

FLOODPLAIN PARK

SPONGE CITY HEFEI

assignment Hefei sample areas **location** Hefei / Anhui, China **size** 17 ha **client** City of Hefei **services** landscape design **status** under construction **team** Oliver Seidel, Martin Sobota, Tim Mohr, Enisa Selmanaj, Lydia Oehlwein, Kelai Yu, Anna Finn, Jakob Fielers **cooperation** Wasser Hannover GmbH, Joost Emmerik

The floodplain park in the North of the city park plays a key role in the sponge city of Hefei. The green-blue corridor makes a virtue out of the threat of flooding: Instead of building grey, rigid infrastructure elements hidden under streets and blocks of houses, the park upgrades the required functions and thus creates a socially highly valuable place. It offers space for play, sports and recreation.

A seating area with a view of the largest retention basin invites you to observe the changing water levels. The different states of the water become an experience by wrapping the park in a constantly changing robe. Also, there are numerous offers: a basketball field, a playground and a skating area, while the adjoining market hall is the starting point for the seating steps along the park.

As an invitation to stroll, the Scenic Way meanders through the grounds, past meadows and densely planted groves. Numerous flower beds and small pavilions fill the path with small highlights. The dry stream, which carries water when it rains, runs parallel. Direct paths for cyclists and pedestrians connect the opposite parts of the city.

In addition to the social needs of the city dwellers, the park fulfils another important task: the surface water from the surrounding districts is channelled here and cleaned by hydrophytes in rain gardens. Collected in retention basins, the rainwater can seep away and evaporate. The dry stream diverts any excess water into the wetland. The park is designed for a 50-year flood event.



location in the city park



In times of good weather, there is room for play, sports and relaxation.



under construction, picture taken in 2021.



In times of bad weather, functions like the skatepark serve as a retention basin.