

LOCAL ARCHEO PLAN

Archaeological Site:

**Chisinau - Constantin and Elena Church /
Cemetery with the monument complex from the 18th-20th centuries**

Institution:

**General Directorate of Architecture, Urban Planning and Land Relations, City
Hall of Chisinau Municipality**



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1. BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITE

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| Name of the site: | Chisinau - Constantin and Elena Church / Cemetery with the complex of monuments from the 18th-20th centuries |
| Name or number of the site from the national register of archaeological sites and monuments: | Register of protected monuments of state, number 185 |
| City: | Chisinau |
| Region: | Chisinau |
| Country: | Republic of Moldova |
| Full cadastral reference: | 0100415.097 |
| Owner: | Republic of Moldova |
| Administrator: | City Hall of Chisinau Municipality, lease contract for the Church of "Saints Constantine and Elena" |
| The institutions responsible for the protection of monuments: | Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova City Hall of Chisinau Municipality |

2. INTRODUCTION

Reasons for the preparation of the Archeo Plan and its objectives

The main reason for the preparation of the archaeological plan is the need to capitalize on the urban archaeological potential and familiarize the citizens of the municipality with the value presented by the archaeological heritage.

An important aspect of the need to draw up the Local Archaeological Plan is to offer a cultural alternative for foreign tourism, which is mainly familiar with the wine culture in the country and is not initiated in the field of archaeology, which in the capital is kept in restricted academic circles.

With the completion of the local archaeological plan, an algorithm will be created that will facilitate the evaluation of existing and emerging sites as candidates for their transformation into archaeological parks.

Simultaneously with the development of the LAP, the procedure for the development of an architectural project for the arrangement of the park and the museum component was initiated, which will be used to estimate the costs necessary for its construction.

The general vision of the site concerns the creation of the first urban archaeological park in the municipality of Chisinau, both to familiarize the locals with this concept and to create a precedent in terms of archaeological parks.

Taking into account the many locations with archaeological potential in the city, the first archaeological park could set the direction in which the sites can be developed and the ways to value them.

Moreover, a well-arranged archaeological park could offer an alternative for the existing parks in the capital that are overcrowded, highlighting the cultural aspect of the city, something that would increase the number of foreign tourists.

3. LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

3.1. Identification of the local archaeological heritage and its conservation status

Type of archaeological site taken into account

In the area of the future Archaeological Park, a pluristratigraphic archaeological site, known in the specialized literature with the name “Chisinau - Constantine and Elena Church” (Fig. 1), on the surface of which traces of human settlement from the Mesolithic era (10000-6000/5000 BC), traces of habitation from the Bronze Age (New culture (XIV century -XIII BC) and traces from the early medieval period (Lozna-Dodești-Hanska culture, VIII-IX centuries), which were attested by archaeologists N. Golițeva, T. Șcerbakova in 1975, and by I. Borziac in 1986.



Fig. 1. The settlement of “Chisinau - Constantine and Elena Church” (Photo after ANA, 2022)

At the same time, on the surface of the archaeological site *Chisinau - Saints Constantine and Elena Church* is located *the Cemetery with the monument complex from the 18th-20th centuries*, registered in the Register of historical monuments protected by the state in the category of national monuments with no. 185 (Fig. 2)¹. The site represents, for the most part, the hearth of the estate, later of the village of Visterniceni attested from the medieval period (17th-18th centuries), where the stone church dedicated to the *Saints Constantine and Elena* was built. The wall church, on the site of the wooden church dedicated to the *Resurrection of the Lord*².



Fig. 2. Aerial photo (1944) and plan of the Visterniceni cemetery (1942) (after Ciocanu, 2016)

On the hearth of the Visterniceni locality, in the context of the Russo-Austro-Turkish wars, at the end of the 18th century, a bastion fortress was built from earth and wood, which existed until the beginning of the 19th century (Fig. 3). The abandonment of the fortress led to its disappearance from the landscape of the area. In this context, the Visterniceni cemetery was expanded, located around the church, which gradually occupies practically the entire surface of the former bastion fortress.

