



BUENOS AIRES

PILOT 2. Lago Lugano Wetland



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PILOT 2. Lago Lugano Wetland

Start date: April 2020

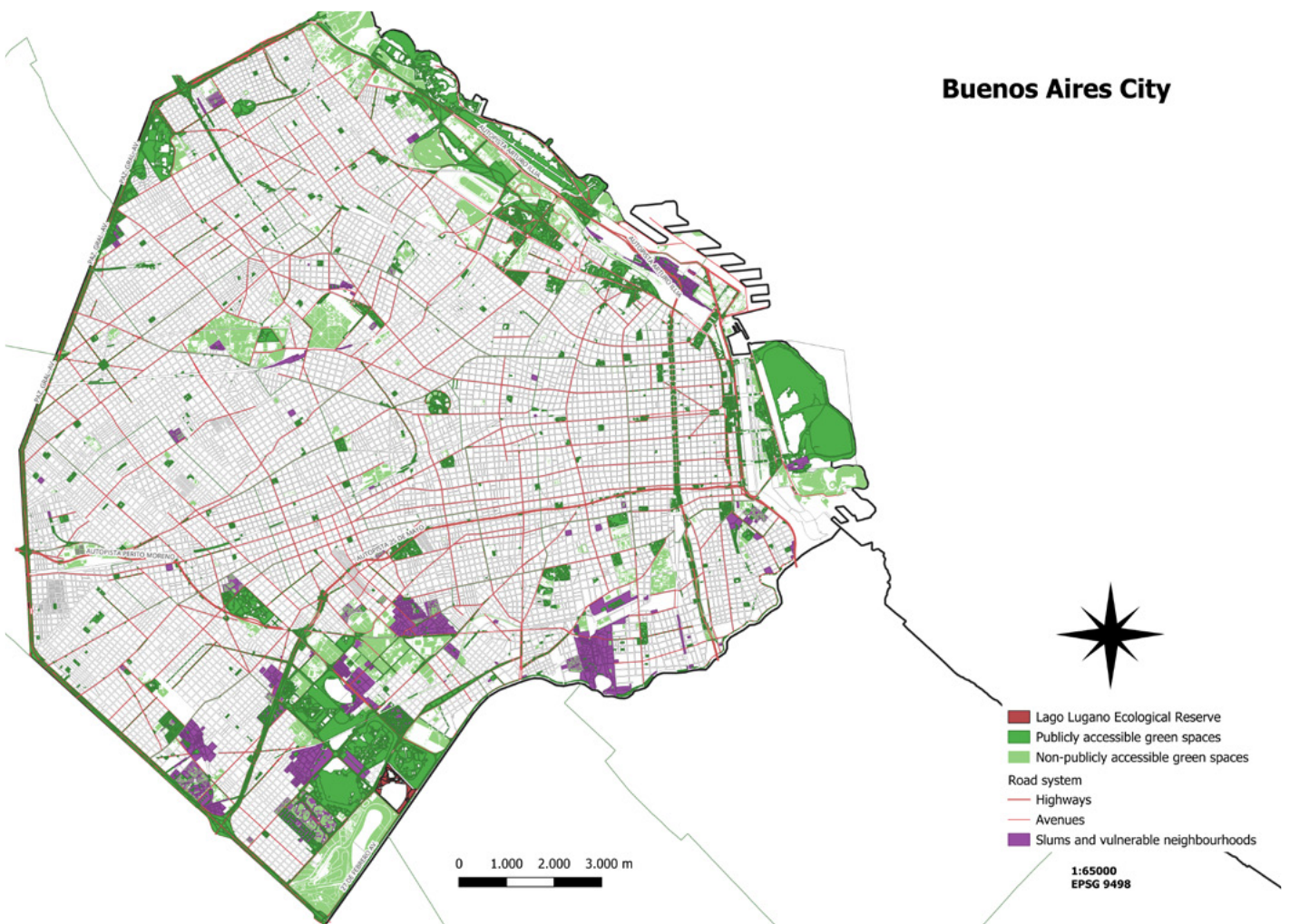
End date: August 2024

What and Where?

Location:	<u>Lago Lugano Ecological Reserve</u>
NBS type, and habitat/s:	To be created or restored: natural wetland to be reconstituted.
Ecosystem services:	Increased biodiversity (recovery of an almost extinct species).
Management & maintenance:	City managed and maintained.



Map



Buenos Aires City map with Lago Lugano Ecological Reserve highlighted





Lago Lugano Ecological Reserve (highlighted) detailed zone

Why?

The intervention area has a paved street that was decommissioned when the reserve was created in 2018.

