

### WHY DO WE NEED REGULATION ?

The purpose of a nature reserve is to protect an exceptional and recognised natural heritage.

To find the right balance between heritage issues and human activities, regulations apply.

They serve as a safeguard and allow everyone to make the most of the site while preserving the fauna, flora, landscapes and natural environments.

The agents of the nature reserves, the French Office of Biodiversity, the National Forestry Office and the National Gendarmerie, among others, are responsible for enforcing these regulations.



Dogs are not allowed, even on a lead, as they can harm ground-nesting birds and disturb wildlife.



To preserve the tranquillity of this protected area, no form of boating or water sports is allowed in the nature reserve: motor boats, buoys, kayaks, paddles, swimming, etc.



In order to limit the high fire risk - especially in summer - damage to the flora and disturbance of the fauna, it is forbidden to make fires.



Flora are protected within the nature reserve. Look at them, breathe them in, but do not pick them.



Access to the vegetated islands and gravel banks in the middle of the watercourse is prohibited during the nesting period of the birds, from 15th March to 15th August, in order to avoid the destruction of eggs and the disturbance to parents or young birds.

### KEY

- Nature reserve boundaries
- Nature reserve entrance gates
- Car parks
- Marked pathway
- Belvedere



### WILD ISLETS

Islets are scattered along the course of the Dranse. They're created by the river itself, which carries pebbles and sediments with it during floods, which accumulate in areas of calmer current. These islets are home to animal species which are particularly sensitive to human disturbance, such as birds which nest directly on the ground, which is why these islands cannot be accessed from March to August.



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0 150 300 m

### MANAGER AND INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



The Delta de la Dranse nature reserve, located in the commune of Publier, is managed by Asters, the Haute-Savoie Conservatory of Natural Areas.

### THE PURPOSE OF NATURE RESERVE

#### KNOW

Science is a fundamental tool for better understanding the world around us and its fragility. The nature reserve is an open-air laboratory !

#### PROTECT

Specific regulations apply to each nature reserve. The manager ensures the protection of this area through environmental policing.

#### MANAGE

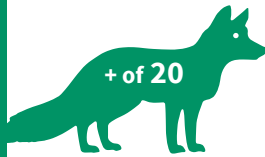
A project for the conservation and management of species and natural environments exists in this area, in search of a delicate balance between humans and nature.

#### SHARE

Loving, discovering, learning, respecting... this space is open to the public and takes visitors far beyond wonder.



### KEY FIGURES



+ of 20  
Mammal species



113  
Insect species



240  
Bird species

Bird species



More than  
800 species of  
plants

20 types  
of environments,  
6 of which are of  
interest at the  
European level

23 hectares  
of forest

A third of the  
species present in  
Haute-Savoie

Average  
altitude  
380 m

### ACTIVITIES IN THE NATURE RESERVE

- A** Just before entering the lake, a "no swimming" sign warns of the risks associated with the presence of the Bioge power station, which produces hydroelectricity, located upstream. During the summer, EDF regulates the flow of the river. White water sports activities can only be practised at certain times as communicated by EDF, and only outside the nature reserve.
- B** At the mouth, the river deposits the material it has carried over several kilometres, forming the delta. Elsewhere on Lake Geneva or in rivers in the area, these gravels are taken and used to produce construction materials (aggregates, sand, pebbles). The Sagradranse platforms are used to sort and clean the product of this gravel extraction.

**C** The team of the manager of the Dranse Delta nature reserve regularly scours the field. Their job includes scientific monitoring, restoration of the natural environment, welcoming the public and surveillance.

**D** Fishing is prohibited in the nature reserve. This decision was taken by the local fishermen themselves, in order to preserve stocks of fish, and in particular of trout! This prohibition benefits all fish species, which are able to live in peace in the fishing reserve.

**E** The nature reserve is located in the heart of a highly urbanised area and is one of the last natural environments around Lake Geneva. In order to ensure that the fauna remain undisturbed and their habitats are preserved, the protective perimeter will regulate certain activities, including in the delta and the lake, in the continuity of the nature reserve.

