



# THE SARCA RIVER PARK

From the glaciers of Adamello  
to Garda Lake



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Ceniga, "Ponte romano"

### IN THE RIVER PARK

- 10** SPECIAL CONSERVATION AREAS protected by the European Union
- 5** PROVINCIAL NATURAL RESERVES
- 18** LOCAL RESERVES
- 75** Km of the River Sarca
- 5** LAKES Cavedine, S. Massenza, Toblino, Bagattoli and Laghisol

The River Sarca is the dominant feature of the River Park. Along its 75 km course it runs through an extremely varied landscape and rich in nature, always a key feature in the history and identity of the local communities. From Garda Lake to the glaciers of Adamello - Presanella, the River Park unites the Mediterranean and Alpine worlds. It's a huge natural corridor connecting the Adamello Brenta National Park with other protected areas and zones of environmental importance.



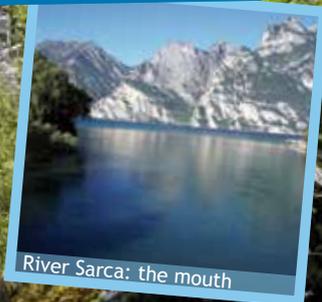
Adamello and Presanella



River Sarca in Tione



River Sarca in Arco



River Sarca: the mouth

### THE MUNICIPALITIES OF THE RIVER PARK

Arco, Bleggio Superiore, Bocenago, Borgo Lares, Caderzone Terme, Carisolo, Cavedine, Comano Terme, Drena, Dro, Fivè, Giustino, Madruzzo, Massimeno, Nago Torbole, Pelugo, Pinzolo, Porte di Rendena, Riva del Garda, San Lorenzo Dorsino, Sella Giudicarie, Spiazzo, Stenico, Strembo, Tione di Trento, Tre Ville, Valle Laghi

# THE RIVER SARCA: one journey, many facets

From Val Rendena to Lake Garda, the River Sarca changes aspect many times, generating variable landscapes. Its precious water has always been at the centre of the work of man and of the culture of the local communities. The River Park works to harmonise the uses of the water in a way which safeguards the river ecosystem.

## VAL RENDENA

In Rendena Valley the River Sarca dominates the valley bottom landscape, flowing between vast expanses of fields. The valley separates the Brenta Dolomites from the Adamello-Presanella massif.

Ecological condition of the River Sarca: **GOOD**

### focus

A fine riparian forest has been preserved in the Caderzone plain.



## WATER USES

### HYDROELECTRIC

Hydroelectric use is possible thanks to the continuity of the river corridor and is able to modify a number of aspects of the river, such as the temperature of the water or the transport of sediments. The River Park promotes dialogue and discussion with the entities involved, in order to plan possible mitigating actions.

### FISH FARMING

There are a number of trout farming establishments along the river, from Val Rendena to the river mouth. This important economic activity requires large quantities of clean water and control of the quality of the discharged water. It is necessary, therefore, to maintain a correct balance to preserve the river ecology.

### AGRICULTURE

Intensive agriculture requires the use of many fertilisers and pesticides which could end up in the river, causing eutrophication. The Park supports sustainable agriculture with the involvement of local farms.

### LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Exploitation of the water courses and lakes for leisure and sports activities is widespread, and reinforces the link between people and the river: permitting direct contact with nature, it's important from a social point of view and is one of the objectives of the Park when compatible with the safeguarding of the environment.

## BUSA DI TIONE

The River Sarca has been dammed along the stretch from Tione to Ponte Arche, creating the Ponte Pià artificial reservoir.

Ecological condition of the River Sarca: **GOOD**

### focus

The "Prada di Zuclò", "Saone", "Selecce-Molina", "San Faustino" and "Saone-Pez" local natural reserves are situated between the villages of Tione and Saone. They are small but interesting wetlands, the remainder of the marshes formed in ancient times by the changes in the course of the river.

## GIUDICARIE ESTERIORI

Downstream of the Terme di Comano, as far as the Sarche, the river flows embanked and turbulent, hidden from view between deep and steep rock walls.

Ecological condition of the River Sarca: **FAIR**

### focus

FORRA DEL LIMARÒ is a very deep and fascinating ravine where the flow of water over thousands of years has engraved the limestone rocks, producing river potholes and other extraordinary forms of erosion.



## LA VALLE DEI LAGHI

The Sarca plain, as far as Pietramurata, was uninhabitable and unusable for centuries because of repeated flooding; it was drained only from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Toblino, Cavedine and S. Massenza lakes are situated here.

