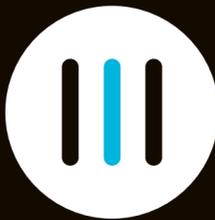


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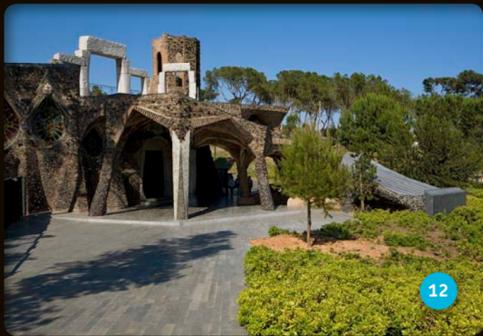
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Water management

One of the objectives of the actions carried out in the metropolitan section of the Llobregat River is to achieve the maximum efficiency in the use and recovery of the water, as an essential and scarce asset, and as the most important water source for the metropolitan area of Barcelona. Thus, the Park seeks the recovery of the natural dynamics of the river in order to minimize the demand for irrigation. For instance, we can use the same river water and the regenerated water extracted from the sewage treatment plants, so as to achieve the maximum hydric efficiency.

The Park also includes facilities for the water infiltration in order to enable a better aquifer recharge. The recharge ponds are ecologically integrated elements in the riverine landscape, that can be compatible with the indigenous flora and fauna. Can be also scenarios for leisure activities, for the practice of sports, for the enjoyment of nature and for the environmental education.



River Park

The River Park recovers for the citizenship a large space formerly occupied by illegal orchard and vegetable gardens, located near the city center of Sant Boi de Llobregat. It happens to be paradigmatic of a situation that fortunately has been little by little overcome, because, until recently, this important town of more than 82,000 inhabitants lived close and far from the river at the same time, since approaching it was almost impossible for pedestrians, and the pathways where long and dangerous.

Nowadays a new footbridge has been built to have direct access to the river area that draws the train tracks and passes over the Right Channel of the Llobregat and the busy road of Sant Vicenç. This permits the creation of a convenient route that leaves the river area to a bit less than 250 meters from the city council and the city center. This space has become a River Park of three hectares with plantations of different riparian vegetal species.



Heritage

The Llobregat River has conditioned the development of civilizations that have come together in this territory throughout the history. A key aspect has been its influence in communications, which have progressively transformed according to the different periods and technologies. Concerning to the section of the river described in this project, it gave place to the Roman Via Augusta, saw the passing of medieval pathways, and later allowed the construction of the modern railways, roads and highways. Upstream, the river connected the Mediterranean with the Pyrenees, and has been a pasture for herds, which used to alternate the Pyrenees pastures with the mild winter down in the lower valley.

Water has enabled a net of agricultural channels that structure the whole river delta system. Mostly unique patrimonial elements are the industrial colonies, which have played a key role in the economic and social history of the valley of the Llobregat River.



Fauna

In the region of the Baix Llobregat there is a great diversity of natural areas. The riparian forests are resting places for aquatic birds such as the cormorant or the heron, or nesting spots for the magpie, the weaver and the oriole. Some raptors use these places as points of surveillance of their prey. The long-legged bird nests in the river islands while mallards and moorhens are more typical of reed beds. In the sandy beaches of pebbles and clay, we can find examples of wading birds, such as the plovers or the common sandpipers, and river turtles also frequent them.

Temporary flood areas are especially important for amphibians like the frog, the toad and the tree frog, as well as for some reptiles, like water snakes. The riverbanks give shelter to the nests of species such as bee-eaters and kingfishers. Reed beds, hedges and stagnant water areas are microenvironments inhabited by much of the typical Mediterranean fauna.



Vegetation

The original river vegetation, mainly consisting of riparian forest communities (poplars, elms, willows, tamarisks) and mixed groups, has almost disappeared in the last two sections of this area due to the strong human pressure: there are only small fragments and in process of degradation. The most abundant riverside vegetation are mosaics of reed beds with meadows and fragments of riparian woodland or the same reed beds with the presence of remnants of deciduous trees and riverside vegetation.

In the Mediterranean region, rivers compose a system that is highly altered by extreme fluctuations of flow. These alterations convert rivers into a shelter for many plants with a colonizing capacity. The areas that still have natural vegetation typical of riverbanks, as well as several elements used by the fauna, have become really important environments.

The metropolitan section of the Llobregat River has a length of 30 km and crosses sixteen municipalities, from the Pont del Diable of Martorell to its river mouth in El Prat. The Llobregat River Park aims to ecologically and socially restore a complex space where infrastructures and services can coexist with the environment and the leisure activities. The Park has been designed as a continuous pathway on both banks of the river, suitable for pedestrians and bicycles. It includes footbridges and several cross accesses to all the riverine town centers and to the metropolitan public transport network.

The Park represents a new model of public space, set from the big open field generated by the river. The pathway goes through a landscape which is rich and full of biodiversity and which owns important elements of historical and cultural heritage. The western metropolis with river areas is beginning to see the important value of this model that facilitates sports and leisure activities in a context of contact with nature.

The Park is managed by the Consortium for the Recovery and Conservation of the Llobregat River, a public entity that includes the Generalitat of Catalonia, the Environment Ministry, the Barcelona Provincial Council, the Regional Council of the Baix Llobregat and the Barcelona Metropolitan Area. We invite you to enjoy with sense and enthusiasm of such a unique and loved river.

