

**Draft Programme// Guided Visits along the River Piles – EU Green Week 2026****Ayuntamiento de Gijón (Gijón City Council) – Concejalía de Medio Ambiente (Environment department)**

As part of EU Green Week 2026, the Ayuntamiento de Gijón – Concejalía de Medio Ambiente will organise a series of guided visits along the River Piles, recently restored through the PRTR-funded project *PILES Natural*. This initiative highlights how investing in nature can improve biodiversity, enhance urban ecosystems, and create more liveable cities for residents and visitors.

The guided visits will allow participants to discover the ecological transformation of the river corridor and learn about the nature-based solutions that have been applied to restore the river environment, improve water quality, and promote biodiversity in an urban setting. During the visits, participants will also use the newly developed *Guide to Plants and Birds of the River Piles*, created to raise awareness and encourage citizens to connect with local nature.

**Programme Overview**

**Location:** River Piles, Gijón

**Duration of each visit:** Approximately 2 hours

**Number of visits:** 4 guided visits during June 2026

**Dates:** To be announced (May 2026)

**Capacity:** Maximum 20 participants per visit

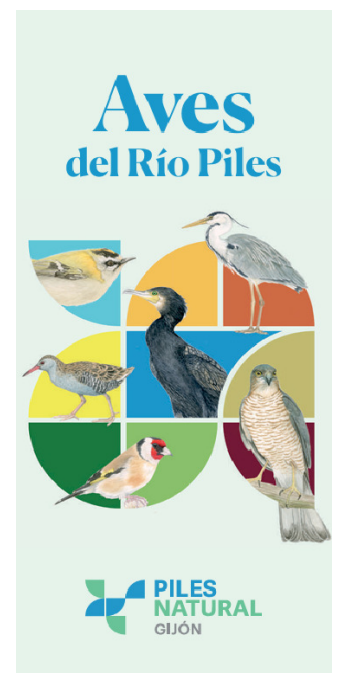
**Participation:** Free of charge, prior registration required

**Structure of Each Guided Visit (approx. 2 hours)****Welcome and Introduction (15 minutes)**

Participants will be welcomed by environmental educators, who will introduce the objectives of the activity and the *PILES Natural* restoration project. The link with the EU Green Week 2026 theme “Investing in nature” will also be presented.

**Guided Walk along the River Corridor (95 minutes)**

Participants will follow an accessible walking route along the restored section of the River Piles. Throughout



the entire tour, environmental educators will use the *Guide to Plants and Birds of the River Piles* to support the explanations and help participants identify species directly on site.

During the walk, participants will learn about:

- the ecological transformation of the river;
- the nature-based solutions applied in the restoration process;
- improvements in water quality and habitat conditions;
- the return of native plant and bird species;
- the importance of protecting urban biodiversity and natural habitats.

### **Closing and Questions (10 minutes)**

The visit will end with a short discussion, an opportunity for questions, and an invitation to continue exploring and protecting the natural spaces of the city.

### **Planned Visits (Dates to be confirmed)**

- Guided Visit 1 – June 2026 (date to be announced)
- Guided Visit 2 – June 2026 (date to be announced)
- Guided Visit 3 – June 2026 (date to be announced)
- Guided Visit 4 – June 2026 (date to be announced)

### **Objectives of the Event**

The guided visits aim to:

- raise awareness about the benefits of investing in nature in urban areas;
- present the results of the *PILES Natural* restoration project;
- promote environmental education and citizen participation;
- encourage the protection of urban biodiversity and natural habitats.

Through these guided visits, Gijón aims to demonstrate how local investment in nature contributes to climate resilience, biodiversity protection, and community well-being, fully aligned with the EU Green Week 2026 theme *“Investing in nature.”*