

# RIO CALI LINEAR PARK BECOMES REALITY WITH OFFICIAL GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

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On the 30th of July the construction of the first section of the Río Cali Linear Park officially commenced with the planting of a yellow Guayacan tree by Rodrigo Guerrero, Mayor of Cali. West 8 Project Leader, Juan Figueroa attended the official opening ceremony.

The new park, which was designed by West 8, will bring people to the river. It creates new spaces for relaxation and enjoyment in harmony with the environment, and a high quality public realm where pedestrians and cyclists are a priority. "This project is very important for the citizens of Cali, it introduces a new culture of public space, provides a place for peaceful co-habitation and introduces a genuine respect for nature" said Mayor Guerrero. "It will be a beautiful place for all citizens and visitors to the city."

This first part of the transformation of the riverside park will be between 15th and 25th (center and north of the city). It will feature a new asphalt bikeway and pedestrian path detailed in coloured brick, both of which will help improve the public realm experience.

Offering better access to the river, the design incorporates measures to reduce pollution and improve the health of the river. Careful attention is also given to protecting the park's existing trees. At the opening event, Maria del Mar Porter, director of the Administrative Department of Environmental Management (Dagma), explained all the existing trees were studied by arborists and considered recommendations were made for their transplantation, preservation and removal. Dagma will assume responsibility for the maintenance of the park once it is completed.

Phase 1 of the park is slated for completion in 2016.

To read the official release (in Spanish) click [here](#)

more information: [Rio Cali Park](#)