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The Aniene River: an ecological and cultural corridor between the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Rome and Tivoli

The lower Aniene corridor between Rome and Tivoli is a complex cultural landscape where historical structures, morphological dynamics and environmental values intersect with recent transformations. The UNESCO sites – the Historic Centre of Rome, the Via Appia Antica, Hadrian's Villa and Villa d'Este – define a multilayered context in which the river functions as an ecocultural infrastructure connecting heterogeneous territories and supporting integrated conservation policies. This essay interprets the corridor as an ecocultural infrastructure defined by five dimensions: morphological, ecological, cultural, managerial and narrative. A synoptic framework of protection and planning instruments (UNESCO Management Plans, PTPR, Aniene Nature Reserve, River Park) supports the analysis. Historical reconstruction of territorial continuities and recent changes shows how dispersed urbanisation, transport infrastructures and industrial decline have frag-

mented the river's landscape and weakened its ecological performance.

The estates of Lunghezza and del Cavaliere appear as a strategic node and an emblematic case study for models integrating landscape, diffuse heritage and governance. Their location, layered values and recognition within planning instruments position the area as a potential cultural and managerial hub able to restore functional and perceptual continuities along the river.

The essay proposes an operational model to integrate protection and planning layers, translating Management Plan orientations into guidelines for recomposing ecological and settlement discontinuities, valorising diffuse heritage, enhancing slow mobility and structuring participatory multi-level governance. The lower Aniene corridor is presented as a laboratory for advanced peri-urban cultural landscape management practices offering replicable models.

Keywords:
UNESCO Sites; Cultural Heritage; Sustainable Management; Aniene River; Rome and Tivoli

THE ANIENE RIVER: AN ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL CORRIDOR BETWEEN THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES OF ROME AND TIVOLI

Introduction

The territory between Rome and Tivoli offers a privileged context for analysing the relationships among historical continuities, recent transformations, and multi-level protection frameworks. In the lower Aniene valley, geomorphological features, agricultural systems, hydraulic and settlement infrastructures, mobility networks, and ecological components intersect and overlap over time, shaping a deeply stratified landscape. The twentieth-century intensification of settlement and infrastructural processes accentuated these dynamics, making the corridor an emblematic case for understanding the tensions, vulnerabilities, and latent opportunities of peri-urban landscapes.

The presence of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of the Historic Centre of Rome (functionally linked to the Via Appia Antica), Villa Adriana and Villa d'Este confers international relevance on the fluvial system. The approval in 2023 of the buffer zone for the Rome site, extended toward the Aniene Reserve, strengthens the river's role as a connective support between cultural and environmental landscapes, moving beyond interpretations of the watercourse as a mere urban edge. The frameworks of the Budapest Declaration (2002) and the Historic Urban Landscape (2011) provide a useful lens through which to interpret the corridor as a relational infrastructure capable of integrating monumental heritage, agrarian landscapes, and riparian ecosystems.

Despite these potentialities, the territory is marked by discontinuities caused by ecological fragmentation, overlapping infrastructures, functionless interstitial areas, and heterogeneous administrative competences. In the absence of a systemic model, these factors prevent the corridor from operating as a connective structure between UNESCO sites and the wider landscape. This contribution proposes an interpretation of the

lower Aniene as an eco-cultural infrastructure, in which morphological, ecological, cultural, and governance components jointly define a unified system. The estates of Lunghezza and del Cavaliere constitute the central case study: owing to their location, the quality of their surviving features, and their formal recognitions, they represent the most suitable node for assessing how ecological and landscape recomposition can translate into operational strategies aligned with UNESCO instruments and landscape planning frameworks. The investigation integrates historical reconstruction, analysis of protection mechanisms, and examination of enduring landscape elements in order to outline a model aimed at strengthening ecological continuity, enhancing diffuse heritage, and orienting governance towards forms of dynamic conservation consistent with the tensions between permanence and transformation in complex cultural landscapes.

Persistence and Transformation in the Built Landscape

Interpreting the Aniene corridor as an eco-cultural infrastructure entails moving beyond the traditional separation between natural components and cultural heritage, framing the landscape instead as an integrated and dynamic system. The principles of the Historic Urban Landscape provide a framework for reading the territory as a relational whole, in which morphological matrices, cultural legacies, ecological processes, and governance instruments jointly contribute to defining a single territorial structure.

