

# San Lorenzo Park

“From clay pit to a place for the history and nature of the Po Plain”

**Managing institution:** Town of Pegognaga  
**Established in:** 1990  
**Area:** 54 hectares  
**Protection status:** Supra-municipal interest local Park  
**Year of joining Mantuan Oltrepò Parks System:** 2007

## Information

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Set up in 1990, the **San Lorenzo Park** represents the **first experience in the province of a Supra-municipal interest local Park**, a type of wilderness area established “bottom-up” from the local population’s desire to create “a place to show off the history and nature of the Po Plain”.

Entirely within the boundaries of the municipality of Pegognaga, the park is situated around three expanses of water which originated with the clay pits exploited until the 1970s. In the wilderness area, which measures 54 hectares, 37 hectares are assigned to a public park and 10 to a nature reserve (**raptor reserve (a)**), while the remaining part contains a Roman archaeological area with the **Pieve matildica di San Lorenzo church at its centre (b)**.

The suitable restoration of the ecosystem with these newly formed lakes has attracted **180 species of birdlife, including great crested grebes**, numerous anatidae and, above all, **one of the most important heron colonies in the province of Mantua**.

The park has visitors’ centres (**c**), observation huts (**d**), discovery paths (botanical, birdlife, sensory), a bird ringing station for scientific purposes, sport fishing pits (**e**), rest areas and convenient car parks (**f**).

In partnership with local associations, the park offers a varied program of environmental education courses on subjects such as botany, ornithology, archaeology and sport fishing, as well as a workshop of audiovisual and literary documentation.

The urban park area is freely accessible year-round, on foot and by bike, while access to the raptor reserve is strictly regulated – if you wish to visit, it is recommended to contact the managing institution.

San Lorenzo Park is located along the **Parks Cycle Route** that connects all the wilderness areas of the **Mantuan Oltrepò Parks System**.