



SUMMARY

Introduction

Award in the European Urban Green Conference and 25th anniversary of the European Programme LIFE

Frontpage

Master Plan of the Green Infrastructure of Zaragoza

Process of participation

Pag. 2 y 3

Action B10 Talks with elderly and young people "Employ in green"

Pag. 4

Photography contest "Zaragoza Natural"

Pag. 5

The educative programme immerses in IVZ

Between vegetable gardens and groves

Pag. 6

Action plan and tourist promotion "Natural Zaragoza"

Publications and promotional material

Pag. 7

Contact

Pag. 8



Nature inspires the city ¡PARTIZIPA!



The **Green Infrastructure Master Plan** is subject to debate with the interested and involved agents, as well as with the general public, and for this, the Consistory began this year a process of information and reflection on the Green Infrastructure and its environmental, health, quality of life, economic and social implications.

Prize at the European Urban Green Conference

Budapest, November 29-30

Life Zaragoza Natural Project has been awarded in the European Urban Green Conference held in Budapest on the 29th and 30th of November. It's a recognition to the innovation and the creativity of the project. This encounter, which was attended by members of the City Council of Zaragoza and the Atalaya team, had professionals and experts from around the world with the mission of sharing solutions for cities based on nature.



25 years of EU supporting Nature, Environment and Climate Action through **LIFE**
#LIFE25NATURA

This year marks twenty-five years of **European LIFE programme** which is the only financial instrument of the European Union dedicated, exclusively, to the Environment. Its general objective for the period 2004 - 2020 is to contribute to sustainable development and to the achievement of the objectives and goals of the Strategy Europe 2020 and the strategies and plans of the Union in the field of environmental environment and climate.





Writing and participation process of the Master Plan of the Green Infrastructure of Zaragoza

The Green Infrastructure of Zaragoza integrates, in an Interconnected network, urban and rural spaces with natural, agricultural or landscaped vegetation, public or private, which offer ecological services, environmental, social or even economical contributing to improve the health and quality of life of people. The Green infrastructure is key to maintain a sustainable environment in which our economy and society can prosper.

Zaragoza is a city located in a hydrographical knot which, like others, is enclosed by large communication infrastructures that limit the possibilities for nature to be introduced into the city. Even so, it has powerful "green" elements inside it, vertebrate by the rivers, they have vocation to create a system of natural areas, parks and green zones connected by the Green Ring of Zaragoza.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE OF ZARAGOZA



The Green Infrastructure Master Plan presented a proposal with a series of guidelines and a total of 150 actions that have been debated throughout the months of September, October and November, with the purpose of responding to some environmental challenges in the municipality of Zaragoza such as recovering the connections, increasing and Introducing biodiversity, improving the water cycle, minimizing flood risks, highlight the landscape of the steppe, preserving our vegetable garden and giving it all a social use that promotes the quality of life and the health of the population.

This project, which began in September, was organized in four phases:

- A **FIRST PHASE** of information in which the process and the draft of the Plan was presented through several information sessions aimed at the general population. The presentation of the Master Plan took place on September 28 in the Environmental Centre of the Ebro, with the presence of Mrs Teresa Artigas, Councillor Delegate for Environment and Mobility..



- The **SECOND PHASE**, of consultation and deliberation, which consisted in the opening of a space to contrast the draft document of the Master Plan through three thematic participatory workshops:

WORKSHOP 1. Blue Matrix

In this first workshop, held on October 19th, the Ebro, Gállego and Huerva, as well as pools and lagoons were dealt with. Other topics discussed were the systems of irrigation and the drainage network.



Blue Matrix Workshop

WORKSHOP 2. Green Matrix

Held on October 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The protagonists were the mounts, the natural forest and reforestation masses as well as the steppe.



Green Matrix Workshop

WORKSHOP 3. City and Green Zones

It took place on October 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and we worked on both urban and rural neighbourhood parks, squares and gardens, tree lined alignments, open spaces and empty lots and transition spaces.



City and Green Zones Workshop

WORKSHOP 4. Joint workshop

In this last joint workshop, which was held on November 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m, people from all thematic fields gathered and worked on more than 150 actions of the Master Plan of the Green Infrastructure of Zaragoza draft.



Joint Workshop

- The **THIRD PHASE**, of contrast and assessment, where the almost 200 contributions generated in the process were valued and analyzed by the technical team.
- And, finally, a **FOURTH PHASE** of return, held on November 30 and in which not only all the participants were informed about the degree of impact, acceptance and incorporation to the Plan that the proposals generated throughout the process had but also a dissemination of the results of the process was begun, which continues to this day.

The Master Plan of IVZ is presented to the Sectorial Council.

