

Canal port

*Bellaria Igea Marina Città del dono,
gemellata con Doubravcice (Rep. Ceca)*



Città di
Bellaria Igea Marina

Bellaria Igea Marina



Welcome to Emilia-Romagna, in the heart of Italy.

A region nestled between the Apennine Mountains and the Po River, overlooking the Adriatic Sea in the Mediterranean. It boasts a productive landscape and no fewer than 330 towns and cities. With a rich and complex history that dates to ancient times, Emilia-Romagna is a crossroads of cultures, a land of unparalleled charm, stretching from plains to mountains, and home to immense artistic treasures.

Along the coast, where seaside tourism is synonymous with hospitality, well-being, culinary tradition, and entertainment, Bellaria Igea Marina lies the Province of Rimini.

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1956 Birth of the municipality

Description of the municipality

Getting to know Bellaria Igea Marina

Bellaria Igea Marina (covering an area of 18.28 km², with a population density of 1,067.78 inhabitants per km², seismic zone 2, and an elevation of 3 meters above sea level) only became an independent municipality in 1956, following years of resistance from Rimini, which had long opposed its autonomy. This independence was the result of a plebiscite by citizens from five localities all formerly part of the municipality of Rimini: Bellaria Monte, Bellaria Centro, Cagnona, Igea, and Bordonchio. United by a strong sense of identity and the belief that self-governance would lead to greater inclusion in decision-making and stronger social cohesion, they chose to pursue their own path.

Our motto is “Viresque acquirit eundo” (“It gains strength as it goes”), and our colors are white and light blue. The patron saint of Bellaria Igea Marina is Saint Apollonia, whose feast day has been celebrated on February 9 since ancient times. The celebration once centered around a grand dance attended by young people from all over the area, accompanied by a popular saying: “Chi vuol vedere le belle di Bellaria, venga alla fiera di Santa Apollonia, portano la barga” (“Whoever wants to see the prettier girls of Bellaria, come to the fair of Saint Apollonia, they wear the petticoat lace”). Today, the celebrations last nearly a week, with the town center coming alive with music, shows, concerts, markets, food stalls, cultural events and exhibitions.

Located at the southern edge of the Po Valley, Bellaria Igea Marina experiences some influence from the region’s climate. Facing the northern Adriatic, the town sits at the crossroads between Mediterranean and temperate continental climates. Summers are very warm, yet consistently breezy and with little rain, while winters bear the typical characteristics of the Po Valley. Most rainfall occurs in spring and autumn. Winters can be quite cold due to exposure to harsh Balkan occasionally even Siberian’s air currents, which can bring snow and frost, especially when the Buran wind dominates.

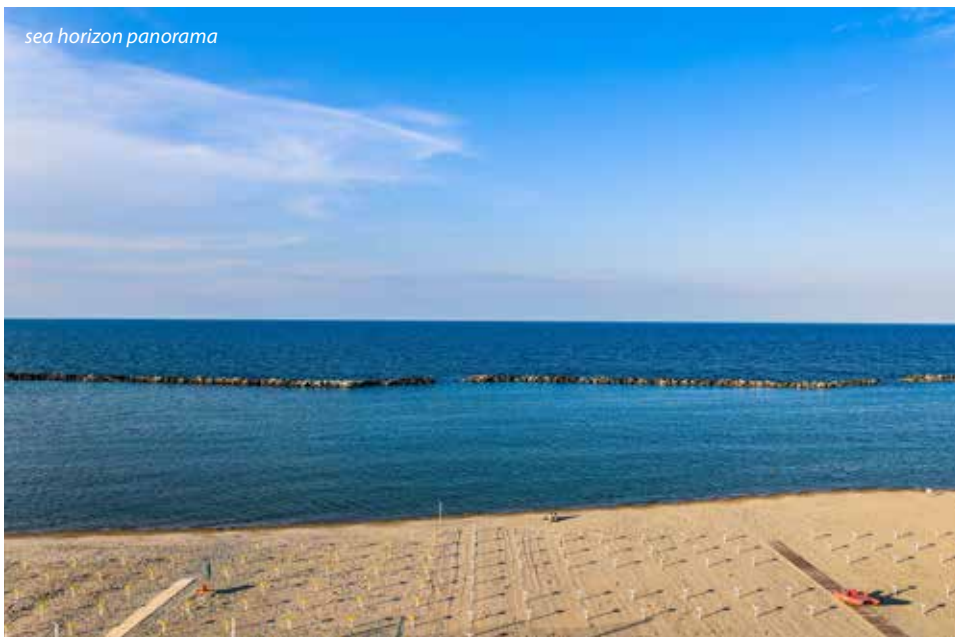
Commercial activity is spread throughout the town, especially concentrated north of the Uso River. The southern part, aside from the coastal area with hotels and former summer camps, includes the neighborhoods of Belverde and Bordonchio. These, like Cagnona in the north, are characterized by modern residential developments and horticultural/viticultural areas.

The town has two historical urban centers: Bellaria, with ancient roots and signs of Roman-era settlements, and especially Bordonchio, where a Roman villa was discovered rich in valuable mosaics and evidence of a former horse relay station located at the junction of the Via Romea and Via Popilia. More recent developments include the district of Igea Marina, founded in 1905 by urban planner and physician Vittorio Belli, who is considered the father of this area as we know it today.

The context in which modern-day Bellaria Igea Marina was born and developed is that of a small fishing and farming village, which, over the past century, evolved into a solid tourism-based economy. As early as the beginning of the 20th century, it became a holiday destination for wealthy families from Emilia and Lombardy, who built their “villas by the sea” here. This marked the beginning of a journey that, especially after World War II, steered the local economy decisively toward the hospitality sector. At the same time, the community’s cultural heritage was enriched by encounters and cross-cultural influences, which brought new energy, ideas, and experiences to the lives of its residents.

Today, Bellaria Igea Marina is a prestigious coastal tourist destination, renowned both nationally and internationally. It boasts a rich historical legacy and offers a wide range of services for visitors, developed along seven kilometers of coastline. In 2015, it was officially granted the title of “City” in recognition of its notable historical traditions, valuable heritage, and unique features that make it a significant center within the regional landscape.

sea horizon panorama



As for the pace of life, Bellaria Igea Marina continues to follow a seasonal rhythm, with a clear distinction between the bustling spring-summer period and the slower, quieter autumn-winter months. During the warmer seasons, many residents are actively involved in tourism-related activities, while the colder months are marked by a more relaxed daily routine. This “slower” time of year also nurtures pursuits such as education, cultural engagement, and political participation, as well as a vibrant volunteer spirit. Volunteerism is a point of pride for the town, with hundreds of citizens involved in associations and welfare.

This annual cycle, though distinctive, is shared by many coastal towns in the region, even those as sizable as Bellaria Igea Marina. In recent years, however, the city has begun investing in policies, resources, and ideas aimed at moving beyond the limitations of seasonal tourism. This shift is being supported by several sectors, including the growth of the events and convention industry, as well as investments in culture and traditions celebrated throughout all the year. Among the most notable are the Christmas and New Year’s festivities, which Bellaria Igea Marina has turned into a large, open-air celebration that has become one of the most popular events in the province. These holidays have effectively become a true tourism product, attracting an ever-growing number of Italian families who travel during the winter holidays.

In addition to New Year’s and the celebration of the town’s patron saint, other significant annual events include Valentine’s Day and, between February and March, the Premio Panzini gala evening. Established in 2013, the Panzini Award is the city’s highest honor, created to recognize the individual and collective achievements of those from Bellaria Igea Marina who have distinguished themselves in the arts or in their professions, bringing prestige to the city.

