100th Anniversary Of Our Republic

Istanbul Okan University

Watershed Management Strategy

1.Introduction

Watershed management encompasses the sustainable management of water resources and land use within a specific watershed or drainage basin. With its growing campus and student population, Istanbul Okan University aims to integrate environmental sustainability into its operations and become a leading example. This strategy presents a plan to manage the watershed within and around the campus, conserve water resources, enhance ecosystem services, and promote sustainability.

2. Vision and Goals

Vision: To sustainably manage campus water resources, protect the local environment, and support academic excellence and community well-being.

Goals:

- Preserve and improve the quality of water resources within the watershed.
- Minimize the impact of campus development on the local hydrological cycle.
- Enhance water conservation efforts across the campus.
- Maintain and restore natural habitats to achieve ecological balance.
- Engage students, academic staff, and the local community in water conservation efforts.

3. 1. Watershed Assessment

The first step in watershed management is understanding the current conditions:

Geographic Boundaries:

Map the watershed boundaries within and around the campus to identify major water resources, rivers, streams, and groundwater systems.

Land Use:

Analyze land use within the watershed by assessing campus infrastructure, green spaces, and surrounding urban or rural areas.

Water Quality:

Conduct regular water quality monitoring to assess pollution levels in local streams, rivers, and groundwater.

Hydrological Patterns:

Analyze precipitation, surface runoff, infiltration, and soil water retention capacity to understand the movement of water across the landscape.

4.Core Strategies

4.1. Rainwater Management

4.2. Erosion Control and Land Stabilization

4.3. Water Conservation and Reuse

4.4. Ecological Restoration

4.5. Education and Community Engagement

4.Core Strategies

4.1. Rainwater Management

- **Green Infrastructure:** Use green roofs, rain gardens, and permeable surfaces to reduce surface runoff, increase groundwater recharge, and mitigate flood risk.
- **Rainwater Harvesting:** Install rainwater collection systems on building roofs for irrigation and other non-potable uses.
- **Constructed Wetlands:** Create artificial wetlands to treat rainwater, enhance biodiversity, and provide research opportunities for students.

4.2. Erosion Control and Land Stabilization

- **Buffer Zones:** Establish buffer zones along streams and rivers to filter surface runoff, reduce erosion, and provide habitat for wildlife.
- **Erosion Control Measures:** In areas with high rainfall and slopes, use vegetation, terraces, and contour planting to minimize erosion.

4.Core Strategies

4.3. Water Conservation and Reuse

- **Efficient Irrigation Systems:** Implement drip and smart irrigation technologies for landscaping and agricultural areas to minimize water waste.
- **Water-Saving Equipment:** Install water-efficient fixtures such as low-flow toilets and faucets across campus facilities to reduce water consumption.

4.4. Ecological Restoration

- **Restoration of Natural Water Resources:** Restore degraded streams, ponds, and wetlands within the watershed to improve their ecological functions and water quality.
- **Biodiversity Corridors:** Create green corridors to connect fragmented ecosystems and support local wildlife.
- **Afforestation and Reforestation:** Undertake tree planting and habitat restoration projects to increase water retention capacity, reduce surface runoff, and enhance local biodiversity.

4.Core Strategies

4.5. Education and Community Engagement

- **Awareness Campaigns:** Organize educational programs and campaigns to raise awareness among students, staff, and the local community about water conservation and healthy watersheds.
- **Student Engagement:** Encourage student participation in watershed management and sustainability through research projects, internships, and volunteer programs.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborate with local authorities, NGOs, and environmental organizations to extend the impact of the watershed management program.

5.Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of watershed management efforts. Key indicators to track include:

- Water quality parameters (pH, nutrient levels, turbidity, etc.) in campus streams and groundwater.
- The volume of water saved or reused through rainwater harvesting and greywater systems.
- Reductions in surface runoff and improvements in groundwater recharge.
- The success of erosion control measures and restoration projects.
- Levels of student and community engagement in sustainability programs.

Annual reports will be prepared to document progress, and adjustments to the strategy will be made based on evaluation findings.

6.Sustainability and Long-Term Impact

The ultimate goal of Istanbul Okan University's watershed management strategy is to ensure the long-term health of the campus's water resources and surrounding ecosystems. By reducing water consumption, restoring ecosystems, and promoting a culture of sustainability, Istanbul Okan University aims to serve as an example for other institutions in Turkey and beyond.

This strategy outlines practical steps for integrating watershed management into the university's overall sustainability efforts, providing opportunities for student involvement and community outreach.

Istanbul Okan University

Tepeören Mahallesi Tuzla Kampüsü,
İstanbul Okan Üniversitesi, 34959
Tuzla/İstanbul

Learning Application and Research Center
Prepared by: Res. Asst. Begüm GÜNDÜZ
Co-worker: Asst. Prof. Emel KOÇ