On June 15, the document of the Green Infrastructure Master Plan was presented to the Sectorial Council of Agenda 21 of Zaragoza. The presentation of this Plan, pillar of the Zaragoza LIFE Natural European Project, took place in the hall of receptions of the Zaragoza City Council. In the act we explained how this alive and modifiable document establishes the frame to 20 years sight of the possible interventions to carry out in Zaragoza in favour of its Green Infrastructure.



ACTION B.10
Talks to old and young people

Within the citizen promotion campaign of the surroundings of Zaragoza, a series of sessions aimed at both elderly people and university students were carried out during the months of March, April and May.

The sessions aimed at elderly people served to present and disseminate the values of the Green Infrastructure, and they took place in the different Coexistence Centres for Senior Citizens of the City Council of Zaragoza, with a total of 195 attendees. After a relaxed coffee there was a divulgation talk with audiovisual support that gave way



Councillor Teresa Artigas in the workshop celebrated in the Centre of Coexistence of Seniors Casa Amparo

to the development of an emotional cartography with map support.

On the other hand, the sessions aimed at university students, which took place in different university centres with a final attendance of 395 people, aimed to increase knowledge and dissemination of the Green Infrastructure of Zaragoza among this public. The sessions were structured around an informative talk with audiovisual support, after which an emotional cartography with cartographic support was elaborated.



Framed in action B10 of the LIFE12 Project ENV / ES / 000567 Zaragoza Natural, the course "Employ in green: techniques and tools for green employment " was developed from 11 to 21 September at two venues: The Environmental Centre of the Ebro and the Department of Geography of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of Zaragoza. The program of the course, aimed at people who want to guide their professional activity towards the sustainable environment in the urban area, comprised 40 hours about techniques, tools and didactic applications, as well as practical workshops of each of the modules that were carried out.

ACTION B.10.2
Course of techniques and tools for green employment.
"EMPLOY IN GREEN"





ACTION B.10

Citizen promotion
campaign of the
environment of
Zaragoza

**PHOTOGRAPHY
CONTEST "ZARAGOZA
NATURAL"**

The Environment and Sustainability Agency of the City Council of Zaragoza, in collaboration with the Aragonese Association of Photographers of Nature, convened in June a Nature photography contest with the intention of increasing the degree of knowledge of the relationship city-nature in all its dimensions, through images that illustrate this. Under the theme "The Green infrastructure of the municipality of Zaragoza "the contest was open to professional and amateur photographers of nature photography.

As a result of the contest, 20 photographs have been selected that, together with the winners and the second prize of each category, are shown to the public in a exhibition until January 31, 2018 in the Environmental Centre of the Ebro.



WINNING PHOTOGRAPHY of the category "Flora and fauna"
Kingfisher and the Pilar by Manuel Fernández Minaya



WINNING PHOTOGRAPHY of the category "Landscapes"
Symmetry channel by Jesús Martín López



WINNING PHOTOGRAPHY of the category "Macro"
Autumn by Carlos Giménez Pradas



The educational program with schoolchildren is immersed in the Infrastructure

The Environmental Education Programme, launched by the Cabinet of Environmental Education, allows each year that more than 10,000 people participate in visits, workshops and scheduled activities at the Galacho de Juslibol, about 5,000 of which are schoolchildren.

Currently the Environmental Education Program covers from the 2nd Infant Cycle to all educational levels. In this line, one more year, the City Council of Zaragoza offers an Educational Program to the school centres that aims to raise awareness in this community in environment and sustainability, favouring the approach to the natural and agricultural environment, and promote good environmental practices in educational centres and in the city.

In addition to the various activities with schoolchildren in the Galacho de Juslibol, others directly related to the Green Infrastructure of the city, such as "Discover the rivers of your city and the Canal Imperial", "Walking along the banks of the Huerva", "Visits to the vegetable

garden of Zaragoza" and "Repopulation of Municipal Mounts". In a transversal way, the benefits for health and quality of life of the Green Infrastructure are addressed most indirectly in visits to the Automatic Network of Air Quality Control and in the programmes of active mobility and action in the face of climate change.

More information and inscriptions:

www.zaragoza.es/ciudad/medioambiente/educacionambiental



Schoolchildren in "An encounter with the Galacho de Juslibol"

SPECIAL DAYS AND OTHERS ACTIVITIES FROM THE CENTRE OF VISITORS OF THE GALACHO DE JUSLIBOL

In March, the Galacho Visitors Centre reopened its doors with a varied programme of activities to showcase this natural space with all the colours of spring, a season in which three special dates were celebrated: World Water Day on the 19th. March, World Bird Day on May 14th and Storytelling on the 28th of the same month.