The evolution of the concepts of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions has highlighted the strategic role of peri-urban river corridors, internationally recognised as multifunctional systems that integrate ecosystem services, soft mobility, public spaces, and diffuse heritage. In the case of the Aniene, the presence of three UNESCO sites along the same fluvial axis confers a supra-local cultural significance, demanding governance capable of coordinating assets, contexts, and relationships.

The notion of eco-cultural infrastructure allows the corridor to be interpreted as a system in which ecological processes and historical continuities intertwine in shaping a unified landscape. Its ecological dimension influences mobility, perception, and patterns of use; its cultural dimension encompasses both monumental landmarks and diffuse heritage—agrarian structures, rural buildings, hydraulic infrastructures, and archaeological features. Governance is a crucial layer: the coexistence of overlapping regulatory frameworks and protection systems (UNESCO Management Plans, the Regional Landscape Plan, the Natura 2000 network, and the river basin plan) requires a coordinated interpretation across multiple decision-making scales.

The methodological framework adopted integrates the principal protection instruments. UNESCO Management Plans provide a vision oriented towards continuity between heritage assets and their settings; the Regional Landscape Plan establishes regulatory frameworks based on identity-bearing landscapes and enduring agrarian structures; the Aniene Valley Reserve and Natura 2000 introduce ecological objectives that reinforce environmental continuity; the project of the Fluvial Park represents the most recent attempt to configure a unified structure capable of connecting public spaces, ecological systems, and cultural heritage.

The overlap of these instruments does not result in a mere accumulation of protective measures; rather, it delineates a still largely untapped potential for integration. The corridor may be interpreted as a three-dimensional structure: a stable morphological substrate; ecological and settlement flows along historical and contemporary axes; and a system of cultural values articulated in landmarks, rural artefacts, and long-term visual relationships. This conceptual framework forms the basis for the historical analysis, the case study on the Lunghezza and Cavaliere estates, and the operational model aimed at ecological and landscape recomposition.

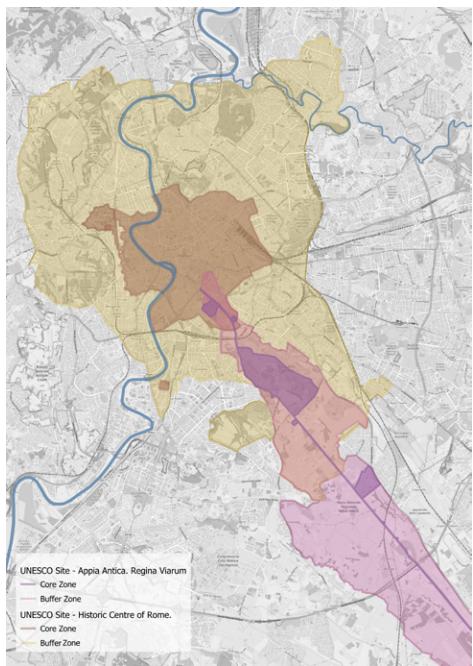


Fig. 1 - UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Rome.

UNESCO Tools as Operational Framework
Framing the Aniene corridor as an eco-cultural infrastructure requires assessing how UNESCO instruments can operate as territorial coordination mechanisms. Over the past two decades, international doctrine has progressively shifted its focus from individual monuments to territorial systems, integrating conservation, quality of life, and the management of urban and environmental transformations. The Budapest Declaration and the Historic Urban Landscape approach articulate this shift, proposing an interpretation of cultural stratifications and urban dynamics as the foundation for integrated governance models.

In the Rome-Tivoli territory, these orientations acquire particular relevance: the presence of four UNESCO sites differing in category, scale, and

