

LOOK OUT! INVADERS

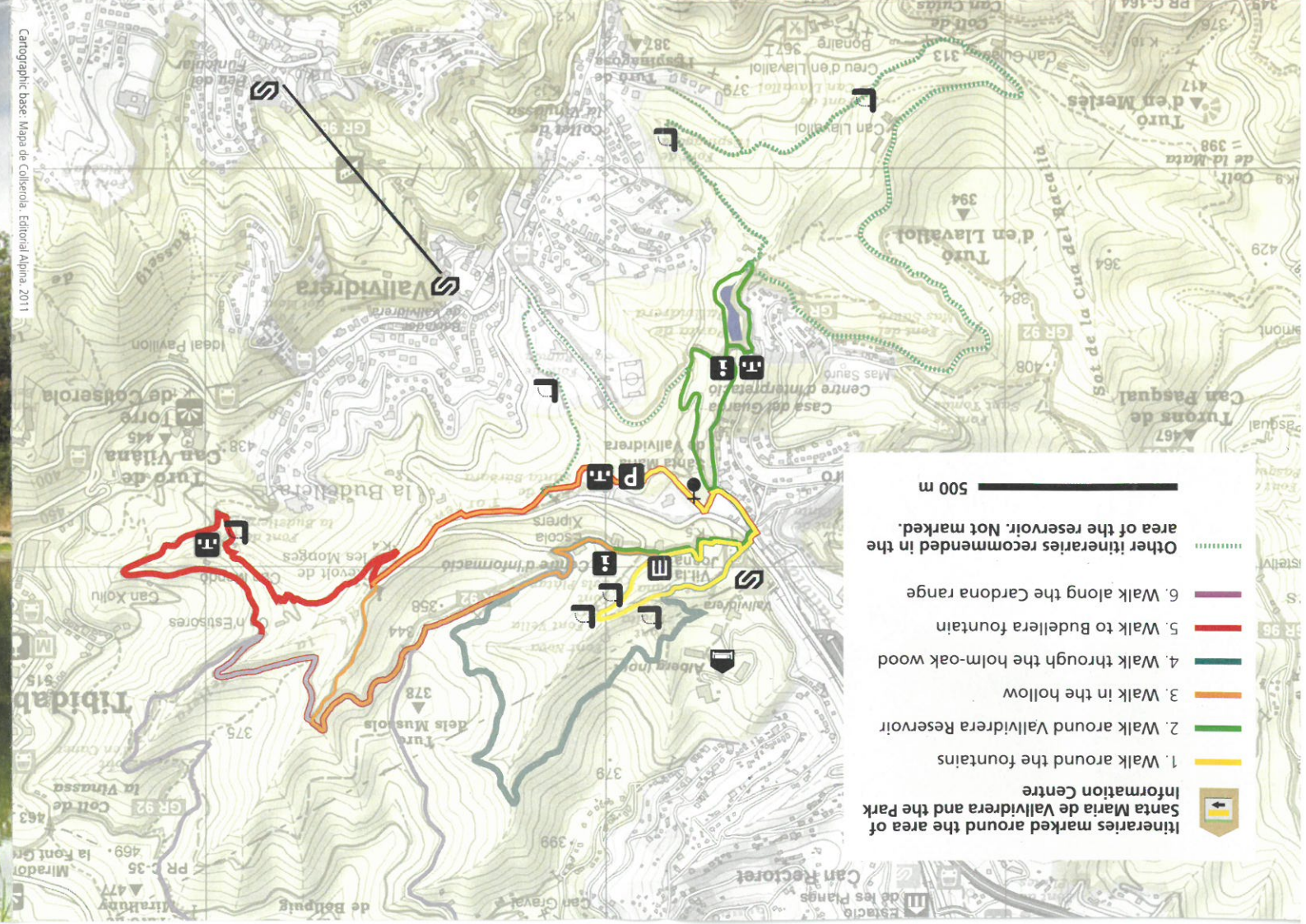
Throughout the Park, brought directly or indirectly by man, plants and animals have been introduced from remote regions which could never be highly invasive and endanger local biodiversity.

The reservoir is precisely one of the places where this occurrence is at its most critical point. So, for example, species like the mosquito fish can manage to exterminate all amphibian and invertebrate larvae.

The reservoir has to be emptied periodically in order to control the presence of non-native aquatic species.