Another cultural highlight is the local theatre season, typically held from autumn through spring. It is currently curated by the startup Approdi, under the artistic direction of Sergio Caneto. The season is designed to attract a wide and diverse audience, offering a space for dialogue at the Teatro Astra where experimentation, authorship, and popular culture intersect. The lineup features a mix of innovative theatre companies and lighter comedies, all centered on powerful stories of extraordinary men and women. The program reflects the flexible and inclusive nature of the Astra theatre, which also hosts film screenings, school matinées, and youth theatre performances.





scorcio evento Bellaria Film Festival 2025



artistic sand nativity scene christmas 2024

Bellaria Igea Marina and its future the strategic plan

“BIM 2040 – Let’s build it together” is the slogan of the ambitious Strategic Plan launched in 2021, a vision-oriented roadmap designed to guide the organic development of Bellaria Igea Marina in the coming decades under urbanistic, social, economic, cultural, educational and touristic terms. At its launch, Mayor Filippo Giorgetti introduced it with these words:

“We must have the courage to think twenty or thirty years ahead, moving beyond the paradigms of our time and looking toward this horizon with the eyes of tomorrow’s adults. This is not an urban planning tool, nor the policy manifesto of a political group, nor the product of any single municipal administration or electoral mandate: in both its origin and its long-term scope—twenty years or more—this plan reaches beyond the limits of a two, three, or even ten-year perspective.”

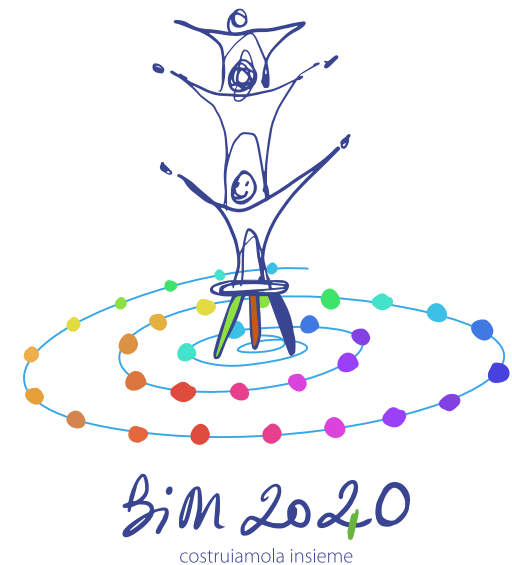
The symbolic cornerstone of the Strategic Plan was laid during an event held at the Fornace: an old brickworks site that, following initial safety and restoration efforts, is now at the heart of a highly ambitious regeneration project aimed at returning this remarkable example of industrial archaeology to the community.

Over the years, the Strategic Plan has actively involved the children and youth of Bellaria Igea Marina, who contributed their ideas alongside input from business associations and adolescent working groups. These groups engaged with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda, reinterpreting them in a local context and identifying the issues they consider most vital for the city’s future.

The driving forces behind BIM 2040 are well represented by its symbolic image: a spiral, an emblem of continuity through space and time, formed by small spheres that represent individual places, actions, and moments in civic life. This spiral supports a three-legged stool representing sustainability, which, in Bellaria Igea Marina’s future, is not limited to ecological concerns but also encompasses economic and social dimensions.

To support this vision, the project is backed by a solid and authoritative organizational structure, drawing on expertise from a wide range of fields. The coordinating team, working closely with municipal departments, includes respected professionals from finance, tourism, medicine, and culture.

Environmental sustainability is a key pillar of the plan’s mission. Core initiatives include traffic mapping, the PAESC (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan), and detailed maps of green spaces and areas of urban neglect, all aimed at shaping a more livable, forward-looking, and resilient Bellaria Igea Marina.





Institutions, public order, local healthcare, and tourist information

Bellaria Igea Marina hosts a wide array of institutional and public safety services that reflect its size and strategic importance. The Carabinieri station, established with the creation of the autonomous municipality in 1956, has operated from a newly constructed facility since 2020. The Harbour Office (Capitaneria di Porto) is located in the former municipal slaughterhouse: an historic building that has been fully renovated and repurposed. The city is also home to its own Local Police department, a summer outpost of the Fire Brigade, a Community Health Centre (CAU), and a seasonal tourist medical service, ensuring timely and accessible healthcare for residents and visitors alike.

Bellaria Igea Marina is green: out of almost 19 kmq of municipal territory, 12 are affected by non-urbanized agricultural areas.

Despite its evolution into a major tourist destination, Bellaria Igea Marina has retained strong agricultural roots. The local economy continues to include the cultivation of cereals (particularly wheat), forage, vegetables, orchards, and vineyards. Livestock farming is also practiced, including cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, horses, and poultry. Fishing remains widespread, alongside aquaculture and shellfish farming.

The productive fabric is diverse, featuring companies operating in the food, construction, textile, electronics, metalworking, wood, glass, plastics, shipbuilding, and energy distribution sectors. Artisan industries also flourish, including furniture makers, printing presses, jewelers, goldsmiths, and bicycle manufacturers; One of the most important, speaking about employment too, is "Istituto Giordano", cutting-edge research center in the field of technical certifications.

The tertiary sector is well-developed, consisting of a dynamic retail network, financial institutions, and IT consultancy services. Nevertheless, tourism remains the cornerstone of the local economy, with hundreds of accommodation facilities (many of which now offer stand-alone restaurant services), camping establishments and beach resorts, contributing to over 2.2 million annual tourist stays.

Two major venues support the city's events and conference industry: the Tourism Palace (Pa-

lazzo del Turismo) and the centrally located Palacongressi, now under municipal management. The latter features highly flexible spaces with rooms ranging from 30 to 1,200 seats, ideal for exhibitions, business events, and cultural gatherings.

From a social services standpoint, Bellaria Igea Marina offers two retirement homes (one of recent construction), a rehabilitation center, and a range of community hubs providing educational and support programs. These include the Kas8 Youth Center, the recently established Family Center, and the Alta Marea Social Center for senior citizens. The city also hosts a network of summer camps capable of accommodating approximately 800 children aged 3 to 14 throughout the summer months.

The educational system is organized under a single Comprehensive Institute, providing education until middle school. Notably, the city has welcomed its first secondary school, a branch of a hotel management institute, operating successfully for the past three years.

Cultural infrastructure includes the Alfredo Panzini Public Library, the Municipal School of Music, the Vittorio Belli Cultural Center, the Saracen Tower with attached museum, the Casa Rossa Museum (dedicated to Alfredo Panzini), the Noi Museum and the Teatro Astra, which also screens films and hosts youth theatre.

Named European City of Sport in 2011, Bellaria Igea Marina continues to offer outstanding opportunities for physical activity, supported by well-maintained facilities and a vibrant community sports network. Residents and visitors can enjoy sailing, windsurfing, stand-up paddleboarding, sea and lake sport fishing, football, basketball, volleyball, tennis, padel, running, minimoto racing, and fitness training in parks. A signature sport is beach volleyball, with tournaments and gatherings attracting over 12,000 participants on the city's beaches. In general, sport is seen and considered in Bellaria Igea Marina not only as the correct way to take care of our body, but also as an important support at the tourism economy

Bellaria Igea Marina has also been the launching ground for many notable sports figures, particularly in football. Among those with ties to the city are Arrigo Sacchi, Gastone Bean, Fausto Pari, Maurizio Neri, and most recently, Mattia Zaccagni.



stand up paddle SUP in the Bellaria Igea Marina water mirror



Budget, resources, and redevelopment projects in Bellaria Igea Marina

Since 2019, Bellaria Igea Marina has pursued a long-term, comprehensive approach to urban development. The city administration made a strategic choice: to prioritize organic, forward-looking planning over short-term or fragmented interventions. This vision has influenced all sectors (culture, sport, tourism, the environment, public works, and welfare) fostering a coherent model of growth focused on sustainability, inclusivity, and quality of life.

This planning ethos has enabled the implementation of landmark projects awaited for decades, alongside the successful acquisition of significant public funding. Key achievements include:

- The new seafront promenade, later dedicated to Raffaella Carrà.
- The extension of the south-east dock, laying the groundwork for a potential tourist port.
- The bypass road, which revolutionized the city's southern access route.
- The first school with an adjacent gymnasium built in the last 40 years.
- The restoration and transformation of the former Fornace into a vibrant community space.
- The new community health center, which will double the city's public healthcare capacity.

