

44. IAD Tagung Krems, Exkursion LIFE-Projekte Wachau

Date : 08. February 2023
 Starting point : Karl Landsteiner Universität, Dr.-Karl-Dorrek-Straße 30, 3500 Krems / Donau
 Participants : approx. 50 persons

Schedule:

Travel from KL University Krems → to Rossatz , parking place Mettenerplatz Travel time: 15 min	09.00 - 9.30
Visit of project LIFE+ Auenwildnis Wachau (Access to the side branch and circuit) approx. 2 hours	09.30 - 11:30
Continue to Schallemmersdorf with a view of the Aggsbach-Dorf old branch and the Schönbühel side branch. Distribution of lunch packages Travel time: 15 min	11:30 - 12:15
Visit side branch System Schallemmersdorf-Grimsing (Visit side branch Schallemmersdorf and walk to side branch Grimsing inkl. beautiful view of Schönbühel Castle) Approx. 1 1/4 hours	12: 15 - 13:30
Travel to Loisium/Langenlois Loisium 60 min	13:30 - 14:30
Loisium Langenlois Wine tasting and tour of the wine cellar Approx. 90 min	14: 30 - 16:00
Return to Krems 30 min	16:00 - 16:30



Karte Rossatz. Zugang zum Nebenarm.

LIFE+ Auenwildnis Wachau - brief info

Before the Danube was regulated in the 19th century, its course was divided into numerous side branches and islands. Flat gravel banks were found on one side and riparian banks shaped by erosion on the other. By regulating the Danube, the side branches were cut off, the banks were fixed and the watercourse monotonized. Since 2003, measures to reconnect side branches and restore river banks have been implemented in the Wachau with the help of the EU funded LIFE program. The latest project realized here is LIFE+ Auenwildnis Wachau opposite Dürnstein.

The core of the project is the optimization and expansion of the side branch system near Rührsdorf/Rossatz on the right-hand side of the Danube. A new side branch was created with a length of more than 1.6 km. This resulted in a side-branch system of more than 5 km in total. A flood basin in the Pritzenau, meanwhile the third connection to the Danube, brings fresh water into the system. Natural flat and steep banks can develop and wave protected habitats are available to the fish fauna. The accompanying alluvial forest was ecologically improved by fighting neophytes and extensive planting measures.

Additional measures for amphibians (> 50 spawning waters), white-tailed eagles (nest protection zones, 6 artificial nests), black poplar (planting of >5000 specimen) and for old trees (contractual protection of >300 old trees) were implemented throughout the Wachau. With the islands of Pritzenau and Schönbühler Insel, a total of more than 60 hectares of nature reserves with undisturbed alluvial wilderness were created.



LIFE+ Auenwildnis Wachau

LIFE+ River habitat Mostviertel – Wachau Sidebranch system Schallemmersdorf- brief info

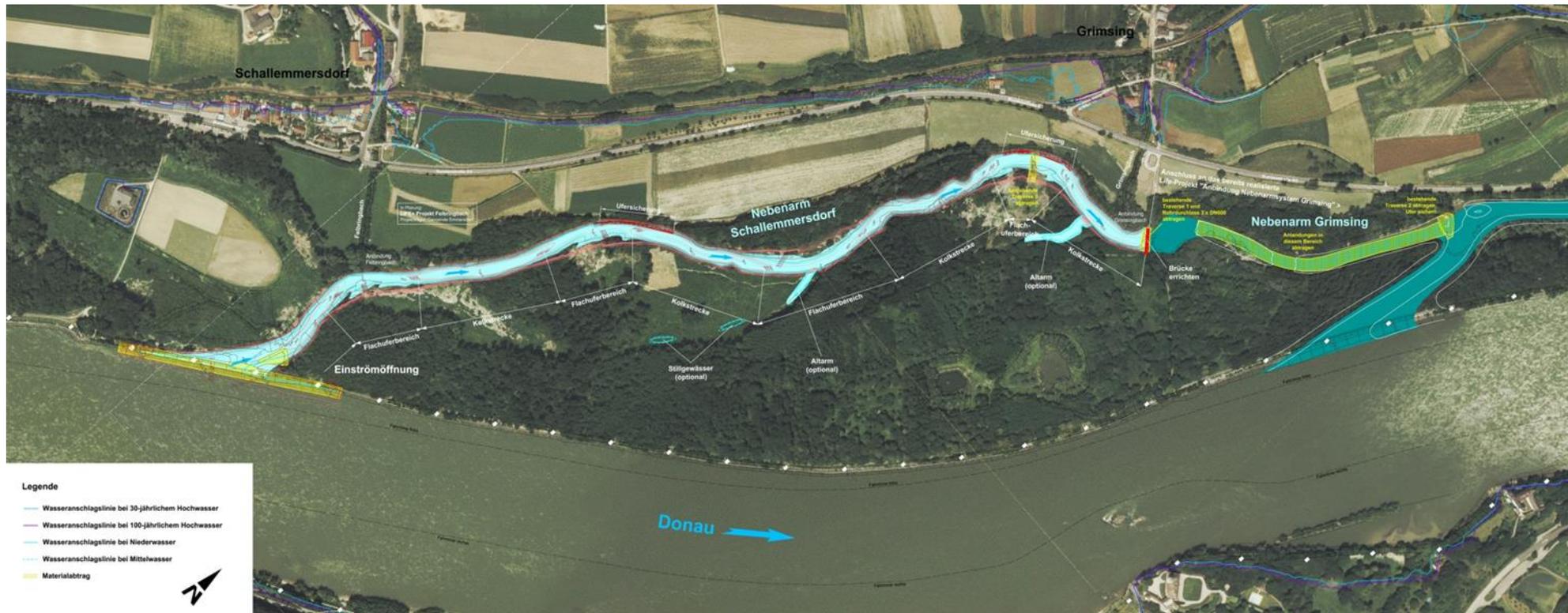
The project area is located in the Wachau, about 5 km downstream from Melk, on the left riverbank of the Danube between Schallemmersdorf and Grimling (Danube River- km 2033.4 - 2031.2).

As key measures in the course of the LIFE project some existing sidearm- remains on a stretch of approx. 2.2 km were reinforced in order to create habitat for young and spawning fish, wintering areas for adult fish as well as water bodies that are protected from ship induced wave impacts. Together with the former LIFE project Grimling a 4 km-long side-branch system was created. Three traverses had to be removed along the new side branch Schallemmersdorf. To ensure the accessibility of the enclosed alluvial forest a drivable bridge was constructed.

The side-branch system shows year-round flow even in low water periods with a dynamic sequence of fords and pools. This is an important habitat for rheophilic fish species. Additionally 2 oxbow lakes were created for fish species that avoid strong current.

The riverbanks are naturally structured (flat gravel banks, creeks, steep banks) as potential nesting habitat for gravel and steep wall breeders as well as spawning grounds for fish. The inflow area was originally opened with a width of 180 m, but after a big flood event in year 2013 a large-scale erosion has occurred, which widened the opening significantly.

As additional measures also two spawning waters for amphibians and one wildlife refuge were built. As compensation for the necessary clearings (approx. 0.58 ha permanent clearing, approx. 2.7 ha temporary clearing) some reforestation measures have been implemented along the stream of Felbring.



Side branch system Schallemmersdorf