WETLAND PARK
SPONGE CITY HEFEI

assignment commissioning **location** Hefei, China **size** 6 ha **client** City of Hefei **services** landscape design **status** completed, 2024 **team** Oliver Seidel, Martin Sobota, Tim Mohr, Enisa Selmanaj, Lydia Oehlwein, Kelai Yu **cooperation** Wasser Hannover GmbH

In the Wetland Park of the sponge city of Hefei, an exciting, green-blue recreational area is being created from the necessary infrastructures for flood protection and rainwater purification.

The low-lying wetland biotope, which develops from the depression of the neighbouring dry stream to the north, is modelled on a river delta and creates diverse ecological and scenic added value for the neighbouring urban areas. The considerable difference in height between road and water level is integrated into the design in the form of terraced slopes, which are modelled on traditional Chinese rice terraces. The different terrain levels descend towards the wetland biotope, creating a variety of recreational areas that differ in size, shape and utilisation options. The steeper areas have generous seating steps that offer residents attractive sunset spots, among other things. A variety of visual connections mediate between the city and the park landscape. The circular walkways allow flora and fauna to be experienced in the centre of the city and invite playful movement and activity.

In its buffer function, the Wetland Park plays an important role in the city's water management: the large retention volume of the open space absorbs excessive amounts of runoff and prevents potential backwater during heavy rainfall events. The pre-cleaned water from the northern floodplain park is purified here by aquatic plants before being channelled into the neighbouring reservoir. Floating plant islands create a flowing landscape transition between the wetland and the reservoir and form a habitat for ecologically valuable microorganisms.

Extract from the masterplan

Wetland biotope with elevated circular paths

Terraced landscape with lounge areas and tree islands

Curved seating steps and pedestrian bridge at the entrance to the riverside park

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