



# How can Periurban Parks improve the quality of life in cities?

On a daily basis, Periurban Parks host millions of people, escaping the stresses and strains of urban life.

How would it feel to relax in nature after a long day at work? Can you imagine walking in a forest, running through a meadow, or simply wandering along a riverbank in your town?

**Periurban Parks** provide us with these opportunities but much more: **they protect us!** They refresh city temperatures, mitigate the effects of climate change, absorb air pollutants and decrease traffic noise. They look after our physical health and mental well-being. They function as our outdoors gyms and green places to meet with family and friends. They are also our 'nature schools', enriching our urban lives and, sometimes, providing spaces for people to grow and buy fresh and organic vegetables.

Periurban Parks are essential components of our **Green Infrastructure**, building connectivity in to our landscapes to preserve nature and boost ecosystem services. Periurban Parks can take very different forms: they can be forests, rivers, green rings, agro-ecological spaces and re-naturalised landscapes in and around cities and urban areas.

## However, life in a city can be harsh, not only for people, but also for Periurban Parks.

There are many pressures, including from visitors, alien species and vandalism. These are some of the threats that managers have to deal with whilst also working to protect biodiversity.

## What does EUROPARC do?

The EUROPARC Federation asserts that **protection of nature must include the green spaces in our cities** where most Europeans are concentrated. This is why EUROPARC's **2015-2021 Strategy** seeks to engage actively with others to support periurban nature and landscape conservation: in particular, we are committed to promote and support the implementation of the **European Landscape Convention** widely across the network.

In 2017, EUROPARC joined forces with FEDENATUR, the European Association of Periurban & Metropolitan Natural and Rural spaces. This consolidated us as **Europe's largest organisation**, representing parks and green spaces inclusively, from city to sea, from urban areas to remote rural mountain tops.

## Periurban Commission

A Commission to work on main Periurban issues has been appointed within EUROPARC and it is open to all members.

Read more on [www.europarc.org/fedenatur-periurban-commission](http://www.europarc.org/fedenatur-periurban-commission)



**EUROPARC**  
FEDERATION

[www.europarc.org](http://www.europarc.org)



The EUROPARC Federation is the largest and most representative Protected Area network in Europe, comprising almost 40% of the Natura 2000 network.

*Our members manage Europe's Protected Areas, covering almost every regional, national, European and international designation.*