

The recovery of urban peripheries and the creation of spaces for citizenship: the project of the Gandia Green Ring

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Abstract

Over the last few centuries, urban peripheries have absorbed facilities and infrastructure that urban centers could not maintain. As a result, a process of decentralization towards the urban peripheries began. This process has led to many municipalities having degraded urban peripheries disconnected from citizens, where the population no longer visits despite their proximity to the city and often to natural spaces. A Green Belt is a green infrastructure aimed at recovering urban peripheries through nature-based solutions. In addition, it aims to provide a space for urban disconnection, an area for walking and practicing sports, as well as an alternative for intra-urban and sustainable mobility. Through a peri-urban circular route, the urban suburbs are connected and provided with a series of equipment and infrastructure to reconnect citizens with their natural environment, such as urban gardens, viewpoints, green areas or the restoration of natural spaces near the city. Through the application of qualitative and quantitative techniques, the effects that green infrastructure has on the habits of the population and on the perception of living in urban peripheries are studied. The Vitoria Green Belt sets the standard in Spain, and cities like Gandia have sought to develop similar projects to take advantage of its potential and recover its urban environment. Since its implementation in Gandia, mobility and the way in which citizens interact with their environment have changed. Studying these changes in citizenship is essential to understanding the potential of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions in cities.

Keywords: Green infrastructure, urban peripheries, urban habits, mobility.

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