¹ Monument no. 185, Register of monuments protected by the state, <https://date.gov.md/ckan/dataset/5180-registrul-monumentelor-republicii-moldova> (accessed 6.03.2022).

² S. Ciocanu, "Church of Saints Constantine and Elena (Râșcanu) from Visterniceni (1777)", in: Sergius Ciocanu, *The City of Chisinau: Beginnings, urban development, churches (15th-19th centuries)*, Chisinau, Cartdidact, 2017, p. 138-145.

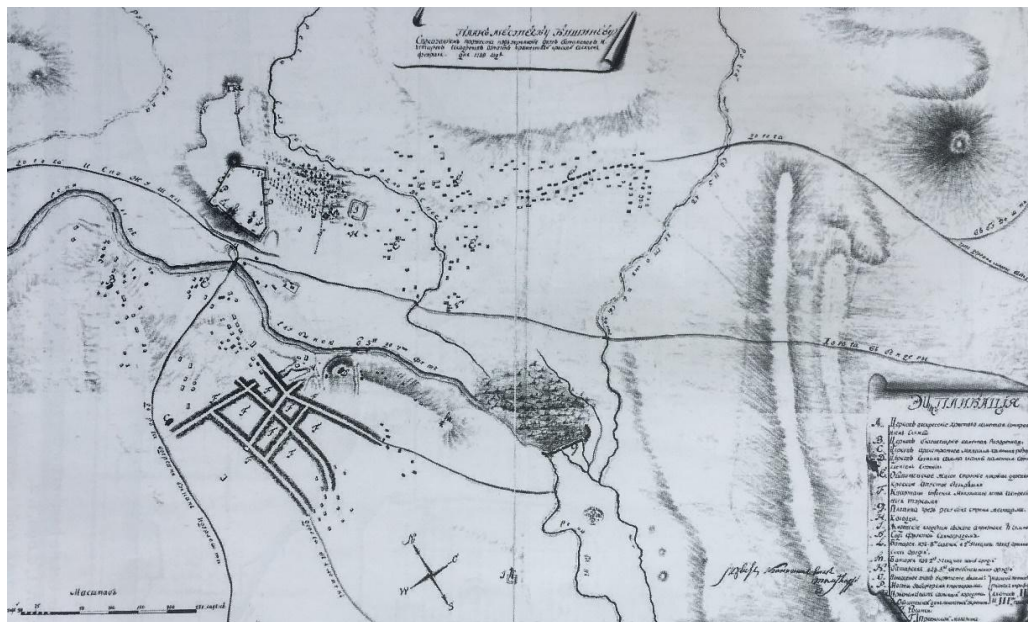


Fig. 3. The plan of the Chisinau market and the bastion fortress from 1789 (after Ciocanu, 2017, Fig. 21.1a)

In the 20th century, the area underwent strong transformations, arrangements of contemporary constructions. Among them are the current *Calea Moșilor street*, *Grigore Vieru boulevard*, the *Circului building* and adjacent annexes.

Types of archaeological remains considered

Currently, the most representative structure within the site is the “Saints Constantine and Helena” Church, built in 1777, but which has undergone several interventions throughout its existence. The cemetery near the church is a historical space, equally important for the history of the town of Visterniceni, which integrates perfectly into the structure of the site. The cemetery was used by locals until the 1960s, but dates back to the late medieval period, so it deserves to be researched and protected. Other historical structures could be the traces of the bastion fortress from the end of the 18th century, documented, but which must be researched from an archaeological point of view.

