

Integrating natural and rural areas into our cities

Editorial

Values of Periurban Parks

Living in a city has many advantages but also disadvantages (noise, pollution, crowds and stress). Periurban natural parks located in the proximity of cities, constitute a healthy environment for leisure, sport, relaxation and contact with nature, providing a positive effect on health. They also contribute to the maintenance of biodiversity and make the cities more attractive and livable.

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Interview:

Piotr Uszok. President of Katowice

“Not everything is to be measured by expense. The green areas, city parks, Periurban parks, forests have their own measure of value. They generate indirect income.”

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Natural Park Drahaň, Troja,Praga

The largest area of the park is located in Prague Troja, an area of the project Periurban Parks interest in terms of its protection, care and development. It is a very important area from the ecological point of view – to maintain biodiversity protected species, and ecological stability of the territory. The park represents a recreational space that increases the standard of living and offers leisure possibilities for its inhabitants.

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Periurban Qualities recognized by Economic Forum

Aberdeen City and Shire's Energetica project is led by the region's Economic Forum, to develop a unique business environment along a coastal corridor from the north of Aberdeen. A key principle of Energetica is that settlements in the area should have a positive relationship with the landscape and natural heritage. It aims to diversify and strengthen the north east of Scotland's economy, creating a place where living, working and recreation merge seamlessly to create the definitive model of 21st century lifestyle.

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Two years focussed on accessibility, *EN Lille Métropole*

The *Espace Naturel Lille Métropole* will multiply its efforts to make sure that nature is truly accessible to everyone. Nature is something we all share: 2011 and 2012 will be placed under the sign of social, economic and physical accessibility and will continue to ensure that our actions help increase biodiversity.

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Interview: Martin Zaimov, Deputy Chairman of the Municipal Council of Sofia

"The well-being of every person depends on the access to the nature, which is difficult in the big cities. In that sense, citizens of Sofia are privileged. There is no way to preserve Vitosha unless people do not get aware to protect and spare it!"

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Natural values of Vitosha Nature Park. "Sofia and Vitosha are inseparable like Naples and Vesuvius" Hohshteter, Vienna scientist (Bulgaria, XIX century)

Hohshteter, visited Bulgaria in 19th century...Even today it reflects the connection between the million city and the mountain. Vitosha Nature Park is located in the South Western Bulgaria and it was declared as such in 1934. Due to its proximity to Sofia - the capital city of Bulgaria, Vitosha NP is visited by approximately 3 million visitors per year. The visitors are attracted by the variety of landscapes and the rich biodiversity. Vitosha is a real bliss for the citizens who enjoy the mountain during all seasons.

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The value of public and private partnership. Synergy between productive world and parks, a real possibility

(video)

Our parks ought to become more multifunctional underlying both the environmental and economical aspects. To improve the link between these two issues we should let them develop in co-evolution. It is very important to ensure innovative activities and sustainable socio-economic development though maintaining environment control in public hands.

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Periurban parks of Andalusia: Places for Social integration

Just fifteen minutes from the city...are enough to leave behind the noise, stress, pollution and rush that surround large cities and take us to a natural area, secluded and comfortable, offering what the cities cannot. The government of Andalucía in collaboration with the social work project of "La Caixa", a private bank, is developing a program to help improve employment opportunities for people by working in activities for the conservation, protection, promotion and enhancement of natural areas. Periurban parks are increasingly being used for therapy and now, as a new experience in our midst, social integration.

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Interview:
Anna Marson. Regional Minister, Regione Toscana
May 2011

"The Agricultural Park of the Planes (Parco Agricolo della Piana) is the Tuscan case study within the PERIURBAN PARKS project. The Park is conceived as a multi-sector and integrated tool, which defines all potential uses of the cultural, environmental and landscape related features of the park itself and of the surrounding area.

Collaboration, exchange and capacity building within the PERIURBAN PARKS project supports and builds on the regional objectives, and the Regione Toscana is looking for-ward to continued activities over the next two years."

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Buda Hills
Landscape Protection Area,
surrounds Budapest

Covering 10,498 hectares of mountainous landscape, the Buda Hills Landscape Protection Area surrounds Budapest from the north-west and at many points it deeply stretches into the city. It is protected since 1978 due to the unique botanical, zoological and geological as-sets of these mostly wooded mountains.

Due to the high variety of the main rocks and the relief of Buda Hills the flora and fauna are uniquely diverse...



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European Union

European Regional Development Fund

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