Ecological condition of the River Sarca: **GOOD**

### focus

TOBLINO LAKE is a landscape of extraordinary beauty. It is surrounded by holm-oak and thermophilic deciduous woods, where Mediterranean plants grow and here reach their northern limit.

## BASSO SARCA

In this stretch the River Sarca runs through densely inhabited territories, full of productive activities: intensive agriculture, craft and industrial areas, fish farming and camp sites

Ecological condition of the River Sarca: **GOOD**

### focus

MOUNT BRIONE is a Mediterranean "fragment" standing like a balcony over the Lake Garda. Thanks to the mildness of the climate there is an incredibly varied flora, with many rare Mediterranean plants. The fauna is no less valuable.



# THE SARCA RIVER PARK AND THE NATURA 2000 SITES

Natura 2000 is a network of core breeding and resting sites for rare and threatened species, and some rare natural habitat types which are protected in their own right. In the Sarca River Park there are 10 Special Areas of Conservation (ZSC in Italian).

## ZSC IT3120055 - Lago di Toblino

Surface Area: 170,5 ha - Municipality: Madruzzo

Lake surrounded by Mediterranean vegetation; important breeding and wintering area for many species of water fowls. *Path runs of the right-hand shore of the lake; access and information point at Gate Park Two Lakes.*

## ZSC IT3120115 - Monte Brento

Surface Area: 254 ha - Municipality: Dro

Limestone cliff environment with pioneer vegetation growing on the rock and nesting birds of prey. *Difficult area, not accessible.*

## ZSC IT3120074 - Marocche di Dro

Surface Area: 250,8 ha - Municipality: Dro

The largest glacial landslide in the entire Alps is a precious habitat for Mediterranean plants and animals. *Circular paths; access and information point at Gate Park Fies and Marocche.*

## ZSC IT3120075 - Monte Brione

Surface Area: 66,3 ha - Municipalities: Arco and Riva del Garda

Rocky hump with an exceptional number of species of Orchidaceae and a wide range of Mediterranean birds. *Path runs along the ridge; access and information point at Gate Park Mount Brione.*

## ZSC IT3120137 - Bus del Diaol

Surface Area: 1 ha - Municipality: Arco

Cave with particular erosive formations and various kinds of concretions; habitat for the chiroptera (bats). *Entrance allowed only for study purposes.*

## ZSC IT3120109 - Val Flanginech

Surface Area: 80,7 ha - Municipality: Giustino

Site of botanical importance due to the presence of silver fir forests. *Path soon to be realized.*

## ZSC IT3120152 - Tione - Villa Rendena

Surface Area: 184,7 ha - Municipalities: Tione di Trento and Porte di Rendena. Slope with interesting mesophilous forests of ash, linden and European hornbeam. *Crossable with easy path connecting Tione and Verdesina.*

## ZSC IT3120159 - Le Sole

Surface Area: 10,2 ha - Municipality: Tione di Trento

Area of marshes and peat bogs with rare plant species; breeding area for amphibians. *Path soon to be realized.*

## ZSC IT3120068 - Fivè

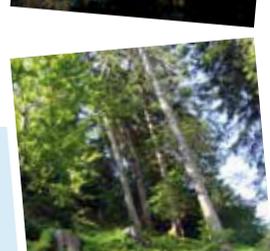
Surface Area: 137,2 ha - Municipality: Fivè

Wide peat bog of great archaeological importance. Habitat for rare plant and animal species. *Path runs through the bog and the archaeological site.*

## ZSC IT3120069 - Torbiera Lomasona

Surface Area: 26 ha - Municipality: Comano Terme

Well preserved peat bog, presence of threatened plants and animals and breeding site for amphibians. *Area accessible with easy path*





Ponte Balandin



# THE BIODIVERSITY OF THE LANDSCAPE

The River Park contains some **very rare habitats**, where plants and animals in danger of extinction live. Their conservation is a fundamental objective of the Park, which seeks to maintain and if possible increase the biodiversity of the territory. To conserve rare habitats, it is often necessary to take active measures to “guide” the evolution of the environments. The Park has a **wide-ranging programme of environmental improvements**, evaluated on the basis of scientific research and carried out in cooperation with the Departments of the Autonomous Province of Trento.

## THE WETLANDS

The reclamation work in the past has almost eliminated from the territory ponds, marshes and peat-bogs, all habitats with a high level of biodiversity. The environments that remain are protected and it is often necessary to take action to slow down the natural drying process.

