

K180

RAKOVA JELŠA TOWN PARK

AIM OF INTERVENTION

The bordering area of Barje Landscape park and Ljubljana was declared a natural preserve in 2008; all of the important bird species and an unique ecosystem were the reasons to further protect the area as a part of Natura 2000. Barje is a vulnerable ecosystem; all of the interventions have to be subtle and must be done precociously. This is why the project does not change the authenticity of the landscape, all of the richest plant and animal habitats are free of interventions.

Realisation of the project began in February 2013. Team of six students and their mentor oversaw all of the planing and work on the "construction" site.

Project was separated in phases to make it manageable. Major part of planning and experimenting was done on site due to the vicinity of the city centre. Reviving the original identity of the open space, first phase dealt with the part, already owned by the municipality.

New path crosses the area and connects existing paths from the city and Ljubljanica river, forming a new cohesive route for the visitors.





DESCRIPTION

Three-hundred tons of illegal dumped waste were removed from the site and all of the invasive plant species were extracted. Apt plant species and trees were introduced and decided upon through a dialogue with various experts. Existing mature trees and typical folliage have been kept. Ground works, soil preparation, mowing, mulching and placing of new sand paths and wooden chips were executed throughout the area.

All of the existing foundation plates of the former huts were preserved as new picnic areas. New tree nursery, benches, bike stands and playground are introduced. All new interventions are done in burnt wood that is resistant to vandalism and sustainable, and as a nod to the history of the area (palafitte dwellings). After the first third of the area visitors enter the borders of Landscape park Barje. In latter parts, all of the interventions have been limited to cleaning and exposing existing typical shrubbery, formation of a new path, made from wooden chips and few benches, placed as viewpoints.