



Long-term  
Planning &  
Implementation

# The Jerusalem Ring

A Green Park for the Golden City

Partnership Concepts



קרן קיימת לישראל  
KKL - JNF

Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael | Jewish National Fund | קרן קיימת לישראל



# The Jerusalem Ring

## A Green Park for the Golden City

KKL-JNF is proud to introduce one of the most ambitious projects ever launched in Israel's capital

Can you hear the future ringing?

Dear friends,

The Jewish sources tell us: "**Ten measures of beauty descended to the world, nine were taken by Jerusalem**". This beautiful city is home to Israel's leading governmental and cultural institutions. Over the years Jerusalem has grown into a multicultural metropolis with a diverse population.

A growing city has growing needs, particularly regarding open spaces for leisure and recreation. Jerusalem residents have shown an increasing interest in such facilities in recent years. Open areas around the city are seen as a resource enhancing the quality of life and limiting excessive development.

The Jerusalem Ring is a new metropolitan park that will extend over some 1,500 hectares (3700 acres), surrounding the capital to the north, west, and south. The park will preserve ancient landscapes while offering a variety of leisure and recreation opportunities, including a sports center, footpaths and bicycle trails, picnic sites and quiet corners, cafes and playgrounds. These facilities will attract residents from all sections of Jerusalem's population – religious and secular, Jewish and Arab, young and old – as well as visitors from all of Israel and around the world.

As a key partner in this project, KKL-JNF will work together with the park administration to nurture existing forest areas, plant orchards, restore traditional agricultural terraces, and preserve the diverse natural features in the park. The Jerusalem Ring will be developed around the main valleys (dry streambeds) surrounding the city, which will also be rehabilitated and developed.

This large, well-planned, and varied park will become a magnet for people of all backgrounds and age groups. It will encourage environmental awareness, interest in natural and human heritage, and a healthy and active lifestyle for the twenty-first century residents of this eternal city.

Sincerely yours,

  
**Efi Stenzler**  
KKL-JNF World Chairman

  
**Avraham Duvdevani**  
KKL-JNF Co-Chairman

Dear friends,

The beauty of Jerusalem lies in its ancient history and blossoming future. The JNF is joining with the municipality in a plan to create a new green belt of metropolitan parks around Jerusalem - Nahal Refa'im in the south and Arazim Valley in the North.

These parks will be accessible for Jerusalem residents and visitors to enjoy. Our master plan includes sports facilities and picnic areas, as well as important areas safe for the many animals that call Jerusalem home.

Our plan will enrich the experience of visitors while bringing together metropolitan Jerusalem. We hope to make Jerusalem not only a city of Gold, but a city of Green.

On behalf of the residents of Jerusalem, we thank the KKL-JNF for their continued support of Jerusalem and we look forward to working together to strengthen Jerusalem through a new green belt around Jerusalem.

With warm regards,

  
**Nir Barkat**  
Mayor of Jerusalem

עַמּוֹת הָיוּ רַגְלֵינוּ  
בְּשַׁעְרֵי יְרוּשָׁלַם:

(תהלים קכ"ב)

Our feet were standing  
within thy gates,  
O Jerusalem

(Psalms 122:2)







## Planning Concept in the Jerusalem Ring

The Jerusalem Ring was conceived as a park integrating development at various levels, from intensive to minimal impact in the unique Judean Mountains landscape. The design concept includes a number of elements:

- **Park development will focus on a number of valleys** in the area that are actually *wadis*, dry streambeds, created by natural flows in ancient times. A network of paths will connect the various park sections between themselves and adjacent neighborhoods. Each of these valleys is actually a park in its own right, and together they will form the Jerusalem Ring, Jerusalem's metropolitan park.
- **Developing the extensive open spaces and unique natural and heritage values** surrounding Jerusalem with minimum environmental impact, as a metropolitan park to meet the recreational needs of Jerusalemites, while at the same time integrating a number of intensively developed recreation sites. KKL-JNF Development will be based mainly on footpaths, bicycle trails and picnic sites as a setting for recreation in nature, and will be limited to areas of low ecological sensitivity.
- **Integrating the human footprint into the park** – landscapes shaped by human activity over many generations: archaeological sites and abandoned orchards, ancient terraces once irrigated by spring water, and disturbed areas that will be transformed from eyesores to resources. Development will seek to mitigate the environmental impact of modern infrastructure elements and where possible, use them to develop park facilities such as touring routes based on upgraded service roads or recreation areas based on existing water sources.
- Developing the Jerusalem Ring as a transition area, **linking urban Jerusalem neighborhoods and parks with the larger forests and national parks** in the Judean Mountains, thus protecting open spaces and preserving unique natural and heritage values for future generations.



