Evergreen City
Urban pine forest rehabilitation, Beirut, Lebanon

Main author
Raëd Abillama, Raëd Abillama Architects, Metn, Lebanon

Project data
Context: Landscape, urban design and infrastructure
Client: Municipality of Beirut
Background: Public commission
Planned start: June 2014

Summary and appraisal by the jury
The Beirut Pine Forest is a green space extending over more than two hectares with a natural ecosystem typical of the Mediterranean region including native tree species, shrubs, and plants. The unique green space known locally as Horsh El Snoubar or Bosco de Pino is located in the middle of the capital and considered the largest botanical garden in Lebanon. A rehabilitation plan has been proposed to develop the facilities and services needed in the park for opening it to the public and promoting it for cultural, social, sports, and environmental activities – while at the same time maintaining and conserving the park’s natural habitats. Environmental standards and urban needs will be integrated in a seamless way, enhancing the sense of belonging to the wider community.

Sustainability concept
The project’s bold intention to open up a territory located in the midst of the city’s “concrete jungle” and essentially suppressed and forgotten in the collective memory to the public at large was strongly commended by the jury. The city of Beirut, under constant pressure by private development to use every piece of available land for more and more expansion, must rehabilitate its green spaces and make them accessible to the public – a restoration not only of its natural habitat but most importantly of the very ideal of the city as collective body – Beirut’s cité.

Further authors
Sawsan Bou Fahreddine, Association for Forests Development & Conservation, Jdédeh, Lebanon; Yousof Abillama, Maintenance Management Group, Antelias, Lebanon

REHABILITATION OF BEITRUE PINE FOREST

Site analysis

Future implementation

Images: The overall objective is to improve the state of green cover and water balance and implement new facilities and services. The Beirut Pine Forest are separated by a vehicular road, but future implementations will be applied to remove this separation. Minimum information is applied, and the along-maintain excellent facilities by dividing the area to three zones that will already be fully tied to existing uses that benefit a central meeting point.

The Beirut Pine Forest is a green space extending over more than two hectares with a natural ecosystem typical of the Mediterranean region including native tree species, shrubs, and plants. The unique green space known locally as Horsh El Snoubar or Bosco de Pino is located in the middle of the capital and considered the largest botanical garden in Lebanon. A rehabilitation plan has been proposed to develop the facilities and services needed in the park for opening it to the public and promoting it for cultural, social, sports, and environmental activities – while at the same time maintaining and conserving the park’s natural habitats. Environmental standards and urban needs will be integrated in a seamless way, enhancing the sense of belonging to the wider community.

Progress: The natural ecosystem of the park is maintained by limiting the number of interventions to the minimum required. Services and attractions for different target groups (children, youth, adults, senior citizens, disabled, etc.) are secured. The project is planned to enhance the site’s capacity to host cultural, social, sports and environmental activities. Different attractions will be created to educate people about the richness and importance of forests and green spaces in Lebanon.

People: Collaboration is established between the private sector, public sector and local NGOs to develop a maintenance and operations agreement that secures long-term financing and operations scheme that secures long-term sustainability of the park. To maintain its environmental aspect. To secure its capacity to host cultural, social, sports and environmental activities, a maintenance and operations agreement will commence between the municipality and the private sector to ensure proper evaluation and monitoring of results.

Place: Interdisciplinarity of landscapes, infrastructure, urban design and architecture – the first priority in this project is to maintain its environmental aspect. To secure its capacity to host cultural, social, sports and environmental activities, a maintenance and operations agreement will commence between the municipality and the private sector to ensure proper evaluation and monitoring of results.

Forest restoration is involved in the development and implementation of the project.

The Beirut Pine Forest is centrally located in the city and can be easily accessible through main roads. It is surrounded by different functions such as residential, commercial, and religious precincts. The project’s bold intention to open up a territory located in the midst of the city’s “concrete jungle” and essentially suppressed and forgotten in the collective memory to the public at large was strongly commended by the jury. The city of Beirut, under constant pressure by private development to use every piece of available land for more and more expansion, must rehabilitate its green spaces and make them accessible to the public – a restoration not only of its natural habitat but most importantly of the very ideal of the city as collective body – Beirut’s cité.

