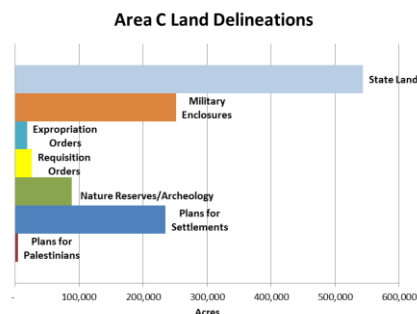


UNDER THE GUISE OF GREEN

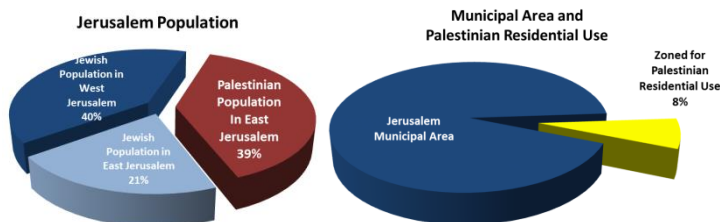
Planning policies in East Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank are particularly problematic as far as the Palestinian population is concerned. Over the decades, nature, archeology and heritage have been summoned and misused in order to limit Palestinian development. A growing phenomenon in East Jerusalem seems to be particularly troubling: large swaths of land in the heart of the city are being designated as national parks while adjacent Palestinian neighborhoods are in dire need for improvement, including expansion. Meanwhile, Israeli neighborhoods have and are being built and planned in areas just as valuable, or invaluable, as the case may be. For the Palestinian population living in East Jerusalem and Area C each new national park, archeological site, or nature preserve hinders any hope for a better future.

Specifically, the designation of land as national park is a powerful and unjustified planning tool that is particularly harmful for the Palestinian neighborhoods in East Jerusalem which are over-crowded, under-serviced and have been severely neglected for decades.

In Area C the delineation of land into prohibited areas aims at preventing the development of Palestinian villages. Limitations include; national parks, nature reserves, archeological sites (many quite minor in nature), state land, military enclosures and settlement municipal boundaries. Within these areas building, farming and grazing are prohibited or limited to Palestinians. This creates obstacles to the livelihood and well being of the Palestinian population on a day to day basis. It also prevents proper planning and development of towns and villages for the future.



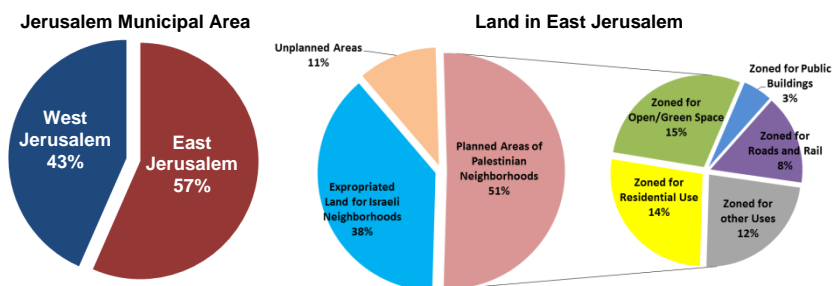
East Jerusalem today, in which Palestinians are the majority population group, refers to more than 17,000 acres of the West Bank that were added to the municipal boundary of Jerusalem after 1967 and makes up more than half of today's municipal Jerusalem.



Only 8% of municipal Jerusalem is zoned for Palestinian residential development (14% of East Jerusalem), while the Palestinian population is 39% of municipal Jerusalem (65% of East Jerusalem).

Green Spaces in East Jerusalem

The designation of various kinds of open spaces in planning documents is a tool for constraining the development of Palestinian neighborhoods, which are in dire need of building reserves and real public parks. Overall, areas that allow for residential development are minimized and areas intended to be "green" are maximized. This "green washing" of vacant areas in the heart of and in between Palestinian neighborhoods does not lead to the creation of spaces for parks and recreation, in stark contravention to what is accepted in urban planning around the word and to the practice in West Jerusalem.



