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valleys, and gardens of northern Tehran and Shemiran. Soil and water, the two vital elements of ecological balance, became subject to daily abuse and waste. Fortunately, these deteriorating conditions were highlighted by both naturalists and the general population. To prevent the destruction of this natural heritage, various ideas and solutions were proposed by both scientists and laymen. Tehran's municipality has taken some measures to find solutions for some of these problems.

My colleagues in Baft-e-Shahr Consulting Architects, Urban Planners, & Landscape Architects, have proposed two concepts for the sustainable development of Tehran. These notions originate from an earlier project implemented 20 years ago at the mouth of the Jamshidieh valley in the foothills of the Alborz. The premise was to protect the valley from urban sprawl.

The first concept is the protection of the zone at the foothills of the Alborz range. Four valleys are situated north of Tehran in the foothills of the Kolakchal Heights: the Dar-abad, Jamshidieh, Tang Hesark, and Golabdarreh valleys. Plans have been prepared to preserve the heights and valleys against Tehran's urban expansion. Part of this plan is currently being implemented.

The key to this concept is the zoning of an area with an approximate width of six kilometres and depth of two kilometres that is sandwiched between the urban fringe of the urban built area and the mountains.

**The four zones in this area comprise:**

1. The physical limit of the city. The last boundary where the city can expand is formed by natural or built elements such as a foot route with trees. This limit ranges between 1,800 and 1,850 metres in altitude.
2. The natural urban park area. Between the physical fringe of the city and the natural edge of the mountains, natural urban parks are cre-



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ated (such as Jamshidieh park), or appropriate indigenous plantations of mountainous regions are planted. These parks are equipped with installations and facilities to provide services for people. They are places where citizens can spend their leisure time and the young can begin to learn mountain-climbing. These parks are located between, 1,850 and 1,950 metres.

3.The transition zone between the man-made and the natural. This comprises the trails and access routes through the mountains up to a height of 2,000 metres, used principally for recreational walking and mountain climbing. For green cover, plants and thickets resistant to the mountain climate are cultivated. The young and middle-aged will be the users of this area, which includes Ferdowsi Boustan and heights north of Jamshidieh park. These areas are located at altitudes between 1,900 and 2,100 metres.

4.Virgin territory. This includes the routes through arduous and high