Further authors
Sawsan Bou Fahreddine, Association for Forests Development & Conservation, Jdédeh, Lebanon; Yousof Abillama, Maintenance Management Group, Antelias, Lebanon

Images: This zone has a program that incorporates everything from a city park to a walking in a road. People from all ages and backgrounds will use the forest for walks, picnic and the park.

The Beirut Pine Forest is adjacent to densely-populated areas where green spaces are practically nonexistent. The Beirut Hippodrome and the Beirut Pine Forest are separated by a vehicular road, but future implementations will be applied to remove this separation. Minimum information is applied, and the along-maintain excellent facilities by dividing the area to three zones that will already be fully tied to existing uses that benefit a central meeting point.

The Beirut Pine Forest is centrally located in the city and can be easily accessible through main roads. It is surrounded by different functions such as residential, commercial, and religious precincts. The project’s bold intention to open up a territory located in the midst of the city’s “concrete jungle” and essentially suppressed and forgotten in the collective memory to the public at large was strongly commended by the jury. The city of Beirut, under constant pressure by private development to use every piece of available land for more and more expansion, must rehabilitate its green spaces and make them accessible to the public – a restoration not only of its natural habitat but most importantly of the very ideal of the city as collective body – Beirut’s cité.

Further authors
Sawsan Bou Fahreddine, Association for Forests Development & Conservation, Jdédeh, Lebanon; Yousof Abillama, Maintenance Management Group, Antelias, Lebanon

Images: The overall objective is to improve the state of green cover and water balance and implement new facilities and services. The Beirut Pine Forest are separated by a vehicular road, but future implementations will be applied to remove this separation. Minimum information is applied, and the along-maintain excellent facilities by dividing the area to three zones that will already be fully tied to existing uses that benefit a central meeting point.

The Beirut Pine Forest is centrally located in the city and can be easily accessible through main roads. It is surrounded by different functions such as residential, commercial, and religious precincts. The project’s bold intention to open up a territory located in the midst of the city’s “concrete jungle” and essentially suppressed and forgotten in the collective memory to the public at large was strongly commended by the jury. The city of Beirut, under constant pressure by private development to use every piece of available land for more and more expansion, must rehabilitate its green spaces and make them accessible to the public – a restoration not only of its natural habitat but most importantly of the very ideal of the city as collective body – Beirut’s cité.

Further authors
Sawsan Bou Fahreddine, Association for Forests Development & Conservation, Jdédeh, Lebanon; Yousof Abillama, Maintenance Management Group, Antelias, Lebanon

Images: The overall objective is to improve the state of green cover and water balance and implement new facilities and services. The Beirut Pine Forest are separated by a vehicular road, but future implementations will be applied to remove this separation. Minimum information is applied, and the along-maintain excellent facilities by dividing the area to three zones that will already be fully tied to existing uses that benefit a central meeting point.

The Beirut Pine Forest is centrally located in the city and can be easily accessible through main roads. It is surrounded by different functions such as residential, commercial, and religious precincts. The project’s bold intention to open up a territory located in the midst of the city’s “concrete jungle” and essentially suppressed and forgotten in the collective memory to the public at large was strongly commended by the jury. The city of Beirut, under constant pressure by private development to use every piece of available land for more and more expansion, must rehabilitate its green spaces and make them accessible to the public – a restoration not only of its natural habitat but most importantly of the very ideal of the city as collective body – Beirut’s cité.

Further authors
Sawsan Bou Fahreddine, Association for Forests Development & Conservation, Jdédeh, Lebanon; Yousof Abillama, Maintenance Management Group, Antelias, Lebanon

Images: The overall objective is to improve the state of green cover and water balance and implement new facilities and services. The Beirut Pine Forest are separated by a vehicular road, but future implementations will be applied to remove this separation. Minimum information is applied, and the along-maintain excellent facilities by dividing the area to three zones that will already be fully tied to existing uses that benefit a central meeting point.

The Beirut Pine Forest is centrally located in the city and can be easily accessible through main roads. It is surrounded by different functions such as residential, commercial, and religious precincts. The project’s bold intention to open up a territory located in the midst of the city’s “concrete jungle” and essentially suppressed and forgotten in the collective memory to the public at large was strongly commended by the jury. The city of Beirut, under constant pressure by private development to use every piece of available land for more and more expansion, must rehabilitate its green spaces and make them accessible to the public – a restoration not only of its natural habitat but most importantly of the very ideal of the city as collective body – Beirut’s cité.