

The Red Ribbon, Tanghe River Park

Qinhuangdao City, Hebei Province, China

Located on the Tanghe River at the eastern urban fringe of Qinhuangdao City, Hebei Province, China, the site for the park is a linear river corridor with a total area of about 20 hectares. While the site was covered with lush and diverse native vegetation that provides diverse habitats for various species, parts of the site were also used as a garbage dump. There are also deserted slums and irrigation facilities. Given the existing dense shrubbery and “messy” grasses, the site was virtually inaccessible. The site is also near newly developed communities and was seen as a good space for recreational fishing, swimming, and jogging. The natural river corridor was likely to be replaced with hard pavement and ornamental flower beds unless a less invasive, more ecologically-sound design could be offered.

Against a background of both wild vegetation and garbage dumps, Yu Kongjian, International ASLA, a leading Chinese landscape architect developed the Red Ribbon, a meandering steel structure spanning 500 meters. The steel structure functions as seating, lighting, and provides windows onto the wild vegetation and landscape. While an addition to the landscape, it really helps preserve the site’s natural ecological systems by artfully framing the surrounding ecology to visitors. The Red Ribbon also supports more sustainable use of the landscape through meandering boardwalks and bike paths.

The Red Ribbon, snaking along a boardwalk, is made of fiber steel and glows red at night. It stands 60 cm high, and its width varies from 30-150 cm. Plant specimens grow within parts of the structure to help further highlight native plants, such as the wolf tail grass.

Four pavilions in the shape of clouds are distributed along the ribbon and help educate park visitors about the local ecology. Each pavilion is named after a local plant species. Four perennial flower gardens of white, yellow, purple, and blue act as patchwork on the former open fields, and help turn the former deserted garbage dumps and slum sites into attractions.

The bright red color of the Ribbon lights up this densely vegetated site, linking the diverse natural vegetation types and providing a structural instrument for reorganizing the formerly inaccessible landscape. The park is urban and modern, but preserves existing ecological processes and natural services.

Project Resources

PRINCIPAL DESIGNER

Kongjian Yu, International ASLA

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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