



visits4u case studies:

Vravrona Wetland

Vravrona, Greece

Vravrona wetland



Attica, Greece

Title: Creating a path for visually impaired people in the Vravrona Wetland Description

The Vravrona wetland is situated on the coast of Eastern Attica, in the Municipality of Markopoulo, just 30 km away from Athens. The remarkable landscape, famous already from the antiquity, has managed to remain almost intact. Erasinos River, the shallow bay on its estuary, the surrounding hills and the cultivated land, have created a rich wild life ecosystem, unique in Attica. The presence of Man in Vravrona dates from the Neolithic period. The area became well known from 700 BC, when the Temple of Artemis was built. Land use has remained more or less the same from antiquity, with viniculture being the most prominent cultivation. The site is part of the "Natura" network and is among the most important natural habitats in Europe, with more than 140 bird species.

Becoming inclusive:

1. Description

The "Protection and Promotion of the Vravrona Wetland" project was implemented by the Hellenic Ornithological Society in cooperation with the Athens International Airport and the Municipality of Markopoulo. It includes actions that are expected to help restore the wetland ecosystem, recover the populations of plants and animals of the wetland and the surrounding area, inform and aware locals and visitors, and promote the area in a manner compatible to the conservation of the local natural and cultural heritage. The basic goal of this project is to create the suitable conditions for the reintroduction of harmony between man and the natural wealth of the

wetland. Within the project the first path for visually impaired people was constructed.

2. Description of steps taken, changes and progress

It is the first time that a trail for visually impaired people is created in Greece. The path starts from the Museum of Vravra, it continues to the east of the archaeological site and ends shortly after Eratos river. With a total length of 500 m, the trail is equipped with a special guiding tour system, offering a unique experience for visually impaired people. It includes tactile signs for environmental interpretation and guiding system. It also includes an audio-acoustic system, so that the visitor can hear characteristic sounds of wetland birds. The path is of course, compatible for all visitors and is extremely interesting for children.



3. Main stakeholders / actors

The project is the result of a long-term effort of the Hellenic Ornithological Society and Athens International Airport in cooperation with the Archaeological Museum of Vravra, the Municipality of Markopoulo, the Panhellenic Association of the Blind and the Lighthouse of the Blind of Greece.

Results and Impact

The path was inaugurated 2011. The creation of the route for visually impaired people is a result of many months of effort, and similar routes are expected to be created in other areas of particular natural beauty.

Lessons Learnt

The environment can be friendly to visually impaired people given a serious design and within a reasonable cost. The project furthermore increased public awareness for people with disabilities.

Further information

Hellenic Ornithological Society

http://www.ornithologiki.gr/page_cn.php?tID=2355

http://www.ornithologiki.gr/page_cn.php?tID=1791&aID=820



visits4u is co-funded by the
COSME Programme of the European Union