Core Areas

The Wadi Gaza Natural and Greenway Corridors are the essence of the core area, and act as a protective barrier between urban areas and the agricultural landscape. Integrating natural and educational activities can take place.

Planning Principles

The Blue and Green Infrastructure approach was adopted as the guiding principle for the development of Wadi Gaza. This is based on the principles of Low Impact Development, Sustainable Landscape design, and adaptive, resilient urban design.

The Blue Infrastructure Elements are the Following

- The Wadi Gaza itself, the Coastal Wetlands, the Embankment (including proposed): the Central Basin, the Water Treatment Plant, the Three Lagoons, and the Elder Waterfront.

The Green Infrastructure Elements are the Following

- The Wadi Gaza Natural Area, the Sand dunes (including): the Agricultural areas, the Green Belt and the Elder Urban parks, located in each Core Area.

The Red Infrastructure Elements are the Following

- Wadi Gaza Trail
- Cultural Areas
- Waterfront Recreation Area
- Eco-Reserve Area
- Archaeological Parks
Introduction to Weel Gaa:

Weel Gaa is the largest coastal wetland in the State of Palestine, with its estuarine and diverse terrestrial environment, it is considered one of the main priorities of the Western Mediterranean Basin. This natural reserve is home to at least 500 different vertebrate species, most of them native. It also supports a diverse flora with at least 150 different known species. The wetland was designated a natural reserve in the year 2000, and is also protected by the state and its territories.

Protecting and developing wetland projects is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. But it is not just about the environment. The site will also serve as a recreational area for the people of the district and will improve the overall quality of life in the surrounding towns through the promotion of natural diversity and the creation of job opportunities.

The opportunity to implement the Weel Gaa Coastal Heritages Conservation Project would not have been possible without the support of the Government of Norway through the OECD Natural Resources Development Fund and the municipality of the Palestinian Authority (Department of Environment).

Natural Heritage:

Weel Gaa represents a unique habitat in the Mediterranean region. It is a wetland that provides shelter for many species of birds and other wildlife. The area is known for its unique biodiversity and its importance as a stopping point for migratory birds.

In 2013, the Mediterranean States recognized Weel Gaa as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. This decision was made in recognition of the importance of the site and its ecosystems, and to protect it from further degradation.

Science and Education:

Being a unique coastal wetland ecosystem, it is a laboratory for scientists and naturalists to study and research different disciplines of science.

Recreation:

The wetland ecosystem of Weel Gaa can provide an important recreational facility if well-managed. For example, many sweers are interested in the area for its bird watching, photography, or other activities. People come simply to enjoy the beauty of the landscape and the wildlife.

Project Challenges:

Weel Gaa Master Plan addresses a multitude of challenges:

- Cultural heritage:
  - The wetland is essential to the understanding of the area. The site has a rich cultural history spanning over many years of development. It has been passed down through the generations, and the wetland is an important part of the area's history.

- Project Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals:
  - Water scarcity
  - Biodiversity loss
  - Abandoned land and construction debris

- Water pollution and poor water quality
  - Uncontrolled urban sprawl
  - Flood protection