

The impact of sport tourism in the urban development of the main Spanish cities. A review of their sport and tourism policies.

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Abstract

The purpose of this research is to detect and analyze how sports tourism and strategic planning related to sport and tourism have contributed to the urban and territorial development of some Spanish cities such as Granada or Valencia, as well as to a well-known mature tourist destination such as *Costa del Sol* in the South of Spain. Urban and territorial implications caused by these touristic and sport developments are studied: the type of public spaces that promote the sport activities on the urban space, how sport activities influence the local and visitor population, or their impact on local economies.

In order to reach this objective, the paper is divided into two sections: City and Sport vs. Tourism and Sport, and it establishes a relationship between the three concepts: City, Tourism and Sports. In this way, the urban content of the Strategic Plans and Sports Policies in Spain is reviewed, and it focuses on the cases of Granada and Valencia as the result of their innovative sport planning policies. At the same time, the research focuses on the tourism policies and their territorial and urban involvement in the mature tourism destination of *Costa del Sol*. The conclusions show a classification of urban spaces and natural coastal environments that promote the informal sport activities on the public outdoor space.

Keywords: public space, informal sport activities, sport policies, tourist policies, urban development.

Introduction

The classification of the sport activity according to the place where it is carried out distinguishes between formal and informal sports practices. In both cases the scenario may be the public space. However, the formal practice is always carried out in specific equipment for this sport use, such as the conventional sports facilities or open spaces specifically designed for the practice of a certain sports (sports tracks, skate parks, bike lanes, etcetera). In the case of informal sport activities, these take place in different kind of environments. The characteristics of these environments are analyzed in this research in order to understand which are the main conditions that promote the spontaneous appearance of the sport activities on the public space.

This sport reason for the use of urban space increases the "vitality" of public space, which is a key aspect for the quality of life of a city, and therefore for its tourist attraction. As the urban planner Beltrán Rodríguez states, a network of vital public spaces implies some benefits for cities, such as (2016, p.19):

- Increase in social interaction
- Greater diversity and equity
- Increase of the social capital
- Lower crime rate
- Greater sense of belonging, neighborhood identity and sense of community
- Improvement of tourism and nearby businesses
- Creation of more attractive places
- Greater respect for the environment

From this point of view, we can identify a clear relationship between the quality of public urban space, urban planning and sports practice. This hypothesis has been argued in previous researches collected in the literature review. This relationship can also be identified in the mature tourist environments where sport activities on the public spaces become a strategy to improve and diversify the tourist offer, as well as it is being used to improve and renovate the public urban space and the natural environments of tourist destinations.

In this sense, it is important to study what model of city and public spaces promote sport activities and the arrival of "active" sport visitors to our cities and tourist destinations. With this objective, we have studied the main sport plans of some Spanish cities and their urban involvement as well as some tourist policies, planning policies and their sport strategies in mature tourist destinations such as *Costa del Sol* area in the South of Spain.

Literature Review

SPORT AND CITY

According to data from the Global Health Observatory (GHO) of the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 80% of the Spanish population from 2020 will live in cities. From a global perspective, it was in 2010 when WHO encouraged cities to value urban planning discipline as essential for public health, highlighting the concept of urban health. Some months later, in November of the same year, the World Forum on Urbanization and Health was celebrated in Kobe, Japan.

However, there are few policies that highlight the relationship between urban planning and health. The case of the Government of England stands out at European level. This has a unit (in the National

Health System)- the London Healthy Urban Development Unit (HUDU)- that is dedicated to the study and management of sustainable urban development. In the case of Spain, the examples of Andalusia and Barcelona stand out. The first of them materializes the obligation to submit certain urban planning instruments to health impact assessment through the approval of Decree 169/2014, of December 9¹; the second one also promotes healthy urban development through initiatives such as the Barcelona Institute of Global Health "Urban Planning, Environment and Health" whose objective is to apply rigorous scientific tests, tools and indicators to enhance healthy environments.

