The left-hand riverbank, in the Warsaw downtown section, is regulated by a concrete embankment, but the opposite bank resembles the natural landscape, which makes it unique Europe-wide. It serves as an ecological corridor and the habitat of many animal and bird species. Given its natural assets, the central section of the Vistula has been covered by the Natura 2000 networking programme. The development strategy of the Warsaw section of the Vistula has been established in cooperation with non-governmental organisations and institutions dealing with anti-flood and environmental protection. It provides for gradual changes, starting with such undertakings that will restore the functionalities and opportunities provided by these areas at relatively small cost. E.g. cut branches are gathered in piles inside the riparian forest and will be used to build shelters for small animals, and near beaches, as barbecue fire lighters. Recovered areas becomes the most popular leisure paths and beaches in Warsaw.