Land for development in East Jerusalem

- Expropriated Land for Israeli neighborhoods - 6,750 acres*
- Unplanned Palestinian neighborhoods - 1,900 acres
- Planned Areas of Palestinian Neighborhoods - 8,970 acres

*This number also includes a city wide industrial zone, Jewish cemetery on Mt. of Olives and Israeli settlements in the heart of Palestinian neighborhoods

Land within the Planned Areas

- Zoned for Palestinian Residential Use - 2,400 acres (27% of planned areas)
- Zoned for Open/Green Space - 2,590 acres (29% of planned areas)

From Green to National

From the point of view of the authorities, there are a few advantages to the establishment of national parks, rather than other kinds of open spaces, the most important one being that the burden associated with implementation and enforcement falls on a national body. As a result, the Jerusalem municipality or the Civil Administration, who are obligated to ensure the welfare of all residents under their jurisdictions, renounce their responsibility and deposit it in the hands of the Israel National Parks Authority (INPA), whose obligation is towards the protection of nature and heritage, on a national level, and not towards the residents and their needs. **This is particularly problematic when heritage is considered one-dimensionally.**

Mt. Scopus Slopes National Park

Urgent: as of May 15th 2014, the National Planning Bureau has granted 60 days for the sides to reach an agreement.

In 2004, the residents of al-Isawiyyah, together with Bimkom began preparing a new outline plan for their neighborhood. The aim of the plan was to enable development, halt home demolitions and ensure a better future for the residents. A few months later, the residents of at-Tur also began drafting a plan for their neighborhood. As a response to these two plans, the INPA began planning a new national park on the land between the two Palestinian neighborhoods. During the many ensuing coordination meetings, between the planners of the new plan for al-Isawiyyah and the INPA planners, it was clearly stated that the objective of the national park was to curb the expansion of these neighborhoods to the adjacent barren areas. The INPA labored to infuse the national park with meaning; Archeology, biblical stories and sciences such as Botany and Zoology were enlisted - all these to justify another national park in the heart of the built up area of East Jerusalem.

Al-Isawiyyah and at-Tur do not have alternative areas for growth. They are both surrounded by impassable urban elements, such as highways and post 1967 Jewish-Israeli neighborhoods. In addition, the urban fabric of the two neighborhoods is spontaneously densifying while their **infrastructure is meager and inadequate.**

Facts and Figures about al-Isawiyyah

| | 2012 | 2020 | Current Plan Allotment | Required Additional Expansion Area |
|---------------|--------|--------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Population | 15,500 | 19,000 | | |
| Housing units | 2,300 | 3,800 | 1,700 | 1,500 |
| Area in Acres | | | 172 | 172 |

In 2007 a compromise was reached regarding the border between the national park and the expansion of al-Isawiyyah, but in 2011 a version of the plan for the national park was deposited in contravention to these agreements, leaving al-Isawiyyah with none for its necessary expansion area. Many official objections were filed to the national park plan and the hearing was suddenly scheduled for November 2013, in response to the government's decision to approve this national park as one of the steps to appease the right wing factions within Israel for the release of political prisoners, according to the Kerry efforts. After this hearing, the District Planning Committee decided to

reduce the boundary of the park by a symbolic and insufficient 10 acres on the al-Isawiyyah side, making no change on the at-Tur side. As a result, appeals were filed to the National Planning Council which has recently issued an interim decision sending the sides for a 60 day arbitration period, due to end on July 15th.

Bimkom – Planners for Planning Rights is an Israeli NGO that was established in 1999 by planners and architects with the vision of strengthening the connection between planning and human rights. Bimkom promotes equality and social justice in planning, development and allocation of land resources, and assists communities disadvantaged by economic, social or civil circumstances, to exercise their planning rights.

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National Parks in East Jerusalem (1010 Acres)

1. Declared/Approved National Parks
 - a. National Park Surrounding the Old City Walls, 270 Acres (1974)
 - b. Tzurim Valley National Park, 40 Acres (2000)
 - c. Refaim Valley National Park, 340 Acres (2010)
2. National Parks in advanced planning stages
 - a. Mt. Scopus Slopes National Park, 190 Acres, approved awaiting appeal process
 - b. King's Valley National Park, 12 Acres, approved by local planning committee
3. Three national parks in early stages of planning process – the Mt. of Olives National Park (120 Acres), the Ash-Sheikh Jarrah (Simon the Righteous) National Park (30 Acres) and the Bab-as-Sahrah National Park (10 Acres)