

Pollinator friendly green trail (along vegetable garden)

Project indicative: C6.1+8.1
Project type: simple investment
Project starting point: 0-5 y
Project ending point: 0-5 y
Linkages: C6.2+8.2; C6.3; C6.4.
Estimated costs: 15-35k EUR



NBS 6



NBS 8

FC Cascais
Type of NBS intervention

NBS 6: Green path along the vegetable garden - planting the river margin with native species that borders the vegetable garden, acting as access point and green buffer.

NBS 8: The pollinator friendly trail will feature native species, co-implemented with residents (contributing to environmental awareness). The corridor includes a pedestrian bridge over the river, connecting the area with a parking lot (included in C6.3 project – Greening the parking lot)

Description of the planned interventions

The already designed NBS intervention is awaiting authorization and budget allocation for deploying the construction/landscaping works.

Scenarios

Do-it-all (best-case)

NBS 6: The pedestrian trail along the vegetable garden is the first segment of the pedestrian trail along the river (C6.2). The connection is considered the missing link of the local network of pathways. It improves accessibility to part of the corridor along the river, ensuring good connections between neighbourhoods in the form of a promenade, and provides short and secure access to the existing community vegetable garden. The NBS is part of the wider river restoration, water quality control, invasive vegetation control, margins stabilization, and pollinator friendly vegetation. In this scenario, the connectivity and pedestrian access is complemented by other trails crossing former private enclosed areas (C6.3 Greening the parking lot, and C 6.4 Walkway along the vegetable garden), turned open to the public on the approach to the river and to the opposite river margin.

NBS 8: The implementation of pollinator friendly vegetation is a key asset for the organic farming success in the vegetable garden. Its role is studied in the mandatory training for the community garden project ("Terras de Cascais"). "Cascais Ambiente" biologists are investigating and working with local schools and communities disseminating knowledge and awareness.

Do something meaningful

The trail along the vegetable garden is a small pathway, connecting the green area in front of the vegetable garden to its entrance at the lower level, providing access to the river margin surrounded by pollinator friendly vegetation.

Vision



Photo current state. Source: Cascais Ambiente



Source: Codrut Papino

Study area

The area is divided by the highway, the river (stream) running underneath.

The site is adjacent to the existing community gardening (see C3.0 Existing community garden). Transforming the site into a green path will ensure better integration of the existing community garden into the local green system and landscape.

The unplanned heterogeneous built environment has left several plots of abandoned former agricultural areas, some illegal buildings and rubble deposits.

The river is partially inaccessible with invasive vegetation in its margins.

At the neighbourhood level, the area represents a valuable resource for ensuring residents' access to urban-nature leisure area (the neighbourhood lacks access to green/natural areas).



Local planning frameworks

According to Cascais Master Plan this area is foreseen as a green area with permeable soil for river flood protection and leisure or food production purposes. The Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan aims at river regeneration and margin stabilization. National law allows public entities to expropriate river margins to ensure river maintenance and accessibility.



The site

The sewage collector in the river margin must remain accessible for maintenance, according to the rules determined by the disposal company.

This project must create a connection between the existing green area upstream and projects C6.2 (Pedestrian trail along the river), C6.3 (Greening the parking lot), and C6.4 (Walkway along the vegetable garden).

The target area is included in the flood river area, which suffers from invasive vegetation, requiring constant control.



Partners

Beneficiaries: Municipality / Public administration / Cascais Ambiente (coordinating co-implementation activities: plantations and seeding)

Additional Investors / "Shareholders": Environment Department / River division / Local school teachers (for the pollinator friendly area)

Users: General public and the community garden users / Students (for the pollinator friendly area)

Operational objectives

- Extend the green corridors and increase the connectivity between neighbourhoods.
- Make the natural elements accessible to residents, thus contributing to the regeneration of the local landscape.
- Secure and rehabilitate the river margins.
- Create awareness about biodiversity, by working with local students and community members.

Targets:

- 140m extension of the pedestrian trail
- 420sqm of river margins stabilized with native vegetation.
- 1 pedestrian bridge
- 210sqm pollinator friendly vegetation (mixed border)
- 150 sqm increase of green area with pollinator friendly vegetation.
- 2 guided visits a year through the pollinator friendly area (promoting NBS 8 and support environmental education)

Technical design



Design requirements

Accessibility: Ensure proper connection with existing footpaths.

Landscaping: Use of riparian vegetation

Safety: Safe connection with the river margin, and safe connection over the river towards the parking lot.

Aesthetics: Integration with the existing lawn area and vegetable garden. Maintain visual connection with the river.