## KKL-JNF Involvement in the Jerusalem Ring



● **Bicycle trails:** The Jerusalem Ring Bicycle Trail is a key feature in the Jerusalem Ring. The trail will eventually surround the entire city, connecting residents of the Jerusalem neighborhoods and surrounding communities to the diverse facilities in the park. KKL-JNF is developing the sections of the trail that pass through open areas – from French Hill intersection through Tsofim Valley, Arazim Valley, Motsa Valley, along Aminadav Ridge, and through Refa'im Valley.



● **Primary and secondary park roads** will enable visitors to enter the different sections of the park and enjoy its facilities. Some of the roads, car parks, and paths will be paved while others will be dirt tracks. The roads will provide access to the picnic sites and leisure facilities in the forests and parks and signs will direct visitors and enrich their experience.



● **Rehabilitating the dry streambeds** will include regulating stream courses that have been damaged by floods and urban effluents and restoring terraces and stream vegetation. The streams will once again function as part of the natural system supporting the diverse seasonal flora and fauna.



● **Restoring and rehabilitating the numerous springs** in the area will include cleaning the hewed tunnels, repairing pools and water channels, maintaining vegetation and terraces, planting orchards, and ensuring long-term upkeep. These charming corners will become a focus for recreation and a source for hands-on learning about the agricultural heritage of the Judean Mountains.



● **Nurturing and planting forests** – the area includes well-established forests and special groves planted on the valley slopes. The forested areas will be tended, rehabilitated, and strengthened in order to preserve the green setting and the leisure opportunities it provides.



● **Tending plantations and orchards** – abandoned orchards will be restored and new orchards will be developed on the basis of native Israeli fruit trees.

● **Establishing active recreation facilities and seating areas.** Seating areas will be developed facing the scenery encouraging people to rest and enjoy time in nature. The corners will include picnic facilities, active recreation facilities, and scenic lookouts.



● **Educational activity and public events:** the park will be a focus of educational activity related to heritage and the environment for people of all ages. Its facilities can host a variety of public events for the benefit of residents in surrounding communities and neighborhoods.





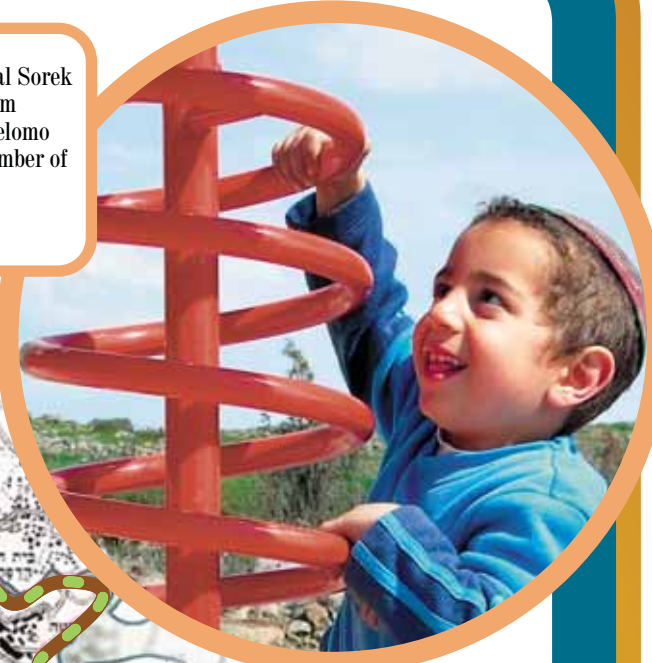
Recreational activity will be concentrated in the restored streambed, springs and traditional agriculture sites while the green slopes will be conservatively developed. Visitors can enjoy orchards, woods, trails and active recreation areas in the forest and water bodies while crossing the park.