Strategic Investments and Funding (2019–2024)

The city's development has been supported by robust financial planning, which includes both local investment and external funding, particularly through PNRR (National Recovery and Resilience Plan) resources:

- € 3,314,000 invested in the enhancement of cultural assets and activities.
- € 1,850,000 allocated to youth policies, sports, and leisure.
- Nearly €6,900,000 dedicated to tourism promotion and strengthening of the city's brand identity.
- € 2,711,850 in PNRR funding for the renovation and safety compliance of school facilities.
- € 3,849,600 in PNRR funding for the construction of the new primary school in Via Bellini.
- € 5,000,000 invested in the restoration and safety upgrades of the former Fornace.

Environmental Impact and Green Space Expansion

In keeping with its commitment to sustainability, Bellaria Igea Marina has nearly doubled its public green spaces in six years, increasing from 500,000 square meters in 2019 to 913,500 square meters in 2024. The city has planted 1,194 new trees, compared to 413 trees removed, illustrating a net ecological gain. Additional investments include:

- € 615,000 for the dredging and maintenance of the port canal.
- € 38,203,973.13 invested between 2019 and 2024 in sustainable development and environmental protection.



Participation in Communities in Bloom 2025

A Message from the Mayor of Bellaria Igea Marina

It is a great honour for the City of Bellaria Igea Marina to take part in the 2025 edition of Communities in Bloom, the prestigious international competition dedicated to environmental sustainability and the quality of urban landscaping. This initiative represents the perfect stage to showcase the achievements of our community and local government, especially in recent years, across all the evaluation criteria of the competition.

Our choices have been consistently guided by values that Communities in Bloom itself upholds: a deep respect for nature, a strong commitment to sustainability, and a desire to foster true harmony between the environment and human activity.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Asproflor – Comuni Fioriti, to which we have proudly been affiliated since 2022. It is through their support that Bellaria Igea Marina has been entrusted with the privilege and responsibility of representing Italy, a country that has long been a treasure trove of both natural beauty and innovative ideas in urban management. We are proud to take on this role alongside key institutions such as the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of the Environment, ANCI Emilia-Romagna, the Region of Emilia-Romagna, the Province of Rimini, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Our gratitude also extends to our entire community, in the fullest and noblest sense of the word. This includes private citizens, associations, and volunteers, who have embraced the challenge presented by Communities in Bloom, playing a fundamental role in projecting the very best image of Bellaria Igea Marina. Their ongoing efforts embody the spirit of good environmental practices, which our city continues to build and nurture every single day.

*Filippo Giorgetti
Mayor of Bellaria Igea Marina*

Filippo Giorgetti
Mayor of Bellaria Igea Marina



Environment and quality of life

Bellaria Igea Marina, like many coastal cities, is a densely urbanized and geologically fragile territory, facing challenges such as subsidence, marine intrusions, and pressure from high residential and tourist density. Yet, through careful planning, rigorous public policies, and targeted investment, the municipality has succeeded in shaping a sustainable and high-quality urban environment. This has involved bold, sometimes unpopular decisions, but ones that have paid off in terms of long-term ecological resilience and community well-being.

Despite natural and demographic pressures, Bellaria Igea Marina has demonstrated resilience through measured environmental planning. These actions position the city favourably in terms of its commitments to the UN Agenda 2030, successfully balancing environmental protection with economic and tourism development.

The city's institutional website provides access to key public tools and documents supporting these efforts:

<https://www.comune.bellaria-igea-marina.rn.it/it/menu/amministrazione-202017>

- Plastic Free Ordinance
- Pigeon Population Control Ordinance
- Supplementary Bathing Ordinance
- Urban Greenery Regulation
- Urban Police Regulation
- Environmental Sustainability Plan
- PAESC (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan)
- DUP (Single Programming Document)
- PIAO (Integrated Plan of Activities and Organization)
- Beach Management Plan
- Urban Green Census and Public Playground Inventory

Certifications and Recognitions

- PAESC Adherence: Bellaria Igea Marina is a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, and actively follows the pathway toward improved environmental standards.
- Blue Flag: For seventeen consecutive years, the city has been awarded this prestigious international certification from the FEE (Foundation for Environmental Education), which evaluates sustainability in coastal and lakefront locations.
- Green Flag: Recognized by pediatricians as a child-friendly beach.
- Comune Fiorito: This "Flowering Municipality" certification from Asproflor attests to the beauty and quality of the city's urban spaces.

Through these measures, Bellaria Igea Marina showcases an integrated model of sustainability, one that not only meets environmental standards but also supports public health, tourism, and community life.



Water Quality

From water supply to wastewater disposal, Bellaria Igea Marina is part of an integrated system covering a large area of Romagna, where water and the care of supply and disposal infrastructure are a point of pride. The main source of guaranteed water supply is the Ridracoli Dam, and Romagna Acque S.p.a. manages the region's water needs, spanning from Ravenna to Cattolica. Romagna Acque, whose ownership is shared among the municipalities, makes coordinated investments in the territory through ATERSIR, focusing on water conservation and system optimization by equipping the area with innovative water collection and public water management tools. HERA, a public-private service company, manages local pipelines and the direct distribution of drinking water. Thanks to substantial investments, the area is well supplied with water, and even during drought periods, there are no significant issues related to water scarcity. For several decades, since the old and insufficient treatment plant was operational, Bellaria Igea Marina had differentiated sewer connections for black (sewage) and white (stormwater) water users. Now, the system is operating optimally due to connection to the larger and more advanced treatment plant in nearby San Vito, capable of meeting the high demands of a tourist area like ours. This ensures that no untreated wastewater is discharged into the sea across the territory and that stormwater outlets are opened only in cases of severe weather conditions to prevent flooding.

Sea and Beach Quality

The quality of marine waters in Bellaria Igea Marina is generally excellent. ARPA Emilia Romagna monitors bathing waters by collecting seawater samples from the week before the bathing season starts until its end, around the third week of September. Thanks to this rigorous monitoring, Emilia Romagna ranks among the top regions in Italy and Europe for bathing water quality. Bathing suitability is evaluated based on concentrations of Escherichia Coli and Intestinal Enterococci, and Bellaria Igea Marina, with its seven kilometers of coastline, holds a notable record for excellent bathing water quality, especially in the southern area. To protect the coastline and the sandy beach, a vital asset for the city, Bellaria Igea Marina has installed a system of quarry stone breakwaters arranged horizontally along the entire length of the beach. In the Igea Marina area, submerged barriers have recently been tested as an additional protective measure. The shoreline has been the focus of significant coastal protection efforts through beach nourishment, funded by the Emilia-Romagna Region.

<https://ambiente.regione.emilia-romagna.it/it/geologia/divulgazione/video/il-4-progetto-ripascimento-costa-emilia-romagna>

In May 2022, the latest major intervention was completed on over 11 kilometers of beaches affected by erosion across seven Romagna localities, including Bellaria Igea Marina. This project involved dredging offshore sand and cost over 19.5 million euros. It was organized by the Emilia-Romagna Region to reinforce and protect the Adriatic coastline from coastal erosion. The large-scale beach nourishment involved adding and reshaping the shoreline with about 1.5 million cubic meters of sand sourced from offshore deposits located approximately 40 miles from the regional coast. This intervention restored the morphological structure of beaches affected by marine weather erosion and rebalanced sediment along the coast in an ecologically sensitive way. Thanks to geological research, suitable underwater sand deposits were identified, ensuring minimal environmental impact and protection of local wildlife.

Additionally, there are annual smaller scale, yet still costly, beach nourishment and reshaping works along the shore zone.

Bellaria Igea Marina has also completed a long-awaited safety project for its harbor entrance, creating a new breakwater "finger" that reshapes the area. Based on detailed studies of tides and winds, this solution effectively prevents violent storm surges from entering the harbor. The investment totalled €2.4 million, with €800,000 financed by the Emilia-Romagna Region.



engineering work for the extension of the eastern pier

Quality of Beaches, Cleanliness, and Decorum

The coastline of Bellaria Igea Marina features numerous concessioned beaches designated for bathing and sun therapy, alongside free and private beaches. All are regulated under the beach management plan as well as regional and local bathing ordinances. Through collaboration with the lifeguard cooperative, projects are carried out each autumn to create artificial sand dunes, which are then leveled in the spring to protect the coast. The cooperative also ensures collective lifeguard services. HERA, the local utility company, conducts daily cleaning of the beach at dawn using specialized machinery, collecting debris arranged by lifeguards and managing separate waste collection on a beach-by-beach basis.

