

Gangdong, the city of joy and happiness where beauty exists



Gangdong lies in the upper Han River basin in what is now the east end of Seoul and now aims to be a healthy eco-city with 44.3% of its total area comprised of green fields.

Enhancement of Natural Built Landscapes

In order to maintain the city's ecosystem, the community has established *The Basic Plan for Eco-City, Gangdong* in 2006 to promote energy and water circulation systems, promote biodiversity, and establish an active urban eco-culture by 2015.

The Green Way Project interconnects the surrounding mountains, Han River, and cultural heritage sites with the surrounding residential areas. Gangdong Green Way currently connects the outskirts of Gangdong in a 25km loop. It was successful enough to gain the *International Certificate of 2009* (International Citizens Sports Federation).

Through the creation of Low-Carbon Urban Landscapes such as the Eco-friendly Waterfront Area, the Han River has been reborn as an Eco-Park after the removal of the concrete bank protection along it and the Goduk River, which is connected to the Han River.

In 2007, the city expanded green living spaces by requiring a minimum of 20% green areas in privately owned and newly built properties according to the ecological area rate system, mandating that rainwater flow into the soil while using the leftover areas to build small parks, rooftop gardens and open green areas in schools and apartments.

Arts, Culture and Heritage

Gangdong has 6000 years of rich history. When we observe the prehistoric dwellings, we can see that it was a fertile place with a mild climate, in which many ancient people lived. Last year, *Experience Village* was created in the dwelling area and is now operating various *experience studies* and hosting educational programs. The existing site will be improved comprehensively at the end of 2012 when *The Green Walk* connecting the prehistoric dwellings and the Han River is fully constructed.

Best Environmental Practices

At the core of the environmental policy of Gangdong is the “**Eco-friendly Urban Agriculture**”. It operates the total 32,000 eco-friendly urban farm in 15 places within the jurisdiction and the 4,523 m² experience farms in 2 places, and in 2010, “regulation on eco-friendly urban farm activation and support” was set, aiming for “1 farm per 1 family” by 2010 which plans to sell box farms to every family (360,000) by 2020.

It is our desire to make Gangdong a cool city with low urban heat. The Low Carbon Green City Master Plan was created to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It was followed by a project to create a brand name and logo; renewable energy such as solar energy and sewer heat energy can be provided.

Community Participation and Empowerment

Seowon Town Development Project From the planning stage, the community council participated and determined the important matters of the business plan with the support of government - provided expert groups, project direction, and public education programs. This project became the first example of administratively supported, people-driven Urban Regeneration.

Gangdong’s Beautiful Forest This is a project to restore the damaged areas around the parks and trails from typhoon Gonpas and turn the 2.7km Green Way into a theme forest by 2014. For the next 4 years the people in the community will plant a total of 100,000 trees and look after them.

Healthy Lifestyles

Gangdong has been selected as a Health City in 2008 by the WHO Western Pacific Region Healthy City Federation. Gangdong provides high quality lifelong programs such as *Personalized Health Care Service By Age*, *Counseling Center for Healthy 100 Year Life*, and *Aged for the Aged Counseling Center*.

Strategic Planning

Gangdong has begun to lead the front line of Corporate Social Responsibility by publishing the ‘2010 Sustainability Report’. By 2020 Greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by 30 percent compared to current emissions projections. By selecting 27 short and long-term projects, the city will progress them step by step until 2020.

The city strives for the realization of regional governance - recently reflecting the voice of the community through various communication methods including an *Open Forum* for business related issues and social networks such as Twitter and Facebook.