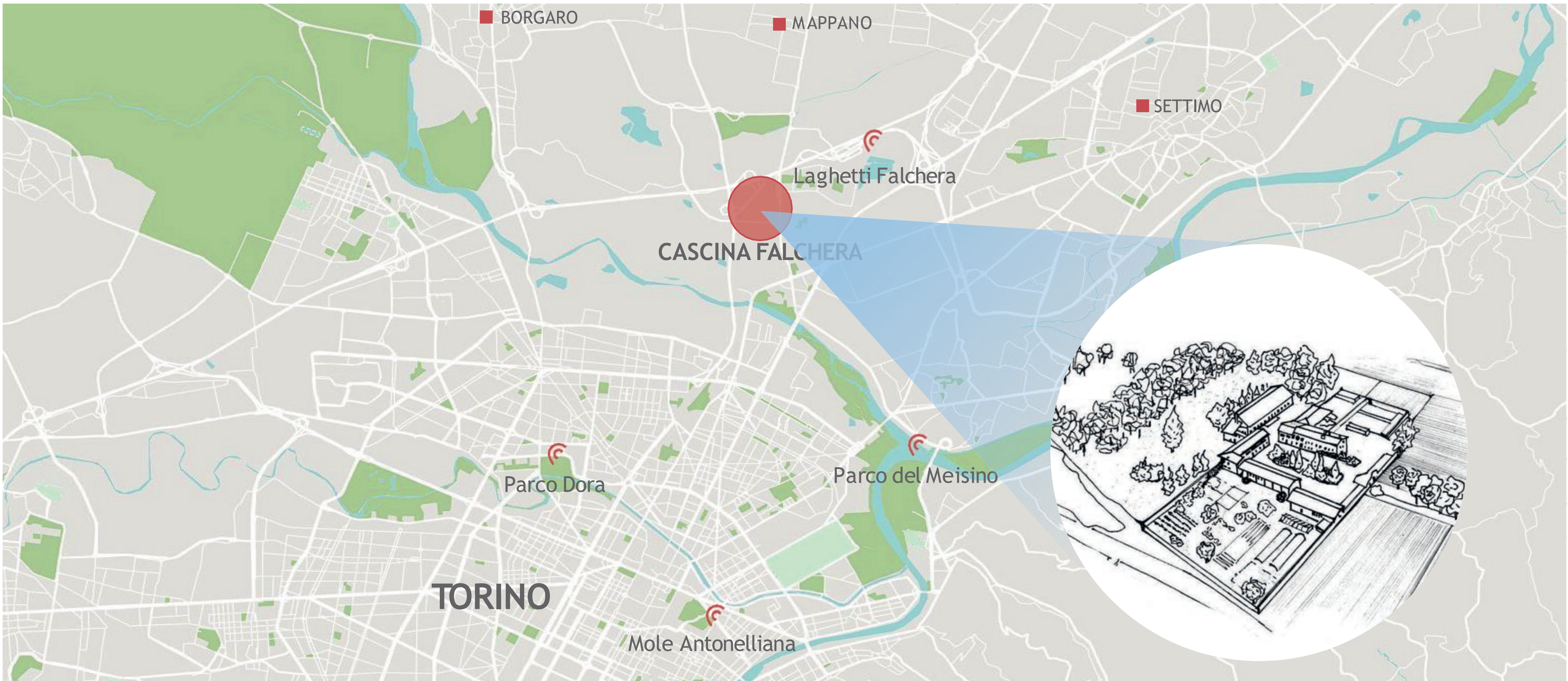


# Cascina Falchera

- a place for educational and agricultural experimentation, a hub of social innovation

## map/location



### Demographics and No. of inhabitants

Cascina Falchera is located within the Falchera neighborhood of north Turin. The neighborhood (about 8,000 inhabitants), located in the territory of District 6, consists of two settlements: "Falchera Vecchia," whose development dates back to the 1950s, and "Falchera Nuova," built in the 1970s. In the area there is a strip of ponds and artificial lakes to be reclaimed.

In 1999, in order to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants and change the negative image of the neighborhood, a process of local participatory development was initiated aimed at encouraging the sharing of social and urban planning actions through the active presence of local stakeholders. The Social Table, formed by associations and entities active in the area, gave birth to the Falchera Development Committee, a body that annually plans and implements a program of activities (events, information desk, socio-cultural initiatives) supported by the City.

### When was the area built?

The period in which the most important spread of farmsteads occurred in the area was between the 18th and 19th centuries, as an effect of the emerging capitalist organization of cultivation and animal husbandry, as the structure of farmsteads was particularly suited to a rationalization of agricultural production. It is likely that in 1701 the Falchero brothers had purchased a piece of common land.

In the late 19th century, the Falchera area was a predominantly rural area, dotted with agricultural and pastoral land and a fair number of farmhouses as Cascina Falchera. After the second world war, the area has undergone a change, one of the most prominent project in the post-war architectural and urban panorama in Turin designed by the architect Giovanni Astengo. The suburb, built between 1952 and 1954, stood apart from the rest of the city, with a series of three-storey blocks of flats with characteristic red brick facades.