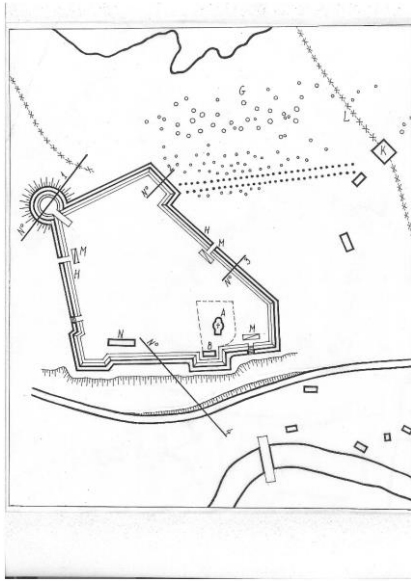


Fig. 4. *The plan of the bastion fortress and the image of the “Constantine and Elena Church” (after Ciocanu, 2016)*

The series of portable artifacts includes a whole series of funerary stones and monuments that belonged to notorious personalities of Chisinau in the 19th - early 20th centuries. Today, these vestiges are chaotically gathered around the “Saints Constantine and Elena” Church, having been displaced in the 70s of the 20th centuries from their original place, in the context of the Holbocica park development project, which was no longer accomplished. These pieces deserve to be analyzed, historically contextualized, some of them require conservation and restoration interventions, and later placed in the cemetery space as a result of a historical study on the structure of the cemetery and the layout plan of the archaeological park.

From the series of other vestiges, we could mention the traces of graves and foundations of funerary monuments that were part of the cemetery, but which were demolished in the 20th century. Recent archaeological research has demonstrated that the traces of the vaults can be recovered and exploited.



Fig. 5. *Traces of the Catargi family vault (Musteață, 2022)*

The multi-stratigraphic archaeological site of *Chisinau - Constantine and Elena Church*, including *the Cemetery with the monument complex no. 185*, represents a single area located in the Râșcani district of Chisinau municipality and includes cadastral numbers: 01004150097, 01004150.347.

The archaeological site was just finished and had several sections with different surfaces. Details of the excavated surfaces will be presented later in an archaeological report. But the current research was preventive and aimed at identifying some archaeological situations and vestiges in the churchyard, in the cemetery and in the area of the bastion fortress, which would be useful for the development of a systematic research plan.

3.2 Historical and cultural significance of the local archaeological heritage

Archaeological, historical and artistic significance

From an archaeological point of view, the site has both local and national cultural-scientific significance, all the more so as this status is recognized by its inclusion in the Register of historical monuments protected by the state. If the history of the site is relatively well known, then the archaeological part is to be exploited through systematic research. Preliminary investigations in 2022 demonstrated the enormous potential of the site and the need to launch a systematic research program. The archaeological research of the area around the church could highlight a series of archaeological vestiges, especially funeral ones, which will help us reconstruct the history of both the religious place and the Visterniceni community.

At the same time, a general assessment of the state of conservation of the church is necessary, after which a project for its rehabilitation will be developed. Because the interventions of the late 20th century have enormously damaged the authenticity and integrity of this monument. In this context, it is necessary to replace the tombstones and funerary monuments gathered around the church in the 70s of the 20th centuries in the context of the decision to exhume the graves and develop the Hulbocica park. It would be most appropriate for the gravestones and monuments to be placed in the cemetery area, accompanied by the research of the history of the personalities and perhaps even the discovery of their original location based on the plan and register of the cemetery from 1976. The research of the cemetery and the exploitation of its history will facilitate the recovery and promoting the spirit of the place where several representatives of the Chisinau aristocracy were buried from the XIX - the beginning of the 20th century.

Archaeological traces (prehistoric, ancient, medieval sites), the church, the cemetery (stones and funerary monuments), etc. are only a few elements that will form the basis of the historical-cultural message that will present the specifics of the Visterniceni area and village. The diversity and concentration of several types of archaeological sites and vestiges in one place are essential scientific elements in the implementation of the first Archaeological Park in the Republic of Moldova.

The ecological significance of the archaeological site

The site is located on a plateau dominated by the left bank of the Bâc River, which has preserved its natural authenticity.

Taking into account the fact that it is a rock area, the space occupied by the archaeological remains are not directly subject to destructive natural processes. The greatest risk to the site is the anthropogenic factor, and human interventions in the second half of the 20th century which have demonstrated how destructive they can be.

The space around the church, even if it does not have a successful planning, it has vegetation, trees, bushes that can be, for the most part, integrated in the context of the Archaeological Park Plan. The same approach can be applied to the cemetery area that has been abandoned for several decades and the vegetation has grown chaotically. But, a good part of the trees in the cemetery area could be important elements of the future park. That is why an evaluation of the area from an ecological point of view is necessary, taking into account the rules for the development, protection and administration of green spaces in the municipality of Chisinau.

