

FOCUS area

The focus of our study was the area in the vicinity of Roncajette Park. The analysis necessarily extends to the residential neighborhoods to the west and south, and the industrial landscapes of ZIP to the north and east.

Many of the issues that came to light during the analysis of the broader regional context also exist at the local scale in the Roncajette Park area. For example, water quality, transportation, and the juxtaposition of seemingly disparate land uses have all proven to be issues within the park site.

Much of our focus area-- what we refer to as "Roncajette Park"-- is the land that flanks the Roncajette Canal, and which is bounded by the rail yard to the east, the San Gregorio Canal to the west, the Scaricatore Canal to the south, and the older parcels of ZIP to the north. While the bulk of this area is the property of the ZIP consortium, there are several other key properties within the focus area.

1- Parco Roncajette: It should be noted that while we refer to this entire expanse as the Roncajette Park area, an existing green space "Parco Roncajette" occupies 90,500 m² at the confluence of the Fossetta River and Roncajette Canal. Once a year, the park -- predominantly grass with several stands of large trees-- is the setting of outdoor concerts, but it otherwise receives relatively few visitors. Parco Roncajette is the largest of what ZIP considers its green spaces.

2- La Scacchiera agriturismo farm and restaurant, located near the San Gregorio Canal at the north end of the area. The property is a working farm with historic buildings.

3- The Horse Farm, also located along the San Gregorio Canal. There is a recreational opportunity to increase the activities associated with the horse farm, which provides local carriage tours.

4- Isola di Terranegra, a historic agricultural village along the meandering levees of the Roncajette Canal, predominantly residential with a restaurant and local access roads. Presently, and in the past, the village has been subjected to frequent flooding, as has much of the landscape around it.

5- The Venice Lagoon Model, at the southern edge of the site. The Lagoon Model is a research and educational center which includes a scale-model of the Venice Lagoon, used to study and predict hydrologic variations within the city of Venice and to test hydraulic engineering works in the Veneto.

6- The Sewage Treatment Plant, which treats the wastewater for approximately 100,000 people from the city of Padova and ZIP. Nearly half of the population of the city is served by this facility; the remaining neighborhoods are without adequate sewer systems.

7- The University property, a parcel of open space, immediately north of the Lagoon Model.

Presently the focus area suffers from several problems, for which we set out to develop solutions. These include:

- **Wastewater:** Polluted water flows into the site directly from the Fossetta River. The sewage-laden river is piped from the north, beneath the older north ZIP, and emerges as an open channel at the north end of the park site. As evidenced by the water quality data shown in "RICERCHIE PRELIMINARI," the Fossetta River is a health hazard. Its flows emit the unpleasant odor of raw sewage, and its chemical composition prohibits the establishment of a healthy ecosystem, which would otherwise support aquatic plants, fish and bird habitat.

