

Al Warsan Lake: The Creation of a Bird Sanctuary



Al Warsan Lake situated next to International City, is a wetland that has been created by taking high quality treated effluent from the nearby Al Awir treatment plant and putting it into a disused quarry. As well as becoming home to various species of plants, mammals, fish and reptiles, the lake is now frequented by at least 186 bird species, which is roughly 44% of the total numbers of species of bird known to occur in the UAE.

Nakheel is spearheading the effort to protect and conserve the Al Warsan Lake by having it recognised as an internationally important wetland under the Ramsar Convention. In order to encourage the environment to further thrive, as well as to help educate both locals and visitors to the UAE about the region's unique environment, Nakheel will develop the Al Warsan Lake into a Bird Sanctuary.

The development of the Al Warsan Lake Bird Sanctuary will offer people the opportunity to view and study more than 186 different bird species that now visit this unique wetland. The Lake Preservation Project has identified 11 different habitats, which they are looking to promote. Plans for the Bird Sanctuary include bird observation points, education projects and aviaries; a night lighting system for the birds, indigenous plant species, and a water treatment plant (with a capacity of about 4000/5000 cubic m of water a day).