01. Pont del Diable

It mixes the Roman origin (its traces still remain there) with its predominantly medieval structure, even though it has been rebuilt several times throughout the history after suffering wars and floods.

02. New access to the Llobregat from Martorell

This new access through a ramp leads directly to the river area. It represents a tribute to the culture of the Romanization and the exaltation of the free and open natural space.

05. Solana Park and Yellow Footbridge

The park offers magnificent views over the river and connects to the right bank of the Corbera stream. The Yellow Footbridge that comes out of the park allows pedestrians and cyclists crossing the Llobregat River.

06. Corbera Stream

The route through this stream tributary of the Llobregat is particularly interesting and unknown. It gets into the shady side of the mountain and meets its beautiful pools and spectacular waterfalls.

09. Wetlands of Molins de Rei

It is the largest sweet water surface of the Baix Llobregat, with a rich variety of flora and fauna that improve the biodiversity in the region and that at the same time provides an important educational and public use.

10. Infiltration ponds of Sant Vicenç dels Horts

The water infiltrates through the ponds into the groundwater and thus contributes to the recovery of the aquifer that supplies a portion of the water for Barcelona and its metropolitan area.

13. Picnic by the Païssa stream

It is an area widely used for leisure activities and for practicing different outdoors sports. It has a river viewpoint of public access and restricted access areas for birds nesting.

14. River Park of Sant Boi de Llobregat

It recovers for the citizenship a public green space close to the center and nowadays it is easily accessible thanks to the construction of a new footbridge for pedestrians and cyclists.

17. Roman baths of Sant Boi

They are one of the archaeological achievements of the river because they are the best-preserved private property baths of the ancient period of the Catalan region.

18. Forest of the UPC friends.

It is the result of the collaboration agreement between the Metropolitan Area and the Friends of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia Foundation as a compensation of CO2 emissions from the latter institution.

22. River access from l'Hospitalet de Llobregat

This access allows acceding to a path that connects the neighborhood of Bellvitge and the river, through ring roads and other infrastructures. Thus it becomes easy to walk or cycle close to the river.

23. River Park Leisure

It is the gateway to the river from the town of El Prat de Llobregat. It consists of a riverside walk alongside the Llobregat, with picnic areas and a great variety of games distributed through the central forest.

26. Viewpoint of the Llobregat River mouth

Contemplate the place where the river water converge in the Mediterranean Sea, a viewpoint that also offers the view of various systems of coastal vegetation that are recovering little by little.

27. Former Carabineers barracks and Semàfor Building

They compose a small group of buildings located in an environment of great value. They have all been restored as a predominantly maritime viewpoint of patrimonial interest.



03. Wetland of ca n'Albereda

It has been newly created and it configures a system of aquifer recharge. It turns the area into a space with its own identity that will contribute to the environmental and landscape recovery of a spot with a great potential.

04. Blue Footbridge and picnic area of Castellbisbal

It allows pedestrians and cyclists to cross from one bank of the river to the other. At this concrete area of Castellbisbal, in the left bank of the river there is a picnic area with benches and tables.

07. Viewpoint of the Salmorres tower in El Papiol

From this viewpoint the visitors can see the rich and complex landscape of the Llobregat River and its surroundings. It can be used with educational and environmental purposes, by requesting a prearranged visit.

08. Vallvidrera Stream

It has been recovered as one of the main entrance routes of the town of Molins de Rei towards the Natural Park of Collserola. The route climbs to the mountains and crosses areas of important environmental interest.

11. Access to the river from Sant Feliu de Llobregat

From the new park of Sant Feliu de Llobregat, a new path allows the access to the river. The road runs alongside the final portion of the Salut Stream.

12. Colonia Güell

Designed by Antoni Gaudí, it was built in 1890 and it has been declared Asset of National Cultural Interest. From the Colonia Güell you can gain access to the river through the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park.

15. Viewpoint of the tower of Sant Joan Despí

It offers a high view of the river and its immediate surroundings. Like the tower of El Papiol, it can be used with educational and environmental purposes, by requesting a prearranged visit.

16. Meander of Sant Joan Despí

Its landscape has been restored by implementing an innovative and sustainable irrigation system based on a network of canals filled with water from the sewage treatment plant of the Baix Llobregat.

19-20. Footbridge of Cornella and deflectors area

From this footbridge that connects the two banks of the river you can see the deflectors, elements that stimulate the tendency of the river of generating meanders that help promoting biodiversity and water infiltration.

21. Can Comes farmhouse

This building is located in the heart of the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park and it has been restored by its value itself and because it works as an information, documentation and services center of the Park.

24. Natural areas of the Llobregat Delta

It is one of the main attractions of the river due to the uniqueness of the flora and fauna that visitors can see in its extensive plain that spreads out between the sea and the mountains of Garraf, Montjuïc and Collserola.

25. Wetlands of Cal Tet and Ca l'Arana

They compose a system of wetlands that receive part of the water from the sewage treatment plant of El Prat, which improve its quality even more thanks to the green filters of vegetation of the delta itself.

28. Metropolitan beaches

From the river mouth you can accede to the beaches of the southern metropolitan area. It is a seafront of 14 km length with a sand area of more than one and a half millions of m².

29. Aircrafts viewpoint

The road connecting El Prat de Llobregat with the beach of this town is also a curious viewpoint, from where you can see the planes just before they land on the airport of El Prat.