

Someş river green pathway

FC Cluj-Napoca

Project indicative: CJ6.1

Project type: complex project

Project starting point: 5-10 y

Project ending point: 10-15 y

Linkages: CJ 6.2, CJ 6.3

Estimated costs: 10K-30K (mainly for surveillance and staff)



NBS 6

Type of NBS intervention

NBS 6 Green corridor for pedestrian and bike paths connecting Supermarket Cora area with the Water Museum.

Description of the planned interventions

Increase accessibility of natural areas by creating a pedestrian and bike path, set apart from the narrow main street and providing to residents' possibility for leisure activities in nature. The existing access road will be transformed into a pedestrian pathway, accompanied by locally adapted vegetation, including tall trees, shrubs, and flowers to support biodiversity. Being close to the water catchment area, the site must be secured and properly monitored. Raising awareness about the area's ecological significance is relevant, helping at fostering a sense of ownership and care.

Scenario

Do-it-all (best-case)

The area is accessible, providing residents with opportunities for nature observation, leisure, and refuge from intense summer heat. Interventions will be co-implemented with residents, and the site will be promoted through a series of events and educational activities in which the Water Museum plays a significant role as a main stakeholder.

Vision



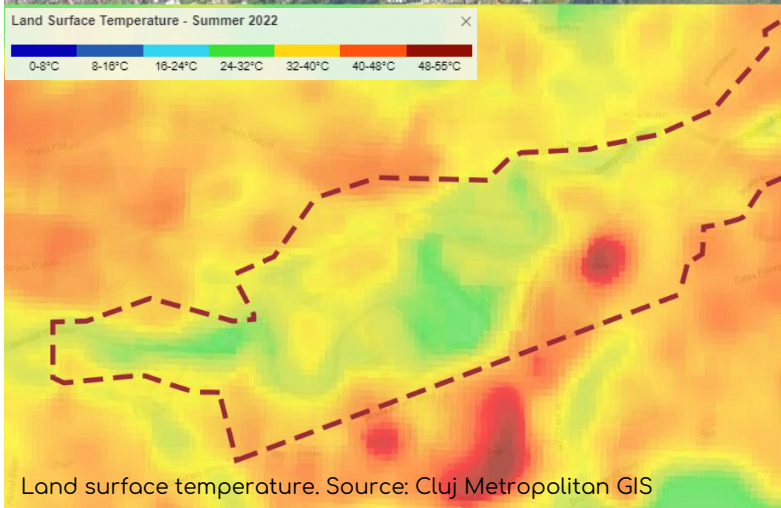
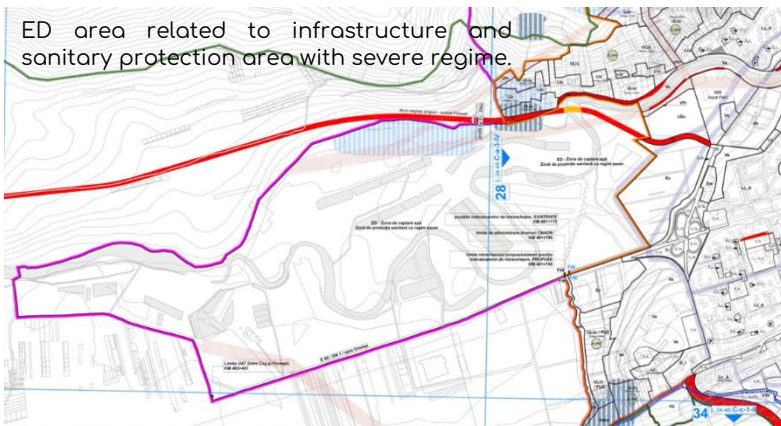
Photo Văcărești Natural Park in city centre Bucharest
Source: <https://parcnaturalvacaresti.ro/>



Current situation: valuable natural area that can connect the city with the connected suburbia.

Study area

The site is located at the outskirts of the city, bordered by the Water Museum to the west and a supermarket and Colina Park to the east. It serves a technical function of city-level security importance, regulating the water catchment area and ensuring water distribution for the city. The technical function adds complexity to the possibility of implementing NBS. It is considered critical to prevent potential contamination. The site possesses valuable landscape qualities, but currently, residents cannot access or experience it. The lower surface temperature (as shown in the map below) highlights significant potential for residents to alleviate summer heat and enjoy leisure in a natural setting.



Local planning frameworks

General Urban Plan: The area is regulated as ED, which stands for *area related to infrastructure and sanitary protection area with severe regime*.

The area includes nodal elements of the city infrastructure - transformation stations, water catchment territory, pumping stations, water reservoirs, sewage treatment plant, gas regulation stations etc.

Permitted functions: Technological activities specific to the profile of each area (in this case water catchment/treatment infrastructure) and related activities administrative, social, etc.

Specific challenges of the site

The primary challenge is to create a green pedestrian pathway without compromising the security of the water catchment area. Monitoring, surveillance, and clear communication of rules for future users are necessary. Additionally, a new pedestrian connection between the Water Museum and Cora Supermarket would be valuable, providing an alternative to the narrow curb along the main street.



Partners

Beneficiaries: Municipality and departments of green spaces and environment

Additional Investors / "Shareholders": Water Museum, University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca

Users: Residents, school



Area with a valuable natural landscape

Operational objectives

- Increased accessibility - connecting two main landmarks: water museum and supermarket area.
- Increased vegetation density and consolidation of the ecologic corridor, paired with new shaded area for pedestrians.
- Strengthen residents' environmental awareness.

Targets:

- Three access points landscaped: one near Water Museum, one near Cora Supermarket and one halfway of the new pedestrian pathway (across the street from Metro supermarket).
- min 1ha of planted area with mix of trees, shrubs, and flowers.
- 1000-1500 m long pathway (converting the existing access road).
- Engage min. 50 persons in the implementation process and educational events.

Actions

Period 5-10 years:

- Secure the site and install a new fence on the northern part of the existing access road, along with additional fencing as required for water pipes or water sources and infrastructures.
- Implement surveillance measures.
- Landscape entrance points.

Period 10-15 years:

- Organise planting activities and transform the site into a green corridor for leisure and nature observation.
- Increase visitor numbers to the Water Museum by organising dedicated activities.

Design requirements

Accessibility: Use chromatic vegetation to mark the access points.

Landscaping: The pedestrian and bike path is realized by converting the existing access road. No additional pavements are allowed. The path will be kept as a gravel road for maximum permeability.

Safety/Security: Ensure proper security of water infrastructures, through transparent fences, green fences, and surveillance.

Aesthetics: Maintain natural ambiance by planting locally adapted plants that require little to no maintenance.

Sustainability/Maintenance: Is important to have proper security and display of regulations/restrictions to ensure the water catchment area is secured.

Annexed functions and activities: No annexed functions or other construction are allowed. The path can be shared mobility between pedestrian and cyclist.

Urban furniture and equipment: To be assessed if nature observation tower (for ornithology) is allowed to be constructed in the area.