The area in front of the church, which was recently partially landscaped by a civic group, but without a plan coordinated with the municipal institutions and without an analysis of the type of vegetation compatible with the area, must also be included in this evaluation and valorization project. Until the realization of these plans, it is important that the area must be adequately maintained by the municipal institutions responsible for sanitation and maintenance of green spaces.

3.3 The legal and administrative framework of the park

The urban plan of the city of Chisinau regulates the use of space and the development of the territory in accordance with the principles of urban planning related to the purpose of land use, development conditions and security. Thus, in accordance with the provisions of the PUG, problem areas are established.

In Chisinau, there are still no examples of arranging and exhibiting archaeological remains in the form of sites for research and information for visitors. In this context, their integration with policies in related areas such as urban mobility and local and regional tourism cannot be discussed.

However, the 2022-2028 Tourism Development Strategy envisages the piloting of some projects that would allow in the relatively near future, the emergence of a new type of urban policy, but also a new form of local cognitive tourism.

4. ASSESSMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

The implementation of the Local Archaeological Plan will be possible only after its approval by the Chisinau Municipal Council, which will raise the status of the plan to the level of a municipal document with legal value. With its approval, the legal form of operation of the future archaeological park will be decided. This will be chosen from the legal forms of operation presented in the feasibility study component of the plan.

Regardless of the legal structure chosen for operation, the development and implementation of the Local Archaeological Plan will be supervised by the Culture Department of the City Hall of Chisinau Municipality, which manages the heritage elements of the municipality.

Required works

Once the systematic archaeological research is carried out and the exact assessment of the archaeological value of the site will be possible, the amount needed for the conservation and restoration works of the site can be estimated.

It will be necessary to provide construction and infrastructure works for the following areas provided in the architectural project:

1. Exhibition area:
 - a. Entry Area(s).
 - b. The cafe
 - c. Exhibition pavilion
 - d. Pavilion of medieval dwellings
 - e. Temporary exhibition area
 - f. Entertainment area
2. Administration area
3. Technical area
4. Leisure area:
 - a. Landscape design
 - b. Playing field
 - c. Access ways
 - d. Small architectural forms
 - e. Urban furniture

Following the completion of the architectural component of the archaeological park project, it will be necessary to contract specialists in dendrology and engineering, for the development of the respective components.

Availability of Local Public Authorities to support the park

Local Public Authorities of the Chisinau Municipality are open to supporting the activity of the park through implementation of the following tools:

- Granting annual funding for the carrying out of archaeological research (for example, in 2022, 200 thousand lei were allocated and capitalized from the sources of the municipal budget for the first archaeological research ever made in the municipality). This effort is to be carried out for another period of at least 5 years;
- The allocation of resources regarding the development of the archaeological park territory from public sources and those attracted from the application to different projects, in stages, so that in a short period of time, the park will be completely arranged;
- Promotion of park's activity by organizing cultural events (concerts, thematic exhibitions), excursions, presentations, scientific conferences, etc.;
- Promotion through the creation of a web page and promotional materials;
- Applying to different projects, programs to ensure the proper layout and endowment of the park;
- Attracting the scientific and research community regarding the conducting of the respective research;
- Developing partnerships with similar parks in Europe and other regions of the world.

Economic impact

The direct results achieved through the implementation of the archaeological park establishment project are the following:

- Development of the local economy by creating at least 45 jobs and businesses related to the archaeological park's activity (food, event organization, crafts);
- Building the park with the necessary buildings and infrastructure;
- Creation of the institutional and financial system for the management;
- Diversification of the tourist offer of the municipality of Chisinau by creating a unique objective and perspectives for the archaeotourism;
- Increasing the number of tourists from the country and abroad who will visit the country's capital and the park;
- Improving the image of Chisinau City as an interesting, attractive, diversified tourist destination;
- Boosting the development of the local and national tourism market;
- The possibility of strengthening the international cooperation of the park on the following dimensions: archaeology, tourism, historical and cultural heritage, cultural events, research, etc.;
- Creating a technical-material and scientific basis for the development of the park;
- Attracting volunteers to scientific research activities.

