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# Teddy Kollek Park to be redrawn after archeological findings uncovered

June 8, 2010

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by Dan Slobodkin

After archeological findings were uncovered near Yemin Moshe and David's Village, the Jerusalem Foundation decided last week to alter plans for Teddy Park, a grand project to honor late Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek slated for construction in the valley between Yemin Moshe and the Old City walls.

The findings include the remains of a neighborhood from the 19th century and as well as the Roman and Byzantine Periods. According to an Antiquities Authority source, archeologists came across part of one of the first neighborhoods to be built after leaving the Old City walls, which vanished because it is located in a valley. He said they also discovered ancient remains, such as arches that apparently led to Sultan's Pool.

Local residents in the posh neighborhoods of David's Village and Yemin Moshe have voiced concern over events and performances that will be held in the park.

Teddy Kollek Park is being billed as "a central meeting point between old and modern Jerusalem" with a tree-lined promenade and an "amphitheater garden" featuring a water attraction that combines water, sound and light.

Also slated for construction are an exhibit and visitors center honoring Kollek, who served as five-time mayor of Jerusalem from 1965 to 1993 and founded the Jerusalem Foundation in 1966.

The Jerusalem Foundation had hoped to complete construction work by May 2011, to dedicate the park around what would have been Kollek's 100th birthday. But now, due to salvation digs, delays are expected and the boundaries of the park are likely to change.

According to Jerusalem Foundation spokeswoman Liat Rosner, a meeting will be held with city engineer Shlomo Eshkol in late June to decide how the archeological findings will affect the project.



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