Concessioned beach areas are free of architectural barriers and promote inclusivity by providing equipment such as special wheelchairs that allow access to the sea. Public beaches are also equipped with waste sorting facilities, and daily cleaning is performed on beach areas not under concession. Safety is ensured through lifeguard patrols. According to the supplementary bathing ordinance, concessioned beaches may adapt areas for welcoming pets, and many bathing establishments already offer this service.



Air Quality PAIR

A Challenge for Emilia-Romagna, and the CO2 Reduction Project. Although Bellaria Igea Marina enjoys significantly better air quality compared to inland cities and the Po Valley, it is included within the measures of the Regional Air Quality Plan, in compliance with European Directive 2008/50/EC and Legislative Decree 155/2010. The Regional Air Quality Plan's primary goal is to protect public health by identifying concrete actions to meet air quality standards and reduce pollutant emissions across the region.

The new Integrated Regional Air Plan (PAIR 2030), approved by the Emilia-Romagna Regional Assembly in 30 January 2024, aims to achieve compliance with limit values for the most critical pollutants as quickly as possible by:

- Reducing emissions of both primary pollutants and precursors of secondary pollutants.
- Acting simultaneously across key emission sectors.
- Operating on both local and wider scales, including interventions by national ministries on relevant sources.
- Preventing acute pollution episodes to reduce local pollution spikes.

The plan identifies 64 measures divided into 8 priority areas for air quality objectives, including 5 thematic areas: urban and plain areas, transport and mobility, domestic heating energy, industrial activities, and agriculture and livestock. Additionally, it includes 3 cross-cutting areas: air quality management tools, green public procurement in public administrations, and communication, information, and training.

Sustainable Mobility

The municipality actively supports incentives and initiatives aimed at reducing the use of polluting transportation modes in favour of greener alternatives.

Bellaria Igea Marina is served by public transport operated by Start Romagna, connecting the city with neighbouring towns. It is also crossed longitudinally by the Rimini-Ravenna railway line, with two stations: Bellaria and Igea Marina.

Limited Traffic Zones and Pedestrian Areas

The municipality has several limited traffic zones and two central pedestrian areas. Key avenues such as Lungomare Carrà and Viale Paolo Guidi in Bellaria, and from Viale Ennio to Piazza Alda Merini in Igea Marina, are closed to general traffic except for resident access. Viale Italia in the Cagnona area also has restricted access. From June to September, additional limited traffic zones are periodically established, for example, on Lungomare Colombo and Pinzon, during specific hours or as one-way streets, under special mayoral ordinances to reduce vehicle traffic.



Incentives for Electric Mobility

Since 2017, electric vehicle charging stations have been installed in Piazza del Popolo, Via Pertini, Via dei Saraceni, and more recently in Via Roma, Via Bobbio, and Via Casadei.

For 2024-2025, incentives are available through a regional Emilia-Romagna program for the purchase of electric bicycles and cargo bikes, covering the Province of Rimini and Bellaria Igea Marina. As part of the sustainability plan, a "Sustainable Transport" project aims to renew the municipal vehicle fleet and promote choosing the appropriate mode of transport depending on the destination.

There are already several existing structures, and others planned, to promote sustainable mobility in the area. One example is the fully operational Pedibus (bus by foot) program, which safely accompanies primary school children on foot between home and school. This service has been running continuously and free of charge since 2019, thanks to the collaboration with the local Pro Loco association.

Bellaria Igea Marina has exponentially developed its network of bike paths over the past twenty years, which now extend for more than 30 kilometres, covering almost all the town's busy streets. In line with the commitment to sustainable mobility and to encourage the use of this eco-friendly mode of transport, cycling is permitted throughout all pedestrian areas within the city.

Key bike routes of environmental and recreational value include:

- The cyclo-pedestrian path along the Uso River, notable for its natural interest.
- The Lungomare Carrà cyclo-pedestrian path.
- The via Ravenna cycle path, which stretches from the northern entrance of Bellaria to the southern border of Igea Marina.
- The Adriatic cycle path passing through Bellaria Igea Marina, part of the Adriatic Cycling Route (Ciclovia dell'Adriatico) project that runs from Trieste to Santa Maria di Leuca.

Bike Sharing in the City

In the Municipality of Bellaria Igea Marina, a Bike Sharing service is active. This service allows residents and tourists to “borrow” a bicycle for the entire day. It represents a strategic initiative within the framework of sustainable mobility. Bike Sharing not only helps reduce the environmental impact of urban traffic but also serves as an effective tool to promote the physical and psychological well-being of both citizens and visitors. Currently, dozens of bikes and scooters are available, and during the summer, the fleet will grow to nearly two hundred units, thanks to an experimental collaboration with Lime Technology, the world’s largest shared electric vehicle company, operating in over 280 cities across approximately 30 countries. This valuable service is intended not to replace but to complement and enhance the bike rental services offered by local private operators, providing an additional option for sustainable travel within the municipality and even beyond, for example, to nearby Rimini.

Sustainability Awareness Initiatives

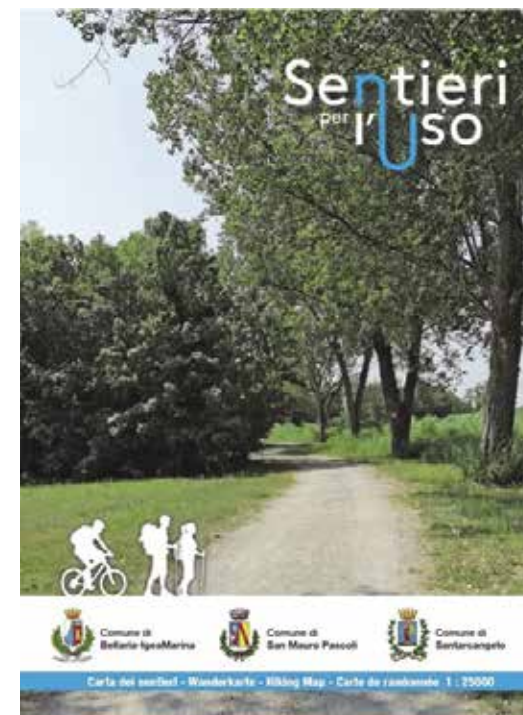
Since 2020, Bellaria Igea Marina has participated in the regional initiative “Nati per Camminare” (“Born to Walk”), which raises awareness among students about responsible car use and encourages alternative means of transport for the home-to-school journey. From September 2024, Bellaria Igea Marina has been officially recognized as a European Mobility City and actively participates in the European Mobility Week with various awareness-raising initiatives. These efforts are organized by the municipal administration in synergy with other local organizations and institutions.

For more information, visit: mobilityweek.eu and MASE.

Website: <https://mobilityweek.eu/mobilityacticcountry=it>, <https://www.mase.gov.it>

Removal of Architectural Barriers

The Municipality of Bellaria Igea Marina has a Plan for the Elimination of Architectural Barriers (PEBA), which defines objectives to make the city more accessible. This plan includes a detailed mapping of the building stock and the establishment of criteria to improve accessibility in public open spaces. PEBA is a strategic framework aimed at removing existing architectural barriers and implementing new solutions to guarantee accessibility for all, including both public and private buildings. The plan involves assessing accessibility levels of properties, mapping public spaces, and designing solutions to eliminate barriers. It also foresees the creation of inclusive playgrounds, tactile signage, and accessible pathways.



Circular Economy and Waste Separation: Waste System, Environmental Goals, and Door-to-Door Collection

Italian environmental legislation, particularly Part IV of Legislative Decree 152/2006, regulates waste management, including urban waste. Urban waste includes household waste, waste produced by commercial and industrial activities and waste from separate collection. The law sets rules aimed at waste reduction, recovery, recycling, and landfill disposal, integrated by Regional Law 23/2011 concerning territorial organization of public environmental services, especially article 7, paragraph 5, letter L. Additional regulatory frameworks include ARERA 15/2022/R/rif and its Annex A “Unified Text for the Regulation of Urban Waste Management Service Quality,” along with resolutions from the ATERSIR authority aimed at rationalizing service, reducing costs, and improving efficiency through industrial management systems. The goal is to achieve circular economy targets related to material recycling and reuse.