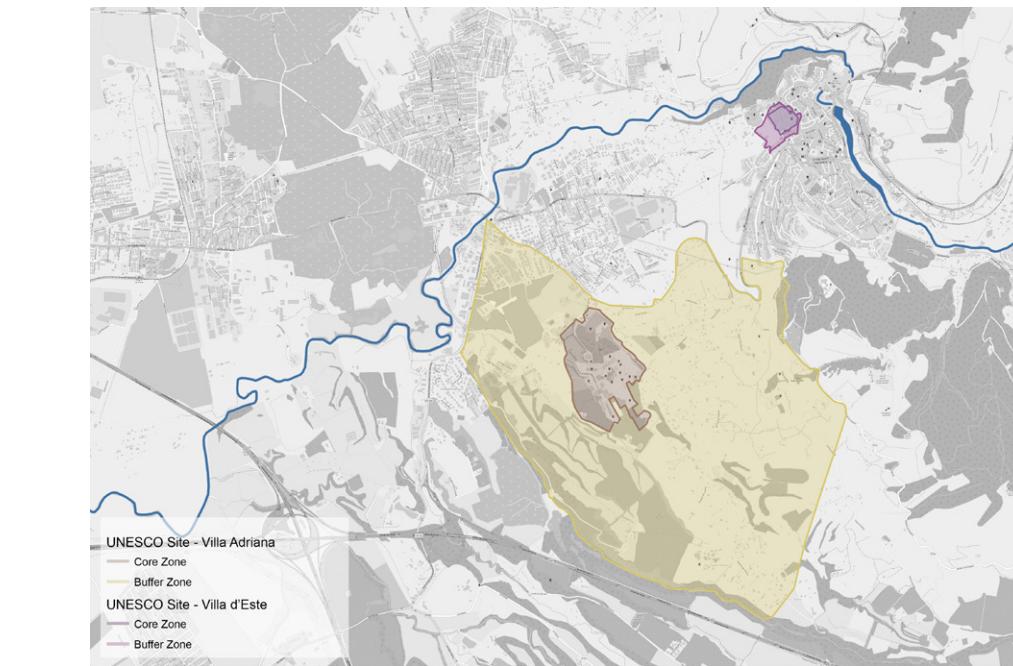


Fig. 2 - UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Tivoli

nature necessitates considering the intermediate landscape as an integral component of the recognised values. The historical relationships among Rome, the Campagna Romana, the Tiburtine system, and ancient hydraulic infrastructures emerge as essential elements in understanding the Outstanding Universal Value of the sites. Within this framework, the Aniene corridor cannot be treated as a residual area but rather as the connective tissue linking heritage, agricultural, and ecological systems.

The Management Plans of the four sites provide a useful basis for a unified interpretation of the territory, although originally conceived for assets considered individually. The Management Plan of the Historic Centre of Rome stresses the need to connect the various UNESCO sites within the

metropolitan area, promoting sustainable mobility, thematic cultural networks, and landscape integration while addressing tourism pressure and advancing a balanced model of public use in which diffuse heritage and peri-urban landscapes function as spaces of decongestion and redistribution of flows. Similarly, the Management Plans of Villa Adriana and Villa d'Este underline the importance of consolidating relations with the Tiburtine context and developing projects capable of reinforcing environmental and landscape continuity between the two sites and their surrounding territories. Finally, the Management Plan of the Via Appia Antica provides a methodological model that interprets the historic infrastructure as a linear axis capable of interweaving archaeological, ecological, and rural contexts.

A joint analysis of the four instruments reveals the potential for a unified framework structured around the logic of the corridor. Although not originally conceived from an integrated perspective, the Management Plans exhibit convergent orientations regarding landscape protection, ecological connectivity, promotion of soft mobility, educational use, and mitigation of pressures deriving from anthropogenic impacts. When read through the lens of eco-cultural infrastructure, these elements constitute the conceptual core of a multilevel governance approach that could find effective application precisely within the Aniene corridor.

The dialogue between UNESCO instruments and regional landscape planning introduces complexity, yet it opens the way to an integrated management model grounded in a shared reading of the territory. The Regional Landscape Plan of Lazio identifies the Tiburtine area and the Campagna Romana as zones of high identity value, characterised by historic agrarian landscapes, long-standing settlement systems, archaeological remains, and ecological infrastructures. The inclusion of portions of the Aniene valley among protected landscape assets and the designation of the Lunghezza and Cavaliere estates as strategic nodes confirm the need to interpret the area as a territorial continuum.

Within this framework, the convergence between UNESCO perspectives and the Regional Landscape Plan does not simply result from overlapping protection regimes; it constitutes a governance device capable of integrating cultural visions and operational tools. UNESCO orientations provide a methodological framework that acknowledges the complexity of cultural landscapes, while the Regional Landscape Plan translates these principles into enforceable prescriptions and guidelines. Their interaction allows for overcoming the administrative fragmentation typical of peri-urban areas, defining the Aniene corridor as a testing ground for coordinated practices among local authorities, cultural institutions, protected-area managers, and communities.

