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The Route of the Parks connects nine kilometres of green infrastructure without leaving



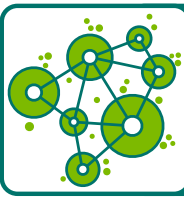
A pedestrian and wooded corridor passes through the capital of Aragón and, since 2016, it is indicated thanks to **76 new signs** which have been installed on a route named "Route of the Parks" which includes the parks of **José Antonio Labordeta, Pignatelli, Bruil and Huerva**. Knowing their architecture is knowing the city's history.

A complete design of signalling elements and contents (plates, direction arrow signs in different diversions, signalling milestones, route information notices, supports and structures) as well as the selection of the sites, make the citizen aware that they are in a green infrastructure inside the urban centre, encouraging to walk and to sustainable mobility.

The Route of the Parks, with almost nine kilometres, is a walkable route through the following wooded areas: Grande José Antonio Labordeta Park (next to Cantautores bridge), Canal Imperial, Pignatelli Park, Paseo de Sagasta, Paseo Constitución, Plaza de los Sitios square, Paseo de la Mina, Canódromo Park and Lineal del Huerva Park, Bruil Park, Ebro riverside right bank, Azud (weir) , Left bank of Ebro river, calle Cosuenda, Paseo de Longares, calle Bielsa, calle Francisco Oliván Bayle, calle Peña Oroel and Tío Jorge Park.

This route is an initiative included within the **Life Zaragoza Natural European** Project which has the aim of creating, managing and promoting green infrastructure in the capital of Aragón.





THE ROUTE OF THE PARKS

Action B.6.
Improved green
infrastructure connectivity.
Action B.6.1. Poster
Graphic Design,
Information panels and
leaflet-map of the Route
of the Parks



P. J. A. LABORDETA

The proposal to create a new park for the city goes back to the year 1902 and was designed by the forestry engineer Martín Agustín, who collaborated with the eminent landscaper and painter Xavier de Winthuysen. The first phase was opened in 1902. Designed and built between 1913 and 1927, its development does not belong to a single chronological and artistic time, but to many of them, fruit of the diverse interventions. Built initially in an area with pine trees, it still has a significant naturalised area, as well as large avenues and emblematic corners, small landscaped areas with seasonal flowers and the Winter Garden. The presence of water is particularly noteworthy: the Huerva river and the Imperial Canal of Aragón. The history of the park is the history of the city, an emblematic space of a vast territory (**392,706 square meters**) and a reference point of the green areas system in Zaragoza for its high aesthetic, functional and natural quality. Some of the outstanding places are: The Monument to King Alfonso the Warrior, the paseo de los Bearneses, the Botanical Gardens, Cabezo de Buenavista, the Ethnological Museum of Aragon with a Pyrenees-house style building (Ansotana), the Ceramics Museum with the Casa de Albarracín building, Goya's corner, the French Garden and the Music Kiosk.



P. PIGNATELLI

At the beginning of the 20th century the construction of Pignatelli Park was undertaken, located between the new urban area that connected Aragón square with the district of Torrero, at the feet of which was the Imperial Canal of Aragón with a port, also named the beaches of Torrero, which had a high level of commercial activity linked to the river transport between Zaragoza and Tudela. Built on a site on which several towers were located, on the side of which were the water tanks built by Ricardo Magdalena in 1876, it was opened in the 1920's and bordered by the tram line in 1931. With a surface area of **29,126 square meters** it has green areas, small prairies, wooded areas with many coniferous trees, as well as fountains and trails to walk. Next to the current park are the old water tanks. Inside the park is the monument to Ramón Pignatelli, sculpted by Antonio Palao y Marco, made in 1859 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Imperial Canal of Aragón and the monument to José María Ferrer.