Alien Species Invasion seriously threatens the ecosystems of Collserola. We must take measures to mitigate it

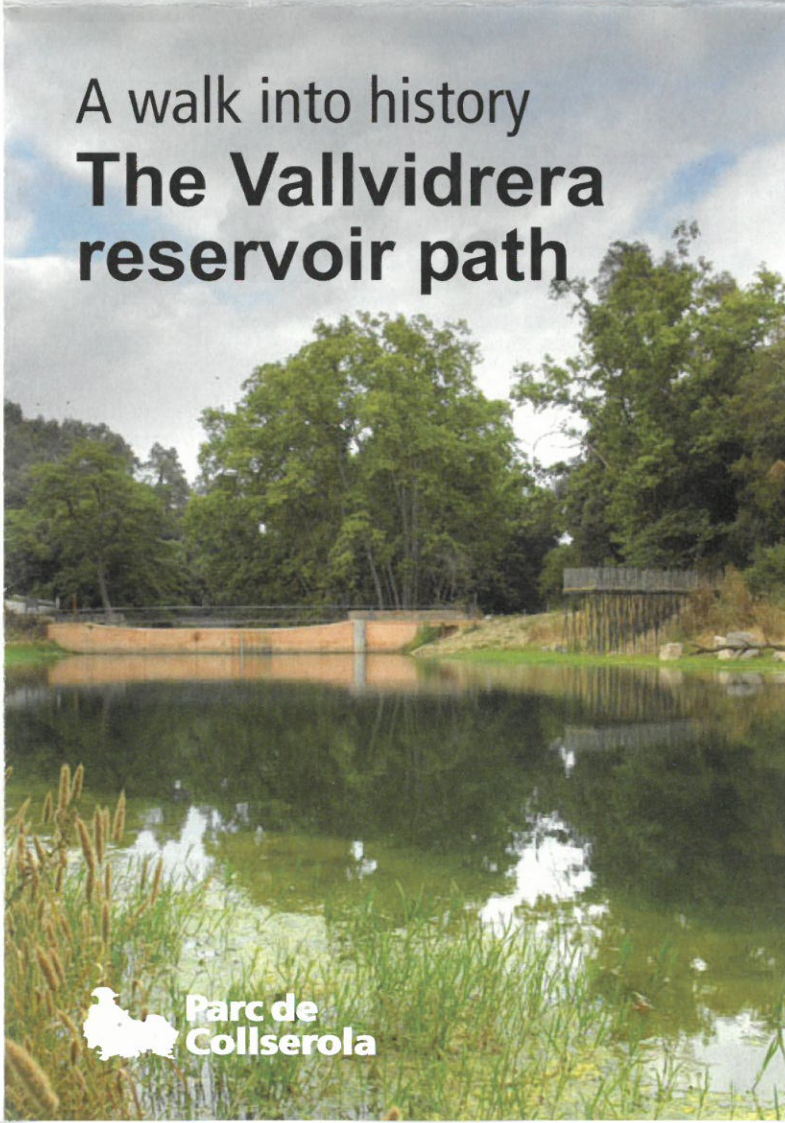
Allianthus altissima
Procambarus clarkii



Positive Environmental Practices

You look after the park when you:

- Use public transport to get there.
- Avoid making unnecessary noise, so everybody may enjoy peace and quiet in the park.
- Respect the plants and animals that live in the park.
- Take your rubbish away with you.
- Respect property, farmhouses, churches and heritage elements.
- Do not release any non-native species. They alter the park ecosystems.
- Do not contribute to domestication of wild boar by feeding them.
- Use the marked paths and do not try to open up new paths.
- Be responsible for your pet animal: keep it on a lead and pick up any droppings.



A walk into history The Vallvidrera reservoir path

Serra de Collserola Natural Park

Vallvidrera Reservoir Interpretation Centre

The Centre hosts the exhibition devoted to the reservoir and environs. Organized group visits may be arranged all year round. Phone the Park Information Centre to reserve.

The themed walks to Vallvidrera reservoir include a visit to the Centre (see the three monthly agenda).

Open to the public in spring and autumn (consult the agenda).

Camí del Pantà, s/n. 08017 Vallvidrera. Tel.: 93 280 35 52

Information Centre

Services: Personal attention, ideas for organized activities, leaflets, retail sales of publications. Permanent exhibition. Audiovisuals. Restrooms and public telephones. Bar L'Entrepà. Tel.: 932 80 28 40.