In addition, three itinerary proposals allowed us to discover some of the different ecosystems of the galacho: "The Groves, the jungles of the Ebro", "Lookout of the Steppe" and "Water landscape".

The World Bird Day had an extensive programme of educational activities aimed at the general public, schools and the population of adjoining neighbourhoods. There were free guided tours; a bird tracks workshop and another one to analyze food pellets. Scientific annihilation was also carried out to publicize the rich birdlife that can be found in the Galacho de Juslibol, especially during this nesting season, and tools were provided to detect the presence of birds, with the aim of raising awareness among the citizens before the

problems to which these species usually face.

With the arrival of autumn, the Galacho de Juslibol resumes its activities for schoolchildren and adults. The kick-off took place on October 1, on which the Juslibol Galacho Day was celebrated with an open day where more than 500 visitors from Zaragoza and all over Aragon came to the area to enjoy all the activities organized by the Zaragoza City Council.

This day was visited by the Councillor for Mobility and Environment of the Zaragoza City Council, Teresa Artigas.



ZARAGOZA BETWEEN VEGETABLE GARDENS AND GROVES

During the spring (May and June) and autumn (September, October and November) Sundays of 2017 the "Between vegetable gardens and groves" programme was developed. The attendees could discover the biodiversity of these spaces and the benefits they bring. The itineraries departed on Sundays at 9:30 hours from the Paraninfo (Plaza Paraíso) and toured numerous groves and vegetable gardens adjoining the Ebro, Gállego, Huerva rivers and Canal Imperial of Aragón. By way of example, the Huerva was visited from the Bruil Park to its mouth, the Rock of Cuervo in the Gállego River, the Groves of Alfocea, Benedicto, Partinchas, Ranillas, Cantalobos, the Pool of the Eye of the Priest, the Eye of the Canal and the locks of Valdegurriana, the Gállego in Santa Isabel and Movera, the Pool of Larralde, the groves of La Mejana, El Francés, Las Perlas, Juslibol and Ferrerueta.



ACTION B.9.
Plan of action and tourism promotion "Zaragoza Natural"

LIFE ZARAGOZA NATURAL IS PROMOTED IN FITUR

Within its plan of action and promotion, the Life Zaragoza Natural project was promoted in the month of January in FITUR through the guide "Zaragoza Natural. A mosaic of landscapes and biodiversity." There you could learn about this guide in which, through 46 pages, there is a opportunity for citizens to know, enjoy and approach the natural heritage.



THE DIRECTOR PLAN OF THE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE OF ZARAGOZA IN THE CONAMA

The Master Plan for the Green Infrastructure of Zaragoza is presented in the Conama (National Environment Congress) held in Valencia, "Cities connect naturally". November 2017



Brochure "Routes through Zaragoza Natural"

"ROUTES BY THE NATURAL ZARAGOZA"

Another of the diffusion materials to be highlighted is the 10,000 edition copies of a brochure that includes 4 itineraries for the Green Infrastructure of Zaragoza and that can be enjoyed by both citizens of Zaragoza and visitors and tourists. The routes to be carried out are: Dam of the Ebro – footbridge of Santa Isabel, Water Park- Galacho de Juslibol, Fountain of the Unbeliever - Valdegurriana and Ravine of the Almunias.

ACTION D.5.
Publications

TEACHING NOTEBOOK

It is a didactic material to work on the Zaragoza Natural project in educational centres that consists of a teacher notebook of 50 pages and a folder with 10 double sheets for the students. The notebook provides educational and didactic tools for teachers so that the students who with this material acquire an overview of the city's Green Infrastructure, of its most representative elements and of the philosophy and objectives of the project LIFE Zaragoza Natural. In addition, the teacher notebook includes a broad introduction about the Green Infrastructure and the project LIFE Zaragoza Natural, didactic guidelines for each of the sheets, suggestions and evaluation tools and bibliography.

"NATURAL ZARAGOZA. A TREASURE TO DISCOVER"

It is a publication that shows the ecological wealth and the plastic beauty of the natural spaces of Zaragoza, completing this way the information that exists about the heritage of the city and giving compliance to one of the big five operational objectives that articulate the European project, which is nothing but improving the degree of knowledge and the feeling of the people from Zaragoza towards the natural areas of Zaragoza, actively involving them in their preservation.



Didactic material for educational centres



The objective of the project LIFE Zaragoza Natural is to continue with the improvement and protection of the natural heritage creating a framework of biodiversity that connects and encourages an improvement of the valuable ecosystems that the municipality of Zaragoza holds.

You can find more information about the project Life Zaragoza Natural on the municipal website and follow us on the following platforms and social networks:



www.zaragoza.es/life-zaragozanatural



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