

Program visit 9 October 2025

Prato City Jungle

h 8.00 Departure from Pisa meeting at Area della Ricerca CNR

h 9.30-10.30 **Cost-effective solutions in Urban Soil Management**, via Pietro Nenni (Giacomo Certini, Gianni Mastrolonardo and Bianca Rompato – University of Firenze; Antonella Perretta - Prato City Council). Thanks to the 2020 Toscana Carbon Neutral regional call for proposals, which called for the planting of trees to mitigate climate-altering emissions in urban areas, three different areas were created with different landscape and agronomic approaches: the first near the entrance to the Pecci Museum of Contemporary Art, the second is a linear forestation on Via Rimini, and the third is a dense forest that extends from an uncultivated area to a park-and-ride area. Reducing the parking area allowed for the creation of a small camper parking area; the parking spaces are made of semi-draining materials, and the lanes are made of bitumen. 215 trees of 16 different species and nearly 400 shrubs and climbing plants were planted. The study area in Prato, focuses on repurposing removed asphalt into de-sealed urban soils, aiming to reduce de-sealing costs and promote the creation of green spaces. Conducted on a former parking lot, the experiment is led by a research team from the Department of Agriculture, Food, Environment, and Forestry (DAGRI) at the University of Florence. The study tests four soil blends containing 5% compost and up to 50% crushed asphalt. Over the course of at least one year, the team is monitoring a range of physical, chemical, and biological properties, as well as soil fertility—assessed through herbaceous plant growth—and the potential release of contaminants through leaching from the asphalt. The project aims to identify cost-effective strategies for urban de-sealing while advancing environmental sustainability and enhancing urban resilience.



The area before the de-sealing intervention



The area after the de-sealing intervention

h 10.45 – 12.00 **Soil profile in Urban Park** (Lorenzo Gardin and Romina Lorenzetti – CNR IBE, Antonella Perretta - Prato City Council). Bosco delle Neofite, (Neophytes wood) is a project completed in 2024. "Art, oxygen for the mind, plants, oxygen for the body" is the idea behind the forestation project supported by "Associazione Arte Continua," commissioned by Stefano Mancuso and PNAT in collaboration with the Municipality of Prato. Thanks to funds raised in 2022 through a solidarity auction of contemporary artworks, donated to the initiative by more than 15 international artists, the Association supported the creation of a green space with 150 trees and over 400 shrubs.

Suitma13, 5-9 October 2025, Pisa (Italy)

SUITMA13

An olive tree from the Gardens of the Pontifical Villas of Castel Gandolfo, donated by the Vatican's *Laudato Si' Center for Advanced Studies*, was also planted. During the project's implementation, the Administration encouraged further initiatives in the surrounding areas, including those by private individuals, resulting in a park spanning over two hectares and boasting 250 trees.

A soil profile is presented to highlight the main pedological characteristics, in order to assess soil quality and its capacity to support vegetation and recreational activities. The analysis also considers alterations and limitations caused by fill materials, aiming to identify potential soil improvement practices and ensure environmental sustainability between the soil, existing vegetation, and public uses of the park.











Area where the neophytes park is set (in yellow)



The soil profile in the park

h 12.15-12.45 **Public housing greening**, via Turchia (Antonella Perretta and Giulia Bordina- Prato City Council). Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Urban Innovative Actions program in 2019 and concluded in 2023, with the goal of transforming some marginal areas into green well-being zones. The results include four pilot sites and two guidelines for interventions at the urban scale and for the building and its appurtenances. Project partners are:

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|  | COMUNE DI PRATO capofila di progetto |
|  | PNAT società di progettazione multidisciplinare |
|  | STUDIO BOERI ARCHITETTI studio di architettura internazionale |
|  | CNR-IBE Istituto per la Bioeconomia centro di ricerca con esperienza in sistemi innovativi di monitoraggio ambientale |
|  | ESTRA società leader nel settore della distribuzione e vendita di gas naturale ed energia elettrica |
|  | LEGAMBIENTE TOSCANA ONG storica attiva nell'educazione ambientale e nella sensibilizzazione dei cittadini |
|  | GREEN-APES piattaforma digitale che coinvolge e premia gli stili di vita e le azioni eco-sostenibili |
|  | TREEDOM piattaforma che permette a persone ed aziende di piantare alberi e seguirli online, finanziando direttamente |

SUITMA13

The Via Turchia complex, completed in 1994, contains a total of 102 public housing units. The project, designed by Stefano Boeri Architetti, included vertical greenery, the removal of the approximately 1,600 square meter parking area for semi-draining paving, the construction of a large green pergola at the entrance, and the creation of social spaces in the shared garden. Furthermore, by using rainwater wherever possible, intercepted and collected in a system of underground cisterns, mains water consumption is reduced. Among the most interesting aspects of the project is the relationship with the residents, who, initially hostile, have taken care of them two years after the project's completion.



The buildings in via Turchia before the interventions

h 13.00 **Lunch and afternoon free**



- 1 – Soldano for those who want to taste local dishes and the "celery Prato style" (it is not a very light dish) a bit expensive.
- 2 - Coppini bar with the view on the cathedral
- 3 - Barrique in addition to the selection of wines, local food including "mortadella di Prato" with alkermes
- 4 - Chicco d'Uva pizza, first and second courses
- 5- da Mao It is a kiosk with outdoor seating for those who want to enjoy lampredotto, hamburgers and more
- 6 - King offers various dishes from Greece and pizza
- 7 - Caffè 21 a bar that makes various dishes

The pastry shops are all good, for the "pesca alla pratese" specialty, we recommend Nuovo mondo in Via Garibaldi near the cathedral.

h 16.00 **Back to Pisa**