



Surface: 84 ha
Number of municipalities: 1. Sevilla
Population: 709.975 inhabitants
Region: Andalucía

Address: Avda. Innovación, s/n. Edificio Minister. 41071 Sevilla
Tel: +34 955004400
Fax: +34 955004401
e-mail: delegada.se.cma@juntadeandalucia.es
web: www.cma.junta-andalucia.es



The property known as "La Corchuela," which covers an 84-hectare area and is owned by the Seville City Council, is located in the municipal area of Dos Hermanas, about 8 kilometres away from the said locality in the general direction of Los Palacios and Villafranca, at a distance of 12 kilometres from the city of Seville.

This property, classified as a "Woodland Area of Recreational Interest" according to the provisions of the Special Plan for the Protection of the Physical Environment of the Seville Province, includes some natural elements of the highest ecological value and its conditions give it the capability to accommodate large numbers of users; both features provide the property with the necessary values making it possible for it to be declared a Periurban Park.

The different environmental units being represented in the Park must be highlighted, for each one of them has its own flora and fauna elements and certain peculiar features which provide the Park with a natural diversity making the use of this area a highly attractive proposition. Among the units being represented, the following can be brought to the fore:

- Meadowing oak grove, a formation being typical of farmland with well-developed units of *Quercus rotundifolia*. Wild-olive grove, with old units of *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*.
- Noble thicket, located at the boundary of the woodland formation and made up of wild species being typical of the Mediterranean region, providing the associated fauna with a large variety of resources.
- Canopy pine forest, a mass of umbrella pines of enormous size which, due to its location and characteristics, is one of the environmental units with the greatest capability to admit users.

Likewise, the streams running through the Periurban Park deserve mention, as does the vegetation associated with them, which are highly attractive to visitors.

We are, then, before an area whose environmental conditions and location make it ideally suitable to play an important role as a recreational area, in addition to having some highly valuable natural characteristics.

Natural Heritage

In "La Corchuela" Periurban Park we find constituent elements of natural vegetation, such as thickets and scrubland with interspersed holm oak, which components are naturalized under human influence with the holm-oak meadow and the riverside forests; components of immense ecological importance such as the *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* hedgerows which provide shelter for fauna and flora species, and the old components subjected to human action having an obvious ecological and landscape-related interest, such as the *Pinus pinea* communities. The rest of vegetation communities is made up of pioneering farming species, ruderal pasturelands, isolated trees and limy thicket enclaves. The fauna in "La Corchuela" can be deemed to be a partial sample of that existing in different habitats in the Lower Guadalquivir region. The fact that it is a relatively well-preserved spot within a generalized agrarian system, makes it to play the role of a biogeographical island for the fauna. There, species belonging to Mediterranean ecosystems do coexist with others having a steppe nature, introduced as a result of the abundance of farmland in the surrounding area. Some species such as the common toad, the ocellated lizard, the red kite, the greylag goose, the lapwing, the cattle egret, the turtle dove, the rabbit, the field mouse or the barn owl can be found in the park.

Historic Heritage

It is a very old settlement, where some Roman vestiges have been unearthed. The "La Corchuela" meadow was a rough and wooded area where the Sevillian nobility, as well as the odd King, used to hunt. Within the Periurban Park there exist the remains of an old bullring currently being the subject of a restoration project with a view to a potential future use which would be included in the list of possible leisure activities that could be carried out in this natural protected area. Close to this park, within the Dos Hermanas municipal area, lie the ruins of Orippe, an old settlement dating back to the times of the Tartessus civilization where remains have been found from the Fifth and the Sixth Centuries B.C., and on which a Roman settlement was established. Together with it, the remains are kept of the "Torre de los Hebreos" military bastion. From the time of the Arab rule there still exist numerous farmhouses, which had previously been Roman villas and, as time went by, would become haciendas, yet another attraction that can be admired in the surroundings of Dos Hermanas, and among which the Haciendas de Doña María, Bujalmoro and Quinto deserve special mention.

Main activities

The "La Corchuela" park, with its wide diversity of habitats, is a spot of great interest for the observation of Nature. Such an activity can be conceived as a bit of enjoyment to which the spare time can be devoted, or as a study activity. This enclave performs a multiple function, which can materialize in education, recreation, conservation and research. The observation and the enjoyment of Nature can be organized through the establishment of natural itineraries. These are pre-established routes by means of paths or ways where ecosystems can be observed and studied. The "La Corchuela" Periurban Park is ideally suited to the design of natural itineraries, for it includes, within a reduced area, different types of ecosystems characteristics of the Guadalquivir River Valley. Its vicinity to urban areas and the easy access to it are also important in order to assess its adequacy to the aforementioned uses: recreation, education and study.