In the Rimini area, waste management is handled by Hera S.p.A., which operates an integrated quality, environmental, and safety management system certified under ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and OHSAS 18001, and maintains ethical and social compliance certified under SA8000. HERA has also obtained certification for sustainability criteria compliance during the collection and transport of used cooking oils, within the bioliquid and biofuel production chain, following the European ISCC EU standard (International Sustainability and Carbon Certification).

Users are responsible for properly separating waste according to the prescribed differentiated collection categories, minimizing non-recyclable dry waste. Waste management operators ensure correct collection, transport, and delivery for recovery or disposal, optimizing logistics to minimize environmental, social, and economic impacts. Waste separation includes paper/cardboard, glass, plastic/cans, organic/green waste and pruning residues, bulky waste, electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), hazardous urban waste, home composting, used clothing, absorbent materials collection, small construction debris, cooking oils and fats, among other products.

Door-to-Door Waste Collection System

The city of Bellaria Igea Marina operates a door-to-door waste collection system covering approximately 8,500 domestic users and 2,894 non-domestic users. The service follows a scheduled weekly collection calendar for glass, plastic, paper, organic waste, and residual (non-recyclable) waste, with an increased frequency of pickups during the summer months. For other types of waste, users can access the Hera ecological station on Via Fornace, as well as designated street containers for used clothing and used oils.

This system has significantly increased the volume of differentiated waste collection, with rates trending above 70%. Additionally, users are provided with home composting containers, the use of which allows for a reduction in TARI (waste tax) bills.

For bulky waste, pruning residues, and branches, a free home collection service is available upon reservation. Public and private events requiring additional waste containers can request these easily to facilitate proper waste separation even during large gatherings.

The waste management plan also includes the cleaning of streets, sidewalks, roadside gutters, trash bins, and urban parks. This service operates intensively with a seasonal calendar (summer/winter) and considers the needs related to tree maintenance and leaf collection to ensure the cleanliness and aesthetic quality of public spaces throughout the city. Specifically, park trash bins are emptied daily, including holidays, and beach areas are cleaned daily during the bathing season. Outside this period, cleaning frequency is reduced but still guarantees cleanliness and order.

Initiatives to Reduce Plastic Use and Promote Reuse

For the past two years, the city has introduced free microfiltered water dispensers in schools and school gyms, along with the free distribution of reusable water bottles to primary school children. This project is co-funded by ATERSIR.

Similarly, two public “water houses” have been installed in the city, offering both still and sparkling water to residents and visitors.

Recently, Bellaria Igea Marina has launched an environmental initiative, supported by ATERSIR funding, that provides newborn families with washable diapers and women with menstrual cups. This program aims to reduce the use of disposable diapers and sanitary products.

Environmental Awareness Projects Open to Residents and Tourists

Main Initiatives

- **Ecological Day at Sea**
Now in its 28th edition, this event promotes awareness about protecting the environment and the sea. It consists of an organized cleanup of plastics and other debris collected from the sea, with the participation of diving teams from fishing boats and pleasure craft. The event is coordinated by the local boating club "Circolo Diportisti".
- **July 25th is World Drowning Prevention Day**, established by the World Health Organization (WHO). In Italy, this year, many Blue Flag locations have dedicated the day to raising awareness about drowning prevention through events and activities. Bellaria Igea Marina also organized events to raise awareness among residents and tourists about drowning prevention, with particular focus on sea safety. This day serves as a reminder of the importance of water safety and following rules to avoid accidents, such as supervising children in the water and properly using flotation devices.
- **National Tree Day** – With the organizational support of local associations, every year between 200 and 400 young trees are planted to help reforest the city's green urban areas. The same associations also care for the trees by regularly watering them to ensure successful growth and establishment.

Strategic Plan and Environment BIMKIDS 2040

A broad-reaching project involving younger generations through workshops held in parks to rethink the city and encourage virtuous behaviors aimed at respecting the environment and protecting both terrestrial and marine ecosystems.



School Environmental Awareness Projects - Main Initiatives

Environmental education is a formative journey aimed at helping young people learn to observe and understand the natural world. Starting from knowledge of the environment and its issues, the goal is to foster the development of environmental awareness in new generations. Each year, the Comprehensive Institute implements this educational pathway through a series of projects developed in collaboration with accredited organizations and through field trips and educational outings.

The main projects include:

Climate Change (CMER OVD):

A project designed to raise students' awareness about why climate change is happening, how humans have influenced the climate, and especially about appropriate behaviors to adopt in case of catastrophic events.

Tree Festival – National Tree Day:

Schools participate in campaigns for the protection of greenery and territory through activities focused on understanding and promoting the importance of trees and plants for life on Earth, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and hydrogeological risk prevention. The project promotes concrete actions for protecting tree heritage and revitalizing urban green spaces.

FA.TE. Favolose Terre – Romagna Land Reclamation Consortium:

This project introduces students to the discovery and knowledge of the local territory. It aims to increase environmental awareness, particularly about the protection of water resources and land management. It fosters dialogue between schools and institutions on these issues and promotes positive behaviors regarding water use. It also highlights the cultural landscape of land reclamation.

The Great Machine of the World – Hera:

Hera's workshops introduce students to themes of water, energy, and the environment through sensory activities, games, animated lessons, visits to facilities, and brainstorming sessions. These encourage intuition, creativity, and a greater awareness of environmental issues and responsible, sustainable behaviors. The project also promotes active participation in citizen science to help form informed and environmentally conscious future citizens.

M'illumino di meno – Caterpillar Radio2:

A campaign focused on raising awareness about the rational use of energy. This initiative promotes environmental respect and energy efficiency, involving millions of people in an ethical marathon of good environmental practices. This year's theme emphasizes the benefits of reuse.

BimboAmbiente – Dr. Aletta Carmen:

Through three meetings, this project addresses topics such as recycling and reuse, cleaning of beaches and city parks, and fostering a direct relationship with the earth and environment through visits to educational farms. It aims to sensitize children to respect their environment, responsibly use resources, and increase awareness that even small daily actions can make a difference in the community. The project also introduces fundamental chemical, physical, and biological interactions through play.



“My Water” Project – Focus on Plastic Pollution

This project studies water as a resource, explaining its management by the Romagna Acque SpA authority-from the source to our taps-and its role as an environmental component of marine and river ecosystems. It also addresses the problem of plastic pollution in the sea.

Enormemente Sostenibili (Enormously Sustainable)

Promoted by Hera SpA, this is a creative graphic workshop aimed at fostering environmental education and culture. Participants design or create memes using famous phrases or meaningful images to produce new works focused on water or the environment, promoting its value and protection.

Organic Gardens in Schools

Active projects involving students in organic gardening at Manzi Primary School, Bosco Incantato Kindergarten, and Bucaneve Private Kindergarten.

“Garden from Grandpa” Project

Educational visits and workshops at social gardens tended by retirees, promoting intergenerational exchange of good practices in amateur gardening and cultivation.

Environmental Cleanups on the Beach

Projects organized to involve students in environmental clean-up activities along the coastline.

“Flowered School” (Scuola Fiorita)

An educational activity where students plant and subsequently care for shrubs and flowers at the lower secondary school “Panzini”.

“Giornata del Mare” (Sea Day)

This day aims to raise awareness among young people through activities and discussion sessions organized in collaboration with the General Command of the Coast Guard. The goal is to develop the concept of “marine citizenship” and to encourage students to become “active” citizens of the sea. The program includes lessons and visits to fishing boats docked at the port.

“A Sea to Love” Project

An art and environment competition where classes are invited to create artistic works focused on the sea, marine biodiversity, and its protection.



Biodiversity Protection Integrated Biological Pest Control and Treatments

The pest control services in Bellaria Igea Marina are entrusted to Anthea S.r.l. Over the past few years, the service has achieved significant qualitative goals by reducing the ecological impact on the territory while maintaining effective control over pests and pathogens of sanitary importance that cause disturbances in urban areas.

