

## NATURE TRAIL: A WALK IN THE OPEN AIR AMIDST THE GREENERY OF PARMA'S PARK

### Route stage

#### **Start: Ducal Park (Largo Luca Ganzi 3, Parma).**

In the heart of the historic centre, in the Oltretorrente district, lies the enchanting greenery of Ducal Park, commissioned by Duke Ottavio Farnese, who in the mid-16th century began to purchase land in Oltretorrente near the “*Castello*” and commissioned the architect Vignola to design its layout. In 1561, Vignola designed the Duke's garden, drawing inspiration from the green architecture of Roman villas. However, over the centuries, the garden underwent significant renovations, reflecting the prevailing tastes of the time. In 1690, on the occasion of the wedding between Odoardo Farnese and Dorotea Sofia di Neuburg, the fishpond was dug, which still exists today, with a small island in the centre on which the Trianon Fountain was placed in 1920. In the mid-18th century, with the extinction of the Farnese family, the park fell into a state of disrepair and neglect; the management of the works was entrusted to the French court architect Ennemond-Alexandre Petitot. The park thus took on a typically French character that can still be seen today. The redevelopment and renovation work was completed with the installation of ten marble statues and the small temple of Arcadia. Further changes and the creation of “English-style” areas took place during the duchy of Marie Louise of Austria, until the large park became municipal property and was opened to the public in 1866 after the unification of Italy.

#### **Stage 1: Cittadella Park (Via Passo Buole, Parma).**

This is a vast park that occupies the interior spaces and part of the moat of the ancient pentagonal fortress built at the end of the 16th century by engineers Giovanni Antonio Stirpio de' Brunelli and Genesio Bresciani at the behest of Duke Alessandro Farnese. It has two entrances: the main one, to the north towards the city, characterised by a monumental Carrara marble façade, and the secondary one to the south, also known as “*Porta del Soccorso*”, with five bastions. Today, it is very popular thanks to its sports fields, running track, children's play areas and green areas for relaxation. There is also a bar, a dog area and a fountain.

#### **Stage 2: Bizzozero Park (Strada Provinciale SP16, Parma).**

Created in the early 2000s on the former farmland that stretched around Via Bizzozero, it is criss-crossed by various footpaths and cycle paths and is also known as “*Parco del Dono*” (Gift Park) due to the presence of a playground suitable for people with disabilities. It also features the “*Giardino dei Sensi*” (Garden of the Senses), a space dedicated to the visually impaired and consisting of three areas: smell, taste-touch and hearing.

#### **Stage 3: Giacomo Ferrari Park (Strada Antonio Zarotto, Parma).**

This city park is located in the Cittadella neighborhood. It features large green spaces and is crossed by a cycle path lined with benches. There is also a children's play area equipped with slides, swings and a fountain, a kiosk bar, sports fields, a dog park and the “*Ludobimbo*” playground, with large equipped areas and a track for electric quad bikes.

#### **Stage 4: Falcone and Borsellino Park (Via Mantova, Parma).**

The large green area that runs alongside the initial stretch of Via Mantova is connected by paths that

can be travelled on foot or by bicycle and is surrounded by new residential developments. The park includes children's playgrounds, wooden benches and tables, a fountain and a dog area. It has a path that can be travelled on foot or by bicycle until you reach the next stop.

### Stage 5: 1<sup>st</sup> May's Park (Viale Barilla, Parma).

Better known as Ex Eridania Park, named after the sugar factory that was converted in 2001 by architect Renzo Piano into the Niccolò Paganini Auditorium, which stands among the trees and benches, it is also characterised by long pools, now restored, filled with water lilies and flanked by wooden walkways, once used for washing sugar beets.

### Arrive: Ducal Park (Largo Luca Ganzi 3, Parma).



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