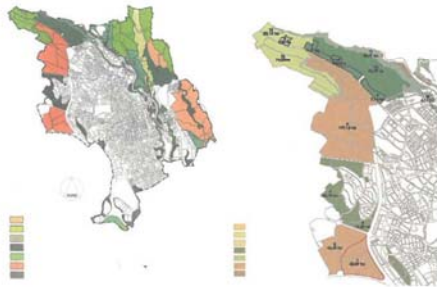


SABADELL

The Agricultural Park

The urban sprawl across the Vallès-Penedès Depression has caused the disappearance of high quality agricultural landscape. In the absence of regional planning of the remaining free areas, some local councils such as Sabadell have decided to protect their own land area. To this end, Sabadell, a town in the metropolitan region of Barcelona with more than 200,000 inhabitants, drew up a Master Plan for the management and development of the Sabadell Agricultural Park (2005), guaranteeing the sustainability and conservation of its agrarian-woodland for future generations. Together with other protection plans, this has led to the creation of a green belt – or “horseshoe” to be more precise – (encompassing rural, agricultural and woodland) which surrounds the urban land and represents 47% of the municipal area. The Agricultural Park covers 550 hectares.

The Master Plan determines the strategic direction of work and was drawn up by the Higher School of Agriculture of Barcelona Polytechnic University. This is a viable proposal for land use based on sustainable agriculture and its application in the suburban framework of the county of El Vallès.



1. General Municipal Land Use Plan



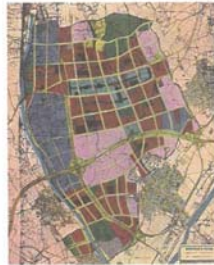
2. Protection of natural resources



3. Sustainable leisure in the Agricultural Park



2. Gallecs Rural view



3. Urban Plan of Gallecs

2nd Stage (1980s): the maintenance of public property transferred from the state to the region, resulted in land zoned for building with purely economic aims: locating industry and dormitory homes in the area in order to maintain the development of the metropolitan area of Barcelona. In the 1980s and 1990s, strong opposition grew up to the project's development.

3rd Stage (early 2000): maintenance of the area's public property and application of an *Urban Master Plan*, classifying it as specially protected land not designated for building. Ownership was passed to a Consortium made up of the six municipalities involved and the Catalan Government.

The Consortium of the Gallecs Rural Area manages the site with the aim of guaranteeing the conservation and improvement of its ecological, landscape and cultural productive values; its role as a biological corridor in the surrounding region; and also promoting the economic, environmental and social functions characteristic of this site.



4. Cycling in Gallecs

GALLECS



1. Gallecs Aerial view

The urban sprawl across Barcelona's metropolitan belt threatens the existence of a high quality agricultural landscape. In the absence of regional planning of the remaining free areas, the integrity of many of these sites is endangered by urbanisation plans, with the consequent fragmentation and loss of the socio-environmental values of the area. In order to fill this vacuum, the Town Council of Mollet del Vallès (50,000 inhabitants) decided to promote the conservation of this land.

This is the case of Gallecs, with its 774 hectares of agricultural land divided between two municipalities, which has been the victim of attempts by different tiers of governments to urbanise the area for thirty years.

1st Stage (late 1960s-early 1970s): the public expropriation by state decree (during the dictatorship) with the aim of building a satellite town during the following decade with 150,000 inhabitants.



4. The Agricultural Park covers 550 hectares

Its aims are:

- To protect the area's agrarian and woodland heritage and to guarantee the environmental quality of the landscape by:
 - Increasing the value of the agricultural land by means of awareness campaigns;
 - Protecting natural resources;
 - Economic viability;
 - Social equity;
 - Food safety;
 - Education and leisure provision
- To promote agricultural production based on ecological considerations
 - Creation of quality "brands"
- Agreed joint management between landowners (78% private) through the creation of a cooperative
 - Local trade
 - Agro-shops
 - Educational and leisure provisions

In short, this project is an example of land and environmental protection, applicable to metropolitan areas with strong pressure from urbanisation.



5. Signposted routes for rambles