Furthermore, the introduction of the principle of “Urban Ecological Redevelopment” has established as a main objective the rebalancing of urban pest populations, favoring the development of their natural antagonists, following principles of biological and integrated pest management.

The activities carried out can be grouped into the following services:

Mosquito Control

This service aims to control mosquito populations in urban areas. The activity mainly focuses on urban environments such as drains, grates, fountains, uncovered and underground sewers, especially if not properly siphoned. In peripheral areas, the focus is on isolated water pools without fish, as well as sections of streams, drainage channels, and ditches.

Rodent Control

The control strategy is particularly aimed at the Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), which is common in high-risk infestation areas such as ditches, rivers, city sewer networks (both underground and surface), uncultivated fields, roadside areas cluttered with waste, degraded environments, areas with citizen reports, and other especially vulnerable locations.

Phytosanitary Protection of Ornamental Greenery

Various pests and pathogens that affect ornamental plants can be classified by both the type of parasite and the plant species they infest. The Municipality of Bellaria Igea Marina

has commissioned biological control measures against aphids on trees—harmful insects that can compromise the health of holm oak trees. This consists of releasing *Adalia bipunctata*, a species of ladybird known for its ability to prey on aphids. The release of this insect takes place in the presence of primary school students, who attend a brief educational session held by Anthea’s technicians.

Weed Control

The service involves controlling the main weeds that may grow within the municipal territory: walls, sidewalks, curbs, flowerbeds, cemetery areas, squares—especially those structures of significant landscape and visual importance, such as the fortress walls.

Monitoring the territory constitutes the first step for a rational and efficient Pest Management service. The goal is to identify all potential pest breeding sites and characterize them both by type and potential virulence. The territory has been divided into “Territorial Risk Areas,” which, due to their morphological features, structure, and location, might be subject to similar pest risks internally. This information is represented on a cartographic support using the open-source software Quantum GIS. This cartographic base is then used for georeferenced representation of the most important services, also utilizing web-GIS applications. The Municipality of Bellaria Igea Marina funds the integrated biological control project in small vegetable farms in the area called La Valletta/Ghetto dei Pirati with an annual contribution of €10,000.

Bellaria Igea Marina has gardens “pesticides free” dedicated to biodiversity.



Insect-friendly spaces in the city

In June 2023, the environmental association Futuro Verde, under the patronage of the Municipality, installed four insect hotels designed for wild bees and pollinating insects to provide shelter where they can nest and reproduce. Specifically, one was placed at Parco del Gelso, one at Parco Panzini, one along the port canal on Via Ferrarin, and one at the Uso River bike path.

In 2024, VerdeComune also installed an insect hotel in correspondence with a flowering meadow area in the gardens of Via Pascoli.

These initiatives stem from the desire to respond to the existence of about 20,000 species of solitary bees-nearly 1,000 of which live in Europe-that do not form hives or produce honey but are essential for many ecosystems. Unfortunately, wild bees are threatened by habitat loss caused by intensive agriculture, pesticide and fertilizer use, and climate change. For this reason, the installation of these small insect hotels represents a small but important gesture of care and attention toward pollinating insects, whose importance has also been recognized by European institutions.

Protection against hydrogeological instability and prevention measures

The municipal territory has been and still is involved in significant projects such as the consolidation and raising of the walls along the Uso River, the construction of a flood retention basin, reinforcement of riverbanks, as well as protection of the port area. To protect against marine waves in the port canal, a brush barrier made of quarry rocks was designed and built on the eastern side, with a financial commitment of €1,200,000, of which €800,000 came from regional funds.



Conservation, maintenance, and redevelopment of public assets

Nearly all public buildings, including schools and gyms, have undergone or are currently undergoing executive planning aimed at energy efficiency improvements. Significant investments have been made to install new boilers and heat pumps, replace windows and doors, redevelop spaces, and upgrade lighting systems (relamping).

Transforming energy into urban and social well-being: Bellaria Igea Marina's strong innovative push was also showcased at the Keny Energie conference, a sustainable energy expo. Mayor Filippo Giorgetti gained a prestigious platform to present Bellaria's environmental policies and energy efficiency initiatives. During the event, he reported on the energy upgrading projects implemented to enhance resource valorisation, emphasizing how these efforts deliver social and environmental benefits to the community achieving tangible results in urban environmental quality and CO2 emission reduction.

These policies are driven by strong initiatives and investments, ranging from the relamping and replacement of outdated public lighting with more modern, sustainable LED solutions to extensive energy efficiency work on municipal facilities, especially their heating systems.

A large portion of public assets including streets, squares, and buildings have also undergone extraordinary maintenance works, structural consolidation, and aesthetic and functional improvements, either already completed or currently in progress.





The public assets or properties owned by institutions located within the territory of the municipality of Bellaria Igea Marina include:

Historic Buildings

- Torre Saracena
- Library "Alfredo Panzini"
- Casa Rossa
- Centro Belli
- Former slaughterhouse (ex macello)
- Noi Museum
- Former brick kiln (ex fornace)
- Tourism Palace (Palazzo del Turismo)
- Conference Center (Palacongressi)
- Town Hall (Palazzo del Municipio)
- Kas8 Youth centre
- Fish Market (Mercato Ittico)

Movable Assets – Historic

- Bragozzo Teresina (traditional fishing boat)

Squares and Public Spaces

- Belverde
- Alda Merini

- Capitaneria di Porto
- Del Popolo square
- S, Kennedy,
- Matteotti
- Don Minzoni
- Gramsci
- Marciànò
- Federico Fellini

Boulevards

- Ennio
- Ovidio
- Panzini
- P. Guidi (Isola dei Platani)
- Romea
- Roma
- Fratelli Cervi
- Italia

Seafronts (waterfronts)

- Carrà
- Pinzon
- Colombo

School Buildings

Primary Schools

- Ternana
- Ferrarin
- Carducci
- Tre Ponti
- Futura (2026 New School)

Middle School

- Panzini



Secondary School

- Malatesta Alberghiero School

Kindergarten

- Gabbiano
- Bosco Incantato
- Allende
- Cervi
- San Giovanni Bosco
- Il Bucaneve

Nurseries Schools

- Il Gelso
- Piccolo Gelso

Sports Facilities - Football (Soccer)

- Municipal Stadium "Enrico Nanni"
- La Valletta sport area
- Bordonchio Stadium
- Pavese Sport Area
- Parco Pironi

Tennis / Paddle

- Circolo Tennis Venustas
- Rio Grande
- Paddle Bellaria MiMa

Basketball / Volleyball

- Palatenda
- Palazzetto dello Sport

Fitness Area

- Fornace fitness area
- Gelso park fitness area

School gyms

- Ferrarin
- Manzi
- Panzini
- Futura (2026)

Negotiations ongoing for acquisition of Gelso sport swimming pool

Healthcare Facilities

- AVIS (blood donation center)
- Casa della Salute
- CAU (health center)
- Municipal pharmacy
- Group apartment Reabita, for vulnerable people with disabilities

Social Facilities

- Youth Center Kas8
- Giovanni Paolo II Family Center
- Altamarea Senior Center
- Life Support Center (Centro Aiuto alla Vita)
- Croce Blu (Blue Cross emergency service)
- Quasiprimi
- Social gardens of Bellaria and Igea

Churches

- Sacro Cuore (Sacred Heart)
- Santa Margherita
- San Martino
- Sacro Cuore di Maria
- Saints Giuseppe and Lucia

Cemeteries

- Bordonchio
- Bellaria Monte

Beaches

- Free beaches
- Beaches leased to sports associations
- Sailing club
- Polo Est
- Beky Bay
- 94 beaches leased to heliotherapy and bathing

Main Parks

- Gelso
- Pavese
- Panzini
- Giovanni Paolo II
- Belverde
- Fornace
- Ciclopedonale Fiume Uso 30km (River Uso cycle-pedestrian path)

Cycle Paths

The municipality boasts approximately 30 kilometers of cycle paths, promoting sustainable and healthy mobility.

Cultural Heritage Valorization

Significant efforts have also been made by private individuals and other organizations to enhance cultural assets of particular value.

Notably, these include the restoration of the Benelli Castle and the construction of the church with an adjoining theater in Bordonchio.



