

Developing a community of practice: university/high school/managers to promote sustainability in the city of Bilbao

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Ponds and wetlands play a crucial role in maintaining and encouraging the link between people and wildlife, both in urban areas and in the countryside. They are the ideal place to bring together messages about water management, and because they are small and easy to create, they are a valuable tool in teaching and research. Newly created ponds are also the ideal model ecosystems to study colonization and succession dynamics. The restoration project of a pond that will be carried out in the Park of Europe, in Bilbao (Basque Country), will be the scenario of multiple activities (scientific research, teaching and educational activities) and participation of different stakeholders. These types of actions are in agreement with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims, among other goals, to halt biodiversity loss and to develop sustainable cities. The restoration and naturalization of a pond located in the urban Park of Europe aims to increase biodiversity in the city of Bilbao, specially providing adequate habitat for endangered amphibians, while providing ecological services such as water purification and CO₂ sequestration.

It has been observed a high social interest to collaborate in the conservation of the green infrastructure of Bilbao. Therefore, it is expected that inhabitants would express a high level of participation during the naturalization process in the Park.