

## CASE STUDY

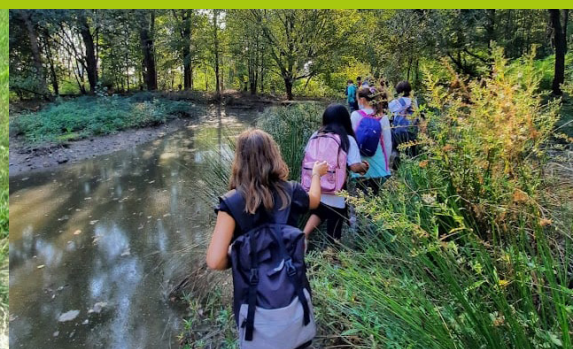
# Boscoincittà



**Boscoincittà**

*“We were the first to plan an Italian urban forest at a time in which green infrastructure was a novel concept”*

Silvio Anderloni,  
Director of Centro Forestazione Urbana - Italia Nostra



## PROFILE SNAPSHOT

Website	<a href="http://www.boscoincitta.it">www.boscoincitta.it</a>
Social channels	<a href="#">f @boscoincittacfu</a> <a href="#">y CFU Italia Nostra</a>
Contact us through Alliance	Silvio Anderloni (s.anderloni@cfu.it)
Country	Italy
Main sector	Public-private
Uforest thematic discipline	Urban landscape planning
Stage of development	Implementation



By transferring know-how talent to the green sector.



By promoting socially-inclusive, 24-hour access to a vast, green-and-blue urban park, and by safeguarding cultural heritage.



By salvaging derelict areas, blocking land consumption, and efficiently using cultural resources.



By increasing canopy cover, and by fostering beekeeping.





## START-UP

Built in 1974, Boscoincittà is a public park in Western Milan that transformed semi-derelict areas into a lush green-and-blue lung for the city. Promoted by **Italia Nostra**, an association that protects cultural and environmental heritage, **Boscoincittà was the first planned urban forest in Italy**, a revolutionary idea at the time.

### BOSCOINCITTÀ'S GOAL:

To create and maintain a 120-hectare green-and-blue forest as an urban park.



## INITIATIVE MODEL

### MAIN ACTIVITIES:

#### What does Boscoincittà do?

It offers eco-and-social-oriented resources, such as:

- Woods, meadows, streams, wetlands, urban forests, ponds, irrigation channels, an orchard and a water garden.
- An apiary and citizen vegetable gardens.
- Signaled running, walking and discovery trails.
- Sports and fitness activities (e.g. walking groups, yoga, etc.).
- Horticulture workshops and environmental education activities.
- Volunteer activities for young and old people, schools, socially-disadvantaged groups, individuals or collectives (e.g., cleaning, planting, monitoring, seed collection, emergency watering, etc.).
- A green-themed library (e.g. environmental education, landscape, parks, gardens, urban planning, historical local photographs, etc.).
- Picnic and party areas.
- Conference room for meeting between the Centro Forestazione Urbana - CFU (Centre for Urban Forestation) and organised groups, as well as for children activities and seminars for students and professionals.
- Playgrounds.
- 24-beds guesthouse accommodation for scouts and school groups.
- Parking areas for special groups (e.g., citizens with disabilities and/or reduced mobility, pensioners, etc.).
- Volunteer security guards to protect the park, which is open 24 hours a day.

### BENEFICIARIES:

#### Who benefits from Boscoincittà's activities?

- 1. 5 million residents** who can enjoy naturally and culturally diverse green areas for leisure, sports, volunteer work, internships, or for shelter from the urban heat island effect.
- 2. Socially disadvantaged groups** who can find rehabilitation opportunities and professional training.
- 3. Children and teenagers** who learn about the environment during or outside school hours, and are engaged in taking care of the park.
- 4. Private companies** who engage their staff in volunteering activities.
- 5. Foreign visitors** who enjoy the park as a tourist attraction and a climate shelter from the urban heat island effect.
- 6. South-Western Milanese farmers** who benefit from increased insect biodiversity.
- 7. University researchers** who conduct experiments and studies.
- 8. The green workforce** who develops knowledge and competence in urban forest design and management.

## PROMOTION:

### What is Boscoincittà's promotion strategy?

Boscoincittà's communication strategy and channels:

- Online newsletter.
- Social media.
- Media (local newspaper).
- Boscoincittà website.
- Word-of-mouth.

## GOVERNANCE:

### How does Boscoincittà implement its activities?

The project is led by the association CFU-Italia Nostra as follows:

- **In-house staff:**
  - Management and administration.
  - Logistics and maintenance.
  - Agroforestry, urban gardens and technical expertise.
  - Activities, services and volunteering.
- **External staff:** engineers, geologists, botanists, zoologists, architects, and accountants.

Finally, the Milan City Council is the land owner of the park and gives CFU-Italia Nostra a land use license.

## FINANCES:

### What are Boscoincittà's main resources?

To cover management, maintenance and activities costs there is mixed funding:

- **Public funding** (75%) from the Municipality of Milan.
- **Private funding** (25%) from fundraising activities, donations, grants, and fees (e.g., accommodation, conference rooms, party areas, etc.).

## POLICY AND STANDARDS LEADING THE INITIATIVE:

Boscoincittà is included in the 'Piani di Cintura Urbana (PCU)' number 1, one of the 5 urban belt plans that ensure environmental protection and redesign derelict areas.



## UNIQUENESS

### What makes Boscoincittà a one-of-a-kind project?

- Its **multidisciplinary approach** to plan and manage forests as urban parks.
- It makes Western Milan the greenest part of the city.
- Managing the site through an NGO, which has contribution costs two or three times lower than if it were done through a Municipal contract.
- It takes care and makes use of 'Cascina San Romano,' a 15th Century farmhouse, the only building in the park.
- The apiary has become a reference for urban apiculture.
- It was **revolutionary for the seventies:**
  - It was the first planned urban forest in Italy.
  - It introduced the concept of green infrastructure for plains and cities.
  - The citizen participatory model as a goal, not just a means, marked the path for Italian environmental associations.
  - It contributed to the process of changing the negative, Christian-based perceptions about forests (i.e., frightening, home of spirits and demons, wolf-territory), and building acceptance towards them.





By **2025**, Boscoincittà aims at further connecting other green areas of Milan: Monte Stella, Cascina Linterno, San Siro racetrack, and Piazza d'Armi. It also seeks to create temporary accommodation for individuals inside the ancient farmhouse Cascina San Romano.

#### What does Boscoincittà need to be successful?

- Increased budget to expand the team.
- Municipal fixed financial resources.
- Citizen support and volunteering.

#### What are today's main challenges?

- Preventing illicit uses of the woods (e.g., prostitution and drug use).
- Handling pressure from the construction industry and developers.
- Integrating the historical agricultural landscape in new afforestation projects.



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