

Title

Madrid Rio – urban infrastructure redevelopment plan

Short description

Madrid Rio is a major urban infrastructure redevelopment plan which sought to transform the unused southern sector of an urban highway. The section of the highway was closed after an underground tunnel was built to replace it, leaving a large swath of urban land available for redevelopment. Most of the area was transformed in an urban park connecting two southern districts of the city.

Alongside green areas, regenerated space was left for cultural and sports infrastructure. Though the costs of creating this infrastructure plan were high, the potential gains they posed to health and wellbeing for various income deprived districts of Madrid were substantial enough to warrant the investment. Evaluation work by the City Hall has recently been conducted, though results and methodologies are not yet available.

Topic

Living – Green spaces

Characteristics (type, level)

Public initiative at al local-neighbourhood level

Country/Countries of implementation

Spain

Aims and Objectives

To give a new use to the urban area left free after the transformation of the southern segment of the M-30 urban highway into an underground road. The park uses the natural way of the Manzanares River and brings closer various southern districts of the Spanish capital

Target Group

The area is open to the general public

Status

Implemented on a continuous basis

Start and Completion dates

2011-Ongoing

Lifestyle and Behavior Change

It allows for higher levels of use of public space. Availability of parks is often correlated with use of such environments

Effects on:

Health and Wellbeing	It offers both proximal and distal effects over health by reducing the amount of pollutants associated to urban traffic and it provides a green area with space dedicated to leisure activities and sports
Vulnerable populations	Southern districts of Madrid serve as residence to most of the low-income population of the city. This area serves as a link with the city center and improves livability to the zone
Environment	It increases the amount of seminatural spaces in the city. Last developments imply also the opening of the dam system in order to recover riverine ecosystems

Initiated and/or implemented by

Madrid's City Council started the project of tunneling the highway route in order to restructure urban planning of the area

Stakeholders and sectors involved

Unknown

Financial support

It was financed by public institutions

Evidence-base

There is a wide literature base on the impacts of urban green spaces over wellbeing. Part of that literature is dedicated to how availability of those areas affects behavioural patterns in individuals and collectives.

Main activities

The construction of the green area was accompanied by the development of cultural and sporting infrastructure. Among the installations, its equipment includes options for active lifestyles, such as sports facilities, running circuit and bike rental spots.

Evaluation

Not yet available

Main results

Not yet available

Key success factors and barriers

Innovative infrastructures, design and a comprehensive approach that included diverse types of spaces for cultural activities, sports and leisure; though costs of the project were high, turning Madrid into one of the Spanish municipalities with higher levels of public debt

INHERIT Perspective

The promotion of urban planning conscious of the importance of green areas, active transport and active leisure has an important role in bringing about behavioural changes. Green spaces have a double impact over wellbeing. It can provide clean air, amenities and other ecosystem services which are generally hard to find in urban areas, as well as making it easier to lead a more active lifestyle.

More information

<http://www.madrid.es/>

<https://www.esmadrid.com/informacion-turistica/madrid-rio>

http://www.madrid.es/UnidadesDescentralizadas/ProyectosSingularesUrbanismo/MadridR%C3%ADo/J_Multimedia/FolletoMadridRio.pdf

Contact