Figure sport strategic plan is present in all Spanish cities. These instruments analyze and show, more or less successfully, the current situation of the practice of physical activity in a particular city as well as they collect the strategies to meet the needs and demands of the sport itself. The following cases highlight initiatives of the Basque community [A], Andalusian community [B] and the cities of Madrid [1], Barcelona [2] Valencia [3] and Granada [4]. All cases of study correspond to sport policies that promote the relationship between urbanism and sport.

[A] In the case of the Basque Country, although not a Strategic Plan, the project of "Mugiment program" is very interesting. It is a common initiative of the Departments of Education, Language Policy and Culture, Employment and Social Policies and Health of the Basque Government in order to create a more active society. This program makes available to citizen information about the places where people can practice sports through the use of a mobile app (Sports Facilities of the Community are identified and geo-located on a map).

[B] Andalusia region has the Strategic Sports Plan of Andalusia (2007-2016) and the Sports Facilities Master Plan. Both of them and the Community Sports Law², agree that each municipality must have its own local plan. While virtually all mid-scale municipalities have drawn up, the only provincial capital that has developed this plan is Granada, which will be studied in this article.

[1] Madrid. The initiative "Madrid sports in the street 2017-2018" is being developed within the current Strategic Plan for Sport Base (2013-2020) of the Department of Sports City of Madrid. This action promotes four activities that can be performed outdoors. One of these activities -the walking action- is included in the European Project "Walking People" in which the Autonomous University of Madrid participates.

[2] Barcelona. Strategic Sport Plan of Barcelona (2012-2022) is an ambitious project divided into 6 Master Plans. TROBA'T program includes an action called "Walk the City that relates sport practice with urban heritage routes, and it proposes an interesting initiative of "Activated Parks", areas in which sport activities take place.

[3] Valencia. After eight years of the last Strategic Plan for Sport (2010) of the Municipal Sports Foundation of Valencia this document is still remarkable as an innovative plan which considers, not only conventional sports facilities, but areas and urban spaces for the practice of sport activities (p.30). The area of river Turia garden acquires a high importance in the sport program as a sportive infrastructure that crosses the whole city (p.32).

1 Decree 169/2014, December 9th, which establishes the procedure of the Health Impact Assessment of the Autonomous Community of Andalusia. Chapter III, Evaluation of the impact on health of urban planning instruments (p. 19).

2 Law 5/2016, July 19th, of Sports in Andalusia.

[4] Granada. Something similar happens with the Local Sports Facilities Plan of the Department of Sports City of Granada (2006). This plan, in addition to planning actions on existing conventional sports facilities or planned facilities (p.10), proposes actions in what it calls "areas of activity" or urban spaces for the practice of sport activities in the city.

Cases [3] and [4] concerning Valencia and Granada, despite being plans from some years ago, they represent a new understanding of the city as a container of sport activities and the public space as new sport facility or infrastructure. These plans consider and analyze conventional facilities and urban spaces in the same level of study in order to assess the situation of sports in a particular city. Therefore, they are subsequently analyzed in the following part of discussion and results.

SPORT AND TOURISM

The relationship between both activities is of great importance as it is written in the collaboration agreement adopted between the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1999, in which both institutions stressed the need to coordinate actions and efforts between the two sectors. According to the latest data handled by the National Institute of Statistics, 10.1 million foreign tourists visited Spain for sport reasons in 2016. In the specific case of the *Costa del Sol* tourist destination, this figure represents 8% of international tourists received (Extremera, 2016).

The promotion of tourism linked to the sports offer constitutes a strategic line on the rise. The sport activity is present in many of the Spanish tourism management plans, and it enhances the creation of brands for its promotion: Turismo Deportivo Aragón TDA, Sports Tourism Agenda of Seville, Sport Destination *Costa del Sol* Plan, etc. In addition to its economic impact (with an annual income of 2,000 million euros from sports tourism according to Tourespaña 2014) and the diversification of the tourist offer, sport allows to promote active tourism destinations, promotes a healthy and respectful tourism, and in the last term, it favors the renovation of the public urban space and natural environments in mature destinations as in the case of *Costa del Sol*.

