

## Mexico, Mexico City: Contaminated oil refinery turned into urban park with a million visitors a year

For fifty-eight years, an oil refinery in Mexico City's urban core spewed lead, benzene, and heavy metals into the air, contributing to the capital's former reputation as the most polluted city on the planet. The grounds of the refinery were saturated with toxins meters below surface and the groundwater was contaminated. Working with the corporate sector, universities and industry, the Government of Mexico successfully remediated the area and today, the site is one of Mexico City's most beloved parks.

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<b>Location</b>	Mexico City, Mexico
<b>Pollutant</b>	Heavy metals, lead, benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) and more
<b>Source</b>	Obsolete, abandoned oil refinery
<b>Population affected</b>	Entire population of Mexico City at the time (approx. 9 million)
<b>Health and environmental impacts</b>	Pollution of groundwater, air quality decline,
<b>Intervention</b>	Site remediation; treating contaminated groundwater and soil, removing hazardous waste, constructing a barrier to contain future effects of contamination.
<b>Outcome</b>	The site has been successfully remediated and converted into a park enjoyed by over million visitors each year.
<b>Co-benefits</b>	Positive impact on economic, recreational and commercial activities. Education of seniors, school groups and university students in the technical aspects of contaminated site remediation as well as identifying local flora. Several species of birds have returned, the market value of the land around the park has increased.
<b>Partners</b>	Mexican Petroleum Institute, National Polytechnic Institute, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Universidad Autónoma del Carmen, Autonomous University of Coahuila, Autonomous University of Nuevo León, Autonomous University of Puebla, Autonomous University of San Luis Potosi, Agricultural Technological Institute of Oaxaca, Technological Institute of Ciudad Madero, Graduate College Campus Puebla, Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the IPN, University of Waterloo (Canada), Environmental Züblin (Mexico), Züblin Umwelttechnik GMBH (Germany), Remediation Service International (USA), SERPOL (France).