Cultural impact

Analyzing the importance of cultural and historical objectives, the main role belongs to monuments. They are among the most interesting, attractive and serve as the main means of meeting the needs of cognitive, cultural and educational tourism. Historical and cultural objectives are classified into several types, one of them being archaeological sites.

Archaeological heritage sites have enormous potential for inclusion in the tourist circuit, as a result of which the objectives are not only preservation, but also valued in the socio-economic process, transforming them into new forms of existence, use and development.

At the same time, through this project, a new type of cultural tourism will be formed - Archaeological trips, which have existed since ancient times. On closer examination, they act as the oldest form of tourism. It is generally accepted that traveling acquired tourist significance when it loses its commercial value.

Such a concept as “archaeological tourism” already exists, moreover, it is actively developing abroad, in Central and Southeast Asia, Central and South America.

A distinctive feature of archaeological tourism compared to other types is participation in fieldwork. Certain people from different regions of the world passionate about this area are ready to invest impressive sums (tens of thousands of euros/dollars) in order to spend a few days on archaeological research sites and to get used to the role of archaeologists. On the territory of many countries there are monuments and unique territories that have not yet been sufficiently exploited, and often their scientific research is suspended due to lack of funding and personnel, such as the example of the future park Visterniceni. One of the most effective ways to improve and preserve these territories is to include them in tourist routes. Tourism must preserve the monuments, stimulate the construction of museums and keep the territories in good condition.

The project will have a positive impact on the field of culture in the municipality of Chisinau through the operation of a unique historical-cultural objective in the Republic of Moldova, organized as a local architectural park.

For an archaeological park, the most important criterion is the historical landscape, formed as a result of a long interaction between man and nature. The concept of “cultural landscape” originates in the first half of the 20th century. Associated with the development of cultural geography, which emerged as a result of the humanization of geographical science, which consists in the study of man as a creator of spiritual values.

In the process of forming a cultural landscape, the human impact on nature has a clear transformative character, and the traces of the impact do not necessarily lead to the aggressive introduction of material elements with anthropogenic properties into the landscape.

The complex perception and preservation of the natural landscape and the cultural elements organically inscribed in it is the hallmark of archaeological architecture.

The museification methods and techniques are designed to ensure the safety of the natural and cultural landscape of the park area, the immutability of the landscape aspect of the territory, giving the landscape the function of the main, basic component. At the same time, the techniques and methods of museification of an object from a cultural landscape fulfill the function of repeated acculturation: the monument is included in modern culture, its socio-spatial environment develops.

5. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS, POSSIBLE FINANCING OPTIONS

Design and implementation costs

In the respective study, 2 scenarios for the establishment of the archaeological park were examined, as follows:

1. Technical-economic scenarios for the implementation of the project

| No | Scenario | Description |
|----|---|-------------|
| 1 | Lack of interventions and keeping the status quo | |
| 2 | Establishment of the Archaeological Park | |

SCENARIO 1

Description: Everything is kept in the existing situation without investments in landscaping

Estimated cost: approx. **200,000 lei** annually for archaeological research

Risks: Damage of the existing archaeological monuments

Benefits: Minimal investment costs. For the estimated period for the first 20 years of activity, approx. 4.0 million lei from the municipal budget for archaeological research and the cleaning of green spaces.

Lack of additional tasks related to park management.

SCENARIO 2

Description: **Establishment of the Archaeological Park**

Estimated cost: **27 325 000 lei** investments until the start of the activity

Risks: The risk of not identifying the new archaeological sites that would add value to the park, expected by the initiators of the project.

Benefits:

1. Creation of a unique archaeological park for the Republic of Moldova
2. Creation of a new recreational area with an archaeological profile in the city center
3. Increase in budget revenues
4. Creation of 18 new jobs

THE OPTIMUM SCENARIO

Quantifying the benefits of each of the proposed scenarios, under the current conditions, scenario 2 is considered the optimal one.