Exhibition hall and studio Belli center



Investments aimed at preserving and protecting the cultural heritage within the community

Cultural conservation represents the “personality” of the community, both tangible elements such as monuments and memorials, and intangible elements including traditions, customs, festivals, and celebrations.

Cultural lounge Bellaria film festival



Cultural calendar

In addition to the Patronal Feast of Saint Apollonia, the city’s cultural calendar is rich with numerous significant events. Among these stands out “Borgata che danza,” now in its 33rd edition—a three-day festival dedicated to traditional music and dance. Another key event is the renowned Bellaria Film Festival, which this year celebrates its 43rd edition, establishing itself as the home of Italian independent cinema.

The historic venue of the Bellaria Film Festival is the Astra Theatre, located in the Isola dei Platani. This building, granted to the Municipality under a subsidized lease, has benefited from significant investments for its renovation, representing a prime example of how the Zignani family has prioritized the city’s cultural interests, thus fostering local cultural growth and development.

The event takes place in a central location, under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture, and is organized by the Municipality of Bellaria Igea Marina with the support of the Directorate General for Cinema and Audiovisual of the Ministry and the Emilia-Romagna Region. The festival has become a reference point for bold and innovative cinematic language experiments, bridging the past and present of the most free and creative forms of cinema through the BFF 2025 cultural lounge.

Among the other traditional events, the “Saracen Landing” stands out, now in its 31st edition. This historical reenactment, featuring a parade of period costumes, brings back to life for one night the dramatic events endured by local inhabitants during a time when the coast-less defended than the fortified centers of Rimini and Cesenatico—was invaded by Saracens, who carried out raids on the village. The Saracen Tower, a historical monument and symbol of the area, served as the lookout post used by locals to monitor the sea and raise the alarm in case of suspicious sightings, using fire signals to communicate with neighboring towers along the coastline, such as the Tower of Pedrera.

The redevelopment of the Colonies, whose history is an integral part of a way of experiencing restorative holidays for children during a specific historical period, is still underway but is beginning to show tangible results. A new phase is now underway, focused on the renovation or demolition and reconstruction of the unused buildings through agreements.

Even if they cannot be considered historical, now belong to the city’s tradition events like “Il Gusto del Porto” (The Taste of Port), “Calici di vino” (Glassess of wine), the theater season, the fest dedicated to piadina end, last but not least, the “Rumore Festival”, musical contest for young talents created in memory of Raffaella Carrà.



*Isola dei Platani on the occasion
of the piadina festival*



St. Apollonia patron saint - fishermen's songs



Calici di Vino ed. 2023

Local Maritime Tradition and The Teresina Bragozzo

The Teresina is a bragozzo approximately ten meters long, built in Murano in 1948. It was used for many years as a fishing boat, then as a clam-dredging vessel in the 1980s, and has been inactive since the 1990s.

The bragozzo is a boat of Chioggia origin traditionally used for coastal fishing in the upper Adriatic Sea, typically crewed by three men. It was the most common fishing vessel from the late 18th to the early 20th century. Characteristic features include painted designs on the bow, such as a dove and a playing angel (as on the Teresina). Bragozzi were constructed without detailed blueprints but using templates called “sesti.”

Over time, the size of bragozzi changed: in the 1700s, these boats rarely exceeded eight tons displacement, later increasing to ten or even fourteen tons, with lengths of 12 to 14 meters (the Teresina measures about 10 meters).

In the second half of the 19th century, hulls grew further to exceed 16 meters in length with a displacement of 20 tons and a crew of five men plus a cabin boy. The “lateen sail” rigging evolved from the Latin to square sails, leading to the lateen sail and later axial sails used on yachts.

The restoration of the Teresina — one of the last and most beautiful examples of this vessel type — lasted five years. It was carried out by the “Barche sull’Adriatico” Association of Bellaria Igea Marina, which has also restored other historic “grandmothers of the sea.” The sail plan of the Teresina was designed by Professor Riccardo Brizzi, and the restoration was completed by the Morri Shipyard.

In 2003, upon completion of the restoration, the “Barche sull’Adriatico” Association donated the vessel to the Municipality of Bellaria Igea Marina, thus making it a city heritage asset. Today, its management is entrusted by agreement to the “Bragozzo Teresina” Association of Bellaria Igea Marina.

The Teresina is considered the jewel of the city, undoubtedly one of the finest specimens of its kind. It is a coastal fishing boat characterized by two masts with colorful sails, measuring nearly 12 meters long, with magnificent decorative paintings on the bow and a perfectly flat

bottom typical of vessels from the Venetian lagoon. Its restoration was funded by the Province of Rimini and the Municipality of Bellaria-Igea Marina.

The Teresina participates in historic boat gatherings, serves as a tourist attraction, and is used for educational purposes in local schools to teach maritime traditions.

The boat is so renowned that it has been showcased as far as Saint-Tropez and New York. The Teresina remains a prime example of Romagna’s traditional working boats.

Bellaria is associated with ATS Flag Galpa Costa Emilia Romagna and participated in the identification of the development strategy for the coastal area (www.flag-costaemiliaromagna.it)



A special mention is deserved by the bragozzo Teresina and the local fishing community.

Preservation of natural heritage

Numerous investments have been made to preserve natural heritage, biodiversity, ecosystems, flora and fauna, geological formations, beaches, and to renew beach resorts, reflecting a deep innovation that has transformed and will continue to transform the sector.

There is a renewed interest among young people in rural life, marked by a new momentum toward transforming farms into agritourism centers. These include operations producing lavender oil (Belvedere Farm), farms evolving into educational and sustainability outreach centers (Il Cavallino Farm), and cultivation of superfoods powered by photovoltaic systems (Venturi Nursery).

Through participation in the FEAMP program, which it supports and funds, the administration collaborates on marine water protection projects. Currently, plans are underway to establish an ecological island in line with the Marine Protection Law, specifically for the fishing community. In collaboration with the Nautical Club, the administration financed the purchase of a catamaran used for port logistics and the ecological collection of floating debris on the water surface.

Urban Public Green Spaces: Landscape, Urban Greenery, and Floral Furnishings

The long, tree-lined and shaded avenues are a distinctive feature of Bellaria Igea Marina, encouraging walking and cycling during favorable seasons. The town boasts over 270 green areas and five large urban parks, along with seven kilometers of sandy shoreline. Combined with sports facilities, entertainment, shopping in welcoming pedestrian zones, and modern hotel accommodations, these elements make vacations enjoyable and enhance the quality of life for year-round residents.

The shallow sea and sandy beach, which form a continuous 7-kilometer coastline, are well-equipped with services suited to various needs, both for swimming and sports activities. All of this makes Bellaria Igea Marina one of the most sought-after destinations for seaside holidays, especially for families with children and youth sports.

Urban greenery, including trees and shrubs, as well as public playgrounds in parks, are catalogued and monitored. Each tree is assigned a unique identification number, classified by species, and georeferenced for ongoing maintenance and care.

These aspects are normally accessible to citizens through the public portal dedicated to the urban greenery census. The territory of Bellaria Igea Marina stands out with over 10,500 trees and 246 green areas spread across 844,502 square meters. In 2018, the public green portal of Bellaria Igea Marina was completed as an outcome of a census carried out by Anthea for the Municipal Administration. Every tree in the city, along with other elements constituting the public green spaces, was tagged with an identification plate and georeferenced.

This has resulted in a comprehensive data collection and cataloging effort, providing an overview of playgrounds and their equipment, as well as public walkways that connect different areas. The primary goal of this work is to enable the planning of future ordinary and extraordinary maintenance activities for public greenery, closely monitoring the health of the plants. Indeed, each of the over 10,499 trees in Bellaria Igea Marina has received an identification plate—a kind of “identity card” linking it to maps and georeferenced information available on the portal. This also facilitates citizens’ ability to report issues or make observations.

