

## 4.2.2 PRESERVING OR ENHANCING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

### 4.2.2.1 Planting Trees for All: Aalborg; Cork; Zagreb

**Park of Music and Singing Trees; Aalborg:** In Aalborg, several artists, musicians, and singer-songwriters have left their mark on the Park of Music by planting a tree to commemorate their visit to the city. Some of the trees are accompanied by the artists' own music and can be activated by the park's visitors by pressing a button at the foot of the tree. Since then, many more trees and artists have joined and today, more than 80 great artists have left their mark on the park with oaks and wild cherry trees.

Find out more at:

<https://www.enjoynordjylland.com/north-jutland/plan-your-trip/park-music-gdk596452>

**Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan; Cork:** Cork has implemented the Cork City Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) to reduce the City's carbon footprint and invest in smart technologies. The plan includes the planting of trees (1,200 in 2021 and 1,500 in 2022) as well as the 'City Trees Project', launched in 2021. This included an investment of €350,000 for the installation of five robotic trees in the city that filter pollutants generated by traffic. Each unit can sift an amount of air equivalent to that needed by up to 7,000 people every hour. These developments are complemented by additional actions such as the pedestrianization of 17 city streets, the development of outdoor dining terraces in the city centre, and parklets (green seating spaces) in the place of parking bays, to create a welcoming and atmospheric city centre vibe, while striving to promote a low carbon society through traffic reduction.

Find out more at:

<https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/services/environment/climate-change/cork-city-council-secap-sustainable-energy-and-climate-action-plan-.html>

### 4.2.2.2 Natural Preservation: Aalborg; Gijón; Pafos

**Egholm Eco-Island; Aalborg:** Within 5 mins from the city center of Aalborg, visitors can reach Egholm eco-island which covers over 605 hectares of natural beauty. The Island has ongoing initiatives concerning conservation, getting a better understanding of the local fauna and flora as well as aiding the local agricultural transition. Here it will be possible for locals and visitors to buy sustainable agricultural products that have been locally sourced and cultivated on the island.

Find out more at:

<https://www.enjoynordjylland.com/north-jutland/plan-your-trip/egholm-gdk596256>

**Biosphere Certification; Gijón:** Tourism policy is managed with the aim to ensure the achievement of the 17 SDGs on the United Nations 2030 Agenda. Since 2013, Gijón has held a Biosphere Destination Certification, based on these SDGs, and in 2019, the city received the

“Biosphere Gold Destination” recognition, as a result of the involvement of the private sector in the application of good sustainability practices. Gijón makes the Tourism Sustainability Programme available for its businesses, and therefore there are 16 Biosphere Certified and 14 Biosphere Committed companies and services.

Find out more at:

<https://gijonturismoprofesional.es/es/sostenibilidad>

**Blue Flags Beaches; Pafos:** An iconic achievement for any beach is the Blue Flag with denotes a high standard of sustainable coastal preservation and cleanliness. In Pafos this is now different and in combination with a series of other practices such as recycling initiatives by the local municipality, accessible options for residents and visitors, the beaches in Pafos are smart and sustainable.



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Find out more at:

<https://www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/discovercyprus/sun-sea/beaches/536-faros-beach-pafos-paphos-blue-flag>

#### 4.2.2.3 Utilising Natural Resources for Recreation: Efeler

**Thermal Waters - İmamköy Recreation Area; Efeler:** As thermal waters are very important for human health, Efeler has been covered by İmamköy recreation area for six decades. It has a green landscape with its natural beauties and a stream running through the centuries-old plane trees. The natural hot spring water in the picnic area of İmamköy is good for many diseases such as gynecological diseases, skin diseases and intestinal diseases, thanks to the various beneficial minerals it contains. İmamköy recreation area provides a resting opportunity to domestic and foreign visitors with its unique nature and healing water. Efeler Municipality has developed a project for the recreation area belonging to the municipality to become a new attraction center. The Municipality has started the construction of a hotel with modern-looking tiny caravans in the recreation area and set the target to complete the project and put it into service very soon. Within the scope of the hotel project, for the protection and continuity of natural resources, water will be drained after each individual gets into the water. This will help meet the hygiene conditions in order to enter medium and large-