

Information

Ente di gestione delle aree protette del Ticino e del Lago Maggiore Villa Picchetta 1, Cameri 28062 (NO)  
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The park can be visited on foot at any time.  
The circulation of unauthorized vehicles is forbidden inside the park.  
The transit of cars that transport disabled or elderly people (over 65 years) is allowed on working Thursdays from 9 am to 6 pm and on working Saturday from 9 am to 11 am.

Translations by Studio Bovera, Cardano al Campo (VA)



Dairy farms

- 1. Casina Blu | Biblioteca
- 2. Cascina Emilia Sede Istituzionale Aula didattica
- 3. Valfenera Superiore (Ristoro)
- 4. Casina Rossa
- 5. Cascina Comandante
- 6. Cascina Merlo
- 7. Cascina Bigatta
- 8. Cascina Filarmonica
- 9. Cascina Lorenzo
- 10. Torre Martini

Area

- 11. Pometo
- 12. Viale Ippocastani
- 13. Faggeta
- 14. La Mer de Glace
- 15. Acereto
- 16. Lariceto
- 17. Ciliegi Giapponesi
- 18. Betulieto
- 19. Rododendri Area Superiore
- 20. Conca dei Rododendri
- 21. Viale dei Liriodendri
- 22. Narcisi
- 23. Area Mediterranea

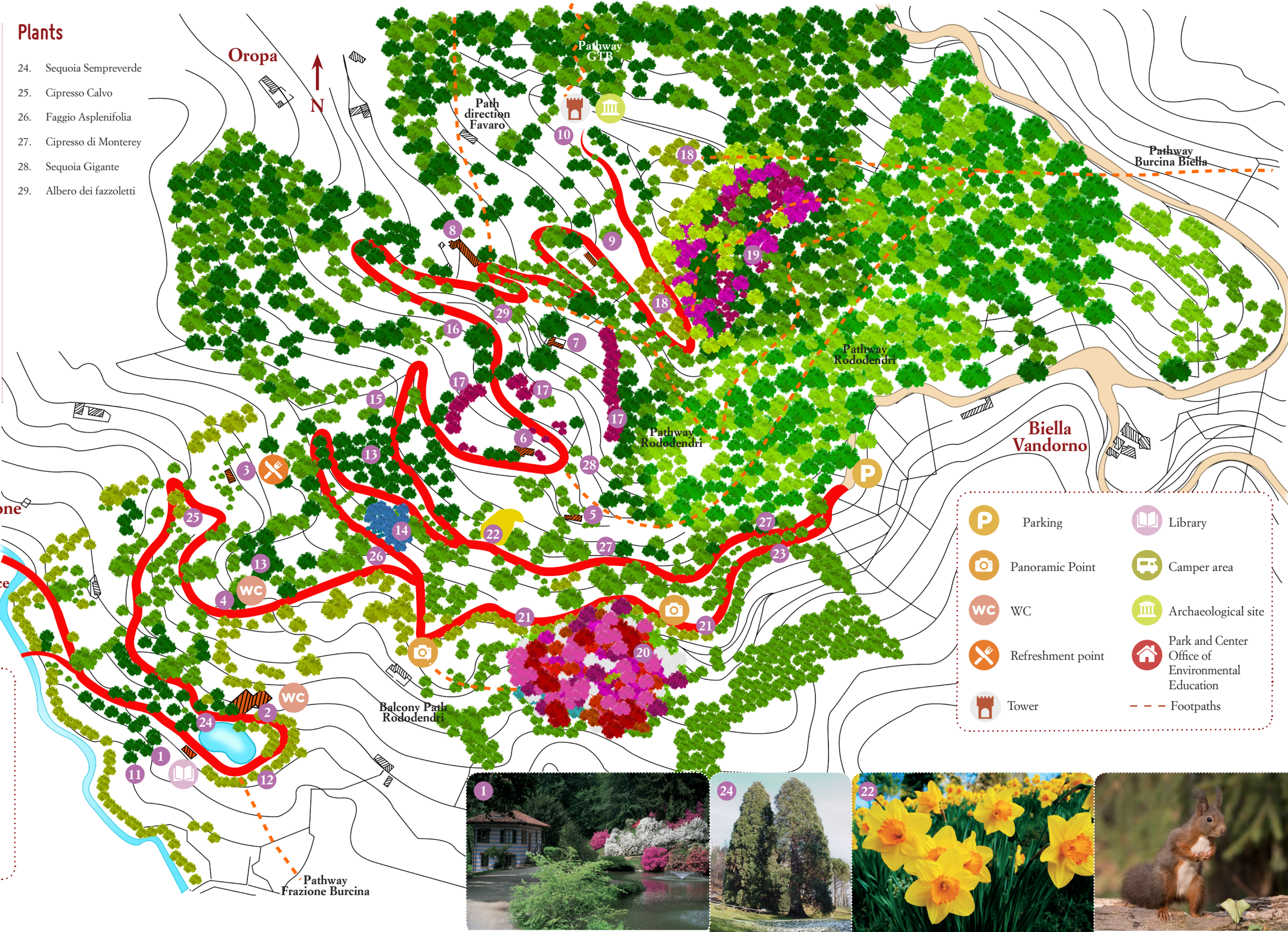
Plants

- 24. Sequoia Sempreverde
- 25. Cipresso Calvo
- 26. Faggio Asplenifolia
- 27. Cipresso di Monterey
- 28. Sequoia Gigante
- 29. Albero dei fazzoletti



