

Καλημέρα,

Αξιότιμοι καλεσμένοι, κυρίες και κύριοι:

Θα ήθελα να σας καλωσορίσω κι εγώ με τη σειρά μου και να σας ευχαριστήσω που ήρθατε σ' αυτή την Ημερίδα.

Είναι μεγάλη τιμή και ευχαρίστηση για μένα το ότι έχω σήμερα την ευκαιρία να σας μιλήσω για το Παρράσιο Πάρκο Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς. Ζητώ συγγνώμη που θα πρέπει να μιλήσω στα Αγγλικά.

Kalimera,

Aksiotimoi kalesmenoi, kyries kai kyrioi:

Tha ithela na sas kalosoriso ki ego me ti seira mou kai na sas efharistiso pou irthate s' afti tin imerida.

Einai megali timi kai efharistisi gia mena to oti eho simera tin efkeria na sas miliso gia to Parrhasio Parko Politistikis Klironomias. Zito signomi pou tha prepei na miliso sta Agglika.

Good morning.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

[Parrhasian Heritage Park cover](#)

Let me add my welcome to you all and thank you for coming to this Hmerida.

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to have this opportunity to speak to you about the Parrhasian Heritage Park. I apologize for needing to speak in English.

The ideas having to do with the creation of the park have emanated from the members of the Mt. Lykaion Excavation and Survey Project and were first proposed in a meeting with Anastasia Panagiotopoulou as Ephor of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ephoreia of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities in Sparta in 2003, as an integral part of Mary Voyatzis' and my original long term planning for our archaeological project. I first

spoke about it publically at a meeting having to do with the Modern Lykaion Games at the War Museum in Athens in 2005.

Mt. Lykaion is located in one of the most beautiful landscapes in Greece and it seemed only proper that working in this environment we should include not only plans for the long-term care and preservation of the archaeological site but also of the neighboring landscape. This has continued to be the case as we work together with our excellent colleague, Dr. Michalis Petropoulos and the ΛΘ' Ephoreia of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, and also under the auspices of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Working and living in the picturesque villages of Ano Karyes and Xastanochoroi have reinforced our appreciation of the landscape, the communities and the traditions.

I have been, for many years, fortunate to find myself surrounded by numerous bright and talented colleagues and students representing many fields of study, that not only include archaeology and anthropology, classics and history but also architecture, landscape architecture, planning, forestry, geology, historic preservation and heritage preservation. I have learned greatly from them and, as a result, it has been the collective work and the influence of all of these students and colleagues that has generated this proposal that you have before you, the booklet. This has truly been a collaborative effort. The leaders of the current park proposal are Costas Cassios, Emeritus Professor of Forestry and the Environment at the National Polytechnic University of Athens and Mark Davison formerly of the US National Park Service and now Park Planner for the State of Oregon. They have both taught us a great deal and they have guided our thinking and our ideas and we thank them for their contributions.

End Translation

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We have been assisted by many other individuals from different fields some of whom are listed here, those who helped us to put together the booklet.

### [Map of the park](#)

In the simplest of terms the idea of the park is to preserve and promote a magnificent landscape of approximately 300 km<sup>2</sup> in the Western Peloponnesos. The park will protect the culturally significant places, outstanding natural beauty, and rich archaeological sites while encouraging traditional ways of life and economic growth in communities throughout the region. Land ownership will remain in local control and development will depend on the decisions and actions of the community. Although there are no hard and fast boundaries for the park we have created maps that suggest the proposed area. The map as you will see is divided into four different character areas or zones, the Mt. Lykaion zone, the Mt. Minthi zone, the Mt. Tetrazio zone and the Neda River zone.

We feel that these areas should be celebrated as a heritage park of great significance for generations of European visitors and tourists from around the world. The name of the park, Parrhasian, refers to the ancient legends of Arcadia associated with the heart of the park. In antiquity the Parrhasia was considered to be the most ancient region of Greece and there is considerable history and archaeology associated with this area, to be discussed by Dr. Petropoulos. Today the area of the park includes important ancient sanctuaries and cities in southwest Arcadia, and parts of modern day Messenia and Elis. You will hear about these sites shortly from Anastasia Panagiotopoulou.

### [Brochure pages](#)

Although what we will present here represents a fairly advanced degree of thinking about the park, none of the elements of the proposal are such that they cannot be changed.

## Vision

The vision of the park includes the following:

- The protection and support for traditional ways of life, commerce and festivals.
- The preservation of archaeological sites and natural resources.
- The creation of trails to connect the ancient cities and sanctuaries, as well as villages and scenic sites.
- Park gateway towns to orient visitors and provide overnight accommodation.
- The creation of new archaeological museums, cultural centers and educational programs.
- Opportunities for new tourism activities that promote local goods and services.
- A coordinated series of interpretive signage, guide maps and public information centers.
- The organization that will oversee the park is typically a coalition of local communities representing the local villages, towns, the agrarian community, local industry, local government and national government. The goal of the coalition is to identify the vision, the major goals, the actions, funding sources, as well as to bring about legislation for the park.

We hope that you will add your vision of the park to ours and we look forward to your suggestions and your ideas about the future of your landscape.