

Gorky Park: A beloved national icon restored

Gorky Park is one of Moscow's most important public spaces and a beloved national icon. Laid out in 1928, the Park stretches along the banks of the Moscow River. It was the first park of its kind in the Soviet Union and the prototype for hundreds of others across the region.

By the turn of the Millennium, however, the Park had lost its appeal. Dilapidated, overgrown and strewn with garish carnival rides, Muscovites kept away. In response, the Moscow Government asked LDA Design to 'create a park for everyone, where culture meets nature'.

Lovingly restored, Gorky Park has become a popular destination once more. Visitors can hire boats, play tennis, go horse riding or even bungee jumping - there is free wi-fi throughout.

Our vision set out seven distinct landscapes, each reflecting a different historical period. Waterfront leisure gardens provide a new river frontage, and there are nine destinations, including an Orangery. Many of the historic buildings, which are a significant part of the Park's attraction, have also benefitted from major investment. In the summer, thousands of people use the beanbags and recliners that fill the lawns, and along the river is an urban beach, modelled on Paris's Seine-side plages. In winter, the area becomes a vast skating rink.



Client
Moscow Government, Department of Culture

Location
Moscow, Russia

Partners
Strelka Institute, Barker Langham, ETM Associates, Debois Landscape Survey Group, Michael Grubb Studio, MACE

Services
Landscape Architecture

Area
120 ha

Schedule
2012-2013

1 View of the Winter Gardens and Embankment

2 Entrance to Gorky Park

3 Leninsky Prospect Entrance and Gardens



1 Illustrative masterplan