

# GENEVA – PAV River Project

River restoration as a tool for  
industrial area requalification

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# Geneva territory Context

- Densely populated (1870 p./km<sup>2</sup>)
- No global water shortage
- High expectations for water quality and quantity
  - industry, hydroelectric plants, drinking water supply, swimming, fishing, sailing, etc.
- Water resources under strong pressure and water management gets more and more complex



## → Challenge

Maintain and enhance natural resources and biodiversity, despite growing population, urbanisation, industrialisation, climate change

# PAV – River project



# Requalification of PAV industrial area



- PAV – Praille Acacias Vernets – 230 hectares
- Requalification over 30 years
- Central situation – Easy access
- New development – High density
  - Offices + Housing



# What about rivers in PAV?

- Aire & Drize Rivers hidden in 2 galleries
- Flood risk
- Runoff risk
- Potential damage → 550 MCHF



# River restoration project

## STRONG AMBITION

- **Restore** a true river
  - 2.5 km
  - generous width (17-20 m)
- **Flood risk mitigation**
- Create continuous **public area** (12 ha)
- **Link** between new districts



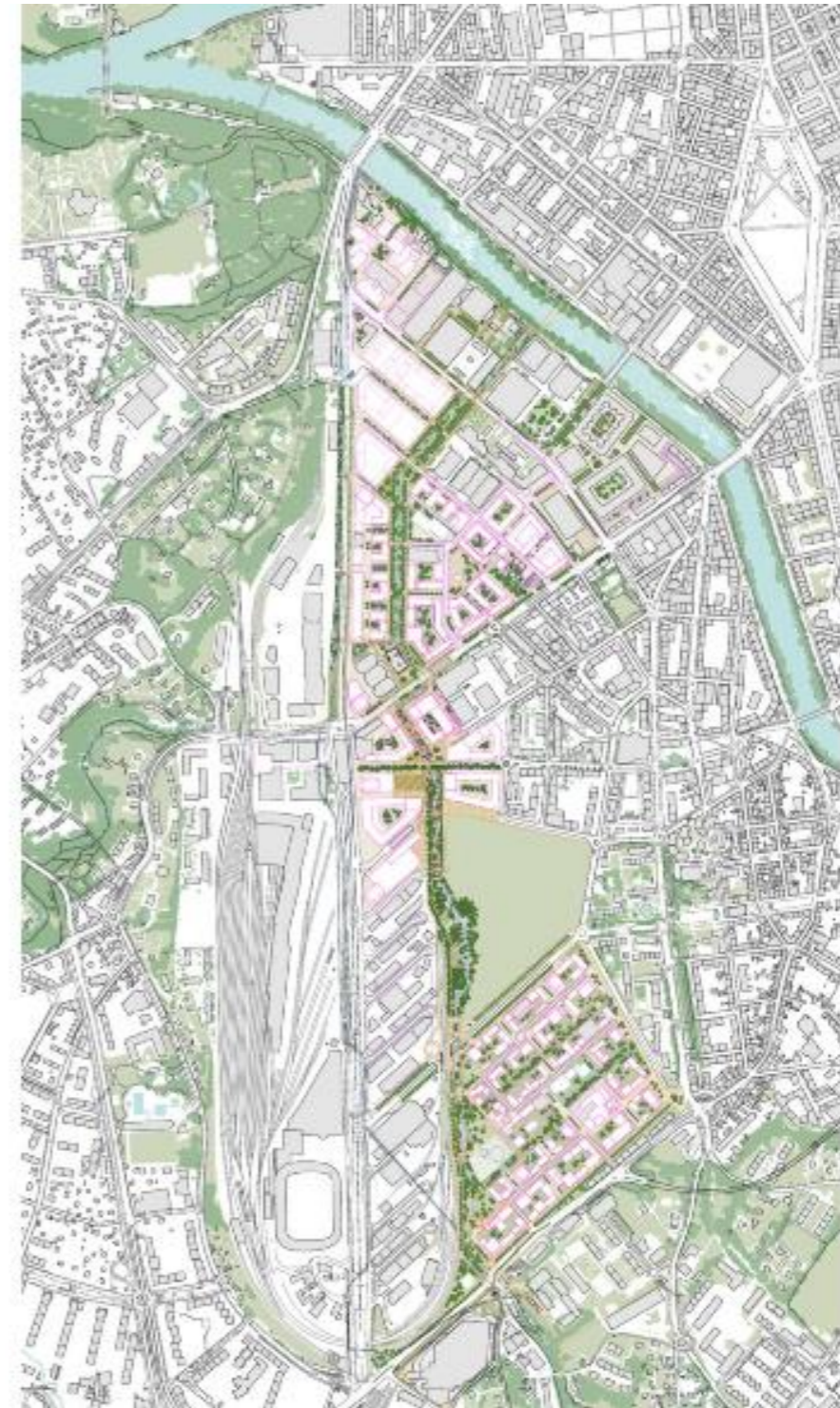
# River restoration project

## CHALLENGES

→ **Conflict** with the development of high density city

- Space requirement
- Costs
- Risks
- Difficult to secure land for rivers

→ **Negotiation** phase



# River restoration – Opportunities

## RIVER RENATURATION PROGRAMME in GENEVA

- Cantonal Act of 1997 (Law): political will to promote renaturation
- Renaturation Fund ( 9 MCHF / year)
- 20 years of renaturation projects



## CLIMATE CHANGE CONTEXT

- Experience of hot summer periods
- Need of areas of recreational time & refreshment
- New water management policy within the districts
- Sponge city

## NEW TREND

- River is an opportunity
- Move towards a smarter city





# River restoration improves



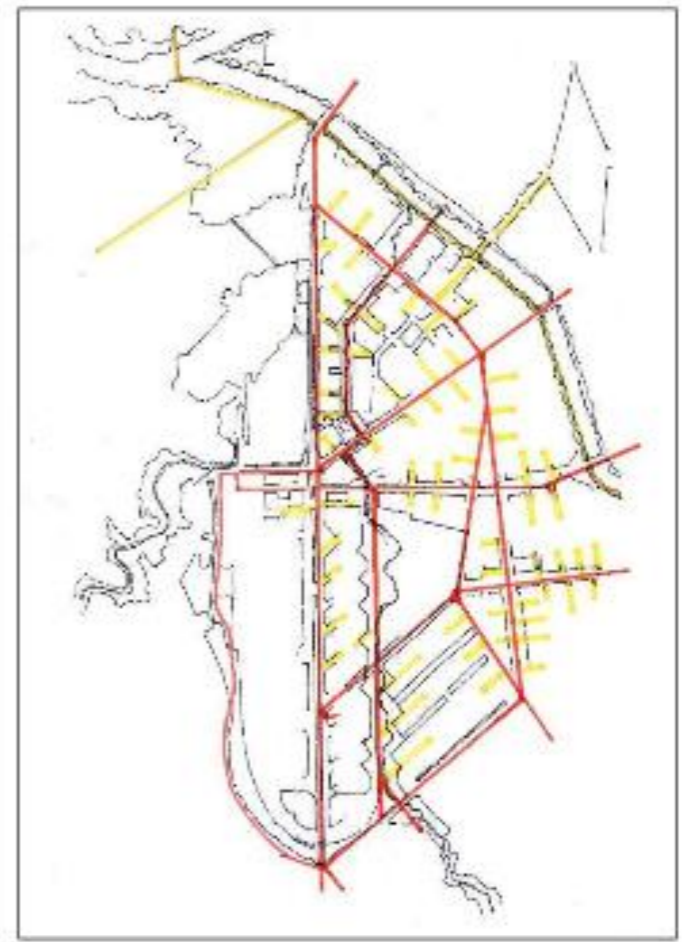
## Landscape & Biodiversity

Public parks network and biological connectivity



## Water management

Rainwater management within the districts  
Sponge city



## Mobility

Structuring line for gentle mobility



# 2030+

## RIVER restoration in PAV area

- Project over several decades
- Adjusts to evolving context & mentality
- Numerous partners & stakeholders (public + private)
- NGOs & Public consultation



## Grand Parc



**Étoile  
2025**