## Arazim Park

The valley at the upper section of Nahal Sorek is very popular with Jerusalemites from Ramot Eshkol, Sanhedriya, Ramot Shelomo and French Hill, and will provide a number of play areas for the younger generation.

## HaTsofim Park



## Motsa Park

The park and adjoining Jerusalem Forest create a large, continuous green lung for the residents of Jerusalem's western neighborhoods. It presents a "mosaic" of agricultural heritage and includes the seasonal lake formed by the Motsa Dam, intensive recreation areas and the old Motsa synagogue.



## The Jerusalem Ring

### LEGEND

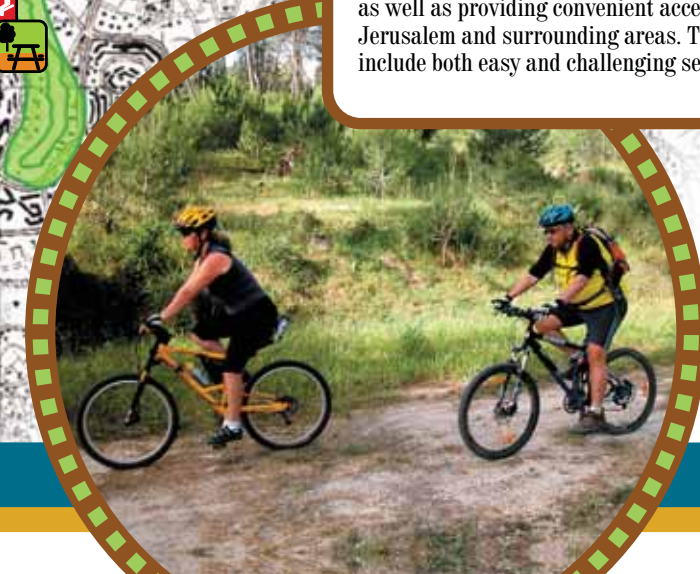
- Streambed regulation & restoring vegetation
- Bicycle trail
- Playground
- Scenic lookout
- Forest and woodland rehabilitation
- Traditional agriculture & orchards
- Picnic/recreation area
- Entrance
- Reservoir
- Spring rehabilitation

## Bicycle Trail

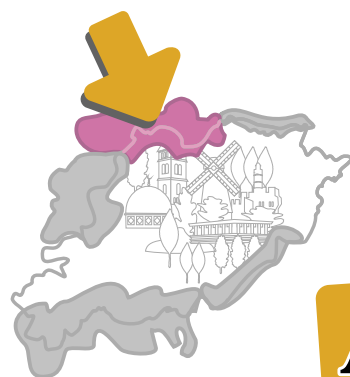
The bicycle trail will circle Jerusalem and allow riders to enjoy the open areas and sights in the park, as well as providing convenient access from Jerusalem and surrounding areas. The trail will include both easy and challenging sections.

## Refa'im Park

Nahal Refa'im begins in Jerusalem's southern neighborhoods. The entrance will include lawns, cafes, picnic areas and a variety of recreational activities. The public will be able to stroll along a promenade along the valley enjoying the surrounding agricultural heritage sites.







## Arazim Valley Park – The "Entrance to the City"

Arazim Valley Park includes some of the most impressive natural beauty to be found in the vicinity of Jerusalem. Its location between the growing town of Mevasseret Zion and the densely-populated northern neighborhoods of the capital provides the ideal setting for an intensively-developed park offering diverse recreational opportunities for all.

### Nahal

*Nahal is the Hebrew term for stream. Israel is a semi-arid country and most of our streams flow only following winter floods. This type of a stream is known as a wadi in Arabic, a gully (small wadi) or a dry wash (south-western US).*

Anyone who has driven along the Tel Aviv – Jerusalem highway has seen the picturesque landscape of Arazim Valley to the north of the road, just below the entrance to the city. The entire base of the valley and most of the supporting slopes are free of construction. Some areas have been planted; others are covered by farming terraces; and others still are covered with typical native shrubs. The distinction between this open, pastoral landscape and the nearby urban landscape is sharp and impressive.