Land surface	139.000 m²
Plant surface	10.500 m²
Park surface	55.200 m²
Agricultural surface	73.300 m²
Built area	3.600 m²
Number of buildings	7
PRGC Historical Value	Group 4 (Buildings of documentary value) Declaration of cultural interest
Energy sources	Electrical and gasolio
Ownership	Public. The property is owned by the Municipality of Turin.
Partners	L'iberitutti, Crescere Insieme, Ecosol s.c.s. Ass. Damamar, Rete ONG, Ass. Impollinatori metropolitani University of Turin (Agricultural, Veterinary) Leroy Merlin, Rigeneriamo
Site representative	Consorzio Kairos

## the site

In 2020, after years of stop, Cascina Falchera has been granted by Consorzio KAIROS with the aim to transform the place into a green-oriented hub for the local community not only of Falchera but of the city of Turin and surroundings areas.

Cascina consists of several buildings including: an active guesthouse where asylum-seeking families are hosted, several classrooms for educational activities, a conference hall and offices. The facility also is a shelter for several animals for the educational farm and a synergistic vegetable garden. An agreement to open a food court is in progress. To date, the site hosts educational activities from 0 to 13 years old, indoor and outdoor..



In 1996 the City of Turin transformed Cascina Falchera in a Cultural Centre for Environmental and Agricultural Education, an educational farm with a breeding and cultivation area, a food processing workshop, multifunctional and recreational areas and a meeting room.



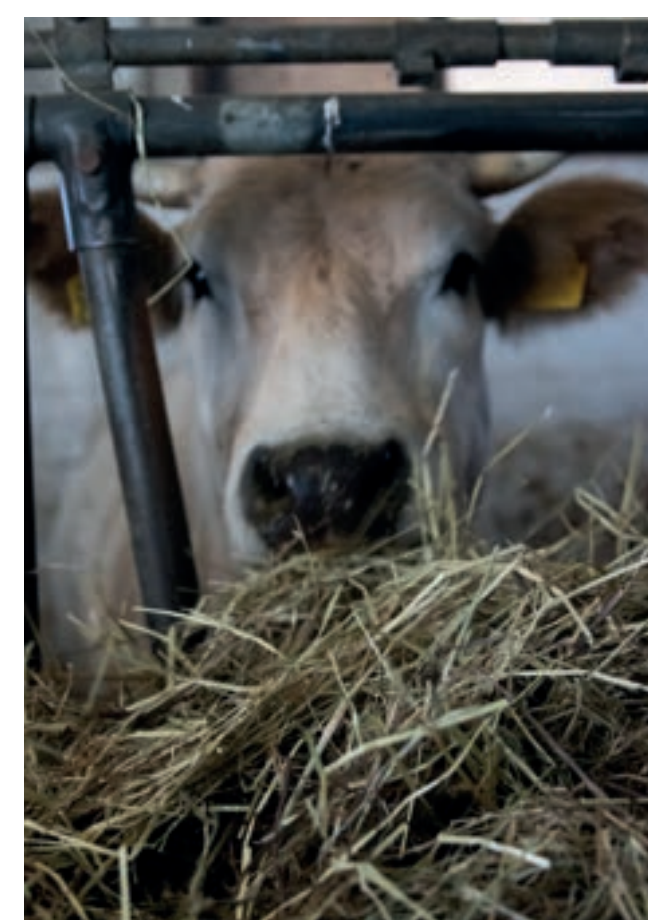
Consorzio Kairos wants to continue keeping this function because citizens are demanding that the facility return to being the educational landmark of the city. However, it is important that tradition will be combined with a more innovative and sustainable vision.



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## site characteristics



The Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities declared for the Cascina Falchera the recognition of cultural interest. This aspect is certainly a value but it is also a bureaucratic limitation that does not allow flexibility and speed of action. Indeed, a new governance concept is under construction to regulate public-private partnerships.

The challenge has connected with the long-standing work of the City of Turin started in the late 90s to invest in suburban areas and promote a collaborative management use of the public spaces.

Moreover, the water management system is central because Consorzio Kairos wants to innovate the traditional system of "bealere" (small streams of water that bordered the farmsteads in Piemonte) used to irrigate fields by the flooding method. It is necessary to modify them so that water collection and distribution is more efficient and sustainable.

## vision

Falchera is characterized as an area of high social disadvantage with different targets living in a condition of marginality and hardship. The main challenge is to transform the Falchera area under an idea of circularity in terms of social, economic and environmental sustainability. This circular approach will be reached through three fields:

- regeneration of Falchera lands to improve landscaping and quality of the life, with particular reference to those lands part of the agricultural rural management of the soil implemented in different area of the district.
- high-tech renovation of Cascina Falchera by restoring the ancient splendor of the eighteenth century farmhouse in a modern key that combines environmental sustainability (e.g. solar panels, geothermal heating systems) with the innovative use of technology to support community building and redesign of the spaces in the local community.
- space for nature by designing new green and environmental friendly areas (e.g. bio lakes) to support local biodiversity and improve the connection of the community with water and water management systems still existing from the ancient age in the Po Valley.

The main actions and approaches foresee are:

- Consultations and call to action to involve citizens in the collaborative creation of the new Falchera.
- Blended educational pathways to rediscover Falchera and the role of water in this area for people, communities and biodiversity.
- Creation of an Action Plan to stimulate the regeneration and relaunching of Cascina Falchera area under the principle of the New European Bauhaus.
- Capacity building for civil society players to secure multiplier actions and create high-impact actions.
- Renovation actions on Cascina Falchera to support the transition from a rural farmhouse to a modern green-oriented and digital friendly local hub that is also able to valorize its ancient history.
- Regeneration actions such as the creation of sustainable bicycle route to discover Falchera, the restoration of part of the ancient water management system of the Po Valley still in place in the area, designing of bottom up project to water management system to support urban gardening and biodiversity sustainable practices (e.g. for pollinators or for migration's birds).

## future activities timeline