Taking into account that the Local Archaeological Park is planned to be a museum park, but also a place of recreation with an interactive profile, investments are planned in the construction of some buildings that would serve as exhibition areas but also areas to ensure the work infrastructure for the park staff and expenses for the development of the territory.

The following investments are planned until the start of the Park's activity:

- Archaeological research;
- Architectural solutions:
 - *Entrance area*
 - *Public food area*
 - *Exhibition area*
 - *Administrative area*
 - *Technical area*
 - *Recreation area*
- Operating expenses for the first year of activity;
- Other expenses.

Cost recovery sources

The implementation of the project will require financial, labor, material and informational resources.

The degree of provision with such resources represents one of the main factors of the success of the implementation of this Strategy. The description of the financing sources presented below is made considering the annual financing programs carried out by different financiers. Funding is granted on the basis of projects submitted by structures and organizations and when the opening of funding programs is announced. It follows that in case of launching a financing program by a sponsor, those responsible for the implementation of the actions, will develop projects and forward them for financing to the respective donors. Also, the financing organizations represent the main donors who have been active for a long time in the republic. This compartment did not include financing programs that can appear instantly during the implementation period:

- Sources of the municipality's budget for various actions aimed at culture, tourism, infrastructure, environmental protection, urban development, etc. However, the sources of the municipal budget are insufficient to make the necessary investments, therefore the main stake will be related to their diversification.
- Means of the national public budget. These sources will be obtained for the realization of the planned activities according to the provisions for the development of public infrastructure, public services in various fields, for supporting SMEs, which will be implemented at the municipal level. Annually, in the State Budget Law, the financing of activities supporting various social-economic activities is planned through various state programs and funds.
- Means of economic agents. The financing of the actions planned in the Strategy from the funds of the economic agents will be realized through: (i) direct investments in the expansion or launch of new businesses; (ii) paying for the services of developing market studies, business plans, identifying and establishing partners; (iii) contracting consulting services from service providers; (iv) payments for participation in exhibitions, fairs, promotion actions or study visits; (v) payment of fees for participation in training programs, etc.
- Grants, donations, loans from donor organizations active in the Republic of Moldova or to which the Republic of Moldova is eligible: the European Union (through various cross-border or transnational programs and projects), UNDP Moldova, GIZ, USAID, ADA, World Bank, EBRD, etc., offered on a competitive basis (grants) or on a loan basis and to which various entities and public authorities, economic agents or NGOs are eligible. Also, the municipality of Chisinau can request from some donors, the elaboration and implementation of various programs or projects intended strictly for the municipality of Chisinau, as was previously achieved through the UNDP Moldova projects.

6. CREATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

6.1 Landscaping improvements to the archaeological site

Elements of cultural heritage are considered the elements of immovable built heritage: the remains of the discovered foundation of the fortress that existed until the beginning of the 19th century and, if in the case of subsequent research, they will be found, elements of movable heritage - traces of previous cultures. If the fortress will not be located, then the main elements are the “Saints Constantine and Helena” Church with its crypts.

As the park is located on the hill, the cultural heritage elements (the “Saints Constantine and Elena” Church), the planned observation point on the “Mother's Cover” Church (Măzărache) are visible from different parts of the city, thus the visitor begins to interact with the site even from afar.

If the remains of the fortress are found, a fence will be organized near them, being one of the first elements at the southern entrance that visitors interact with. The next items to explore will be the church and the observation deck. After viewing them and getting acquainted with the history of the place, visitors will be offered the possibility of a walk in the park, and finally, a visit to the museum where artifacts related to the history of the area found during the research are stored.

The second site familiarization scenario begins at the north entrance. Visitors immediately enter the park, familiarize themselves with the exhibits in it during a walk, and then they can go to the museum, the church and the observation deck.

In general, the configuration and topography of the site allow unhindered access to most of the territory for visitors with disabilities. However, on the western side of the site there is a mound of earth followed by a slope, which may cause accessibility difficulties. This feature of the land will be taken into account in the design, by providing platforms to different levels that will be accessible by ramps.