An active sports tourist is one who visits a place in order to practice a certain sport. Although formal sport is a source of best known tourist attraction in many cities, either for participation in scheduled events, access to high performance centers... It is highly increasing the number of travels related to the practice of sports outdoors in attractive areas (trails, greenways, waterways, roads ...).

In addition, there are statistical data that reveal the potential of sports as a tourist attraction for visitors from other Spanish cities to coastal destinations, which would mean support to avoid the seasonality in these destinations. In the case of the Valencia Community, 29.4% of the national tourists who visited it in 2016 carried out sports activities compared to 14% of foreign origin, according to data from the Valencian Tourism Agency. On the other hand, some of the main reasons for choosing *Costa del Sol* as a leisure tourist destination include golf, activities and sport events, specifically nautical events and the realization of routes (according to 2015 data of the Tourist Observatory of *Costa del Sol*).

On the other hand, urban and territorial actions taken to promote tourism and active tourism in leisure destinations reverse directly in its appeal to tourists, and improving quality of its public spaces and natural environments for local communities. This is already understood by different administrations, as it can be seen from their tourism policies and sport strategies. Below there are some examples of interest in the different levels: [1] state, [2] regional and [3] local level.

[1] At the state level, the National Horizon 2020 Tourism Plan develops the main challenges of the Spanish Tourism strategies (Spain, 2007). This establishes the Spanish tourism products to be

promoted and it focuses on the promotion of sports tourism, and specifically on the following sports: golf, nautical practice, skiing, health / wellness and rural and active tourism.

[2] Within the framework of the autonomous communities, the tourist planning of the Andalusia region is of great interest. The Strategic Plan of Marketing Tourism Horizon 2020, PEMTH 2020, (EP for the G. del T. and D. in Andalusia, 2016) establishes a series of actions in line with the General Plan for Sustainable Tourism in Andalusia Horizon 2020, PGTSAH 2020, (Andalusia, 2016). Both consider the products of active tourism, health / wellness, nature, and sports tourism (hiking, cycling, yoga, tennis, golf) as new fields of opportunity in the diversification of products (PEMTH 2020, p.104, PGTSAH 2020, P. 133). They both propose promoting non-seasonal consolidated products such as golf or nature tourism (PEMTH 2020, page 325).

Tourism Strategy Conference held in Torremolinos in November 2012 has become a key milestone present throughout the tourism planning process initiated by the Ministry of Tourism and Commerce of Andalusia. It was carried out in spaces for discussion in working groups organized by the 10 kinds of major products of the region, such as the group of Sports Tourism. The findings of the working group Sports Tourism highlighted the need for innovation to adapt to the new requirements of demand, and also sustainability in the creation, use and management of the supply of sports tourism (Meneses Cabrera (coord), 2014).

In the case of the Basque Country, the Basque Tourism Strategic Plan 2020 (Vasco, 2014) integrates the promotion of active tourism as an initiative linked to business strengthening in order to adapt the current model to new sectors and tourism. Undoubtedly sports tourism contributes to local job creation and support for small businesses. An example is the case of the Aragonese Association of Sports Tourism, TDA ("Asociación Aragonesa Business Sports Tourism," nd). This association integrates a network of more than 40 companies of the three Aragonese provinces and it develops more than 40 different sports activities. Its web platform is very innovative and allows the user to access the type of sport activities by geographic area or by type of activity (water, snow, terrain and air).

