

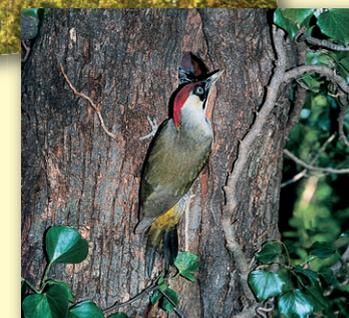


NATURAL HISTORY EDUCATIONAL TRAIL PIRAMIDA - KALVARIJA

*We invite you to explore the broader area of
the Maribor City Park.*



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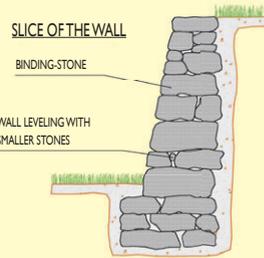


MESTNA OBČINA MARIBOR

You are stepping onto the Piramida-Kalvarija natural history educational trail. It will lead you through the surroundings of the City Park, over the Piramida and Kalvarija hills, and to the Three Ponds of the City Park. You can make 10 stops and get acquainted with the rich animal and plant life of the park, which is presented to you on 15 display boards.

DRY STONE WALL – CONSTRUCTION, WINEGROWING AND NATURE GO HAND IN HAND

Dry stone walls are built from stones without any binding material. The construction of dry stone walls demands building skills that nowadays only few craftsmen possess. The dry stone wall lives and moves with the terrain. In autumn, the wall radiates its warmth back to the environment, thus providing benefits for the vine in the evening cold. The wall also provides shelter to numerous reptile species. There are 6 species of reptiles living in the area of the City Park.



PIRAMIDA WINEGROWING AREA

The southern slope of the Piramida Hill is the most prosperous winegrowing area of Maribor. For centuries it has been a symbol of Maribor's bonds to the wine-growing and wine-making industry.



IN THE STORM, THE OAK TREE BECOMES AWARE OF ITS ROOTS

Oak tree forests are common in the region of Slovenske gorice. The mighty trees growing at the edge of the forest are called Sessile Oak trees (*Quercus petraea*).

LIFE BONDS

The dry meadow where you are standing is a habitat for 300 butterfly species, 6 are protected by EU laws. One of them, the Southern Festoon (*Zerynthia polyxena*), is dependent upon a single plant species, the birthwort, without it the butterfly would be extinct in this area.



PANTA REI – EVERYTHING FLOWS, EVERYTHING CHANGES



Nothing is forever. Meadows are turning into shrubbery and eventually a full-grown forest. Nature is constantly changing. Even marlstone slopes are moving and changing, all of which is invisible to the human eye.

PRE-INHABITANTS OF OUR COUNTRYSIDE AND FELLOW TRAVELLERS OF OUR LIFE

The forest gives us oxygen, cleans the air, contains and conserves water, while its roots retain soil and prevent land slides. The forest preserves natural fertility and has a beneficial effect on our wellbeing.



SOMEONE IS WATCHING US, HIDDEN IN THE FOREST



The forest is home to numerous animals. They dwell in different layers of the forest, some in treetops others on the ground. Many of them are endangered and protected by law, e.g. the stag beetle.

CAN TREES FALL ILL?

Chestnut blight is a dangerous fungal disease that has destroyed many chestnut trees. It appears on tree parts where the tree is wounded.



MUSHROOMING

Mushrooms are an indispensable component of any forest. We only pick the ones we know well and intend to use.



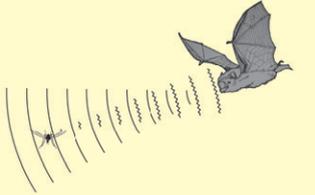
DOUBLE LIFE



From water to land—and back again. There are 8 amphibian species living in the area of the City Park, which is about half of all amphibian species living in Slovenia. All are protected by law.

MASTERS OF ECHOLLOCATION

There are 10 species of bats living in the area of the City Park. They most often feed directly above ponds, trees and lights.



LIFEFORCE OF THE FOREST – MIGHTY OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW

Along the way you may have noticed some torn-out trees that have left open spaces where young trees are now starting to grow. The forest is rejuvenating independently in its natural way.

WARM EMBRACE

At the forest edge, the trees and fields form a ring, which protects the forest. The trees at the edge have longer branches and are protected by shrubs, herbs and other perennials.



CARPENTERS OF WOODEN HOMES

Old trees are an ideal nesting place for wood-boring birds. In the wider area of the Maribor City Park, 99 bird species have been observed, among those many species of wood-boring birds.