



# SAN MARTIN PARK



## THE HISTORY OF THE PARK



*San Martin* park is a beautiful park dressed with 200-year-old oaks. It is believed that it was built in the 16th the century. The San Martin chapel is placed in one extreme of

the park and the calvary (the stations of the cross) is in the other extreme.

The front of the chapel has got three main features:

*a gothic door*, a bowl

for holy water made of stone and a bell glade with one bell from the

18th century. Inside, the most remarkable element of decoration is a central pillar of wood that holds the roof (the only one in Gipuzkoa). The three altarpieces inside the church are also noteworthy, especially the one dedicated to Saint Martin of Tours.



## SAN MARTIN PARK AND THE PEOPLE FROM OÑATI

The brotherhoods of San Martin and San Roke, the blacksmiths of Oñati, were settled in the chapel to worship the saints. Moreover, processions to the chapel have been made from long ago. Nowadays, masses are only celebrated on the day of saints. It has been a perfect place for celebrations: musicians and flute players used to play pieces to dance, every Sunday toka games were celebrated in the three crosses of the calvary, bowling was played in the bowling alley and cyclo-cross and cross took also place in the park.

## THE BIODIVERSITY OF THE PARK



Regarding the vegetation, most of the trees in the park are *oaks*, although there are some ashes, beeches and indian chestnut trees too.

Most of the oaks are old and some others are dead. This is interesting for many animals, for example, for invertebrates and *woodpeckers*. In

the park, there is also a *piling up of trunks* made by humans, and as the information board says, it is suitable for insects and decomposer animals to live.

The soil is muddy, dark and made of organic material; so it is steady, with a suitable moisture and very rich. Therefore, many insects, annelids and molluscs live there: earthworms, centipedes, snails, ants...



In spite of being such a big area, there aren't many *species* of plants and animals. Furthermore, there can be a direct connection between the few species of plants and animals. Thus, the variety of animal species is not big due to the small number of trees and plants.

## IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS

The aim of this proposals is to improve the biodiversity and to make the park more delightful for the *citizens*. For that reason, we have to *respect the local biodiversity*, so the silence and the calm in the park are essential.

These are the aspects, we should take into account in order to renew the park:

- Planting different kinds of local trees and bushes.
- Naming the different trees and bushes (in Basque, Spanish and scientifically).
- Creating open-air fields.
- Making a flower garden.
- Keeping the old and dead oak trees.
- Keeping the piling up of trunks.
- Repairing and lighting up the information boards.
- Placing houses for insects, birds, bats and hedgehogs.
- Placing lights that work on renewable energy sources.
- Designing and locating rubbish bins.
- Improving the planning of benches.



- Putting information boards for dog-excrements to be picked up.
- Creating picnic and reading areas.



- Recovering the bowling alley.