The resulting synoptic framework is not merely a

map of prescriptions, but a relational system: international instruments offer a cultural and methodological vision; the Regional Landscape Plan and environmental regulations define constraints and operational guidelines; the Fluvial Park projects introduce an applied dimension centred on public use, education, and ecological continuity. Their integration can support advanced forms of dynamic conservation, steering territorial design towards a model in which heritage, environment, and social practices converge in shaping a coherent and recognisable landscape.

Historical and Territorial Evolution of the Aniene Corridor

The historical evolution of the Aniene corridor is essential to understanding its current territorial structure. The continuity of the river has, over the centuries, shaped settlement patterns, agricultural forms, road networks, and productive infrastructures, generating a landscape in which long-term stratifications remain legible despite contemporary transformations.

In the Roman period, the Aniene served as a strategic element for supplying water to the capital and for organising production in the suburbium. The presence of aqueducts, rural villas, agricultural devices, and circulation routes attests to intense economic activity and a close integration between city and countryside. The fluvial axis functioned as a true territorial infrastructure, within which aristocratic residences—most notably the extraordinary complexes of Hadrian's Villa and, further upstream, the Tiburtine system—played roles of representation and resource control. The resulting landscape was a coherent mosaic in which agricultural activities, hydraulic networks, and circulation routes coexisted within a structured system expressing both the productive and symbolic character of the Campagna Romana.

During the Middle Ages and the early modern period, the corridor maintained its strategic role, despite phases of settlement contraction and reorganisation of landownership. The emergence of fortified farmsteads, drainage systems, and agri-

cultural estates coincided with a reconfiguration of the territorial organisation, in which the river continued to act as an indispensable reference point. Large estates, including those of Lunghezza and Cavaliere, developed as nuclei of agrarian control, structured according to the *latifundium* logic that long characterised the Campagna Romana. Castles, towers, rural churches, and hydraulic infrastructures contributed to shaping a complex landscape, where agricultural activities, dispersed settlements, and circulation networks generated a recognisable and relatively stable territorial fabric.

The nineteenth and twentieth centuries introduced more radical transformations, linked to the changing relationship between Rome and its hinterland. Urban expansion and infrastructural modernisation progressively altered the corridor's historical balance, fragmenting territorial continuity and weakening the legibility of agrarian patterns. Land reclamation, new transport arteries, and the growth of industrial activities exerted increasing pressure on the landscape, which began to display a pronounced dualism between densely urbanised peri-urban areas and residual agricultural spaces. The structure of the corridor was further compromised by developments after the 1970s, when unregulated suburban growth and the progressive marginalisation of the alluvial plain generated ecological fragmentation that continues to affect the area's environmental functionality.

At the same time, the establishment of the Aniene Valley Nature Reserve in 1997 marked the first systematic attempt to recognise and protect the ecological integrity of the corridor within the urban tract. This process helped reveal the naturalistic and landscape value of the river, demonstrating the potential for an integrated reading of its ecological and cultural qualities. However, for many years the reserve remained confined to the area within the ring road, leaving unresolved the issue of ecological continuity between Rome and Tivoli. The approval of the Aniene River Park project in 2019 constituted a significant step in

this direction, proposing an expanded vision of the corridor and incorporating into its territorial framework the areas between the ring road and the foothills of the Tiburtine system.

A historical reading of the corridor across this long-term trajectory reveals a consistent theme: the structure of the landscape does not derive from a linear process but from a sequence of stratifications that have progressively composed a complex system, in which settlement and productive logics have overlapped with ecological dynamics without entirely erasing the original framework. Territorial persistences—routes, artefacts, land patterns, and agricultural layouts—retain a structuring relevance despite contemporary pressures. Their continued legibility forms the basis for developing a model of dynamic conservation that does not limit itself to protecting individual elements but takes as its reference the historical and morphological continuity of the landscape.

Recent developments further confirm the need to mend the fractures produced by urbanisation and restore coherence to the fluvial system. The inclusion of the lower Aniene valley within the buffer zone of the Historic Centre of Rome reinforces the cultural dimension of the corridor, highlighting how the relationship between Rome and the Campagna Romana forms an integral part of the Outstanding Universal Value acknowledged by UNESCO. The coexistence of major cultural attractions, historic agricultural nuclei, and ecologically valuable areas makes this territory a paradigmatic case for reflecting on how peri-urban landscapes can be reimagined as complex systems capable of addressing contemporary challenges without relinquishing their historical identity.

