The article comprises a short presentation of the public gardens from Iasi, during the second half of the 19th Century. The most famous of them was the Copou Garden, which was preferred by the local elites as a scene for social competition, as a medium for sociability and a tool for loisir. The gardens were administered by the local authorities, which were responsible with the lighting, the tidiness and the good disposition of the visitors.

**Keywords:** the city of Iasi, public gardens, social life, modern habits, loisir, local authorities