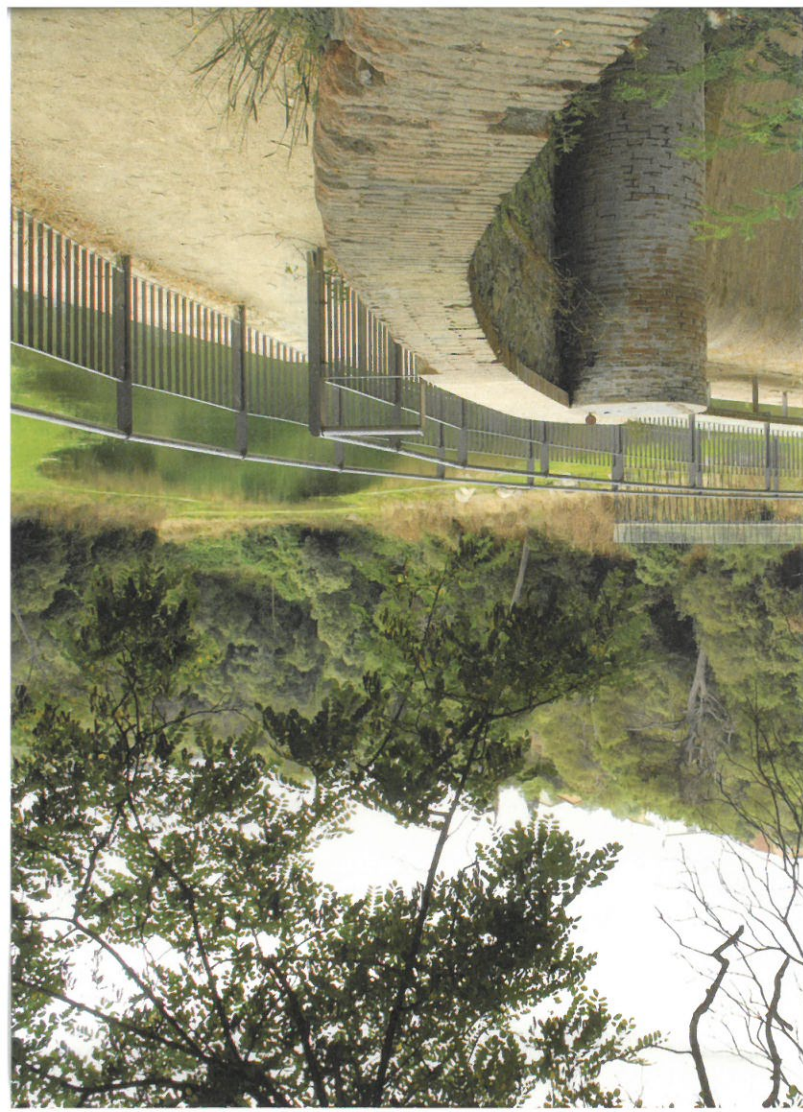
Times: Open to the public from 9.30 to 15.00 hrs all year round, excepting 25th and 26th December and 1st and 6th January.

Access by public transport: Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat, Baixador de Vallvidrera station, 8 minutes on foot on the stony path entering the wood.

Access by car: Road from Vallvidrera to Sant Cugat, km 4,7 signed access. Parking recommended in the Santa Maria de Vallvidrera Leisure Area. Coaches cannot access the centre.

Ctra. de la Església, 92 (ctra. de Vallvidrera a Sant Cugat, km 4,7)
08017 Barcelona. Tel.: 93 280 35 52 / Fax: 93 280 60 74
e-mail: ci@parccollserola.net
Website: www.parccollserola.net

Parc de Collserola
Diputació de Barcelona
AMB: Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona



Have fun!

A few minutes from the Baixador de Vallvidrera, very near the Park Information Centre, there is a charming place where history, man-made construction and nature intertwine in an unusually attractive way: Vallvidrera reservoir.

The story begins nearly two centuries ago. It is filled with anecdotes and curiosities, and has passed through crucially important moments to times of oblivion and degradation. Today the reservoir has recovered its former splendour after some major restoration work, adding an improved ecological and social role.

We invite you to go there, walk around and enjoy it, and we ask you to do so in a spirit of curiosity and observation. In order to do this we offer you the main points for interpretation of this area and we pose some small puzzles for you to solve.

1 Mina Grott

Mina Grott is a gallery through the mountain from here to the Peu de Funicular. It was excavated half way through the 19th century to bring water to Sarrià.

