

ECO SHORE

SPONGE CITY HEFEI

assignment Hefei sample areas **location** Hefei / Anhui, China **size** 15 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

Various naturally designed areas in the Hefei City Park form the eco-bank. For example, an existing dam wall is expanded to include a so-called eco-berm. Sealing mats, gravel and sediment as well as a layer of wood and larger stones are applied to the existing structure and thereby provide habitats for plants and animals.

To protect the new habitats, they are only partially accessible to humans. The rich nature with birds, insects, fish and a large variety of grasses, shrubs and trees can be experienced from a respectful distance on guided boardwalks. A unique encounter of plants, animals and people and an exciting retreat in the city.

An existing wood area in the east will be enriched with more trees and thus become a dense urban forest, which has a positive effect on the microclimate and biodiversity. In addition, a retention soil filter takes on hydrological functions. Rainwater is cleaned here and then fed into the lake.

A new shallow water zone with bird islands and bird beaches will be reserved for nature. The panorama pier makes it possible for people to experience this part punctually and at the same time opens up the view over the lake. Through the wooden walkways, human activity is concentrated in selected connecting spaces. The shallow banks, overgrown with aquatic plants, give the lake room to expand during heavy rains without flooding the city. The aquatic plants also have a cleaning function and thus improve the water quality of the reservoir.



location in the city park



In times of good weather, people can wander through the rich nature on guided wooden paths.



under construction, picture taken in 2021.



In times of bad weather, the shallow banks, overgrown with aquatic plants, give the lake room to expand during heavy rains without flooding the city.