The main entrances to the park will be situated close to Motsa interchange and alongside Golda interchange (the Ramot road). A network of paved park roads and bicycle trails will ensure easy access by motor vehicle, bicycle, and on foot to the various attractions and facilities, and will provide access from Lifta, Ramot, and Mevasseret Yerushalayim.

Forestry activity in the park will include restoring and planting orchards, and maintaining existing forests and woods including ancient cedar and olive groves. Indigenous broad-leafed tree species will be planted.

Nahal Arazim is a dry streambed. Its flow channel will be rehabilitated and two water-based activity bases are planned. The "Meadow" is an intensive recreation area enjoying artesian water sources that emerged to the surface following development work. The water will be channeled into a pool and aqueduct, creating wading pools for children, lawns, and shaded corners. At the Enot Telem Springs the ancient terrace agriculture typical of the area with its irrigation system, will be recreated.

יְרוּשָׁלַם הָרִים סָבִיב לָהּ וַיְהִי סָבִיב לָעִמָּה  
תהלים קכ ה

"As the mountains are round about Jerusalem..."

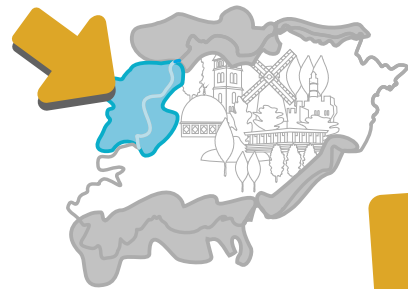
(Psalms 125: 2)



*At Enot Telem are remains of a small Jewish settlement – Bet Talma. The land (60 acres, 23 hectares) was purchased in 1906 and a building intended for a soap and oil factory was erected. The two-storey structure (whose remains can be seen at the site) was never completed, and the site was eventually abandoned.*

*In 1922 five Jewish families settled at Enot Telem, naming their settlement Emek HaArazim. The site was abandoned during the 1929 Arab Riots, and further settlement attempts were unsuccessful.*





## Motsa Valley Park – Water & Pioneering Heritage

The broad Nahal Sorek valley extends west of Jerusalem and south of Motsa interchange, over approximately 1250 acres (500 hectares). This is a diverse area rich in natural habitats and in remnants of the ancient agriculture that once flourished in the area and includes water sources and forested areas. According to the park's planning concept the sections closest to the streambed will be developed intensively and the slopes will be planted with a variety of trees.

*Yelin House was the first house established in Motsa, the first Jewish farming settlement established outside city walls in modern times. Yehoshua Yelin built his family home close to a Crusader farmhouse that served as an inn for travelers on the road to Jerusalem. Yelin House, located near the old synagogue has been renovated.*

Park entrances will be developed at Old Motsa in the north, near the ancient synagogue and historic Yelin House, and from Kerem intersection in the south. Development at the southern entrance will include a café, information desk, car park, and restrooms. The main park route, including the main bicycle trail, will begin at this entrance and continue north along Nahal Sorek. The Bet Zayit Reservoir will be a focal point for tours, offering opportunities to observe plant and wildlife. Development includes activity points, informational and directional signs, and long-term maintenance.

The park includes two additional recreational hubs:

- A small lake above the Bet Zayit Reservoir, in the heart of the park. Facilities will include a restaurant, water-based recreation, sports and active recreation facilities, picnic areas, lawns, parking, footpaths and bicycle trails.
- A broad three-kilometer long promenade will connect the northern and southern entrances, including a four-meter wide footpath with seating areas, a bicycle trail, and shaded lookouts along the lake.

On the forested slopes minimal-impact development will create a green area connecting the western neighborhoods of Jerusalem, nearby communities, and the core area of the park. Existing groves and forests will be tended (including supplementary planting) and forest paths improved with shaded seating areas. In some cases new paths will be developed.

