnic places must have drinking water and seating seats or terraces with a barbecue and waste containers (Sharpaziri, 2009). Marcus and Francis, (1997) indicated to the factors that must be taken into consideration when choosing picnic areas. It should be taken into account that quiet places in parks and far from active events areas such as arenas and sports fields are also protected from air currents and winds with the availability of shade during the summer and sun during the winter. The factors that must be met in the group picnic areas:

- 1- Small group picnic areas should accommodate (25-50) people.
- 2- Large group picnic areas should accommodate (50-100) people.
- 3- Providing shade for all group picnic areas.
- 4- Providing sanitary facilities for every 45 square meters of the group picnic areas.
- 5- Providing a sufficient number of picnic tables.
- 6- Providing a security fence around the collective picnic areas.
- 7- Providing easy access to all group and individual picnic areas (Wicker, 2017).

Space distribution of entertainment events

The spatial distribution of events is considered one of the important elements in the design of the park, so it must be taken into consideration and given importance to each space and the relationship between the events and the future expansion of the park, where both the internal and external spaces are organized for various functions and must be designed in a way that serves the park's visitors, and The park contains spaces for multiple ages, so there must be harmony when determining the neighboring activities. The space organization of the events encourages social ties and interaction of visitors with each other, and this allows the various events to be in one place so that they can be monitored and controlled over the location. The open play areas must provide an open green space without hindrance from the plant and construction elements, and The space distribution of the events should also encourage communication and interaction between visitors through the presence of gathering areas when moving from one event to another. When designing places for active entertainment events, especially children's play areas, the areas surrounding them must be taken into account. The size and shape of the location can greatly affect the types of recreational events used where it can help to choose the type of event, for example when the location is large and regular, the location may be suitable for several sports areas such as football or baseball, while if the location is small and an irregular shape that is preferred for small sports fields such as tennis and basketball courts, in addition to the areas that must be available for active recreational and other event areas in addition to car parks, spectator areas, storage and maintenance room. An additional area may be required as a buffer zone between events (Wicker, 2017).



1 - Active sports area 2- The quiet entertainment area 3- Cultivated areas

Figure 1: The space distribution for entertainment activities (Wicker, 2017).

Factors affecting participation in entertainment events

Many private and interrelated factors often affect participation in recreational activities, some factors including personality, user needs, socio-economic status, physical and social ability, cultural identity, personal goals and other personal facts that can affect recreational participation, Where there is a strong relationship between entertainment and some factors such as age, gender, and socio-economic factors (Çay, 2015).

Field study

To achieve the research requirements, we collected data on the location through several field visits to the area and conducted several personal interviews and meetings with specialists for the purpose of identifying the planning and design problems and the pros and cons of the recreational activities in the park. In addition, a simple basic map of the location was obtained previously, and the park is now, by Department of Municipality in Al-Hashemiya, relieving on information collected through three sources, namely observation, personal interviews and a questionnaire. Al-Hashemiya district is one of the districts of Babylon province, which is located in the south of the

province, 30 km away from the province center, and its area amounted to 6 km², with a population of 38,542 individuals (Department of Statistics in Al-Hashemiya). The district is located between the Imam Al-Hamza sub-district and Al-Qasim district, which makes the road adjacent to the park efficient and this makes the park a stop for visitors to the pure imams, as well as for hiking, eating and enjoying the simple recreational activities of the park.

Entertainment activities in the park divided into:

Active entertainment activities, including:

Children's play area

The children's play area is located at the main entrance, and this is contrary to international design standards, according to the space distribution of recreational events in parks and recreational facilities. It is characterized by its large area of 1809 m² and occupies the largest part of the area for the current park, where this area is twice the area allocated to the children's play area within the international standards for parks, but it contains only two games despite the large area available and unused to provide some other games, and the health facilities are far from the children's play area Approximately

50 m, in addition to the availability of drinking water points and the lack of seats designated for parental supervision of children, as well as the absence of a fence to control children from going to the river or going out to the street.

Fitness and physical games area

The fitness and physical games area is located at the end of the park and adjacent to the future expansion area and contains 20 devices designated for this event. The lack of supportive services, including bathrooms, mafias, washbasins, seating seats, landscaping, and a suitable floor is considered one of the main problems that led to its neglect by hikers, in addition to the irrigation pump close to it, which is considered a source of loud noise. As for Its floor, it is covered in weeds, in addition to its inappropriate location within the open play area.

Quiet entertainment activities, including:



Figure 2: An aerial photo showing the location of the study within the district (source: GIS program).

Picnic areas

The picnic areas in the parks provide a seating station for families, some youth, and school trips. The many corridors in Al-Hashemiya Corniche Park divide the picnic areas in the Park into small pieces, which makes families resort to the children's play area and the open play area to provide more space and the picnic areas suffer from neglect of waste containers, the absence of dining tables and restaurants, stalls and a lack of seating.

OPEN PLAY AREA

What distinguishes the open play areas in the parks is that they are not intercepted by any objects (tree, terrace, etc.). The open play area is located within the fitness and fitness area. In Corniche Park, there are some trees in the middle of the area, in addition to a dirt mound on which some desert plants have been planted.