[3] At the local level two case studies, the city of Barcelona and the *Costa del Sol* mature destination, are proposed. The interest of both cases lies in the approach to tourism planning, worrying not only by promoting and attracting a number of tourists, but other aspects and implications such as spatial, social, or mobility among others. The document Tourism Barcelona 2020, a collective strategy for sustainable tourism (Arias, 2017) is a reference document. This strategic plan addresses, according to its memory, the key challenge for managing the tourist city instead of managing the tourism in the city. One of the most interesting approaches is the fact of relating tourism and territorial strategy of the city. Barcelona's plan promotes actions -such as to enhance the sports agenda- linked to economic local development and territorial management.

Finally, the case study of the *Costa del Sol* as a tourist destination in Spain, include the Tourism Retraining Plan *Costa del Sol*, *Qualifica* Plan (C. T. and J. D. of Andalusia, 2007), first plan of tourist regeneration at international level. It promotes diversification and product differentiation, specifically, with the creation of complementary active tourism. The plan considers the promotion of sports tourism facilities and the promotion of emerging products such as health tourism. One of the major contributions of this strategic plan is to work on the territorial, urban and infrastructural level (p. 71), addressing tourism development from a complex approach where tourism growth is compatible with other uses and activities. It is not a question of improving the supply quantitatively, but rather of raising the overall quality of actions as a whole. Therefore, and given the nature of innovation of this plan along with other actions and initiatives developed in the tourism area it is proposed as a case study for discussion in the following section.

MAIN ACTIVE TOURISM [T] AND SPORT [S] POLICIES AND STRATEGIES IN SPAIN					
FRAMEWORK		[S]/[T]	PLAN NAME	[U]/[N]	GOOD PRACTICES OF HEALTHY URBAN [U] OR NATURAL [N] ENVIRONMENTS PLANNING
STATE	SPAIN	[T]	National Horizon 2020 Tourism Plan	[N]	Develops beaches as tourism infrastructures
					Defends natural resources to promote sport tourism
		[S]	National Plan for Physical Activity and Sports (2010-2020)	[U] [N]	Considers sports facilities as open public spaces Encourages unconventional urban spaces for the practice of physical activity
AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES	ANDALUSIA	[T]	Strategic Plan of Marketing Tourism Horizon 2020	[N]	Promotes nature , and sports tourism (hiking, cycling, yoga, tennis, golf) as new fields of opportunity in the diversification of products
		[T]	General Plan for Sustainable Tourism in Andalusia Horizon 2020		
		[S]	Law 5/2016 of Sports of Andalusia	[N]	Considers the natural environment as a sports facility when used as a means for sports practice
	BASQUE COUNTRY	[T]	Basque Tourism Strategic Plan 2020	[N]	Emphasizes sustainability , creates connections with the Department for Environment
		[S]	Mugiment Program	[U] [N]	Provides geolocation of sport facilities
LOCAL	BARCELONA	[T]	Tourism Barcelona 2020	[U]	Manages the tourist city instead of managing the tourism in the city
		[S]	Strategic Sport Plan of Barcelona (2012-2022)	[U]	Promotes sport in green public spaces Promotes joining sports and urban heritage
	COSTA DEL SOL	[T]	Tourism Retraining Plan <i>Costa del Sol, Qualifica</i>	[U] [N]	Prefers renovation than expansion Promotes not territorial extension
		[S]	Local Plan of Sports Facilities	[U]	Revitalizes city centers

Methodology and aims

The main objective of this work focuses on detecting what is the influence of tourism-sports practice on the urban context in which it develops. The analysis of the contribution of sports tourism and strategic planning linked to sport and tourism in the urban and territorial development of certain Spanish cities is directed according to the interest of its sports and tourism policies, and specifically in a mature tourist destination such as *Costa del Sol*.

This research divides the review of the plans and policies needed to understand the Spanish regulatory context regarding sports and tourism in a double aspect: the relationship between sport and the city and the relationship between sport and tourism. Sport acts as a link. The main urban and territorial implications that these tourism and sports developments have generated are analyzed attending to this double scheme.

The review of the urban content of the most interesting Strategic Plans and Sports Policies in Spain leads us to study the cases of sports plans of the autonomous communities of the Basque Country and Andalusia, as well as some cities such as Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia and Granada. From this first review the objective is focused in two contrasting cases: Valencia as a "venue" city and Granada as a cultural city.

