



# AMBJENTMALTA

Ambjent Malta was established in August 2018 taking over the remits of the Directorate for Parks, Afforestation and Countryside Restoration – P.A.R.K. Ambjent Malta is a department within the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change (MESDC) but with a different set-up, a hybrid model between a Public Service department and an Agency. In fact, the department has a Director General and 2 Directors (Embellishment and Operations) and a board of Governors.

Ambjent Malta's responsibilities are to coordinate and support efforts related to the protection of the natural capital. Therefore, Ambjent Malta's responsibility is not limited for the upkeep and maintenance of national parks and other public spaces but also for the implementation of the management plans for the Natura 2000 Sites.

Sites like the Ta' Qali National Park, Adventure Park, Picnic Area including the dog parks, Petting Farm, Salina National Park, Family Park and Buskett will remain under the management of Ambjent Malta. The department has already embarked in large capital projects such as the restoration of Argotti Botanical Gardens, Ġnien San Filippu, Żabbar Regional Park, Ġnien l-Għarusa tal-Mosta, and Urban Greening projects. Other initiatives are taking place at the Park Nazzjonali tal-Inwadar and Majjistral Park.

The Valley Management unit responsible for the maintenance of valleys has been integrated within Ambjent Malta. Keeping the watercourse clear from invasive vegetation, accumulated material and fly-tipped waste is the main task of the unit.

The Malta Embellishment and Landscaping Project (MELP) also falls under the responsibility of Ambjent Malta. MELP is responsible for the monitoring of the public private partnership with Environment and Landscaping Consortium (ELC).

The 34U campaign is one of the initiatives which has helped to make the Malta greener. In fact managed to encourage and empower the general public to plant over 100,000 trees in various identified planting sites. Ambjent Malta is committed to continue on the good work done so far. Beside the 34U campaign, Ambjent Malta will be planting an indigenous tree for every birth and every new car imported (Budget Measures)

Ambjent Malta is continuously on look to tap EU funds for the funding of major projects. The ViEnergy Project and Life Saving Buskett are two projects that have been implemented and completed, by the former Parks Directorate. Ambjent Malta has just signed the grant agreements for four EU Funded projects. The RainWiin, LIFE IP RBMP, Restoration of Valley Features for the Enhancement of Agri-Environmental Values and Small Scale ecological restoration of costal site in Park Nazzjonali tal-Inwadar.

## Former Parks Directorate

The Directorate for Parks, Afforestation and Countryside Restoration – P.A.R.K. took over from the former Countryside Section of the then Environment Protection Department of the Ministry for the Environment. PARK formed part of the portfolio of the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change (MESDC).

PARK was mainly responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of national parks and other public spaces as may be identified in various localities in Malta.

Ta' Qali and Salina National Parks are probably the most renowned with our clients. The footprint, as well as the diversification of these parks has become increasingly popular with the public, whatever the age and interest. In fact we offer an interesting selection of relaxation spaces to meet the taste and exigencies of children, young and adults alike.

The Ta' Qali recreation complex offers, in fact, a relaxation treat for all: the Adventure Park for children and accompanying adults as well as youths, the Picnic Area for all the family, the Dog Park for dog lovers, the National Park for the environment enthusiasts and last but not least, the Petting Farm. The latter is the latest addition to the Ta' Qali Park.

The Salina National Park, besides its north east location offers a somewhat different experience to visitors. As its name implies, the park is located adjacent to the historic salt pan site, dating back to at least 400 years. One can actually view the salt pans from the Salina Park.

Due to its proximity to the Bugibba/Qawra tourist villages, the Salina Park is frequently visited by tourists, especially during week days. Evidently, the Park offers a more peaceful experience than Ta' Qali in view of its geographical location and over-riding theme. Artificial turf, fountains and slow running streams all contribute to a therapeutic experience for visitors.

PARK dealt also with the restoration of the countryside. Consequently it has, during the last years, undertaken various projects to re-establish derelict countryside sites across the Maltese islands.

The countryside restoration unit was responsible for removing a large number of forty five litre steel cans and other illegal dumping from identified sites. Collapsed rubble walls were re-constructed and the sites re-instated to their original state.

The 34U campaign is one of the initiatives undertaken by PARK. We in fact managed to encourage and empower the general public to plant more than 100,000 trees in various identified planting sites.