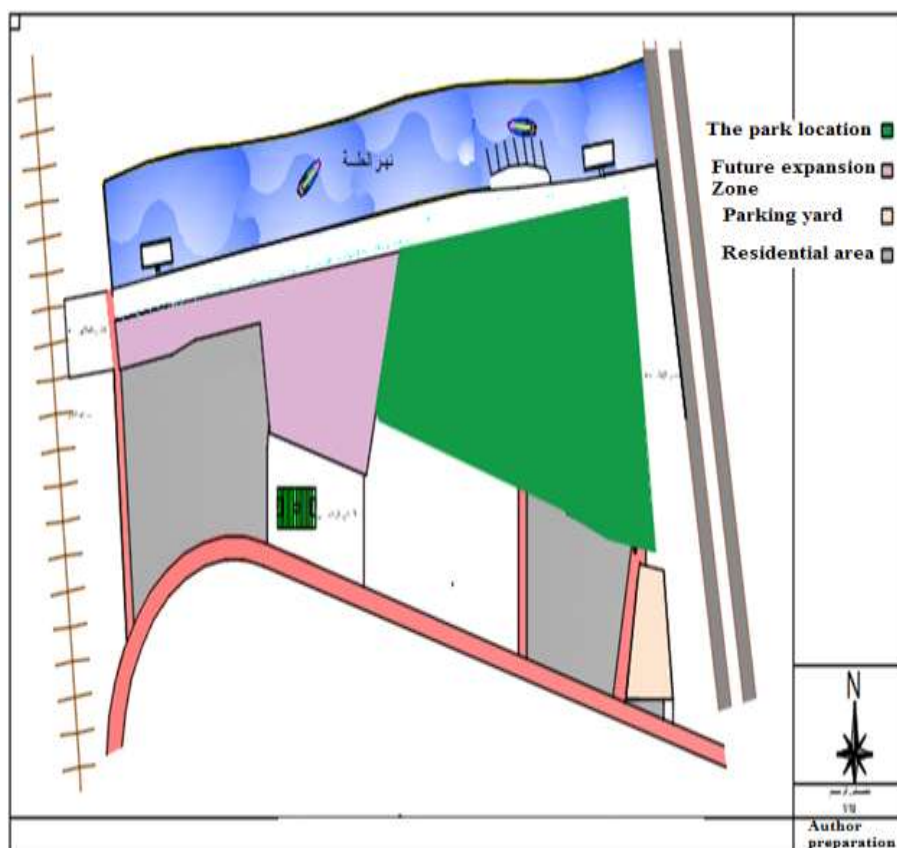


Figure 3: A two-dimensional plan illustrating the park's location and future expansion area.

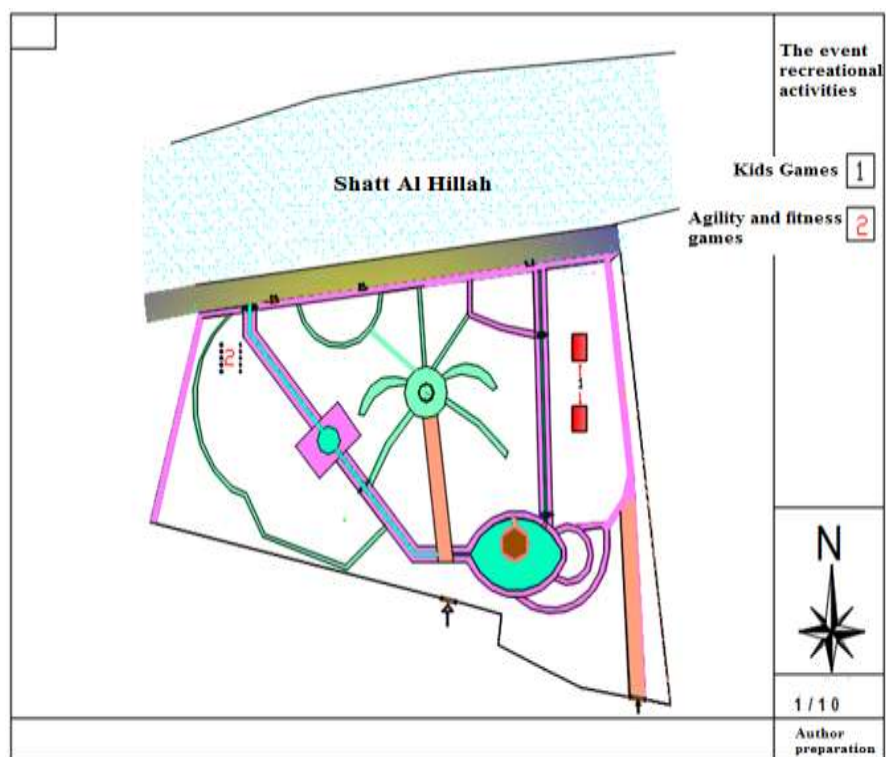


Figure 2: A two-dimensional diagram showing the event recreational activities in the park.