What the census revealed is an extraordinary arboreal and environmental heritage, distributed across 844,502 square meters, featuring natural excellences such as the Gelso Park. In total, there are 246 green areas in Bellaria Igea Marina, including urban parks, squares, school gardens, and sports facilities. Additionally, 24 new green areas were established along the Carrà seafront as a sustainable green urban strip stretching 1.5 kilometers—and a green area acquired in 2017 and returned to the community: the former Fornace industrial complex, covering 9,500 square meters of buildings and over 68,000 square meters of land, including a 24,000 square meter quarry lake, plus 44 playground areas spanning 107,872 square meters.

Among the nearly 10,500 trees, over 1,800 are plane trees. Other numerous species include almost 1,200 umbrella pines, over 900 lindens (including almost 750 native and wild lindens), 728 maples (both American and field varieties), 566 cypress poplars, 372 holm oaks, and 274 horse chestnuts. This rich natural heritage is now available for consultation online through the official website of the Municipality of Bellaria Igea Marina.



Urban Forestry and Long-Term Fine Particulate Matter Reduction Projects

Urban forestry efforts have been implemented in Pavese Park, supported by the Emilia Romagna Region's initiative "Let's Put Down Roots for the Future." Each year, between 200 and 400 young plants are planted during the "National Tree Day." These planting activities are part of a valuable program of community involvement and awareness promoted by the municipal administration in collaboration with private entities and associations, fostering a festive and hopeful atmosphere.

Planning for Flowerbeds, Flowering, and Urban Furnishings

The municipality relies on well-structured and comprehensive programs for irrigation, pruning, and maintenance across the territory, reflecting a commitment to nature respect and sustainability. Projects are under evaluation to maintain some areas of Gelso Park without mowing, encouraging the growth of spontaneous flowers. However, the project is complex and still under consideration due to the challenge of keeping these urban spaces accessible and accepted by the community.

To reduce water consumption from the aqueduct for irrigation, new artesian wells have been installed, equipped with drip irrigation systems, thus minimizing manual watering to a few spots mainly public pots and flowerbeds during summer. Preference is given to shrubs and plants with low water requirements.

When installing new green spaces or urban greenery arrangements, the latest criteria related to environmental sustainability and biodiversity are taken into account. Urban flowerbeds planted with seasonal species are progressively being converted to mixed systems that better balance maintenance and resource use, while still allowing seasonal color changes to be appreciated.

Use of Qualified Personnel and Green Management Practices

The employment of qualified and experienced personnel, including for contracts awarded to third-party companies, is a fundamental aspect. Equally important are internal and external

staff training programs and adherence to CAM (Minimum Environmental Criteria) in managing public green spaces.

The municipal administration has chosen to staff the office with an agronomist technician to assess the condition of public greenery across the city, handle inquiries from citizens, and support decisions regarding public green areas.

Active participation in the city's green life by associations and private citizens greatly supports the administration. Schools, students, and organizations such as Legambiente, Banca del Tempo, and Pro Loco play an active role in planting programs. Many of these groups also engage in additional initiatives, such as urban gardens, children's workshops, maintaining flowerbeds in public areas, and watering the 59 hanging flowerbeds that decorate the main shopping avenues.

The administration pays great attention and effort to replacing trees that are cut down with mature new trees, maintaining the overall "green balance." Additionally, it implements a policy of planting one new tree for every child born in the year.

Regulation Enforcement and Urban Cleanliness

The municipality enforces the urban greenery regulation concerning tree removal and maintenance and fosters dialogue with private citizens.

There is an ongoing plan to remove graffiti and vandalism from public places and monuments. Supported by associations like Banca del Tempo APS, every spring, especially at strategic points such as the port axis and railway underpasses, walls are cleaned and whitened.

Street Art and Urban Regeneration

Complementing these efforts is the annual Street Art Festival, where disused walls and spaces regain new meaning through artistic interventions from street art murals to performances, exhibitions, DJ sets, and cinema.

Streets, buildings, and the former Fornace an urban regeneration symbol acquire new visions and meanings to foster interaction, relationships, and awareness, especially among younger generations.

Thanks to the festival, while strolling through the city, visitors can see murals dedicated to the sea (Tourism Palace), to the “Righteous Among the Nations,” our fellow citizen Ezio Giorgetti (Municipal Palace), a mural on Via Orazio, others in the port area, the underpass on Via Pertini, near Panzini School, and many more artworks.

Engaged Neighborhoods

The entire “Borgata Vecchia” neighborhood stands out as an exemplary model of community involvement in maintaining urban decorum. The residents actively collaborate to keep the open-air gallery well-kept and have created cohesive and harmonious street furnishings.

Safe Neighborhoods and Neighborhood Watch

This is a form of active citizen participation in observing their surroundings with a focus on urban safety prevention. It consists of creating a communication network to promptly send qualified reports to the Local Police when something unusual is noticed in the area of residence. The Local Police play a crucial role as a coordinator, contact point, and reference for the community. This project, launched last year, is currently strengthening and becoming more established.



The landscape of Bellaria Igea Marina

is of remarkable quality thanks to the presence of a long, well-equipped beach extending over 7 kilometers, more than 270 green areas, seven large natural parks, and a sea with shallow seabeds and calm waters, offering excellent bathing quality.

The landscape of Bellaria Igea Marina is of remarkable quality, featuring a long, well-equipped beach stretching over 7 kilometers, more than 270 green areas, seven large natural parks, and a sea with shallow seabeds and calm waters, offering excellent bathing conditions.

Already in the mid-1980s, starting with the design of the Isola dei Platani avenue, Bellaria Igea Marina recognized the importance of integrating green spaces as a fundamental element of the overall urban design concept.

Greenery is present throughout the city's streets and public spaces, but it is especially prominent along the 1.5 km-long Carrà seafront promenade. Here, a sustainable floral design concept was chosen, perfectly suited to the seaside location, where the scent of the shrubbery plays a key role in conveying a sense of well-being and quality.

The same concept will be adopted in the design and development of the Pinzon seafront promenade. The natural heritage flora, fauna, and walking trails is another place in harmony with the territory, where one can enjoy long trekking routes in complete tranquility.

In 2024, Asproflor implemented the Verdecomune project in Bellaria Igea Marina.

From May to September 2024, the city of Bellaria Igea Marina transformed into a true open-air exhibition fair, with five summer months of blooming flowers and sustainable green areas rich in innovations. This spectacle amazed both residents and tourists with its colors and innovative solutions. It also served as an elegant showcase for companies in the horticultural sector and beyond, who contributed to the project with their plants, new hybridizations, and cutting-edge technical materials such as satellite-controlled robotic lawnmowers.

On this occasion, water-saving methods were also tested and certified by the University of Turin in an urban context, following the use of hydrogels and other technologies that can assist and support water management in challenging urban environments.

Some of the installations, composed of perennials and evergreen plants, are still in place today, adorning Lungomare Colombo, Via Pascoli, and Isola dei Platani.

In any case, the original design concept and ornamental layout have been preserved to this day. In particular, the choice of plants for the 59 hanging baskets decorating the main access avenues to the town center has been maintained.



The landscaping arrangements enrich not only the city center, but Bellaria Igea Marina also prides itself on having a comprehensive plan that manages all the flower beds throughout the city no green area is excluded from quality maintenance, which includes irrigation, weed control, edging, grass cutting in ditches, and cleaning.

Private involvement is also encouraged through the useful initiative “BIM in Flower,” now in its fourth edition, a competition where private citizens, commercial businesses, hotels, and beach establishments compete to showcase the best gardens that beautify the city.

As a further expression of community participation in urban greenery, Bellaria Igea Marina also hosts social gardens, assigned to retirees, which offer opportunities for intergenerational exchange through educational workshops with school groups.

The city is also a site of academic experimentation: in collaboration with the University of Bologna, a recent study was launched on the quality of the marine sand.

During the summer season, through the local Tourist Information Office (IAT), visitors can book free guided tours to discover Bellaria Igea Marina’s natural heritage and floral displays, organized by the Banca del Tempo association.

The municipal administration also collaborates with organizations that promote Erasmus Plus programs for agriculture students, particularly from Turkey, who are involved in projects focused on best practices for urban green space management in the city.





"Bagno 13 – Winner of the 2024 BIM in Flower Competition."



A gardens of via Pascoli



floral arrangements in public streets and parks



volunteers working to water the flowerbeds



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