שִׂמְחוּ אֶת־יְרוּשָׁלַם וְגִילוּ בָּהּ כָּל־אֲהָבֶיהָ

(ישעיה ס"ז י')

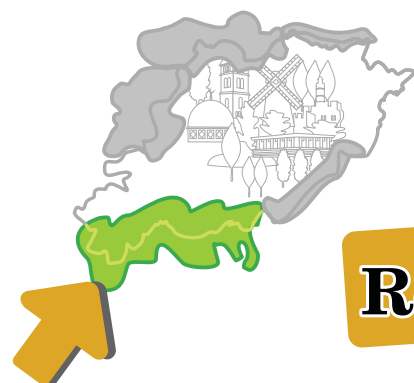
"Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her..."

(Isaiah 66: 10)



*The archeological remnants from the Biblical and Second Temple periods and abundant water sources near the ancient Motsa Synagogue support the assumption that this was the location of the Biblical city of Motsa. The synagogue was in active use until the riots of 1929, but was later abandoned until 1961, when the first families moved into the new community of Lower Motsa.*





## Refa'im Valley Park – The Green Park

Refa'im Valley Park, the southern section of the Jerusalem Ring, extends over some 1250 acres (500 hectares), bordering on the western and southern fringes of the city, and includes green extensions penetrating deep into urban areas along Nahal Gilo and Nahal Sharafat. Development style and intensity will vary with the transition from urban areas to the open spaces on the west.

The park has been designed to offer various recreational opportunities and to foster the bond between the public and the park, bringing together different social and ethnic groups. Signs, leaflets, and maps will provide information and enrich the visiting experience.

*Water, in the past as today, was of the utmost importance. The spring of Ein el Hanniya in Refa'im Valley was the water source for a public fountain dating back to Roman times, called a nympheon. From there water was carried along a hewed channel to a large pool and then on to irrigation channels*

### Refa'im Valley Park from East to West

**The Railroad Park** is a strip of open space that forms the urban section of the park, extending from the heart of the city and along the abandoned railroad track from the Khan Theater westwards. This green boulevard used for urban leisure and recreation: footpaths, pergolas, and seating areas.

**The main entrance with the intensive recreation section** will be developed between Teddy Stadium, En Yael and the Biblical Zoo. Open areas in this section will be upgraded and connected forming the entrance to the park, with an information kiosk, parking, lawns, cafés, and leisure and active recreation facilities, such as a large water sports facility and various shaded lookouts along the valley.

**The nature recreation section** in the western section of the park will be more natural, less intensively developed. The dry streambed will be the focus for development of additional wooded areas, roads, paths, and bridges. Visitors can enjoy traditional agricultural landscapes, and the series of springs in the area. Three springs – En Lavan, En Walaja, and Ein el Hanniya – will be restored and developed to suit the growing number of visitors.

”מי שלא ראה את ירושלים בתפארתה, לא ראה כרך נחמד מעולם”

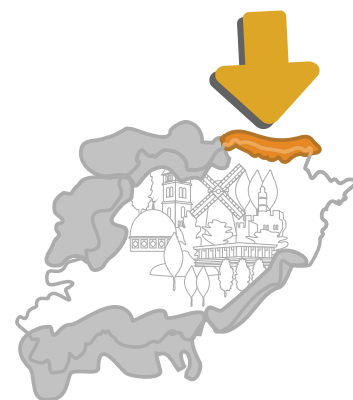
(סוכה 51, ב')

*Whoever did not see Jerusalem in its days of glory, never saw a beautiful city in their life*

(Talmud: Succah 51b)







## Tsofim & Tsurim Valley Parks

Tsofim Valley, the eastern section of Nahal Sorek Valley, is characterized by the KKL-JNF pine forests planted in the 1950s. Residents of the new neighborhoods north of Nahal Tsofim use the Valley for leisure and recreation. Development will include playgrounds, leisure corners, footpaths, and cycling trails. Forested areas will be less developed in order to protect local wildlife

Tsurim Valley lies between Mount Scopus and the Old City of Jerusalem. Steps leading down from the Hebrew University, offer beautiful views of the Temple Mount. The valley includes footpaths and the Jerusalem Ring Bicycle Trail will also pass through this section. The park extends over 43 acres (17 hectares) and includes some 350 olive trees and a few impressive Atlantic pistachios, about 1000 young fruit trees, ancient cisterns and a burial cave.