From the tourism point of view, it is established a triple scale of analysis: the Spanish national scale with the *National Plan Horizonte 2020*, the autonomic one through the cases of Andalusia and the Basque Country, and the local one emphasizing the tourist places of Barcelona and the *Costa del Sol* area (Malaga).

The results obtained from this analysis provide, therefore, information about which are the public spaces that favor informal sports practice, how they influence the visiting population and the local population and what is their impact on local economies.

From these first urban experiences as examples of good practices, and from the results obtained from the analysis in Malaga coastal area, a classification of public outdoor spaces that favor informal sport practice is established for urban and natural environments.

Discussion and Results

SPORT AND CITY

The study of non-conventional sports facilities mentioned above in the cases of the strategic sports plans of Valencia and Granada, encloses all those spaces that favor the outdoor exercise of sport, usually made in places of public property where local administrations are responsible of maintenance as they do not have fixed management personnel like conventional sports facilities.

The specific case of the city of Granada even calls "system" to the set of sport facilities of different nature within the city. This means the local administration and its sports plan take into account the territorial component at the time of analysing the city. Specifically, it differentiates the current status and the proposal of its sports facilities distinguishing in Conventional Sports Facilities and Non-

Conventional Sports Facilities. It also establishes a classification in Singular Installations and the Activity Areas for this practise.

The organization of the Singular Sports Facilities duplicates the organization made for the Conventional Facilities, focusing its objectives on the integration of this type of facilities in the public spaces of the city, as well as promoting the use of the physical environment for the practice of specific activities. These facilities, both existing and scheduled, include skating areas and circuits located on boulevards, ring roads, canals and bike lanes.

The Organization of Sports Activity Areas is established based on their classification according to types, characteristics, urban or rural location, etc.; the existing areas of activity and those that have been programmed are analysed, even when they go beyond the municipal boundaries. Both types are divided into equipped or not equipped. Among the existing Urban Activity Areas are urban parks and boulevards. Outside urban areas include "peri-urban" parks, trails and outdoor spaces of a linear nature.

The territorial implication of this System of Facilities translates into a great connection of the planned equipment with the urban and metropolitan public spaces, influencing the creation and development of new zones of the receiving nucleus of visitors and of new tourist strategies.

With the exception of very few public spaces, most of these facilities are located outside the historic city centre, which implies a diversification of attractiveness in less congested areas where, in many cases, the treatment of public space has been less cared. These actions promote the accessibility of these areas and their tourism management motivated by the empowerment and qualification of their public space.

At the same time it is observed that, in the search of a dynamic tourist model for Granada, the Tourism Plan of the city (led by the *Junta de Andalucía*, the City Council and the Provincial Federation of Hospitallers) advocates the establishment of cultural routes and historical paths, as well as for the empowerment of the lesser-known areas of the city. These routes are also used as tools to address the problems of tourist flows suffered by the city.

In the case of Valencia city, infrastructures for large sport events have been an important factor of urban and tourist development. The city has developed up to 16 infrastructures (differentiated in stadiums, large pavilions and unique spaces by the Sport Strategic Plan of the City of Valencia) which have involved large urban operations.

If the cultural reference of Granada city (whose greatest sporting appeal is located in the Sierra Nevada area) has focused on a sports strategy based on small public performances, Valencia has followed an urban policy trying to differentiate itself under the slogan "city show" based on the celebration of important sport events. The consolidation of a brand or image of the city had as main character the Turia river, the sports infrastructure with the longest route in the city due to the change of the course of the river. The main objective of these investments was to turn it into a sports tourism destination under the reference of the city Barcelona (Del Romero Renau, 2010).