Renaturation along the River Sarca at Sarche (2015)



## THE HAY MEADOWS

These environments, fundamental for the landscape, host numerous small animals, for example, many species of butterflies. If abandoned they are invaded by bushes and disappear: the park takes direct action to maintain them, supporting the practice of mowing.

## THE DRY MEADOWS

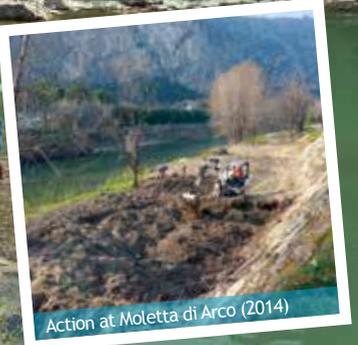
The dry meadows are an environment preferred by many rare orchids, which grow on dry soils with a low humus content. These precious habitats are often threatened by the growth of bushes. The Park promotes targeted cutting to prevent this transformation.

Orchid: *Orchis morio*

## THE BANKS OF THE LAKES AND RIVER

The banks of the lakes and river are very valuable environments which link the “aquatic world” with the surrounding habitats. It’s necessary to find a satisfactory balance between natural areas and areas devoted to leisure activities.

Action at Moletta di Arco (2014)



# PRECIOUS PLANTS AND ANIMALS NEEDING PROTECTION

## ORCHIDS

Some of the most threatened species are orchids typical of dry meadows. There are dozens of species in the Basso Sarca area, which has an almost Mediterranean climate. For some species of orchid, such as *Serapias vomeracea*, Basso Sarca is the only area in the entire Trentino area where they can be found.



*Serapias vomeracea*

## DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY

The presence of birds of prey is an indication of a solid food chain and that the territory is intact. The River Park contains peregrine falcons, harriers, honey buzzards and golden eagles. Black kites, buzzards and kestrels are the easiest to see.



Black kite  
*Milvus migrans*

## ORANGE WALLFLOWER

In Italy *Erysimum aurantiacum* lives only on the sunny coats of the Banale (southern slopes of the Brenta Dolomites) and in a few other neighbouring spots: it is therefore one of the “floristic jewels” of the River Park. It grows on rocks and detritus, on limestone soils, at up to 2000 m altitude.



Orange wallflower  
*Erysimum aurantiacum*

## EAGLE OWL

It's Italy's largest nocturnal bird of prey. It makes its nest in low altitude zones, in niches of the rocky walls of Basso Sarca. It mainly hunts mammals, rodents and young foxes, but also large birds.



Eagle owl  
*Bubo bubo*

## MOCK PRIVET

The *Phillyrea latifolia* is an evergreen shrub or small tree, with beautiful lance-shaped oval leaves with serrated edges. It's a rare plant that grows in locations with a Mediterranean climate, found in the woods of Arco and Toblino.



Mock privet  
*Phillyrea latifolia*

## MARBLE TROUT

This rare trout lives only in few rivers in the central-eastern Alps, where its numbers are rapidly declining. River restoration measures carried out by the Park aim at limiting the main critical factors for this fish: pollution and alteration of river habitat.



Marble trout  
*Salmo trutta marmoratus*

# KNOW TO UNDERSTAND, UNDERSTAND TO LOVE

One fundamental objective of the Park is to promote a sustainable relationship between human activities and the environment, in order to foster a high level of biodiversity: this occurs with practical measures, shared by the citizens and based on a solid foundation of knowledge. The Park is committed to **communicating and transmitting** this knowledge in the conviction that knowledge leads to respect for nature and the adoption of responsible behaviour.



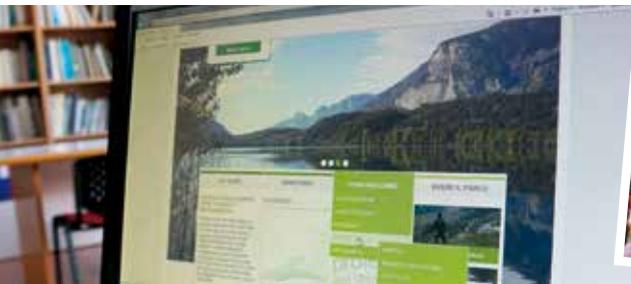
Numerous guided visits, outreach evenings and events with cultural associations are organised every year.

