

Pordenone, San Valentino Park

The San Valentino Park consists of a large green area located in the area of onset of the Vallona canal.

The land comes from the acquisition of two properties: one belonging to the Galvani paper mill, acquired by the municipality of Pordenone in the 1980s and the other characterized by the private park of Villa Poletti-Marchi, which became municipal property from the late 1990s.

In the part that originally belonged to the paper mill, the characterizing element is the large pond. As evidence of the ancient productive activity remains a building, once a production site, today the residence of numerous associations. While few traces remain of Villa Poletti-Marchi, since it was almost completely destroyed by fire.

Today walking in the park, you can admire part of its ancient *barchessa*. The ancient building overlooked the artificial water mirror, designed to supply energy to the mill's production plant.

In the garden part of Villa Poletti-Marchi, built around the thirties of the twentieth century, it is possible to recognize a late romantic imprint in the layout of the green, with avenues defined by trees, large lawns and large isolated plants.

The current entrance to the Parco San Valentino from via Interna is bordered by a row of lime trees, which originally formed the northern boundary of the garden of the Villa Poletti-Marchi. Recent restoration work on the park has also strengthened the arboreal vegetation on the opposite side to the entrance from Via Interna.

The semi-natural character of some sections of the San Valentino Park allows the observation of interesting botanical species such as the rare common wizard herb, plant of shady places on humid and eutrophic basic reaction soils, the digitized sedge, a species that dwells in places shady on dry soils and fleeing from inhabited centres or the very rare Euganean ranunculus, endemic to the lowland forests in north-eastern Italy.

A peculiarity of the San Valentino Park that cannot miss those who walk among its avenues is the ice-house, a characteristic building in exposed stone placed on a small hill, in a wooded area between two meadows.

Until the 1930s, the icebox was used to store ice for the domestic use of the nearby Villa Marchi.

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