

Landscape restoration, management and environmental improvement of the surroundings of La Guinardera pond, in Sant Cugat del Vallès

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

La Guinardera pond is located to the northwest of the municipality of Sant Cugat del Vallès (Barcelona), where Europa avenue crosses to the west and Via Augusta avenue to the north.

Sant Cugat del Vallès City Council aims to restore the landscape and improve the environment of the La Guinardera pond by improving its surroundings and access points. It is a centre of interest for its landscape and for its important social and environmental characteristics, and is enclosed in a business park and shopping centre at an important access point that serves as a gateway to the town through the road of Rubí. The project is coordinated by the City Council of Sant Cugat and has been developed by the Area of Urban Quality and Mobility section of the Parks and Gardens Service, reporting to the Deputy Mayor in Urban Environment, Mobility and Citizen Security.



CURRENT SITUATION

- The waterproofing sheet is in poor condition which causes significant leakage and therefore prevents the water level from increasing and returning to its original state.
- The margins of the pond are degraded. There is a lack of vegetation on the edge of the pond.
- Water supply to the pond is limited to the capacity of the adjacent stream.
- Leisure usage in the surroundings of the pond is not defined.
- Exotic invasive species such as Florida turtles have appeared.



AIMS OF THE PROJECT

- TO RECOVER the functionality of the pond.
- TO IMPROVE the plant system.
- TO PROMOTE the use of the pond.



PROJECT DESIGN CRITERIA

The area is divided according to the degree of social use:

- Natural area: Dense native vegetation zones serving as a wildlife refuge.
- Areas of direct interaction with the pond: Access has been improved so that visitors can approach the water (gravel beaches, floating footbridges, etc.).
- Extensive usable area: A meadow able to host a variety of non-directed uses.
- Intensive use area: Picnic area, viewpoints, etc.
- Access: Different points of access to the pond leading to viewpoints (some of them are high-observation points with views over the pond and adjacent surroundings), perimeter roads, etc.

Materials:

Keeping in mind that the pond is located in an area of intensive use, the aim is to generate a "natural island" effect in a very built-up area, by using natural material. Plants, wood and stone will be used mainly.