Several visual connections with the city's attractions can be highlighted on the territory of the park:

- The view towards the Church “Mother's Cover” (Măzărache) - a visual connection of the elements that are the basis of the formation of the city of Chisinau;
- The view of the State Circus in Chisinau - an element of the Soviet period;
- The view of the Church of the “Saints Constantine and Elena” is possible from all points of the park, but it needs a proper restoration;

For picnics, a portion of the northwestern part of the site, quite isolated, calm, shaded by trees, is suitable. For this purpose, a relaxation area with a view of the city and viewing platforms will be proposed on the territory of the park.

For this area, it is necessary to develop a local design code that capitalizes on the existing cultural heritage and reflects the values that we want to attribute to the place in the future. All furnishing elements, from the smallest to the newly built objectives, must comply with this design code.

The proposed new elements will have integrative qualities to the existing historical context.

With the help of landscape design, the “Saints Constantine and Helena” Church (which needs restoration) can be favorably emphasized, and the existing tombstones shall be properly placed on the territory. Based on the foundation of the Catargi family cave, found during the archaeological research conducted this year, a viewing platform will be built.

The park's target audience is:

- the adult population of all ages, interested in history, culture and new locations in the city;
- pupils and students, who will visit the organized park (for educational workshops) or on their own during free time from studies;
- families with children, educational events and playgrounds corresponding to the children's ages will be provided for them;
- visitors from the suburbs and other regions of the country;
- foreign tourists, who can benefit from the services of the guide or will be able to explore the park on their own (there will be information boards translated into English with QR codes for additional information).

6.2 Planned infrastructure and services

Accessibility

It is planned to organize an open parking lot in the area of the former fire tank of the circus, as it is not in operation and is located near the north entrance. The existing parking lot next to the circus on Pietrăriei Street 2 will be used for buses.

No further integration of the park into the existing transport network is required. Transit stations are close enough and proposing direct transit access to park entrances will create excessive traffic congestion.

The nearest charging station for electric cars is at the Bemol 1 gas station (at Renașterii Naționale 25 Blvd., approximately 500 meters from the visitors parking), respectively, no additional charging points are required. Paid parking and charging of e-scooters and e-bikes in the park is required. This area will be located near the entrances to the park and will be provided as a covered one. There are no car rental outlets nearby, but there are other alternative transportation options, eg. scooter rental services, that cover the area around the park (eg. Bolt services).

The circulation of means of transport in the park itself is not allowed, with the exception of the means of transport that occasionally serve the needs of the park's territory.

Infrastructure and basic services of the Park

Mandatory lighting of entrances, paths and paths, groups of trees, viewing platforms, as well as decorative lighting of the Church of "Saints Constantine and Elena", of newly designed buildings will be organized in the park. It is necessary to provide a lighting system with different scenarios. The lighting installations will be of original design and will correspond to the design code proposed before the design.

Benches are mandatory elements of this type of park, where exploring the territories can take a longer time. They will be made of durable, ecological materials, with an author's design that corresponds to the design code. They do not need to be covered; the shading of the benches will be provided by the multitude of trees in the area.

On the territory of the park there will be designated picnic areas where visitors can eat, which will be covered by light pergolas, sail roofs.

In general, visitors will have access to the entire territory of the park. The exposed archaeological research will be properly protected (covered with protective glass) and will be available for viewing.

The slope along the western edge (bordering Calea Moșilor Street) is to be fenced with railings and/or dense vegetation for safety reasons. Waste sorting bins are located at the entrances to the park, in the cafe area, near the picnic area and viewing platforms. Access with pets will be allowed on the park grounds, therefore both litter bins and bag dispensers are required, as well as the provision of instructions for their use. Toilets for visitors will be located in the museum building and in the administrative block building. The toilet for the people with special needs is to be combined with the mother and baby room.

Based on the specifics of the land, it is necessary to ensure the drainage of rainwater in the immediate vicinity of the paths and for the areas adjacent to the buildings.

Also, it is desired to offer free Wi-Fi signal throughout the park, for example, from a mobile phone operator on mutually beneficial terms. Chargers for smartphones will not be provided on the territory of the park.