P. BRUIL

This estate, which since the year 1286 belonged to the Convent of the Observant Augustinians (today the Zaragoza Histories Centre) and sold during the ecclesiastical confiscations in the year 1842, was purchased by Juan Faustino Bruil Ollarburur who turned it into a luxurious residence where there were bears, monkeys and birds and could be visited by the people from Zaragoza on certain public holidays, dominating a complex site next to the Huerva river and up to calle Asalto. After being expropriated in the 20th century, the Zaragoza City Council undertook the works to turn it into a park which has the name of its first owner, Juan Bruil. Remodelled on several occasions, the park was extended with the purchase of the plots of land where the remains of the oil mill of Juan Martín de Goicoechea were which dates back to 1785, which were recovered to be placed at one of the ends of Bruil Park. It has a surface area of **33,420 square meters**.



P. TÍO JORGE

One of the city's emblematic parks, Tío Jorge Park is located on the left bank of the Ebro river, in the district of Arrabal, occupying the land where the Balsas de Ebro Viejo (Ebro Viejo basins) were located. Although the project of the first park dates back to 1908, it was not opened until 1968 by the Mayor Cesáreo Alierta, and was blessed by the priest of Our Lady of Altabás, Ignacio Bruna Peribáñez. It is one of the largest parks in Zaragoza, after the Parque del Agua (Park of the water) and Parque Grande (Large Park) "José Antonio Labordeta" Park has a surface area of **151,538 square meters**. Notable is the monument to Tío Jorge made by the Aragonese sculptor Ángel Orensanz, the person to who the park is dedicated: Jorge Ibor y Casamayor (1755 – 1808), famous hero of the Sites of Zaragoza.





Action B.6.
Improved green infrastructure connectivity.
Action B.6.2.
Extra-urban signage.
Implementation of identification signs
And panels

The “Wetlands itinerary” connects the city with the Huerva river and the Imperial Canal of Aragón with a route of 11.5 kilometres



Signal



Panel



Beacon



The **Route of the Sinkholes** is part of the **actions to improve the connectivity of the city's Blue Matrix** within the Life Zaragoza Natural programme and, specifically, it responds to the creation of a network-itinerary of the city's alluvial sinkholes.

The route covers a distance of 11.5 kilometres from the Camino del Ebro (Ebro path -GR99) to the Imperial Canal of Aragón, it passes through Casetas, Balsas Ojo del Cura and Ojo de Fraile (basins) and through Balsa de Larralde (basin) (Torre Medina). It is an easy route which is signposted with different posts and informative panels with its natural values which can be completed in approximately 2 hours and 10 minutes by foot. Moreover, a map-leaflet is available that includes the “itinerary of the wetlands”.

During the route, areas of major environmental importance can be seen which have different plant and animal species, especially birds. The route allows knowing one of the most important points of Zaragoza's green infrastructure.

The latest actions performed include the incorporation a the wetland of Utebo at the request of the City Council, and a project has been drafted for the connection of the city of Zaragoza with the confluence between the Huerva rives and the Imperial Canal of Aragón, popularly known as Ojo del Canal. The route is part of a programme that intends to showcase the natural areas of Zaragoza and its environment.

Canal eye





The visitors' centre of the Galacho de Juslibol (oxbow lake) resumes its autumn opening hours



After the summer period, the Visitors' centre of the Galacho de Juslibol (oxbow lake) resumes the autumn activities and extends its opening hours. The "El Carrizal" train is now operating again, so on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays between the 3rd of September and the 13th of November it is possible to access this area with this means of transport.

**Action B.9.
Action and promotion of the Touristic Plan "Zaragoza Natural"**

"Entre huertas y sotos" (between orchards and groves) offered guided visits in May and June to get to know

The programme "Entre huertas y sotos" (between orchards and groves) took place on Sundays in May and June. The visitors were able to discover the biodiversity of these areas and the benefits that they provide. They all started on Sundays at 9.30 am at the Paraninfo (Paraiso square) and lasted between 2.5 and 3 hours. On these routes, the attendees were able to get to know and appreciate the groves and adjacent orchards of the Ebro and Huerva rivers, as well as of the Imperial Canal.



