

A Floating Park out of Plastic Waste

Many assume all trash ends up in a landfill or, unfortunately, in our oceans but in one European city they're turning the city's plastic debris into something their community can actually use – a floating, public park.

Recycled Park is a floating park in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. It is made entirely out of recycled plastic collected from the same river it's now floating in. Not only is it a unique space for the community to visit, but the floating park also cleans the New Meuse River, stopping plastics from the city before they make their way towards the ocean.

Almost five years in the making, from designing the park to recovering plastic, turning it into something new, and raising funds, Recycled Island Foundation finally debuted the park prototype on July 4th, 2018.

The park has been constructed from modular hexagonal sections, meaning that it can continue to expand as new material is collected. Not only does the park serve to reduce plastic pollution, but it's also designed as a wildlife habitat for micro fauna such as snails, flatworms, larva, beetles and fish.

'This prototype shows the potential of what we can do with marine litter. Recycled Park is a floating green structure where birds are nesting, fish are swimming, and where people can enjoy a relaxing moment on the water. From the two seating elements the visitors can see how nature occupies this first new combination of artificial and natural landscape,' said the project's creator Ramon Knoester.

The Recycled Island Foundation and 25 partners ultimately created the Recycled Park, setting traps along the New Meuse River to gather plastic waste and then transform it into the 28 hexagonal blocks that make up the park. The team spent a year and a half developing, testing, and improving the litter traps, eventually developing a system to capture floating plastics in rivers and ports. Their litter trap captures and contains floating litter despite ship traffic and tidal changes.

Recycled Park isn't the only project around the world where people are considering the environmental impact of pollution in their local area. More individuals and communities around the world are looking to find creative ways to reuse plastic that highlight the plastic pollution problem and challenge its viewers to consider how their lifestyles impact the planet.

Indonesian artist Eko Nugroho turned plastic waste into a beautiful art installation dubbed 'Bouquet of Love' – a 30' by 20' sculpture made entirely from plastic waste. One provocative art installation in the Himalayan mountains used over 300,000 plastic bottles left behind by tourists. These unique creative projects aim to highlight how less than half of our total plastic bottle consumption is recycled.

At Recycled Park in Rotterdam, the floating park contributes to greening the city and the improvement of the ecosystem in the Rotterdam harbor. They're currently seeking a permanent location.

(Adapted from www.weforum.org)

Read the text about a floating park in Rotterdam made of recycled plastic waste.

Decide whether the statements (1-8) are true (T) or false (F), then write the first 4 words of the sentence which supports your decision in the spaces provided.

The first one (0) has been done for you.

0. *Trash always ends up either in landfills or in oceans.*
F *Many assume all trash*

Q1. The floating park in Holland was built using recycled plastic collected from several Dutch rivers.

Q2. It took more than a decade to complete the project.

Q3. The park is meant to be expanded by using new plastic waste as it is collected.

Q4. The park has proven to be an ideal habitat to host several wildlife species.

Q5. The team spent 18 months collecting the plastics needed to build the park.

Q6. Other creative projects are being carried out around the world to raise awareness about the plastic pollution problem.

Q7. Plastic waste was transformed into a piece of art by an Indonesian sculptor.

Q8. Eko Nugroho used three hundred thousand bottles to create his sculpture.