

The History Evolution of Former Ching-Kuo Resort Villa Park

Wen-Bin Lin¹, Kao-Feng Yarn²

¹ Department of Electronic and Optoelectronic Application Engineering, Far East University, Taiwan 74448, ROC

² Department of Aircraft Maintenance, Far East University, Taiwan 74448, ROC

Abstract—The park has a long history and has played a different role depending on the times. The early Chinese and foreign gardens symbolized the absolute authority of the emperor and the nobility. From the Hanging Gardens of Babylon at the beginning of civilization, the Egyptian Pharaoh's Botanical Garden, to the Roman Villa Garden and the French Baroque Garden, the overall planning of the courtyard to the shape of every plant and tree grows, all highlighting the political authority of the ruler. Therefore, the gardens were reserved for the royalty and the commoners were not allowed to enter the gardens. In this article, we will record the existence of the Ching-Kuo Resort Villa from the Martial Law period to the present. After the Martial Law period, the government put aside the political ideology and planned to preserve the original Japanese architectural style of the guesthouse and turn it into Yong-Kang Park for the general public to enter and exit freely.

Keywords—Japanese colonial period in Taiwan, Ching-Kuo Resort Villa, Yong-Kang Park, Tainan City

I. INTRODUCTION

The park is the lung of the city, a public space for human life. In the modern society of industrial and commercial development and rapid changes, the existence of parks not only provides people with a soothing natural garden, but also moderates the speed of people's demand for nature and preserves an ecological green space for the urban concrete jungle. It can provide people with the opportunity to get in touch with nature, reduce the pollution caused by overcrowding in the city, and also has the function of protecting natural landscape resources.

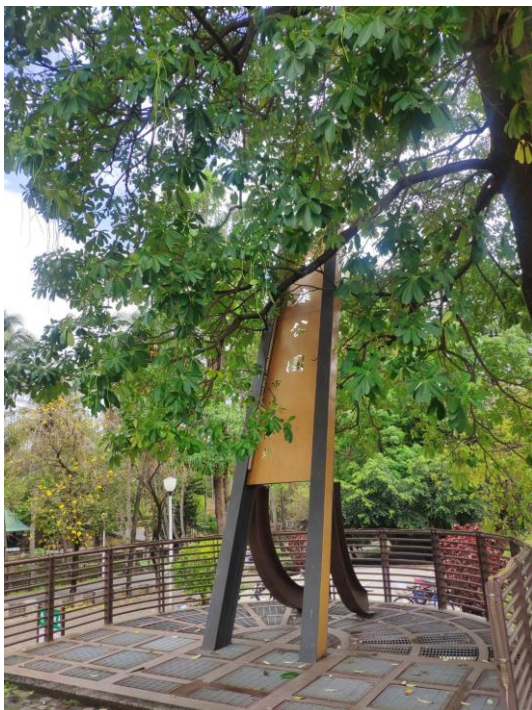


Fig. 1. Entrance of the park, leading visitors to the park.

A park, in a broad sense, is "a green public facility developed by a government agency to beautify the urban landscape, promote people's health, and serve a disaster prevention function." In recent years, the development of parks has become more and more diversified. With the public's keen demand for leisure and the increasing emphasis on natural ecology, parks have been given more expectations and responsibilities, such as providing leisure recreation, appreciation, and ecological maintenance functions.

Yong-kang District is located in the southern part of Tainan City, at the southern end of the Chianan Plain, bordering Hsin-hua District to the east, Sin-shih District and An-nan District to the north, and the old Tainan City, Ren-de District and Guei-ren District to the south. The area of the district is 4,038 hectares, with a flat topography, and is on the edge of the Hsin-hua hills.

Yong-kang District was developed by the Han Chinese along the Hsin-gang stream (now Yan-shui stream) during the Ming and Qing Dynasties, and was earlier called "Puqiangtou". When Koxinga (Zheng Chenggong) came to Taiwan, he first established Cheng-tian-fu and An-ping Township, and divided the area around An-ping Township into 24 li, and the name of "Puchangtou" was officially recorded as "Yong-kang-li". The current population of Yongkang is increasing rapidly, with a current population of 234,351 (as of the end of January 2023), making it the most populous and densely populated administrative district in Tainan.

Yong-kang, located in the Jia-Nan Plain, has a mild climate, good water conservancy and irrigation facilities, and is suitable for agriculture and animal husbandry. In the early days, agriculture was abundant, producing rice and sugar cane. With the booming industrial and commercial sector in recent years, agriculture has been transformed and is gradually moving toward refined agriculture with high economic value, such as cherry tomatoes, cantaloupes, watermelons, and the emerging flower industry, all of which bring farmers rich income and new opportunities for agriculture.

II. HISTORY AND FEATURES OF THE PARK

Yong-kang District is the most populous metropolitan area in Tainan City, with a population of over 200,000 people, yet it does not have a large park, which has long been criticized by various sectors. It was only after the Tainan City government planned to use the 9 hectares of land at Yun-shan Farm to establish a sports park in 2004 that the mystery of the farm's former residence of Mr. Ching-kuo Chiang was unveiled. There are two semi-natural lakes, which are described as dragon caves that do not dry up all year round, and the scenery is no less beautiful than that of Cihu Lake in Taoyuan. Yong-kang Park located in behind Yongren High School, it was converted from the "Yun-shan Farm", which was closed for half a century, so even the residents nearby are not aware of the planning of the park. In recent years, with the support of the city government, the Yong-kang District Office has been actively seeking funds for renovation and construction, creating a new leisure park, establishing the Ching-Kuo Memorial Cultural Hall, and preserving the landscape of the original villa [1-5]. The park has become the last green space park in Yongkang District that retains the original forestation style. The park will provide a comfortable place for people to walk, rest, exercise, physical training, children's recreation and ecological teaching, and will make up for the lack of recreational parks in Yongkang District.