In this way the renovation of the environment of the port on the occasion of the America's Cup meant the renovation of this degraded urban layout. This operation was quite controversial due to the use of public funds for the practise of a sport activity reserved for a very specific public of high purchasing status. The "opening" of the port was led by the privatization of part of the land and the exclusion of the nearneighbourhoods of *Cabanyal* and *Malvarrosa*. These areas of the city had serious problems of social exclusion, crime and a lack of qualified public spaces, so the need of urban renovation was clear.

However, after the sportivevent was held twice, the area became semi-abandoned and a strategic plan was drawn up. This plan involved renting the infrastructures under the figure of concession and rental regime that would reduce the Valencian Administration's debt after the huge urban operation.

All this shows the need to understand and think these great sport events from the local population's interests, and not only for the visitors' ones. In many cases, these infrastructures are abandoned instead of being incorporated as a qualified public space within the city.

SPORT AND TOURISM

The study of Costa del Sol as a destination of a major tourist and sports development at the same time, make this place a learning and testing laboratory which enables conclusions to be drawn regarding the territorial, economic and social implications of sports and active tourism. Tourism development is backed by 10.6 million tourists received in 2015 according to data provided by the Provincial Tourism. Regarding its sports development, the Costa del Sol is, for many years now, leading tourist destination of Golf, but it has also much experience in managing nautical tourism and recreation. Currently Costa del Sol is a candidate for European Community Sport, an award given only to those sites that promote sports. The interest in this sports development is evident as it can be seen in the renewal of brands such as Sport Plan Malaga destination that promotes sports market destinations.

The Qualifica Plan, a Retraining Program of destinations on the Costa del Sol of Andalusia, is committed to a new model based on renovation against expansion; supporting an economic development but not territorial extension. One of the premises is to coordinate with other figures and plans affecting planning and land management as the Costa del Sol Occidental Territorial Plan, which will be discussed later. The Qualifica Plan highlights two strategies: [1] to revitalize the city centers and tourist areas for its ability to generate activity and new facilities, and [2] to diversify and differentiate tourism products providing new values such as active tourism and sport among others.

[1] The first of the strategies include landscape integration policies in the area through renovation programs on river parks, for example. It also includes policies for the renovation of beaches, through programs on maritime corridor, programs for promoting landscape trails or bike lanes. Finally, it enhances the renovation of urban spaces. From these actions it can be identified how most of the proposed actions are located on the coastal strip, in natural environments such as the rivers, as well as in the urban environments of the municipalities. We highlight interventions such as the riverside park of Fuengirola River, a river park in the town in which they have built sports and leisure facilities, allowing navigation of small boats on the stretch of 1 km as well as other sporting activities, trips, bike path, pedals ... This place is now used by the local population and tourists, and it has become a performance reference that could be followed in other rivers of the coast and have a direct social involvement.

[2] The second strategy is aimed at product diversification with new values such as creating complementary services related to active and sports tourism. Tourist-sports facilities are planned (allocating nearly 10% of the budget of the total for the development of the plan, p. 79) as well as some emerging products such as creating a golf school, golf club's product, marine product ...

The most relevant territorial planning within the area of study is the Master Plan of Costa del Sol, POTCSO (MA C. and O. J. T. of Andalusia, 2018) in process of being approved, after the annulation of the previous plan by the Supreme Court in 2015. Coordination mechanisms have been established between this Master Plan and the mentioned Tourist Renovation Plan reaching common goals and strategies. Some of these strategies can be found in the current draft plan (MA C. and O. T. J. of Andalusia, 2018) which has maintained the main ideas of the previous one, such as creating a coastline corridor or consolidating the water paths along the coast. The proposal map included in the Master Plan (P. 208) shows a project for territorial green system whose main elements constitute the coastal corridor, water roads, parks outside the city and recreational trails. It also proposes a system of facilities outside the city with a large number of sports complexes.