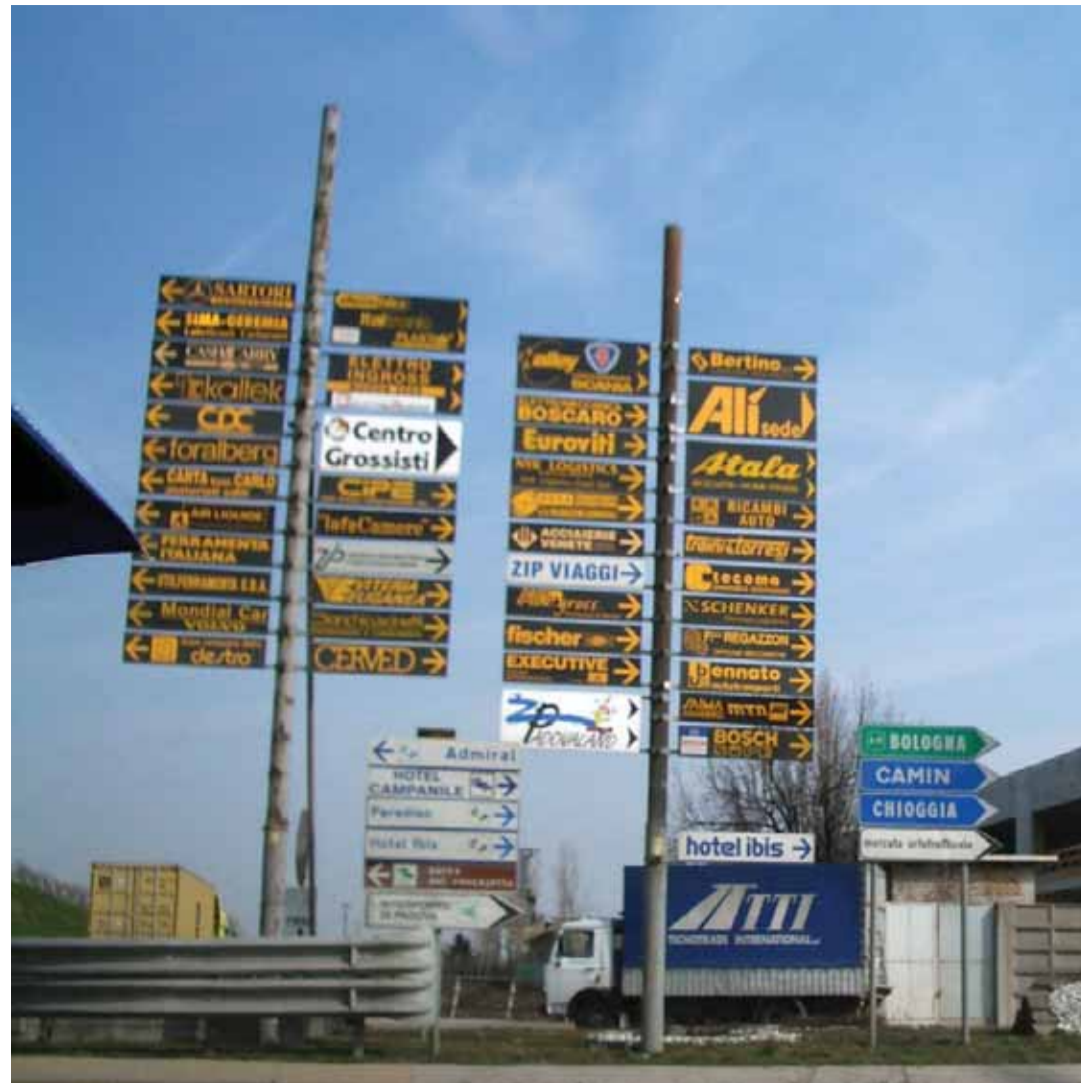
- **Sediment Contamination:** Soils and sediments along the Fossetta and Roncajette Canal have been contaminated by decades (if not centuries) of human disturbance and the transport of raw sewage and stormwater runoff.

- **Transportation:** The primary road systems into and around the focus area are narrow single-lane roadways, often constructed on top of levees along canals. These roads are dangerous to automobile, moped, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic alike. There is also a heavy demand for accessible routes between central Padova and ZIP, putting pressure on these narrow roads to accommodate more traffic than is feasible, and creating treacherous road conditions. Public transportation is lacking in the area.

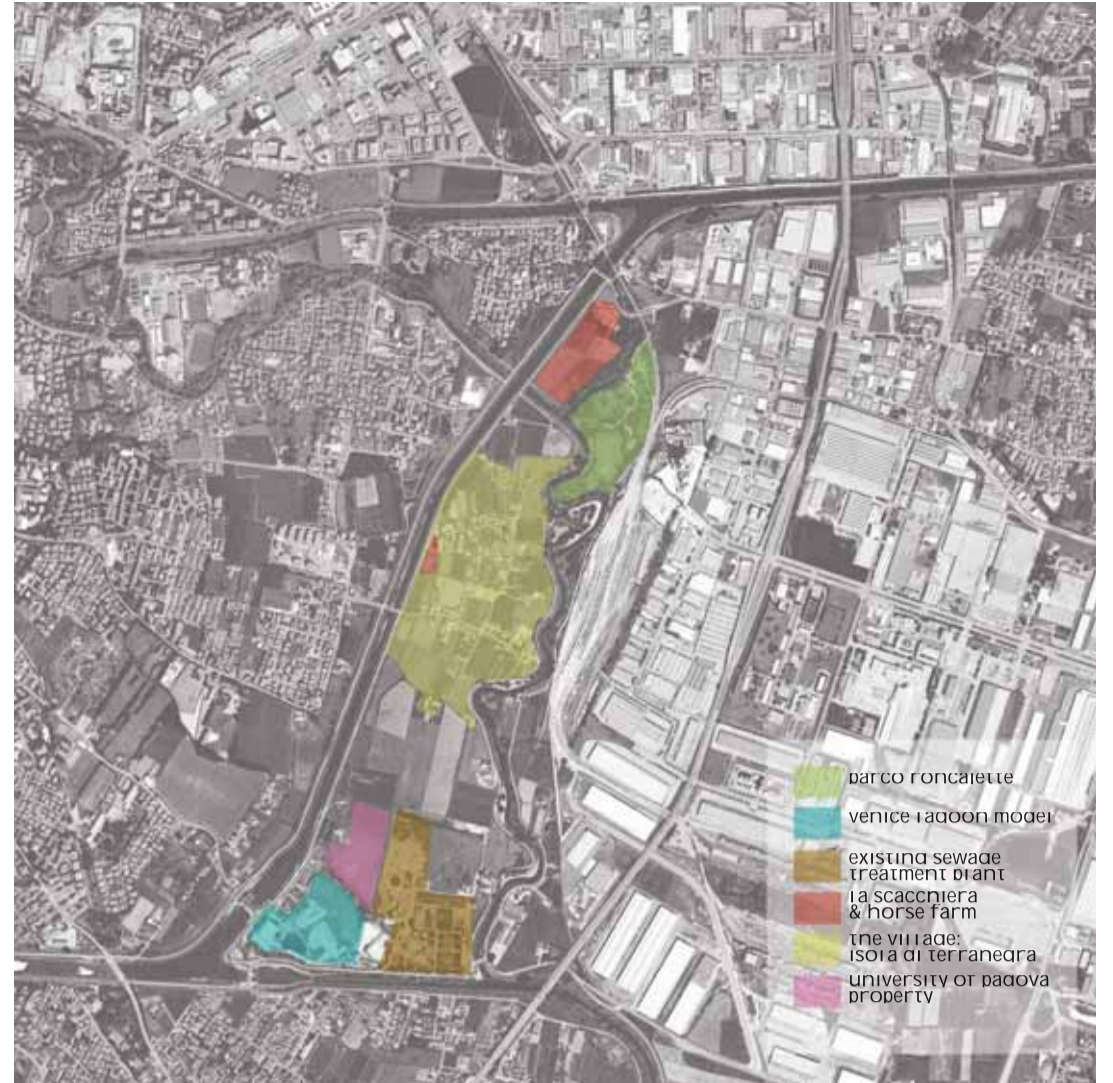
- **Lack of Identity:** Even residents of neighborhoods within a one kilometer radius of the existing Parco Roncajette seldom use it. Although it is one of the key green spaces within ZIP's ownership, and could effectively serve as a passive or active recreational space for ZIP employees, it is relatively unknown. One cause may be the lack of clear signage indicating its whereabouts. Another hypothesis is that the scent of the Fossetta River is prohibitive.