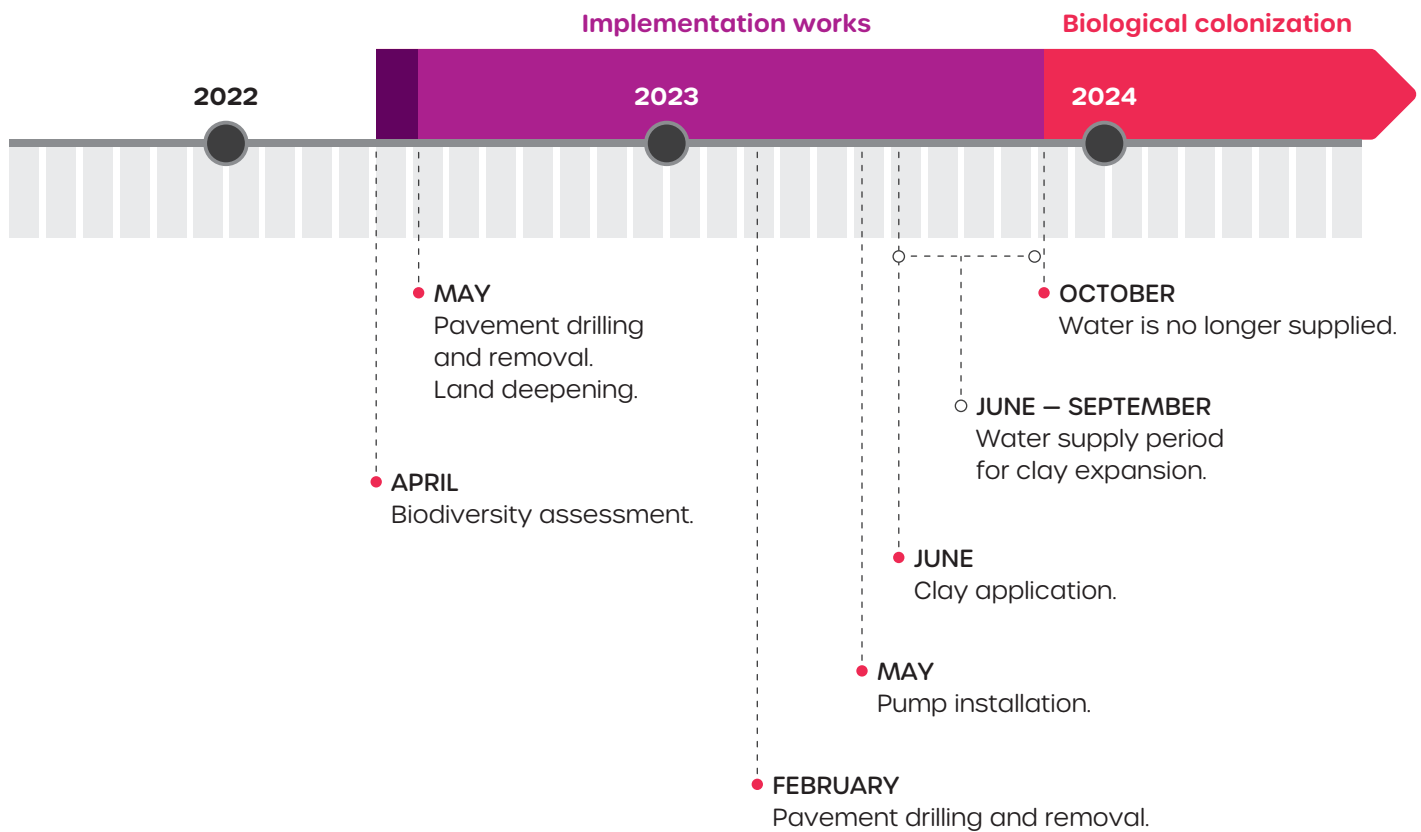
When it rains the water accumulates there and creates the ideal conditions for *Odontophrynus americanus* to lay their eggs, but with the rapid evaporation they can't survive. This amphibian hasn't been registered in any other site of the city yet, so it represents an important specimen to preserve.

The recreation of a wetland of shallow water means the incorporation of a new ecosystem that was lost and also the recuperation of the identity of the natural landscape.



When?

Implementation Timeline



How?

The project steps, so far:

- Chopping and removal of fractured reinforced concrete. Equipment to be used: machine with hammer and shovel, trucks for removal of material.
- Deepening of the wetland and levelling of the future wetland bed.
- Waterproofing of the bottom of the wetland with gravel and bentonite clay.
- Edge profiling with slope to be determined in situ.
- Earth movement to enlarge the surface of the future wetland.

- Provision and installation of underground piping for an alternative water supply system to the wetland network of water supply to the wetland network (still unused, rains provided plentiful water this season).
- Biological colonisation (ongoing).

Next steps:

- Provision of wood walking platforms around some parts of the wetland and a new shelter, both for educational purposes (planned for the last trimester of 2024).
- Continuation and incrementation of schoolchildren site visits.





Remaining paving prior to the full wetland works. April 28, 2022



Remaining paving prior to the full wetland works. April 28, 2022





Last days of wetland implementation, water filling was completed. September 29, 2023

So what?

The project has demonstrated enormous potential and utility, making it a success in its own right. It has evolved beyond a mere pilot program to become an integral part of an ecological reserve within the city, located in an area characterised by slums and vulnerable neighbourhoods.

Ecologically, the project is fully completed, with only minor tasks remaining to enhance its educational impact on the surrounding communities.

We expect to be able to monitor biodiversity, mostly by counting numbers of native and invasive species (which should be controlled) with a special focus on specimens of *Odontophrynus americanus* which already appeared at the site and are expected to healthy proliferate. Water quality in the wetland is to be controlled, but only in the rainy season, when the wetland will have water. Considering the social aspects of the project, we expect to increase site visits from surrounding schools and communities, focusing on environmental education, as a way to improve openness to participation inside this pilot of the LifeLab.

From a public policy perspective, this initiative has now been incorporated into the city's policies on renaturalization as an example of a successful initiative.



Project Partners



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