The Lunghezza–Cavaliere Estates: Strategic Case Study

The area between the Lunghezza and del Cavaliere estates constitutes the most significant node for assessing the Aniene corridor's capacity to function as an eco-cultural infrastructure. Here, strategic location, the quality of historical continuities, landscape significance, and formal designations converge, making both the vulnerabil-

ties and the potential of the system particularly evident.

Lunghezza and Cavaliere are two extensive historic agrarian estates structured according to land-use logics characteristic of the Roman Countryside from the Middle Ages to the modern era. The configuration of fields, the presence of farmhouses, irrigation systems, and rural road networks outline a territorial framework in which long-standing agricultural structures coexist with recent transformation processes that, over the past decades, have undermined the system's functional coherence. The Castello di Lunghezza and the Casale del Cavaliere stand out as key architectural landmarks: with roots reaching back to prehistoric settlement, they serve as visual and symbolic references for the entire area, bearing witness to enduring productive practices and to the architectural quality of Rome's rural heritage. The significance of the two estates extends beyond their historical and architectural value. Their position along the river axis, near ecological linkages connecting the Aniene Reserve with the agricultural landscape towards Tivoli, assigns this sector a decisive role in reconstituting environmental continuity. The agricultural areas of Lunghezza and Cavaliere are among the few remaining intact portions of the original agro-pastoral mosaic and offer a potential space for strengthening ecological flows along the corridor, supporting species mobility and overall ecological quality.

The inclusion of both estates among protected landscape assets confirms their importance in the identity structure of the area, while the Regional Landscape Plan (PTPR) interprets them as devices that preserve the legibility of the historical relationship between Rome and its rural hinterland. They are thus attributed a cultural and landscape-connecting function. This perspective intersects with the recent inclusion of part of the Aniene Valley within the buffer zone of the Historic Centre of Rome, reinforcing the need to understand these estates as connective elements between the urban system, the Roman Countryside, and the Tiburtine territory.

The orientation of UNESCO instruments—particu-

larly the Management Plans of Villa Adriana and Villa d'Este—converges toward a conception of the Tiburtine landscape as an integrated system of cultural landscapes, in which diffuse heritage plays a key role in articulating the sites' universal values. Although not included within the property boundaries, the Tenute di Lunghezza and del Cavaliere contribute to the construction of a coherent territorial framework, within which the relationship between the villas and the surrounding countryside remains perceptible. Their ability to preserve the historic configuration of the alluvial valley endows these places with a significant interpretative function.

The Aniene River Park project identifies the two estates as strategic poles for management, public use, and cultural communication within the corridor. The proposal to locate RomaNatura's operational headquarters and functions dedicated to outreach, education, and landscape interpretation within the historic buildings positions this area as a potential governance centre for the entire system. This vision opens reflection on the role that historic structures can play in contemporary territorial management, interpreting them as active devices capable of integrating protection, accessibility, participation, and innovative governance. However, the area also faces significant challenges: linear infrastructures, fragmented land ownership, the decline of agricultural activities, and peri-urban development pressures weaken the role of the two estates as a connective node and undermine both ecological continuity and landscape perception along the corridor. The necessary step is to transform this marginalised sector into the operational core of a broader eco-cultural recomposition strategy.

Taking Lunghezza and Cavaliere as a case study makes it possible to test their potential as a territorial laboratory. Their historical structure, central position, and formal recognitions enable on-site experimentation of the proposed methodological framework, exploring how the integration of ecological, cultural, and managerial components can generate a replicable system. The two estates demonstrate that the Aniene corridor can operate as

an eco-cultural infrastructure capable of connecting values, places, and communities.

Eco-Cultural Integration: Methods and Operational Model

Developing a methodological model for the eco-cultural integration of the Aniene corridor requires an approach capable of translating theoretical frameworks and governance instruments into strategies that operate effectively within a complex territorial system. The method begins with the reconstruction of territorial persistences, understood as the long-term outcome of settlement, agricultural, and infrastructural processes. This reconstruction is not merely descriptive: it serves to identify the elements that provide continuity and identity to the landscape, distinguishing those aspects that can accommodate transformation from those that constitute the structural backbone of the corridor.