It is worth highlighting the project of the Coastal Path of the province of Malaga, led by Malaga provincial Council, which aims to connect the entire coast of the province, over 180 km. This connection will link the existing structures (boardwalks, paths and trails) and build new links. The "Senda" itself is an important tourist resource that connects areas of high natural and heritage value (connects up to 42 watchtowers along the coast, or the Phoenicians deposits Velez Malaga) and it has already become a sports infrastructure of great travel. The coastal path has among its objectives to achieve an economic impact and enable local employment. A study of the Provincial Government indicates that the operation of the infrastructure can keep 270 jobs every year. In addition, it has already allowed the recovery of public spaces of great natural value serving tourists and residents.

Conclusions

We can affirm that informal sports practice is, generally, an activity of local citizens. However, some places provoke the interest not only of citizens, but also of visitors, because of their heritage, cultural or environmental values. These are called active tourists. We can identify through different examples their positive influence from a social, economic and environmental point of view.

Based on this study results and those achieved by the study of sports development in public spaces of the city of Barcelona prepared by the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (Magrinyà & Mayorga, 2008), the main public spaces likely to become informal sports facilities are the following ones, according to mechanisms that generate their spontaneous use:

1. URBAN ENVIRONMENT:

1.1 The park. It is the central element for spontaneous urban sports practice. Parks can associate the possibilities of the square and the formal sports facilities, due to their configuration of public outdoor spaces. They can also improve environmental quality caused by the use of vegetation.

1.2. The square. According to their nature as hard or soft squares (depending on the materials used in their design), the squares are places that can host active and passive activities, where locals and visitors can meet each other. Depending on their design they usually accommodate sports activities at their central space and other passive ones for walking or resting on their perimeter area.

1.3. The road infrastructure. This type of element has the ability, according to its longitudinal, branched or circular morphology, to boost physical activity around it. It is usually associated to its

longitudinal dimension (running) and to the residual spaces related to the ring roads depending on their accessibility (improvised skateparks).

1.4. The environment of sports facilities. The sports spaces are usually attractors of other spaces of sports practices around them (volleyball, basketball, BMX circuits ...).

1.5. The abandoned space. Spontaneous appropriation of disused spaces is a common practice as the result of the lack of qualified public space in some areas such as the historic city centers. The sport uses usually appear in empty plots, riverbeds (not occupied by water), parking plots, arcades without use, zones of new construction not yet inhabited, etc.

1.6. The heritage itinerary. Patrimonial elements become a factor of attraction for the development of physical activities like walking or running. The banks of the rivers, the maritime borders, or the monumental routes and appropriately connected historical sites promote the use of public space as a sports space associated with the image of the city. This appeal has been used by many municipal sports policies, as seen in the cases of Barcelona or Madrid in previous sections of this paper.

2. In THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS OF THE COAST(such as coastal tourist destinations):

2.1 The beaches. They become important centers of sport activity in the tourist destinations of the coast; Their size, materiality and presence of the sea promote a wide variety of activities either on the sand, such as volleyball, soccer, shovels, or running, or on the water, such as sailing, surfing, wind surfing, diving and others.

2.2 The seafont. It is the most important public space in coastal tourist destinations as it becomes the place where local population and visitors can meet. Its configuration as a space of relationship and proximity to the sea make it a very attractive place for sports such as skating, walking, running, etcetera.

2.3 The river parks. The environmental quality of these areas as well as their linear character make these main sports infrastructures very comfortable for walking, running or as a bike path. Some of them also allow the practice of water sports such as sailing, canoeing, etcetera.

2.4 The trails. In the same way as in the case of the road infrastructure, its longitudinal condition and the environmental and natural quality of its routes, encourage physical activity and active tourism.

2.5 Natural parks. Exceptional environments for sports and outdoor activities in general. They allow the promotion of nature tourism and active tourism.

2.6 Routes of environmental and/ or patrimonial interest.

These typologies of public space elements in both urban and natural environments are used in a different way by the local citizen and by active and passive tourism. Some of them are configured as meeting points of the three users. All of them favor the practice of informal sports activities, as elements of a sports infrastructure and social relations system.

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