

Santa Margarita, A Coruña's Green Lung From urban park to NbS.

Location:
A Coruña, Spain

Length:
1 km

Duration:
3h00

Number of visitors:
17

Type of visitors:
Citizens



Santa Margarita Park, one of the largest green spaces in A Coruña, is centrally located and rich in history. Originally a forested area, the park still retains many of its original trees, contributing to its lush and diverse ecosystem. Notably, it hosts over 70 species of trees, including century old *Abies pinsapo*, *Quercus* species, and *Eucalyptus*. The park also features a small pond for waterfowl, a children's play area, a science museum and an outdoor amphitheatre. Inaugurated in 1977, the park has traditionally been viewed as a recreational space, but recent management shifts are embracing a nature-based solutions approach. This strategy focuses on enhancing biodiversity, improving accessibility, and fostering connectivity with adjacent neighbourhoods through green corridors.

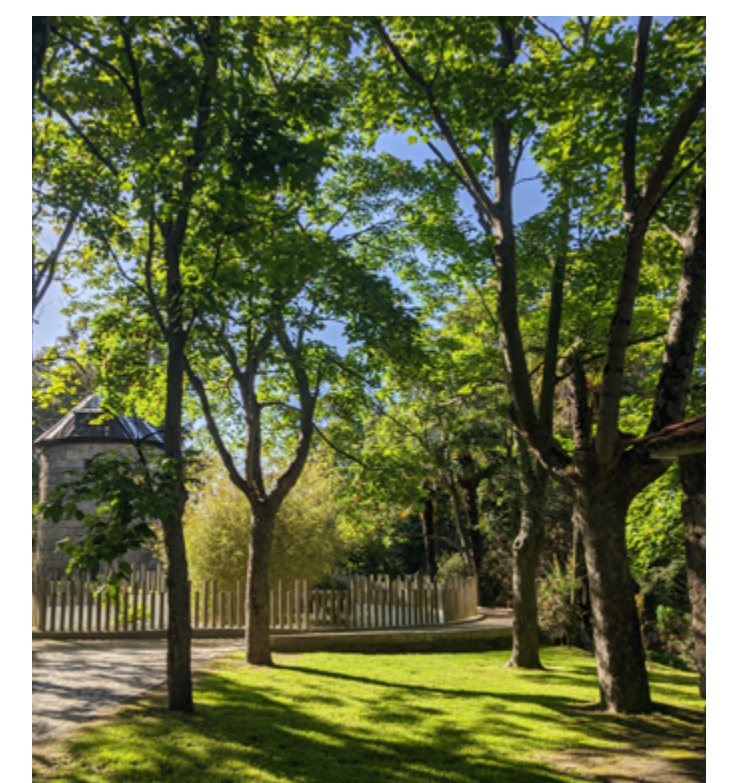
Experts from the University of A Coruña (UDC) and the City Council highlighted the advantages of Nature-Based Solutions such as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, living roofs, and green walls. They provided examples both within the city and from other locations, demonstrating the effectiveness of these solutions.



The visit showcased the multi-level benefits provided by this green area. Participants were also introduced to ongoing projects aimed at enriching the park's ecological value, including plans to extend it into adjacent neighbourhoods and create green corridors connecting Santa Margarita Park with other key green areas in the city.



Paula Maldonado, an environmental scientist and a member of the Environmental Education team at A Coruña City Council, led the group on an insightful tour of Santa Margarita Park. She highlighted the park's crucial role in supporting biodiversity, emphasizing its significance for various animal species, particularly birds. Participants observed the presence of lichens, which serve as indicators of the park's excellent air quality.



María
Citizen

"Learning about SUDS and green roofs and green walls today has been eye-opening. It's exciting to think about the opportunities they offer for our dense neighborhoods."

"This visit made me realize the importance of planting more trees in the streets of my neighbourhood. I can't take these century-old trees with me, but I can plant others that my grandchildren will enjoy."



Nena
Citizen

"I hadn't realized the benefits that the park brings. I saw it more as a green space for recreation, but now I've seen its value for biodiversity and ecosystems, and its contribution to improving air quality and providing acoustic insulation from the city noise."



José
Citizen



Paula
Environmental scientist

"Santa Margarita Park is the green lung of our city. It may not be the largest park, but it has the highest tree density in the entire city. This visit let us reflect on how we can harness this natural resource to improve the quality of life of citizens."

"Climate change is already a reality, and I want my neighbourhood to be an example of how to tackle it."



Julio
Citizen

"Today's event has inspired me to think about how we can leverage urbanization projects to bring more benefits, such as better water management and promoting biodiversity."



Juan
President of neighbour
association