



1. Site plan: Cut-and-fill techniques were used to transform the urban dumping ground into a forest over the lake that has a regulating capacity of 1.0 million cubic meters of water, provides bird habitat, improves water quality and creates a pleasant landscape for recreation



2. The 126-acre site is a former fish farm originally carved from a lake, about 30% of which was a dumping ground for coal<sup>2</sup> ash from power plants throughout the city. The water is polluted. Monsoon floods occur annually.



**3.** In just three years and at a modest budget, the former urban dump and abandoned fish farm was transformed into a floating forest providing holistic ecosystems services, and has become one of the most-visited urban parks in the region.



4. Inspired by the ancient concept of farming atop marshes, and Chinampa-style floating gardens, the coal ash dumped on the site was recycled and mixed with fill from the fish pond dykes to create a lake with numerous islets. 4



5. Tree species adapted to fluctuating water levels were selected, including *Taxodium distichum* , *Taxodium distichum* var. *imbricatum* and *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, which have a beautiful fall color



6. A network of boardwalk and platforms offers visitors an immersive contact with nature, which can be submerged during 20-year flood events and annual monsoon floods, which render the central part of the park inaccessible for several days. 6



07. The lake with floating forest is able to accommodate two meters (6.5 feet) of water-level rise, providing the capacity to catch a full 1 million cubic meters of storm water inflow.



**08.** Visitors of all ages have embraced the opportunity for a new kind of immersive natural experience. The boardwalk and platforms are made of prefabricated concrete detached from ground so they can be easily washed clean after being submerged during flooding.





Dry season



Monsoon season



**09.** Various species of emergent, floating and underwater plants that are adapted to large water-level fluctuations are planted around the edges of the islets and cover the otherwise muddy shorelines during the dry season.



10. The islets and abundant flora and fauna make the park an ideal habitat for many different kinds of birds (note numerous birds in the sky in this photo) —and an inviting refuge for the citizens of Nanchang, as well.



11. The aerial view of one bridge in a contemporary style that lends the park and the more-than-2,000-year-old city a modern, progressive taste. It also offer vantage point for bird watching and vistas of the floating forest over water



12. Bridges, platforms, pavilions and viewing towers are carefully positioned to provide attractive focal points. Their contemporary design helps the park bring a modern taste and sense of progress to the ancient city.



13. One of the platforms floating over water, built in a contemporary style with perforated aluminum plate, which creates an arresting contrast with the “messy” natural surroundings.



14 A bike route and service road follow the park's periphery. The waterfront at the periphery of the park, meanwhile, is designed to accommodate 20-year floods and provide a zone that can meet the recreational needs of the local population, and includes natural playgrounds, beaches, fountains and lawns.



15 At the main entrance, an overpass is integrated with an art gallery and cafeteria, providing a day and night attraction. At the end of the overpass is a pavilion overlooking Aixi Lake offering a sweeping vantage of the city's skyline



16. Fish Tail Park offers a replicable model of designed nature that can address multiple challenges of floods, habitat restoration and recreational demands. It has helped give Nanchang's New District a distinct identity, and has become a catalyst for urban development.