The school is a valuable provider of environmental education: users of the River Park's teaching projects range from nursery schools to secondary schools.



Brochures, pamphlets and educational and themed programmes with panels and other installations improve knowledge of the territory.

A special interactive app for smartphones, "Parco Fluviale Sarca", has been developed to visit and interactively discover the River Park. It can be downloaded free from app stores.



All relevant news and appointments can be found on the Park's facebook page and website: [www.parcofluvialesarca.tn.it](http://www.parcofluvialesarca.tn.it).

# THE WORK OF MAN IN HARMONY with the environment

The Park promotes **sustainable socio-economic development**: fair development accompanied by **real social progress** and based on the careful and prudent use of environmental resources, so that these resources will still be available for future generations.

Agriculture is an economic activity of primary importance in the Park territory. The farmer is not only an essential provider of quality products, but is also the guardian of the biodiversity of the farmed lands.



Animal farming according to sustainable practices prevents the abandonment of grazing lands, areas of great naturalistic importance; this economic activity is therefore supported by the Park.

Natural forestry, traditional civic uses of the forest and of its products are examples of an intelligent use of renewable resources offered by the territory.

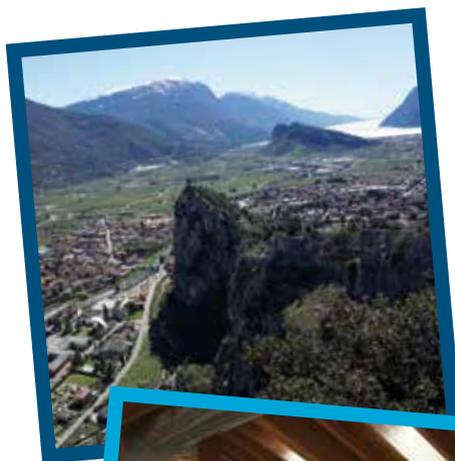


The River Park is an outstanding area for leisure and sports activities: excursions, trekking, Nordic walking, biking, canoeing, sport fishing and much more. Activities that respect locations, their tranquillity and the natural equilibrium, are promoted.



The River Park is a lively and welcoming area. It offers countless opportunities for enjoying typical local products. Rural hospitality allows you to immerse yourself in nature and learn about the history of local communities, custodians of ancient traditions and tastes.





## PARK MANAGEMENT and the laboratory of ideas

Provincial Law 11/2007 “Management of forest and mountain territory, of water courses and protected areas” offers the **Valley Municipalities and Communities the possibility of directly managing the protected areas and the ecological corridors** in their territory through the establishment of a “Reserve Network”: an instrument created through agreements between entities, with defined resources, lasting three years and renewable. In this way, the Reserve Network of lower Sarca” and the “Reserve network of middle and upper Sarca” were created, respectively, in 2012 and 2013. Since 2014 a shared programme has been set up that aims to unite the two Reserve Networks and takes the name of **Parco Fluviale della Sarca**.

The following give their support  
to the **Parco Fluviale della Sarca**

**27** MUNICIPALITIES

**3** valley communities

**4** ASUC

**BIM Sarca Mincio Garda**

**The Autonomous Province of Trento**

The **Lead Entity** of the River Park, that is, the Entity that coordinates its administration and provides its structure for management, is the **Consorzio del Bacino Imbrifero Montano Sarca Mincio Garda**. It brings together all the Municipalities from Adamello to Lake Garda along the course of the river.

A fundamental body of the Park is the **territorial participatory laboratory**. It’s a sort of “**melting pot of ideas**” in which everyone, from associations, to stakeholders to individual citizens, can propose initiatives and discuss the activities and management of the River Park.





Aree  
protette  
del TRENTINO



NATURA 2000



[www.parcofluvialesarca.tn.it](http://www.parcofluvialesarca.tn.it)  
[reteriserve@bimsarca.tn.it](mailto:reteriserve@bimsarca.tn.it)  
tel. 0464 583557



Parco Fluviale Sarca



[parcofluvialesarca](https://www.instagram.com/parcofluvialesarca)



Ente capofila  
BIM Sarca-Mincio Garda  
uffici amministrativi  
tel. 0465 321210  
[info@bimsarca.tn.it](mailto:info@bimsarca.tn.it)

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Photos:

Archivio Albatros, Fotoclub 11,  
Parco fluviale della Sarca,  
Associazione Pescatori Alto Sarca,  
F. Berlanda, A. Rossi,  
G. Schönsberg, A. Seletti