מעל פסגת הר הצופים

שלום לך ירושלים

(אביגדור המאירי)

*Above the peak of Mount Scopus...*

*peace to you, Jerusalem.*

(Avigdor HaMe'iri)





## Jerusalem – Facts & Figures

- Jerusalem is one of the oldest cities in the world.
- No other city has as many names in Hebrew – 105.
- Jerusalem is Israel's capital and the country's parliament (the *Knesset*), the Supreme Court and the residences of the President and Prime Minister of Israel.
- The municipal area of Jerusalem is 125 square kilometers; it is the largest city in Israel, both in population and in area. Every day some 110,000 vehicles enter Jerusalem.
- In 2007 the population of the Jerusalem Metropolitan Area was 889,300 – 67% Jews, 28% Moslems, 2% Christians and 1% non-denominational. Jerusalem's annual population growth rate was 2.2%.
- Jerusalem is 60 kilometers east of the Mediterranean Sea, and 35 kilometers west of the Dead Sea.
- Jerusalem has some 2000 archaeological sites.
- Jerusalemites are optimistic – 86% of the population is satisfied with their life and 58% are optimistic about the future – the highest rate in Israel.
- Jerusalem has the largest number of students (220,000) and the largest educational system in Israel.
- 385 new manufacturing plants were established in Jerusalem during the past 10 years.
- Jerusalem has 60 museums – the largest number in Israel.
- Jerusalem hosts about 30 festivals and cultural events yearly – the most in Israel.
- The average daily temperature in winter is 12°C and in summer 29°C.
- The longest street in Jerusalem is 6-km long Menachem Begin Boulevard; the shortest is 13-m long Chaldeans' Street.



## KKL-JNF Partnership Projects in Jerusalem

- Our Forests and Parks include: Gilo Park, HaTsofim Forest, Amminadav Forest, Peace Forest, Ramot Forest, Yad Kennedy and Ir Ganim Park
- Afforestation and Development around Jerusalem: Begin Park, Rabin Park and Sataf
- Community Forests in Jerusalem: Jerusalem Forest, Pisgat Ze'ev-Neve Ya'akov Forest
- Traditional Agriculture Restoration: Sataf
- Projects in Cooperation with the Hebrew University: The Giv'at Ram Botanical Garden, The Mt. Scopus Botanical Garden, Support for research projects
- Heritage Sites: Ammunition Hill
- Housing Infrastructure Projects for Olim (new immigrants)
- Green Development and Educational Activity in Learning Institutions
- Development of Public Areas
- Landscaping in National Institutions: Official Presidential Residence Beautification





# The Jerusalem Ring

## A Green Park for the Golden City



### A Ring of Nature

The Jerusalem Ring will preserve and develop 1500 hectares of open space surrounding the capital on three sides – north, west, and south.



### A Ring of Heritage

The Jerusalem Ring will renovate and recreate the unique farming methods that were developed centuries ago in the hills around the city.



### A Ring of Recreation

The Jerusalem Ring will provide playgrounds and active leisure areas for families and children from the surrounding neighborhoods and throughout the city.



### A Ring of Sport

The Jerusalem Ring will include a circular cycling path around the entire city of Jerusalem, passing through urban and natural landscapes. Footpaths, sports facilities, and outdoor gyms will foster a culture of fitness.



### A Ring of Flora and Fauna

The Jerusalem Ring will cherish and preserve the plants and wildlife that have flourished in the area. Gazelles and owls will thrive again; wildflowers will bloom.



### A Ring of Hope

The Jerusalem Ring will embrace all who use it: residents of the city and the surrounding communities and visitors from near and far; secular, religious, and Haredim; Jews and Arabs; people with special needs; toddlers and senior citizens.

Visit us at

[www.kkl.org.il](http://www.kkl.org.il)



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Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael  
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