### HERITAGE OF THE NATURE RESERVE

- 1** The grasslands of the dry terraces of the nature reserve are home to an astonishing biodiversity. This is the domain of orchids, which have developed strategies to attract the insects which pollinate them. Some mimic the shape of a female insect, others emit the smell of sex pheromones, and others still hide nectar at the bottom of spurs which have different lengths, depending on whether they're meant to be pollinated by a honeybee, a bumblebee or a butterfly...
- 2** A veritable purification station, the reed bed improves the water quality by filtering and assimilating various pollutants, such as phosphorus, nitrates and heavy metals. The natural progressive filling of the reedbeds would deprive the nature reserve of important biodiversity. So, management actions are carried out in order to maintain this quiet place for many species.
- 3** The alluvial forest or riparian forest (ripa = riverbank) runs alongside the watercourse and plays an important ecological and landscape role. The forest acts as an ecological corridor for the movement of species which find refuge and food there.
- 4** The tufted duck is a diving bird. The male is easy to identify and is all black, with white flanks, yellow eyes and a crest falling on the nape of the neck. It's a gregarious bird, which forms large colonies in winter. It lives with other ducks like scaups and coots. A good diver, it can descend to a depth of several metres.
- 5** The small Plover is emblematic of wetlands. Its colours, which blend in with its environment, make it difficult to distinguish from the pebbles, whose colour matches its plumage perfectly. It feeds on small insects, worms and molluscs which it finds in the mud. It's a migratory bird which returns from Africa from March-April to nest in the same place as the previous year, or even in the same nest !
- 6** The Black Kite can be recognised by its V-shaped tail, a feature it shares with the Red Kite. This species prefers land with large trees or rocky escarpments which are suitable for nesting, and the proximity of rivers, lakes or ponds which it needs for feeding. The population of this bird of prey in the Lake Geneva region is the largest in Europe !
- 7** Sea Buckthorn is a thorny shrub which can grow up to 6 metres high. Between its long, narrow leaves of a beautiful silvery-green colour grow the "argouses": small, round, orange fruits. Legend has it that sea buckthorn leaves were a favourite food of Alexander the Great's horse. The caterpillars of the rare and protected Seathorn Hawk-Moth only feed on this plant !
- 8** With its streamlined body, the trout is perfectly adapted to fast swimming. It likes clear, pure and fresh water, which it swims up, sometimes jumping through difficult passages. In winter, it seeks out shallow waters and gravel bottoms in which the female digs a nest and lays several thousand eggs which the male fertilises.
- 9** The Black-headed Gull, white with pearl-grey wings and a dark brown head, is often confused with the much larger Seagull. The Black-headed Gull is sociable and shy. Omnivorous, it feeds on animals, insects, earthworms or plants. It likes to rest in the calm, shallow waters of the lake shore and in the delta.
- 10** As you walk along the beach, you may come across a few bevelled branches, like a pencil, showing the teeth marks of the beaver. Two to three families, i.e. about ten individuals, are established in the nature reserve. This discreet rodent comes out at dusk to eat the bark and leaves it reaches when cutting down trees.
- 11** A veritable seed dispersal corridor, the Dranse is regularly colonised by exotic plants which have escaped from gardens and are transported by the river. Some of them feel at home here, such as the Summer Lilac, also known as the "Butterfly-Bush", the Canadian Goldenrod, the Himalayan Balsa, or the False Acacia... These invasive species can spread rapidly, invading very large areas and causing a loss of biodiversity.
- 12** Although it was planted by humans, the beech forest in the nature reserve has been growing freely for over 30 years. Dead trees and stumps are left in place because a second life is waiting for them: they play host to and feed numerous guests (birds, mammals, mosses, fungi and lichens). Their decomposition provides a breeding ground for a new generation of trees !
- 13** A torrential river originating in the Chablais mountains, over the course of time the Dranse has created a vast range of alluvial deposits made up of pebbles, gravel and sand. The river wanders through this delta, reshaping its bed and forming shifting islands as the floods come and go.

### FIND OUT MORE

[www.cen-haute-savoie.org](http://www.cen-haute-savoie.org)  
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### The park and the Maison des Dranse

Located in the commune of Publier, on the other side of the river, the Park and the Maison des Dranse welcome visitors all year round.  
1034 route de la Dranse  
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