Alongside these long-term continuities, the model requires a systematic analysis of the discontinuities generated by recent transformations. Ecological fragmentation, the weakening of agrarian structures, the presence of linear infrastructures, and the proliferation of undefined interstitial spaces delineate the areas in which landscape coherence has been most compromised. Identifying these criticalities makes it possible to direct planning towards the recomposition of systems, taking ecological and perceptual continuity as a central objective.

The method is articulated through a constant relationship among multiple scales of analysis. The territorial scale makes it possible to understand the corridor's role within the broader relationships among Rome, the Roman Countryside, and the Tiburtine system; the landscape scale enables the reading of agrarian patterns, land-use configurations, ecological gradients, and visual relationships; the local scale highlights situations in which both continuities and vulnerabilities are most evident, as in the case of the Tenute di Lunghezza and del Cavaliere. These three dimensions do not operate hierarchically; rather, they influence one another: general principles guide site-spe-

cific decisions, while local conditions contribute to shaping the overall territorial vision.

Constructing the operational model also requires integrating the objectives expressed by different governance instruments. UNESCO frameworks promote a dynamic conception of conservation, grounded in the integrated management of change and community involvement; the Regional Landscape Plan (PTPR) sets guidelines and prescriptions oriented toward the protection of identity landscapes and long-standing agrarian structures; the Natura 2000 network and regulations on protected areas provide measurable ecological criteria; the Aniene River Park project introduces a framework centred on cultural and environmental enjoyment. The convergence of these levels allows the construction of an operational structure that is not fragmented, but coherent and durable over time.

Applying the model to the Tenute di Lunghezza and del Cavaliere makes it possible to test its effectiveness. The interaction between the reading of persistences, the analysis of discontinuities, and the evaluation of possible uses for historic buildings enables the identification of targeted interventions, such as restoring ecological connections, safeguarding long-range views, and repurposing rural complexes as spaces for governance, research, and public engagement. In this way, the area can assume the role of the corridor's operational core and contribute to consolidating the River Park.

Translating the model into effective practice requires a governance structure capable of coordinating heterogeneous competencies. Only a structured dialogue among local administrations, heritage authorities, protected-area managers, and communities can ensure coherence of action and continuity of strategy in the medium and long term. The proposed model—grounded in an integrated reading of persistences, ecological analyses, the recognition of discontinuities, and multiscale relationships—constitutes an operational tool to guide the management of the corridor toward advanced forms of dynamic conservation.

Strategic Vision for the Eco-Cultural Corridor

Defining a strategic vision for the Aniene corridor requires integrating a long-term perspective with a coherent set of design actions capable of reinforcing ecological continuity, valorizing historical persistences, and recomposing the relationships among the territorial areas between Rome and Tivoli. The current fragmentation of the corridor does not only represent a challenge but also provides an opportunity to envision future scenarios in which environmental regeneration, heritage enhancement, and the reorganization of marginal spaces converge to create a recognizable eco-cultural infrastructure.

The first strategic axis concerns the reinforcement of environmental continuity along the river, considered essential for the functioning of the ecological corridor outlined in the Regional Landscape Plan (PTPR) and reflected in protective instruments. Morphological and ecological analyses indicate that targeted interventions—such as riverside renaturalization, consolidation of riparian vegetation, and recovery of residual hydraulic areas—can improve both habitat quality and functionality. Reconnecting fragmented spaces, mitigating the impacts of transportation infrastructure, and reducing anthropogenic pressures contribute to enhancing the overall resilience of the river system, in line with UNESCO guidelines on environmental sustainability and integrated cultural landscape management.

Simultaneously, the valorization of historical persistences constitutes the second pillar of the strategic vision. Hydraulic structures, productive buildings, rural farmsteads, and historic routes form a system of territorial markers that testify to the long-standing relationships between Rome, the Roman Countryside, and the Tiburtine system. Their recovery requires interventions aimed at structural consolidation, improved accessibility, and the creation of interpretative devices capable of rendering historical relationships along the corridor legible. The methodological perspective offered by the Management Plan of the Via Appia Antica, which interprets the landscape as a cultural infrastructure, provides a useful reference,

