



**BRUSASCHETTO
NUOVO - FROM
REFUGE TO RESERVE
PEOPLE AND NATURE**

Benefit of the month #6:

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND FLOOD PREVENTION

Each month the Interreg Central Europe Project MaGICLandscapes introduces a particular benefit of green infrastructure including examples from the project's case study areas and across Central Europe.

In 1959 the small village of Brusaschetto above the River Po was evacuated due to subsidence from mining underneath the settlement. Most villagers wanted to stay, it was their home and their heritage. However, a new 'safer' settlement called Brusaschetto Nuovo was created in the floodplain to accommodate those who left the village. It had 15 buildings, a church and a warehouse. The mining ceased and the houses in 'old' Brusaschetto were stabilised and made safe for habitation. However, the folly of building on the floodplain became apparent when in 1994 and 2000 the 'new' village was hit by severe floods making it unfit and unsafe for the villagers.

Since 2009 the Municipality of Camino and the Po Park Authority have been cooperating to create a 58 ha wetland area that includes the site once occupied by the 'new' village. Their aim is create habitats more akin to those found on the Po floodplain and to create areas where flood waters can be stored and slowed down to reduce the impact of flooding downstream. The pools and shallows cover a number of depths providing a variety of natural habitats. The site is also home to part of the Piedmont cycle network, allowing users to enjoy the natural beauty of the river and its surroundings.



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Cover photo: Simone Ciadamidaro (left) and Elisa Costanzo (right)