Blooms

- March**  
Crocus - Camellias - Eriche - Narcissus - Cherry trees
- April**  
Forsizie - Magnolie - Spiree
- May**  
Azalee - Rhododendron - Cistus - Cornus
- June**  
Roses - Kalmie - Liriodendri - Cysts - Chestnut trees
- July**  
Hydrangeas
- August**  
Hydrangeas - Calluna
- September**  
Eliche
- October**  
Apple trees
- Foliage**  
Maple



Riserva naturale del parco  
Burcina "Felice Piacenza"

Park  
**Burcina**  
Felice Piacenza



EMOTIONS TO LIVE  
ALL YEAR



## The Burcina

Not very far from Biella, the Burcina Park “F. Piacenza” Nature Reserve is a unique historical garden park. Located on the homonymous “Brich Burcina”, a gently sloping hill near the Alps of Biella, its origins date back to the mid-1800s, when Giovanni and then Felice Piacenza transformed the hill into an informal

park, according to the style of an English landscape garden of the 1700s. The park is characterized by the incredible variety of species, the blooms of which annually follow one another almost uninterruptedly up to the beautiful autumn colors. The rich collection of conifers and the apple orchard must not be forgotten, planted with the aim of recovering ancient varieties of apples.

## ... all the year around

Burcina Park is characterized by the extreme variety of the species present; the protagonists are rhododendrons which, at the end of May, offer wonderful blooms going from white to pink, red and lilac. Different varieties of beech can be found along the paths, together with oaks and many cultivars of maple, rowan, birch, flowering cherry trees, the Handkerchief tree, the Parrotia Persica native to the Middle East and the tulip tree. In the sheltered Mediterra-

nean area of the park are cork oak, olive trees, cistus, myrtle, arbutus and lavender. The collection of conifers is very rich: there are both the Sequoia sempervirens, native to North America and among the very first ones to be introduced in Europe and the Sequoiadendron giganteum native to California. The blooms follow one another all year round; in March, when the snow gives way to the crocuses and daffodils in the meadows, in April with the Japanese cher-

ry trees with their very delicate blooms, the rhododendrons at the end of May, whilst the blue and white hydrangeas arrive at the end of July and finally in October with the Calluna vulgaris. The autumn colors take on extraordinary shades with warm and bright tones and the Burcina Park becomes an ideal place for the observation of the autumn foliage. During the cold winter days in January, the delicate white flower of Prunus subhirtella ‘Autumnalis’ blooms.

## Rhododendros

The rhododendrons of the park, which blossom almost simultaneously in the second half of May, have been classified as “large flower hybrids”. Planted by Felice Piacenza between 1892 and 1925, they come from species native to the Himalayan and Caucasus regions and from nursery gardens in Belgium and northern France. Almost all of them have been grafted onto Rhododendron

ponticum, a very vigorous species native to the Caucasus, which produces a lilac-colored flower and is becoming naturalized in the park. Their development is undoubtedly favored by the wet and rainy climate and the acidic nature of the soil. Centenarian plants have reached considerable dimensions: 1,210 specimens have been registered by the University of Turin.

## Archeology

The first archaeological finds on the Burcina hill date back to 1959: during the excavation work on the summit, the stone structure of a tomb came to light. The finds, today resting in the “Museo del Territorio Biellese” (Biella Territory Museum) allow us to date the first settlements on the Burcina hill at the beginning of the ‘Bronze Age’ (2200 - 900 B.C.).

During the Middle Bronze Age (1700 - 1350 B.C.) these settlements were temporarily abandoned due to the increasing importance assumed by the lacustrine settlements of Viverone, characterized by a remarkable metallurgical production. In the later Bronze Age (1350 - 1200 B.C.), the Burcina Park became the most representative centre of the territory, as con-

firmed by the objects found (the Canegrate culture). The presence of a village is assumed to have been there on natural and artificial terraces throughout the period between the end of the Bronze Age (1100 - 900 B.C.) and the early Iron Age (800 - 400 B.C.) The ceramic materials found can be attributed to the Golasecca culture.

## Environmental education



A prestigious Italian park, the Burcina Park ‘Felice Piacenza’ is located in Polzone (Biella), a place created by patient and skilful human hands, perfectly integrated into the scenographic surrounding landscape where the introduction of exotic species and cultivars obtained by nursery gardening experts of the nineteenth century allowed to create an extraordinary synthesis between art and science. The real peculiarity of the park is represented by the extraordinary collection of rhododendrons which had attracted visitors from all over Europe around the early part of the 20th century and had been the subject of congresses by botanists. I hope that the park becomes an exciting living documentation centre for research

related to these species, a point of reference to which scholars, enthusiasts and lovers of this superb plant genre can turn their attention, love and curiosity.

The Burcina Park offers in Cascina Emilia (2) a room and a didactic laboratory specifically equipped to carry out activities aimed at raising awareness of young and old people through environmental education (EE) and education for sustainable development (ESD). The cultural project of the park takes the name of “Green Plexus” and is supported by local associations that care about Nature, Culture and a sustainable future for our planet. In the Casina Blu (1) there is the “Nature Library” which, together with the other structures, hosts events, exhibitions, workshops and conferences in line with the objectives of the Management Authority for the Piedmont Region.

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