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**TITLE: “The planning of the Olympic Complex in Faliron Coastal Zone and the Post-Olympic use”**

Placed on the southern edge of Attica Region, Faliron Coastal Zone has been selected as one of the most important poles for the Olympic Project of Athens 2004 Olympic Games. On the same time Faliron wider area is one of the few remaining open places of Athens agglomeration and could potentially be developed to a green zone for the Metropolis of Athens.

Geographically, Faliron bay is the main access of Athens city to the seaside and to Piraeus port. Since the early 1930's the Faliron Bay has been an important tourist resort for the Athens region, well equipped with hotels and bathing facilities.

This historical access functioning from ancient Greek years has been terminated when a major coastal avenue parallel to the coastal front has been constructed on early 70's. The construction of this avenue not only resulted the isolation of the bay itself from the urban tissue, but also the deterioration of the coastal area which ended up as a place for depositing debris.

On the other hand the construction of this avenue converted the area to one of the most important crossroads in Athens city.

Much of the coastline is now an abandoned area, and its shape, form and outline are constantly changing. This part of the city features a combination of different landscapes: large high-speed thoroughfares mark the boundary between dilapidated

housing estates and areas where renovation and construction work is now in progress.

Taking all these facts into consideration, a complete planning has been elaborated combining the Olympic and the Post-Olympic Phase with the reestablishment of the natural connection between the urban tissue and the sea, as well with the creation of a waterfront Metropolitan Park.

The over-all project is composed by six major unities, in which the Olympic and the Post-Olympic phase activities will be developed:

- 1. The Ecological Park.** Throughout the Olympic Games the area will be used for parking and transportation.
- 2. The Open Swimming Center** for athletic and recreation activities at the Post-Olympic phase.
- 3. The Open Theater.** At the Olympic phase the major athletic infrastructure and facilities for Beach-Volley (10.000 seats) will be placed at this area, which at the Post-Olympic phase will remain as a 4.000 seats Open Theater.
- 4. The Nautical Center,** which will be serving 500 boats and the activities of native sports clubs.
- 5. The ‘Esplanade’,** a green strip that will reestablish the connection between the city and the sea. This 50 meter width zone will be passing over the existing traffic

arteries and will serve as a recreation and promenade zone for both Olympic and Post-Olympic Phases.

**6. The City Park.** At the Olympic Phase the athletic infrastructure and facilities for Handball, Tae Kwon Do and Boxing will be placed at this area. At the Post-Olympic Phase a remaining Gymnasium, an existing Aviation Museum and a new Marine Museum will form a cultural – sports park.

The six unities will be joined with a wide pedestrian streets network, which will give the visitors the chance to walk from one side to another.

This waterfront Metropolitan Park will be a venue for recreation, sporting, culture and other events of a socially beneficial nature. Over all the Olympic Project in Faliron coastal area takes into consideration the following parameters:

- Sustainability of the project.
- Diminution of the environmental consequences.
- Preservation of the elements of historical and architectural inheritance.
- Protection of the basic elements of landscape of Faliron Bay.
- Diminution of the consequences on the human environment (land uses, economical and social characteristics, facilities, services and infrastructure).
- Protection and improvement of physical environment (land, sea, ecosystems).
- Amelioration of the aesthetics of Faliron Bay area (image of the city, quality of life).
- Harmonic transition from the Olympic to the Post-Olympic Period.

- Incorporation to the urban tissue.
- Rehabilitation of the linear front.
- Reestablishment of the access to the coastal zone.

Nowadays Faliron Bay scenery is a nondescript abandoned area stuffed with mounts of rubbish and debris, with a very limited presence of natural ecosystems.

We evaluate that at this intensively deteriorated environment the realization of the Project will only have positive consequences in all aspects.

The underlying concept behind the Project is to manage the environment without drastic interventions and to restore some sort of continuity between the city and the coast by transforming the main traffic arteries into green strips of parkland.

These green strips become filter zones that give back to the citizens some common land, where social and cultural functions can take place – functions which thus become the main unifying elements in these coast – to – city parks.

The metropolitan coastal area is to be transformed from a disused sector of anxiety into a colorful, ecological multi-cultural area with a wide variety of uses and purposes.

The transformation leads to a series of special purpose land parks (cultural, social, educational, recreational and sports parks) with direct to their equivalent special – purpose marine parks making up the entirety of the Faliron Bay and the Saronic Gulf.

The ease of access, environmental-landscape potential, long-standing tourist tradition of this area, all point towards the creation of a large inner-city park.

High quality sports facilities, in addition to new shopping and housing complexes could all be provided, to help blend the Park into its surroundings (both on an urban scale and in relation to the entire conurbation), restoring the interaction that has long been lost between the city and the seafront.

After the completion of the planning (Post-Olympic phase), the proposed area will serve the needs of the neighboring municipalities and will support in the future services of recreation, cultural and sports activities for the entire agglomeration of Athens.

The Faliron coastal area after 2004 Olympic Games will have an entirely different appearance, with wide green zones and free spaces surrounding the main core of the ecological – metropolitan park.

The already environmentally stressed area will be relieved by the implementation of the project. The project will regenerate the intermediate area between the center of Athens and the port of Piraeus.

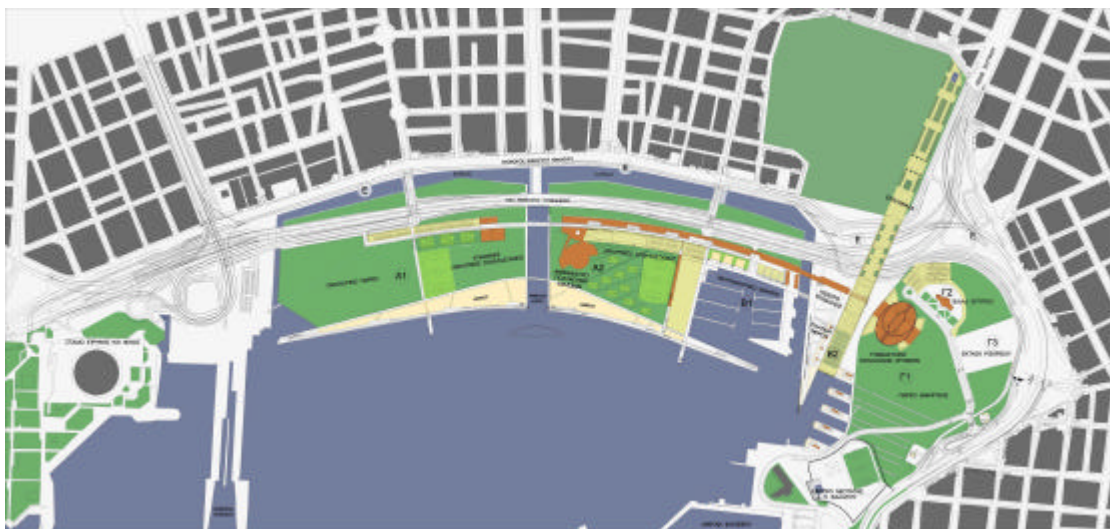
Finally the above planning will reinforce one of the few existing competitive advantages that the metropolis of Athens possesses, which is the relationship between the citizens and the sea.

## SHORT OUTLINE

Taking into consideration the demands of an event such as the Olympic Games, a complete planning has been elaborated in Faliron Bay for the Olympic and the Post-Olympic Phase. This Olympic Project is a significant case indicating how the transition from the Olympic to the Post-Olympic Period could be compatible with environmental sustainable development.



**Olympic Phase (scale: 1:5.000)**



**Post-Olympic Phase (scale: 1:5.000)**