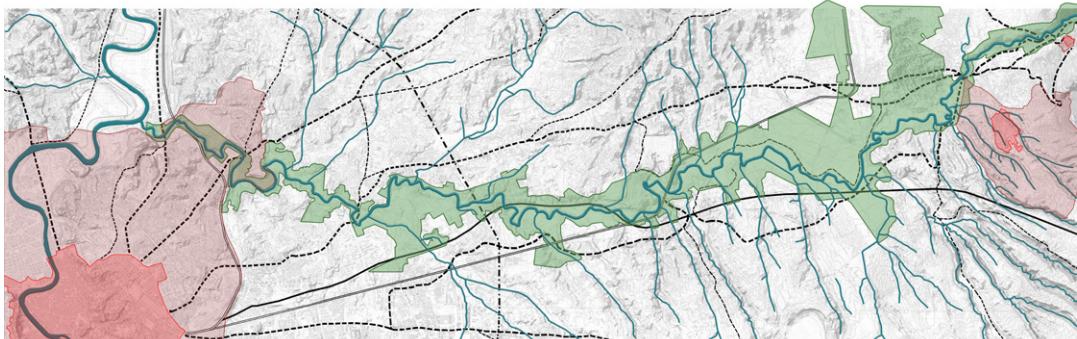


Fig. 3 - Lower course of the Aniene River: in red the UNESCO Sites of Rome and Tivoli, in green the area covered by the Aniene River Park Project.

as it allows persistences to be conceived as elements capable of building narrative continuity and integrating the use of monumental sites within a broader territorial network.

The landscape and functional recomposition of urban edges constitutes the third strategic dimension. Transformations during the latter half of the twentieth century generated a heterogeneous landscape, marked by morphological and functional discontinuities, requiring projects targeted at rehabilitating marginal spaces, creating transversal connections, and restoring interrupted historic routes. The Aniene River Park project provides an operational framework, proposing interventions to reconnect peripheral areas, develop continuous pedestrian and cycling paths, and enhance public spaces along the river. Integrating these actions with the guidance provided by UNESCO Management Plans helps preserve visual and morphological relationships among the Tiburtine sites, contributing to the restoration of perceptual unity across the landscape.

A further strategic element concerns the creation of a system of cultural and environmental pathways that make the structure of the corridor legible. A main route along the river, complemented by ridge paths and transversal connections to agricultural estates, historical sites, and monumental complexes, can enable sustainable and distributed public use. Historical connection

systems between Rome and Tivoli, along with service paths for hydraulic derivations, provide a useful repertoire for defining contemporary walking networks. The development of these paths also contributes to producing a shared narrative of the landscape, in line with UNESCO recommendations for the integrated valorization of cultural and environmental assets.

Territorial governance represents a necessary condition for implementing these strategies.

Taken together, these actions configure the Aniene corridor as a laboratory for experimenting with integrated forms of cultural protection, environmental sustainability, and territorial rehabilitation. The eco-cultural perspective organizes interventions into a unified vision and allows the river to be interpreted as a generative device capable of guiding the relationship between Rome and Tivoli toward a more coherent, resilient, and meaningful territorial configuration.

Conclusions

The analysis of the Aniene corridor reveals a complex system, marked by long-term historical continuity and recent transformations that have weakened its ecological and landscape coherence. The presence of UNESCO sites, hydraulic and agrarian infrastructures, and the interrelationship between Rome, the Roman Countryside, and the Tiburtine system define a context in which natu-

re and culture remain inseparable. Reading the corridor as an eco-cultural infrastructure implies adopting this interdependence as the basis for management, overcoming the fragmentation produced by sectoral planning instruments.

Historical reconstruction and the analysis of persistences reveal a deep structure still capable of guiding strategies for recomposition. The Tenuite di Lunghezza and del Cavaliere illustrate how such an approach can be translated into an operational model: their central location, enduring agrarian structures, and historic buildings make them suitable for integrating ecological continuity, cultural valorization, and shared governance.

The effectiveness of the corridor depends on coordination among UNESCO instruments, the Regional Landscape Plan (PTPR), environmental regulations, and local policies within a unified process grounded in common objectives. This approach allows complexity to become a resource, restoring coherence to the river system and recognizing the dispersed heritage as an active component of territorial planning.

From this perspective, the Aniene corridor becomes an advanced laboratory for the dynamic conservation of complex cultural landscapes. The integration of ecological, agricultural, and historical-territorial values, combined with multilevel governance, provides a replicable model for other peri-urban contexts where conservation and transformation must be addressed simultaneously.

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