

Newsletter

Integral Rehabilitation of Parque Ecológico Xochimilco

The Xochimilco Ecological Park, originally inaugurated in 1993 and designed by Mario Schjetnan / Grupo de Diseño Urbano (GDU) with an area of 277 hectares, was rehabilitated under the direction of architect Tania Carro from the Directorate of Urban Services belonging to the Public Works Secretariat of Mexico City.

The park is crossed by Anillo Periférico Sur road, bifurcating it into two sections:

The northern section with the Plant and Flower Market and the Cuemanco Sports Park, and the southern section where the Xochimilco Ecological Park and the Huetzalin and Acitlalin lakes are located, which are attached to the Xochimilco chinampa area.

To date, the following areas have been rescued:

- 30 hectares of the Huetzalin lake, with a total of 50.1 hectares.
- 2.54 hectares of the Acitlalin lake fully recovered.
- Over 10 hectares of wetlands have been recovered through dredging and cleaning.

Since 2004, the wetlands of Xochimilco have been part of the RAMSAR sites list, a designation established by the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance held in the city of Ramsar, Iran, on February 2, 1971. This convention recognizes the biodiversity and ecosystem services that certain places offer.

The recovery of wetlands is important for the collection of more than 200 species of native and migratory birds, amphibians, crustaceans, and batrachians, including the famous Xochimilco axolotl:

- Tlacuache / *Didelphis virginiana*
- Pelicano blanco / *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*
- Rana de Moctezuma / *Rana montezumae*
- Pedrete de corona negra / *Nycticorax nycticorax*
- Tortuga casquito / *Kinosternon hirtipes*
- Ajolote neotécnico / *Ambystoma mexicanum*

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Plantation of more than 1500 trees with species approved by the Mexico City Environment Secretariat.
- Forestry sanitation in 20% of the approximately 25,000 trees.

RECREATIONAL

- New jogging and cycling systems that configure routes through lakes, groves, and natural landscapes in a total of 8,700 linear meters.
- Zona La Isla was created, containing kiosks, bathrooms, palapas, children's games, shaded picnic areas, and a lookout hill towards the chinampas, wetlands, and lagoons.
- Didactic Chinampa to explain the importance and historical reference of the chinampas, creating a demonstrative chinampa.

- New walks and new urban furniture for picnic areas in strategic points under lush ahuehuate trees, inviting visitors to appreciate places of great natural beauty.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Electrical system in buildings, kiosks, and bathrooms.
- Rehabilitation of toilets and services.
- New urban furniture and signage.
- Installation of 284 solar panel autonomous lighting fixtures.
- New irrigation system based on long-range vertical irrigation towers with water from the Cerro de la Estrella Recycled Water Treatment Plant (PTAR).

Some approved tree species include:

- Yellow Acacia / *Acacia longifolia*
- Montezuma Cypress / *Taxodium mucronatum*
- Weeping Willow / *Salix babylonica*
- Mexican Ash / *Fraxinus uhdei*
- Mexican Sycamore / *Platanus mexicana*

The artist Luis Palacios has been invited to implement his "Adventitious Garden," an ecological and artistic experiment of a dynamic garden with an ecosystem process that will be studied and will provide photographic and artistic elements of the natural evolution of a space.

In summary, the rehabilitation of the Xochimilco Ecological Park once again puts at the service of the inhabitants of the southern region of the metropolitan area a huge park with unique ecological, recreational, cultural, and sports characteristics.

The comprehensive rehabilitation process was carried out by the Grupo de Diseño Urbano, through architect Mario Schjetnan, Marco Arturo González, Jessica Navarrete, and other members of the GDU.