Commercial infrastructure and services

On the territory of the park there will be a cafe-type unit, without a kitchen. It will be supplied with food and snacks by calling on the catering service. This will be coordinated either by the park administration or by a separate company.

Within the park, near the tourist center, a gift/souvenir shop will be provided, with shelves offered under the products of local artisans.

Organizing festivals is an important part of the activities of an archaeological site. For this purpose, an open amphitheater and a hall for temporary exhibitions will be provided on the site. Festivals can be themed around local history, local culture and art, and will be organized by the events manager.

An open amphitheater and a hall for temporary exhibitions will be provided for the purpose of organizing art shows and concerts on the site. Their theme can be related to the history of the place, local culture and art, and will be organized by the events manager.

Temporary exhibitions can be held indoors, in the temporary exhibition hall, or outdoors. They can be dedicated to new discoveries in the field of archaeology, the history of Moldova and Chisinau, local art, as well as import exhibitions of archaeology, history and culture.

Maintenance

Regular general maintenance of the park requires two full-time employees. For the maintenance of the green spaces within the park, a gardener will be invited as needed. Garbage removal from the territory of the park will be carried out based on an agreement with the contractor.

A full-time employee is required to update and maintain the park's digital information. Working with digital information is a very important element in the development of the park. In the first stages, it will help spread information about the archaeological park and attract visitors. Going forward, every event should be announced in advance and publicized in the process, this will help the park become an open platform for interaction.

Surveillance and monitoring systems

The territory will be equipped with external and internal video surveillance systems. They will ensure the safety of visitors and the safety of buildings, museum exhibits and artefacts. The surveillance systems will be oriented towards the entrances/accesses, towards the perimeter of the territory and towards the points of interest on the territory. These systems are indispensable for the security service, because the territory of the park is quite extensive, and patrolling cannot cover the entire area in a short time.

There is no need for an automated visitor monitoring system. The calculation will be based on the tickets sold.

6.3 Connecting the archaeological site with tourism

According to the analysis presented in the Tourism Development Strategy for the period 2022-2026 "Chisinau - tourist capital", the main purpose of visiting Chisinau by tourists from different countries is for rest - this purpose is pursued by up to 3/4 of the entire tourist flow; about 20% of tourists come to Chisinau for business tourism, less than 5% - for medical treatment.

The priority directions of tourism in the municipality, according to the classifier presented in the strategy, are the following:

- Easy adventure tourism
- Medical tourism
- Business tourism and MICE
- Workation or Work Tourism
- Gastrotourism and Wine Tourism
- Religious tourism or Pilgrimage

At the moment, archeology is not included as a basic component of the Tourism Strategy, due to the absence, until now, of urban archeology in the municipality. Within the project, a memorandum of collaboration was signed with the National Inbound and Domestic Tourism Association of Moldova (ANTRIM) for the inclusion of archaeological parks as points of interest in the municipal and national tourist circuit.

The status of an administrative, economic and cultural center and the fact that Chisinau has the only active international airport means that approximately 80% of all enterprises of this type in the Republic of Moldova are located specifically in the municipality of Chisinau. According to statistical data, in January 2022, 619 travel agencies and tour operators were active in the municipality of Chisinau. The activity of tourism agencies and tour operators in the municipality is dominated by outbound tourism - both in terms of the number of tourists and related revenues.

Thus, in 2019, a number of 253.5 thousand people went abroad for tourist purposes through tourism agencies in the municipality of Chisinau, which generated revenues of almost 1.8 billion lei. In the period 2014-2019, revenues from outbound tourism increased by an average annual rate of 10.3%, and the number of tourists increased by an average of 9.3% annually. Domestic tourism had a slower evolution during the same period, with an average annual increase of 3.3% in the number of visitors and an increase of only 1.1% in receipts from tourism activity.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the imposed travel restrictions have led the residents of the Republic of Moldova to further explore the local tourism potential. Thus, in 2020 domestic tourism increased by 4.1%, being the only segment that increased in 2020, in terms of the number of visitors.

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