Knowing the wishes and requirements of the park visitors by conducting a questionnaire

The purpose of the questionnaire

The method of the questionnaire has been prepared for several purposes, the most important of which is to know the opinions of the respondents about assessing the reality of the entertainment activities in Al Hashemiya Corniche. in addition to knowing their opinions and desires about the activities to be added when expanding the park, and knowing the advantages and disadvantages.

Designing and preparing the questionnaire

The questionnaire was designed and prepared by reviewing many local, Arab, and foreign

studies that dealt with subjects approaching the topic of research, field visit to the study location (Al-Hashemiya Corniche Park), and personal interviews with officials, specialists, and visitors to the park, as well as by noting the most important obstacles and problems that the park suffers from. The questionnaire form was presented in its initial form to a number of specialists related to the field of study who have experience.

Questions about assessing entertainment reality within the park:

Q- Give your opinion about the park in the following fields:

Table 1: illustrates the respondents' opinion on the activities of the park/reference (the researcher).

Park events	Good	To some extent (medium)	Bad
The Corniche Walk	16	20	64
Kids Games	17	17	66
Sports and fitness games	9	23	68
Seating places	13	34	53
The walkways and paths inside the park in terms of the flow of pedestrian movement inside the park	24	34	42

- 1- The results of the questionnaire indicated regarding the opinion poll of visitors about the Corniche walkway, so the answer was (bad) with percentage of (64%) due to the unpaved dirt road that the Corniche walk suffers from, interrupted by the irrigation water pump and the park store, as well as the presence of an abandoned kiosk in addition to the spread of Shrubs on the edge of the river.
- 2- The children's play area has abandoned the most basic services, where it lacks bathrooms, sitting places, parental control, and drinking water points, in addition to the lack of games that are crowded with children on peak days, and the results of the questionnaire were (bad) with percentage of (66%)

- according to the opinions of the respondents.
- 3- According to international standards, the sports and fitness area in the park lacks the appropriate ground and safe games, in addition to the lack of the simplest services such as bathrooms, disputes, and others. It became clear through the results of the questionnaire that the sports and physical fitness areas were (bad) with percentage of (68%) according to the opinions of the respondents.
- 4- The random distribution of seats in Al-Hashemiya Corniche is considered one of the most important reasons for the disappearance of amenities in the park, in addition to the presence of one type of collective iron terraces, where the answer was (bad) with percentage of

(53%) according to the results of the questionnaire.

- 5- According to the results of the questionnaire, the percentage of (42%) of the respondents had (bad) answers about the distribution of walkways in the park, where the incorrect

distribution of alleys led to the division of the park into small plots and the reason for the absence of large open green spaces.

Q. Do you support expanding the park and adding new entertainment activities?

Table 2: Preference for expanding the park and adding new entertainment activities or not. reference (researcher).

Answer	Number	Percentage
Yes	100	%100
No	0	%0
Total	100	%100

The results were 100% (yes) due to the absence of most of the entertainment activities and the poor ones available.

If the answer is yes, which event do you prefer?

Table 3: shows the entertainment activities preferred by the park visitors. reference (researcher).

Answer	Number	Percentage
Small city games	26	%20
Open green area	21	%18
Area for hiking and travels	24	%22
Marina boats	29	%19
Total	100	%100

According to the results obtained from the questionnaire, the results of the questionnaire were close proportions for all events due to the importance of all entertainment activities and their entertainment role, which attracts visitors to the park, as well as the different desires of visitors.

Q: Do you prefer to establish an entertainment center for the (male) youth away from the family atmosphere in the park?

Table 4: shows the preference for establishing an entertainment center for (male) youth. reference (researcher).

Answer	Number	Percentage
Yes	10	%90
No	90	%10
Total	100	%100

According to the results of the questionnaire, and as indicated in the above table, 90% of the respondents prefer to establish a recreational center for youth away from the family

atmosphere in the park, due to the customs and traditions of the region.

CONCLUSIONS

Through the field study, the problems faced by entertainment activities were identified as follows:

- 1- The random space distribution of entertainment events, where the events lack international standards for adjacent entertainment activities, in addition to being few and inconsistent with each other.
- 2- The area of the park is insufficient, which causes it to not accommodate the number of visitors during holidays and events during which the park is witnessing great momentum.
- 3- The lack of places designated for young people to practice their hobbies and desires away from families in the park, due to the customs and traditions of the area.
- 4- Failure to take advantage of the most important natural and aesthetic element in the park, which is the riverbank represented by the Hilla River passing along the park, due to its aesthetic, environmental, and entertainment importance, as the Corniche walkway does not have the necessary services, amenities, and recreational activities.
- 5- The park lacks important service buildings such as kiosks, restaurants, maintenance, warehouse, health facilities, etc., as for the information building, it is in a poor condition due to its closure since the establishment of the park, and modern methods of internal radio are not available for the benefit of calling children or people missing from their families. In addition to the lack of facilities. Sanitary and hygienic, as the park is limited to one neglected sanitary facility.
- 6- The existence of a random network of walkways that do not cover or connect the parts of the location with each other, nor does it lead to a specific goal, in addition to the lack of safety aspects in some of them due to the presence of deep waterways.

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