

Alna Environmental Park: a blue-green corridor of biodiversity, recreational opportunities and sustainable urban water management, Municipality of Oslo, Agency for Urban Environment

In 2002, a report described how the Alna River and its surroundings could be enhanced and used in the revitalisation of the living environment in Groruddalen. The Alna River represents the defining topographical line through the Grorud Valley and the idea was to reinforce the Valley's blue-green structure by re-opening most of its watercourse. The underpinning idea was that of landscape ecology: an open, self-cleansing watercourse that has value as a recipient, is able to maintain ecological diversity, and is a recreational resource for the local population and the city in general. The project has transformed nearby residential and natural areas to an accessible park and recreation area, and has become an important social and health project in an area in need of good meeting places. The water has become a "natural magnet", and the Alna River has emerged as a living and vibrant waterway where people congregate and meet. The city council gave the project political recognition by adopting the Municipal Master Plan for the Alna Environmental Park in May 2013.



The Committee of Ministers conferred a special mention for "Social cohesion and respect for the environment" of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention, for the 5th Session of the Award 2016-2017 to the organisers of the project. "Alna Environmental Park: a blue-green corridor of biodiversity, recreational opportunities and sustainable urban water management" contributes to the quality of the living environment of a large urban population who have been involved in securing the future of a peri-urban landscape. This significant achievement integrates a demonstrably sustainable development dimension for the benefit of present and future generations' well-being.