

## **The Collina Morenica Park (moronic hill park) of Rivoli**

by Roberto Sabbi

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The moronic amphitheatre of Rivoli covers an area of about 50 square kilometres, a territory that falls under the municipalities of Avigliana, Bruino, Buttigliera, Reano, Rivalta, Rivoli, Rosta, Sangano, Trana, and Villarbasse.

This district underwent the first substantial changes during the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C. when the Romans settled down in this area: the division of the land (*centuriae*) and the cultivation of chestnut trees replaced the original mixed oak forest of ancient origins. In more recent times (second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century) this hilly area was involved in the urban growth of the nearby city of Turin.

Although the above-mentioned occurrences (characterised by property speculation and poor environmental awareness) have spoilt large interesting areas, sites, which are worth attention and protection, can still be found.

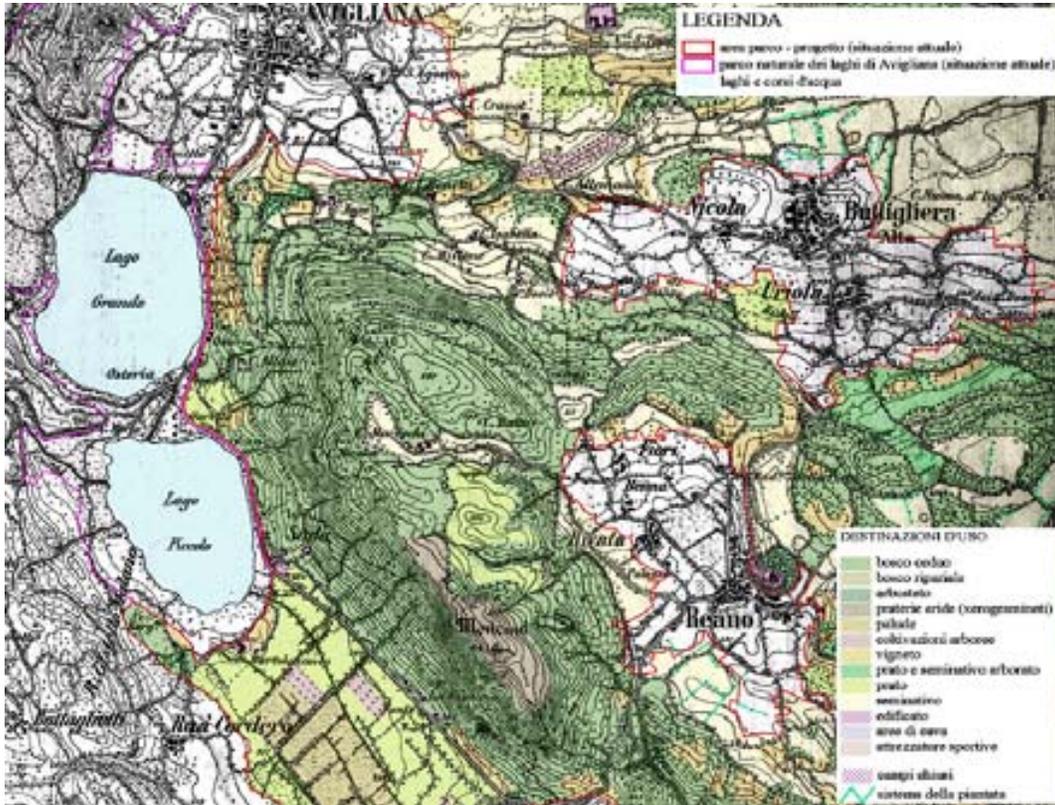
The first part of the dissertation offers the reader a detailed study of the moronic hill park of Rivoli. Multiple points of view were taken into account for this analysis. The starting approach was an investigation into the territorial context of the moronic amphitheatre. In particular, I focused on the relationships with other relevant areas already benefiting from environmental protection programmes or for which relevant public authorities showed a certain interest. In this respect, the assessment of the basic natural and anthropic features, such as the peculiar geomorphologic structure dating back to the pleistocenic glaciations and the "Susino" glacier – the latter contributed to originate the hill complex - were also highlighted.



Rivoli, post-glacial great lake, virtual reconstruction through Regional DTM (Digital Terrain Model). Above, on the right the moronic amphitheatre, below, on the left the boundaries of the Susa valley

The second stage of the research aimed to roughly delimit the relevant area. Two rivers, the Dora and the Sangone, were chosen to define respectively the northern and the southern borders, whereas, on the west side, the Parco Naturale dei Laghi di Avigliana (Avigliana Natural Park) was taken as a landmark. The area perimeter was still further developed thanks to a more detailed analysis that included land use, bindings and previsions, critical areas and other specific features. In this context, a

series of maps were prepared. Two plan metric maps were drawn to compare the present employment with the historical use of the land, so that the changes within the area (considering that the historical map referred to 1881) could be highlighted and evaluated.



*Detail of the Land Use Map (1881). The original drawing was scanned and then georeferenced in order to facilitate a comparison with the present Land Use Map (data processed by the student over a raster CTR - Regional Technical Map 1:10.000.)*

A third map shows the "anthropic pressure" over the environment: the area was divided into units of a square hectare and each of them was linked to a "pressure index" drawn from the evaluation of the data available.

As regards the landscape essential elements, two tables of contents were listed. The first table presents the architectural, urban and archaeological elements, each factor being then accompanied by photographic support and historical data. A second table concentrates on the environment, listing ponds, springs, sources, age-old trees, and erratic rocks.

The result of these analysis and research led to the formulation of a project proposal aiming to convert the area into a park. Specific elements worth conservation were identified: among others, wooded areas, natural and anthropic essential elements, road and path networks, together with their critical points, parking/service areas and/or places equipped for sport, leisure, didactic and cultural activities.





*Some project proposals for the "road-parks" with cycle tracks, eco-passages to preserve wildlife and green belts*

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