In 1908 the engineer Carles E. Montañès inaugurated a small train, making use of the tunnel route so as to offer the people of Barcelona a means of transport right to the middle of the park.

More than 32,000 people used it in the first six weeks. The journey lasted six minutes, and was illuminated by light bulbs of various colours. It was a great success until the railways were opened in 1916.

Lake Valley Park project

In 1907 a young entrepreneur called Heribert Alemany had the idea of creating a fully modern leisure area around the reservoir, with all types of attractions: the Lake Valley Park project.

The idea was to offer horse and carriage rides, a lookout over the city, a walkway with benches, a ride on the small Mina Grott train converted into an attraction, gym apparatus, a nature theatre and even a roller coaster!

Puzzle 1

Whilst the Lake Valley Park project had plenty of support at first, in the end it did not get off the ground. What story from history is behind this ending?

A: Fraud committed by its sponsor, revealed by a spurned lover.

B: The total opposition of the Vallvidrera community, who saw the peace and beauty of a highly loved and valued place endangered.

C: Competition from the attractions of the Tibidabo and the closure of the Mina Grott.



2 The dam

Vallvidrera reservoir holds the waters of the small basin formed by the Espinagosa, Can Llevallol and Can Sauró creeks. It supplied water to the Vila de Sarrià between 1864 and 1868.

The dam, designed by the architect Elies Rogent, was constructed in 1863 and is an exceptional example of an arch-gravity dam.

The water was channelled through the Mina Grott, which was also used for transportation of tools and materials needed for the construction of the dam.

Puzzle 2

If you look carefully at the material it is made of, you will discover one of the reasons why it is very unusual.



3 The jetty

The presence of water stocks and aquatic habitats in the range are essential for many native amphibious and bird species.

The renovation of Vallvidrera reservoir has paid special attention to shaping its shores and creating beaches there to give the animals a place to relax and lay eggs, as well as boosting shoreline vegetation to provide hiding places and shade.

The jetty which projects into the reservoir is a good viewing point.

Puzzle 3

The most abundant frog is the green frog. The smaller one is the Mediterranean or stripeless tree frog. Both have vocal sacs which they use to make their typical croaking noise.

They can easily be seen from the jetty in spring. If you can see a green frog, look at it carefully and compare it with the one in the photograph. Can you see anything odd in this photo?



4 Its own vegetation

Special moisture-loving vegetation grows on the edges of the reservoir. Some plants grow right on the edge, with their roots nearly submerged; others are a little further away but still seek the humidity guaranteed by nearby groundwater.

True aquatic plants abound in and on the water -algae, duckweed, etc.- which make it colourful and offer shelter and food to a host of creepy-crawlies.

Puzzle 4

Two species stand out: one gives us food, drink and enjoyment, and the other cures our headaches; one has a white flower, the other shows white when the wind blows.



5 From oblivion to restoration

In the nineteen-sixties the water from the reservoir was no longer required by the town of Sarrià, and it was abandoned and forgotten. Vegetation took over the reservoir and the bed cracked and left it useless.

Taking into consideration that stable water outlets are scarce in the range and that they contribute singularity and biodiversity to the landscape in the park, 1999 saw the initiation of a restoration project for the reservoir and the ecosystems around it. Also included were the recovery of shoreline vegetation and the creation of places appropriate for repopulation by amphibians and other native animals. This has led to the consolidation of a place of great ecological and social value.

6 Reservoir keeper's lodge

This square building was designed by Elies Rogent in neo-Gothic style. From this lodge the reservoir keeper controlled water levels and managed the opening and closing of the dam gates. This building has been restored as faithfully as possible to the original.

At present the ground floor hosts an exhibition of the reservoir's history and environs, and the upper floor contains infrastructure for social purposes.



White willow
Salix alba



Elder
Sambucus nigra



Common hazel
Corylus avellana



Yellow iris
Iris pseudacorus



Hanging sedge
Carex pendula



Round-headed club rush
Scirpus holoschoenus



Wild duck
Anas platyrhynchos



Grey heron
Ardea cinerea



Grey wagtail
Motacilla cinerea



White wagtail
Motacilla alba



Common kingfisher
Alcedo atthis



Stripeless tree frog
Hyla meridionalis



Iberian water frog
Rana perezi



Common parsley frog
Pelodytes punctatus



Fire salamander
Salamandra salamandra



Water snake *Natrix maura*