The schedule of visits was Huerva - plaza San Miguel square – river mouth; Imperial Canal – Sluice gates of Valdegurriana; Imperial Canal – Incrédulos Fountain; el Vado Grove; Ranillas Grove; Perlas Grove – la Cartuja Orchard; Cantalobos Grove – las Fuentes Orchard, and Alfocea Grove – Monzalbarba Orchard.



**Action B.10.
Citizen promotion campaign. Action B.10.1. Travelling exhibition of ecosystems.**

Travelling exhibition on the natural spaces of Zaragoza

"Zaragoza Natural. La infraestructura de la vida" ("Zaragoza Natural. The life infrastructure") opened in February 2015 at the Environmental Centre of the Ebro River of Zaragoza, and up until April 2016 it could be visited at different community centres and common and cultural spaces of the city like for example the Water Documentation Centre, the Histories Centre and Delicias station. The exhibition showcased the natural areas and the connections between them, which is what is called "green infrastructure".

Zaragoza has a vast and diverse cultural heritage which has been showed in the exhibition through the images and information panels of species and the natural spaces such as forests, steppes, parks, rivers and wetlands. The exhibition was part of a citizen-focused promotional campaign of the city's environment, included within the Life Zaragoza Natural Programme.



The Water Documentation Centre hosted the exhibition





The participants at the 8th Conference on Sustainable Cities

Zaragoza took part in the 8th Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns held in Bilbao

The city councillor for the Environment and Mobility, Teresa Artigas, represented the city of Zaragoza in the 8th Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns held from the 26 to the 29 April in Bilbao. The main objective of this meeting was to “go a step further in the multiple political commitments that Zaragoza has with the environment and sustainability and to take action, converting it into specific measures, projects and programmes”, as Artigas explained. “We want to export and import ideas and projects, to make Zaragoza a more sustainable city”, she added.

Likewise, during the conferences, Zaragoza’s experience of the Life Km 0 programme was presented, which is a move towards food sovereignty through the revival of the orchards of Zaragoza and Life Natural, which protects the steppe landscape that surrounds Zaragoza. Artigas stressed the global outlook of this meeting, taking into account the environmental aspect, social inclusion and the economic potential of the projects.

Moreover, Teresa Artigas represented the city at the conference of Mayors in which the Basque Statement was signed, ‘a new roadmap for European cities and towns, creating productive, sustainable and resilient towns for a habitable and inclusive Europe’.

Action D.4.
Diffusion of
the project in
different days
and forums



5th Fábos Conference on Landscape and Greenway Planning

Presence at the **5th Fábos Conference on Landscape and Greenway Planning**, held in Budapest in June 2016 which accepted a Communication presented by the City Council of Zaragoza to expose the content and scope of the LIFE Zaragoza Natural project. Two managers of the project (Luis Manso de Zúñiga and Montserrat Hernández) attended this event between the 30th June and the 1st July

and presented their technical statement relating to the work developed in LIFE Zaragoza Natural.



Members of the Biodiversity Commission discussed different projects

Meeting of the Biodiversity Commission of 14 July 2016

The Biodiversity Commission of the Local Sectoral Council of Agenda 21 met on the 14th July in ordinary session at the Water Documentation and Environment Centre to approve, as the first point on the agenda, the minutes of the previous meeting held the 3rd November 2015.

Among the issues death with were the project “Creation, management and promotion of the green infrastructure of Zaragoza”, as well as the updating of the actions performed.

Subsequently, the report on the monitoring of the fauna was taken into consideration.



Zaragoza

life
natural

The objective of the Project LIFE ZARAGOZA NATURAL is to continue with the improvement and protection of the natural patrimony, creating a framework of biodiversity which connects and contributes an improvement of the valuable ecosystems which has the municipality of Zaragoza.

You can find more information about the project LIFE ZARAGOZA NATURAL in the municipal web site and follow us in the following platforms and social networks:



www.zaragoza.es/life-zaragozanatural



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