Beyond the landscaped bounds of the park and the agricultural village, the edges of the park transition into residential and industrial settings. There is a clear opportunity to integrate land uses within and around the park. We have explored changes to ZIP properties beyond the green areas and into the industrial zones. The initial ZIP properties to the north consist of smaller parcels, and many industries have out-grown these sites. Accordingly, it is likely that the northern ZIP properties-- which are composed almost entirely impervious surfaces-- may soon need to be converted to other land uses, such as commercial, civic, or residential developments. The southern, more contemporary portion of ZIP adjacent to the current railyard is comprised of larger parcels more suitable for logistics and manufacturing. Some landholdings within this area still have no built structures.

While imagining the re-design of the park, the need to address some of these dilemmas has resulted in the application of realistic approaches to problem solving; it has also inspired creativity in envisioning the revitalized Roncajette Park area to become an iconic and important landscape for the city, for ZIP, and for the greater community.



dove è il parco roncajette? (where is roncajette park?)



key land uses within the focus area



the fossetta river carries raw sewage in a dike beneath north ZIP; it is diverted to Roncajette park, then combines with Roncajette canal



outlet of the polluted Fossetta River into Roncajette park; the water is contaminated with wastewater and stormwater



Fossetta river emerges from a dike beneath north ZIP and flows through public open space



levees store and direct flood water to protect property within the Roncajette park area



roads and dike paths are built on top of levees; safety and access are both problematic



Flooding of village, 1966



steep slopes of levees require stairs or ramps



local access roads within the park Roncajette area



bicycles, cars, and pedestrians share limited space on roads and paths



local bicycle routes, west of Roncajette park



SCHEMA DEGLI INTERVENTI E RETE CICLABILE



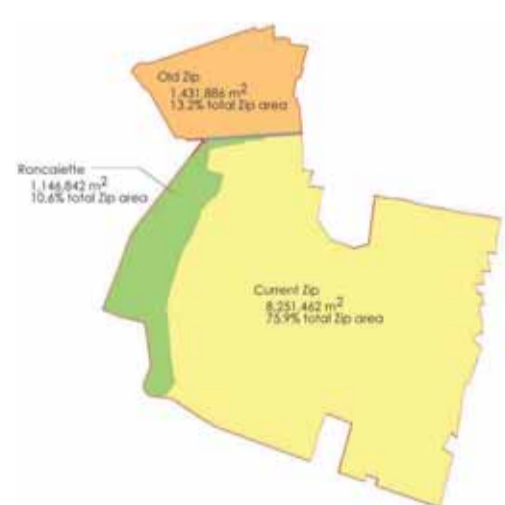
steep slopes of levees require stairs or ramps



historic buildings within ZIP property, to be preserved



working farm with ZIP's industrial area in background



existing land areas owned by ZIP



ZIP's green spaces: most green areas are within the Roncajette area

