Aim: To restore and develop Wadi Hanifa, a valley of over 100 km which runs from the south to the north of Riyadh, and is located on the west side of the city. The project sought to redevelop the area as an environmental, recreational and tourism resource.

Location: The city of Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, with a population of over 5 million people.

Duration: The programme commenced in 2001 and is ongoing.

Funding: The programme is funded by the Saudi Government.

Lead agency: Arriyadh Development Authority.

Key focus: To improve the land scape and restore the natural beauty of Wadi Hanifa, thus enhancing the environmental quality of the area, improving accessibility, and providing a huge public recreational space.

Before

After

Key components for physical activity

The primary aim of the project was for the restoration of the natural environment, however a secondary outcome was the creation of a recreational area which supports physical activity for the whole community.

Evaluation: No evaluation has been undertaken.

Key factors contributing to the success of the project: The central location and huge expanse of the Wadi Hanifa means that the whole population of Riyadh can benefit from this improved public space.

Challenges

- The scale of the project - spanning over 100 km of distance.
- Required a very large financial investment.
- The Intensive planning and co-ordination processes.

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