

PEFC standard certification for sustainable management of urban green spaces

How Parco Nord Milano is leading the way

PEFC, the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, is a leading global alliance of national forest certification systems. They are dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management through independent third-party certification.

PARCO NORD MILANO (PNM)



CHALLENGES TACKLED



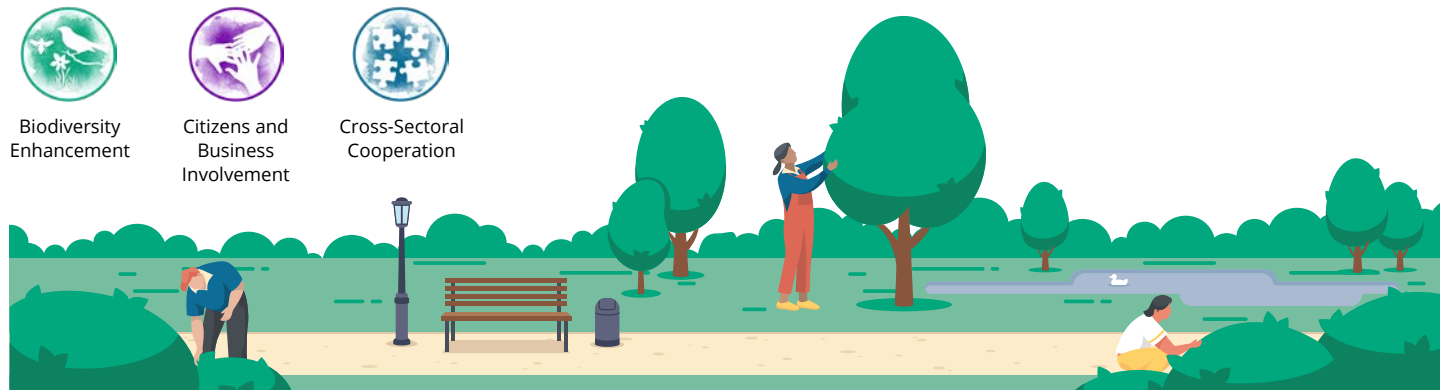
Biodiversity Enhancement



Citizens and Business Involvement



Cross-Sectoral Cooperation



SUMMARY

Parco Nord Milano (PNM), like other (Periurban) Protected Areas seeks continuous improvement of its management. Achieving a certification delivered by an independent third party is a way to solidify this process. As such, PNM successfully applied for the PEFC – Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification as sustainable managed urban forests. This certificate also enhances the reliability and attractiveness of the PNM in the eyes of citizens and business companies that may choose PNM to perform their CSR activities.

RESOURCES NEEDED



STAFF

- A dedicated person with technical skills (e.g. agronomist);
- A partner to activate and follow the PEFC standard certification process;
- Administrative staff to help create and/or organize all the required data and documents.



COST

PEFC standard certification: **€2000**
External assistance cost: 60 working days;

approx. €5000



TIME

2 months to fulfil all of the actions required. The time required to complete the certification depends on the already existing data and management practices adopted.

STEPS



1

Define the PEFC certification standard together with PEFC with some interviews with professional and technical experts;



2

Make a pilot study involving the municipality of Torino and PEFC Italia team on the draft of the PEFC certification standard to check its applicability;



3

Identify and write all the documents requested for the certification;



4

Sustain the examination by the third party and obtain the PEFC certification;



5

Perform annual visits during the certification.

MAIN LESSONS LEARNED ALONG THE WAY

The certification requires one to be ready to embrace change.

To achieve the certification, a tree and wood census had to be created, as well as a plan for green spaces management and different handbooks on sustainable practices. This all helped to create a better understanding of the needs and opportunities.

Furthermore, the certification has triggered the onset of a continuous innovative process.

The full report of this action can be found at URL www.europarc.org/greening-plans

The Life Urban Greening Plans project has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union