Fig. 2. Tank display in the park, allowing the public to take a trip to experience war weapons.

III. YUN-SHAN FARM

The origin of this green space began in 1951 when a local man, Mr. Tsai Ching-wan, leased the "Yunshan Farm" from the National Property Administration. The land was originally used by the military, occupying about 4.5 hectares, and the farms were planted with dwarf cupcake fruit tree. The park is full of shade and hills, with two natural lakes. The spring in the lake is inexhaustible all year round and rich in ecological resources. The Yong-kang District Office approached the second generation of the Yun-shan Farm, Mr. Cheng-Ying Tsai, to use the farm as a park in 1989. Tainan city has also sought \$34 million in funding from to complete the construction of Yong-kang Park. After the park was established, it has become a good place for bird-watching and

walking for the local residents. The owner of "Yun-shan Farm", Mr. Tsai Ching-wan, was once a member of an agricultural technical mission abroad and was sent to Africa to assist African countries in teaching their people farming techniques. After returning home, various fruit trees were planted here, and in the summer you can still see the fruit trees bearing lots of fruit to make your mouth water.



Fig. 3. The densely wooded park provides a cool and comfortable leisure environment for the public.



Fig. 4. Lotus blossoms in full bloom in the lotus pond are set off by the green leaves, making them charming and attractive.



Fig. 5. Lotus blossoms in full bloom in the lotus pond are set off by the green leaves, making them charming and attractive (Cont.).

In the past, the surrounding area of Yun-shan Farm was isolated from the outside world by a bamboo fence, but later it was planted with green fences such as kudzu, West Indian cherries and cocoa. After being closed for half a century, the opening of the museum at the end of 2004 was the highlight of the public's attention.



Fig. 6. Poolside walk with beautiful scenery.



Fig. 7. Sitting in a pavilion with a beautiful view, you can enjoy the scenery of the parky.

The elderly nearby pointed out that Mr. Ching-wan Tsai was a friend of Mr. Ching-kuo Chiang. In the 1950s, when Mr. Ching-kuo Chiang went south to visit the artillery school, he lived in a farmhouse at Yun-shan Farm. The interior of the farmhouse is simply furnished, surrounded by tall coconut trees and cupcake fruit trees. It is said that under the egg yolk peach tree was Mr. Chiang 's favourite place to enjoy the

shade, and he used to share the fruit with his subordinates under the tree and talk about life lessons.

As the farm is the last green area in the area that retains its original afforestation style, the farm has been used as a base for the development of a new forest. Therefore, while promoting the construction of the sports park, the local community is concerned about the building, which was listed as the favourite residence of Mr. Chiang during his lifetime and was frequently visited for overnight stays. It will be damaged by the construction and development works. Fortunately, the government put aside political ideology and planned to preserve the original Japanese style of the building and set up a memorial cultural museum instead.



Fig. 8. Ching-kuo Museum records the footsteps of previous generations..



Fig. 9. Museum records the footsteps of previous generations (Cont.).

Today, the whole farm is transformed. Two underground natural springs will be "dragon caves" transformed into lotus lakes. A small portion of the nearly 3 hectares of peach tree forest has been preserved, and a large area of coconut palm forest and green areas have been built, as well as various leisure facilities such as observation pavilions, leisure trails, lakeside pavilions and playgrounds. It presents a different kind of landscape by the mountains and water, and nurtures a special leisure and natural ecological vitality.

In recent years, many people who could not wait have gone to the farm for leisure and found that the whole farm was less mysterious than before. The landscape of lush forests and bamboo remains the same, and the cupcake fruit trees, which

was Mr. Chiang's favourite during his lifetime, is beginning to bear fruit, presenting a new look of a "modern paradise". At present, the park has a plaza, a lakeside, a walkway around the area, night-time lighting and a pavilion, and staff are assigned to help tidy up the environment on a daily basis on a rotating basis. The park is planned with an ecological trail area, an ecological observatory, a bamboo trellis, a pond square, a pavilion, a play sand pit, a rocky lawn, planting and landscaping, etc., making it a good place for nearby residents to take a walk.



Fig. 10. The square in front of the pavilion provides opportunities for parent-child interaction and recreation



Fig. 11. The undulating terrain of the park makes it a good place for walking and hiking.



Fig. 12. Layout of Yong-kang Park.

IV. CONCLUSION

As shown in Figures 1 to 12, the development of Yong-kang Park can be examined from two perspectives: "historical references" and "economic development and living needs". However, with the change of time and the needs of the public, various park elements have merged with each other and it is impossible to classify them too clearly. Yong-kang Park is a multi-faceted and comprehensive park that combines sports and leisure, history, ecology, and thematic display. However, after careful analysis, Yong-kang Park is a memorial park in honor of Mr. Ching-kuo Chiang.

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