

Citizen-Led Eco-Cultural Community Building: The Case of the Saetgang Citizens' Committee

Social Cooperative Hangang

Joanne E. CHO / Chairperson, GD

July 17, 2025

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1. Saetgang Ecological Park

- Location : South of Yeoido, Seoul (63 Building ~ National Assembly)
- Area : 182,000 m² (length 4.6 km)
- Creation of park : 1997~1998
- 1st renovation : 2008~9
- Park state : urban wetland park
- Features : first ecological park in Korea, located in urban center of Seoul, river running up to west sea



2. Situations in Spring 2025



자전거

죽말신 요
김대현 작

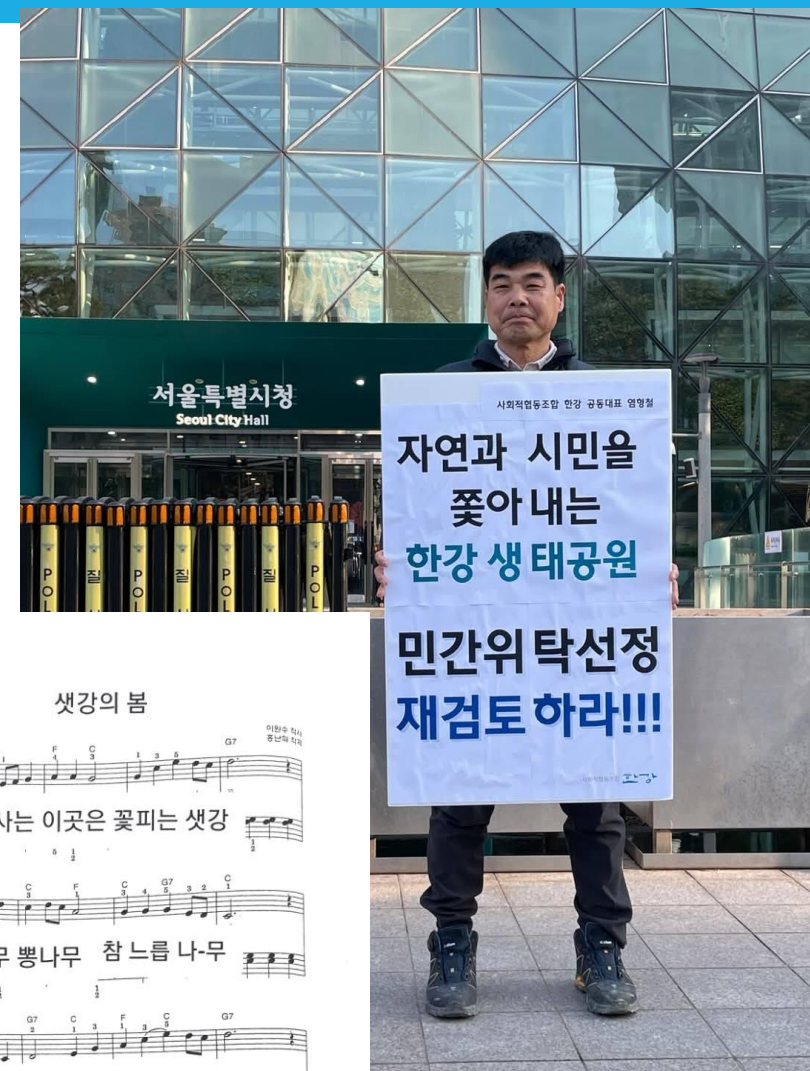
따르릉 따르릉 비켜나세요
한강애인 나갑니다 따르르릉
허울좋은 그웁잇한강 저리비켜요
수달사는 푸른 샛강 우린 원해요

10

샛강의 봄

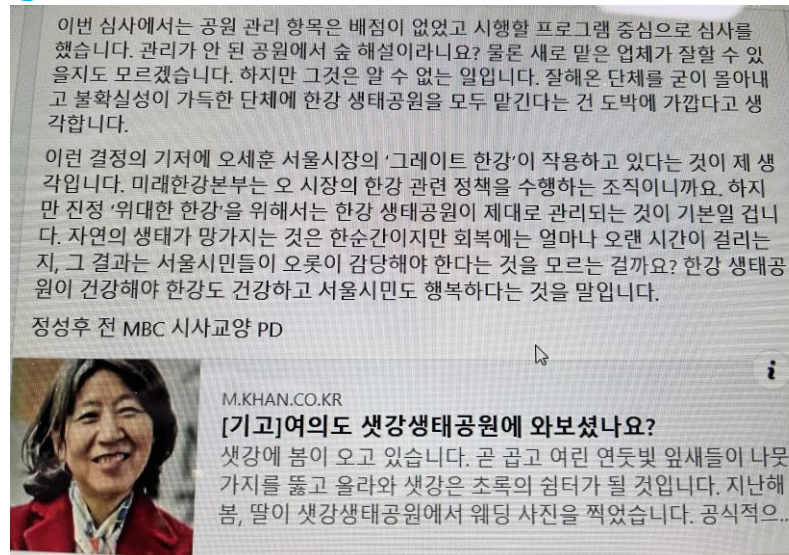
조만 느리게
이완수 작사
홍난파 작곡

수달사는 이곳은 꽃피는 샛강
버드나무 뽕나무 참느름 나무
푸릇푸릇 동 식물 어울린 샛강
그속에서 한강애인 함께 살 아요




Situations in Spring 2025

- Saetgang Ecological Park's private consignment management entity is decided every 3 years.
- As there are clues that the evaluation process were not transparent, many members and citizens protested against Seoul in various ways such as reporting, petition, and demonstrations.
- However, Seoul Metropolitan Government signed a private consignment contract with 'leum Forest' in May 2025.



3. Saetgang Citizens' Committee

- **Purpose** – By cultivating, enjoying, learning from and protecting Yeoido Saetgang Ecological Park through citizens' voluntary participation and solidarity, the committee aims at building eco-cultural community.
- **Main Activities**
 1. Ecological monitoring, ecological conservation, volunteering activities
 2. Running river culture programs
 3. Providing with Ecological education, cultural events
 4. Solidarity with local society and community activity



신청

셋강을 가꾸고 즐기고 배우는 셋강시민위원회에서

"셋강지기" 를 모집합니다.

우리나라 1호 생태공원, 도심 속 비밀의 숲,
누구나 누리는 생태복지, 원시 자연이 살아있는
공원으로 사랑받는 여의도셋강생태공원.
이 곳을 함께 돌보고 공부하며 강문화를 꽃피울
셋강지기를 찾습니다.

2019년부터 사회적협동조합 한강이
운영관리를 해온 셋강을
이제 셋강시민위원회 셋강지기들이
나서서 지켜주세요.

셋강과 함께 할 셋강지기를 모집합니다!	
대 상	셋강을 누리고 아끼는 누구나
모집기한	2025.05.01. ~ 2025.05.31. (한 달간)
역 할	셋강을 가꾸고 즐기고 배우는 다양한 활동에 참여
혜 택	셋강시민위원회 주관 프로그램에 우선 초대, 활동 자문 및 지원
문 의	070-4647-0825
신 청	구글 폼 신청

| 주관 | 셋강시민위원회

Saetgangjigi is

**People who conserve, enjoy, and learning from
Saetgang Ecological Park.**



The Saetgang Citizens' Committee is established on June 7, 2025.



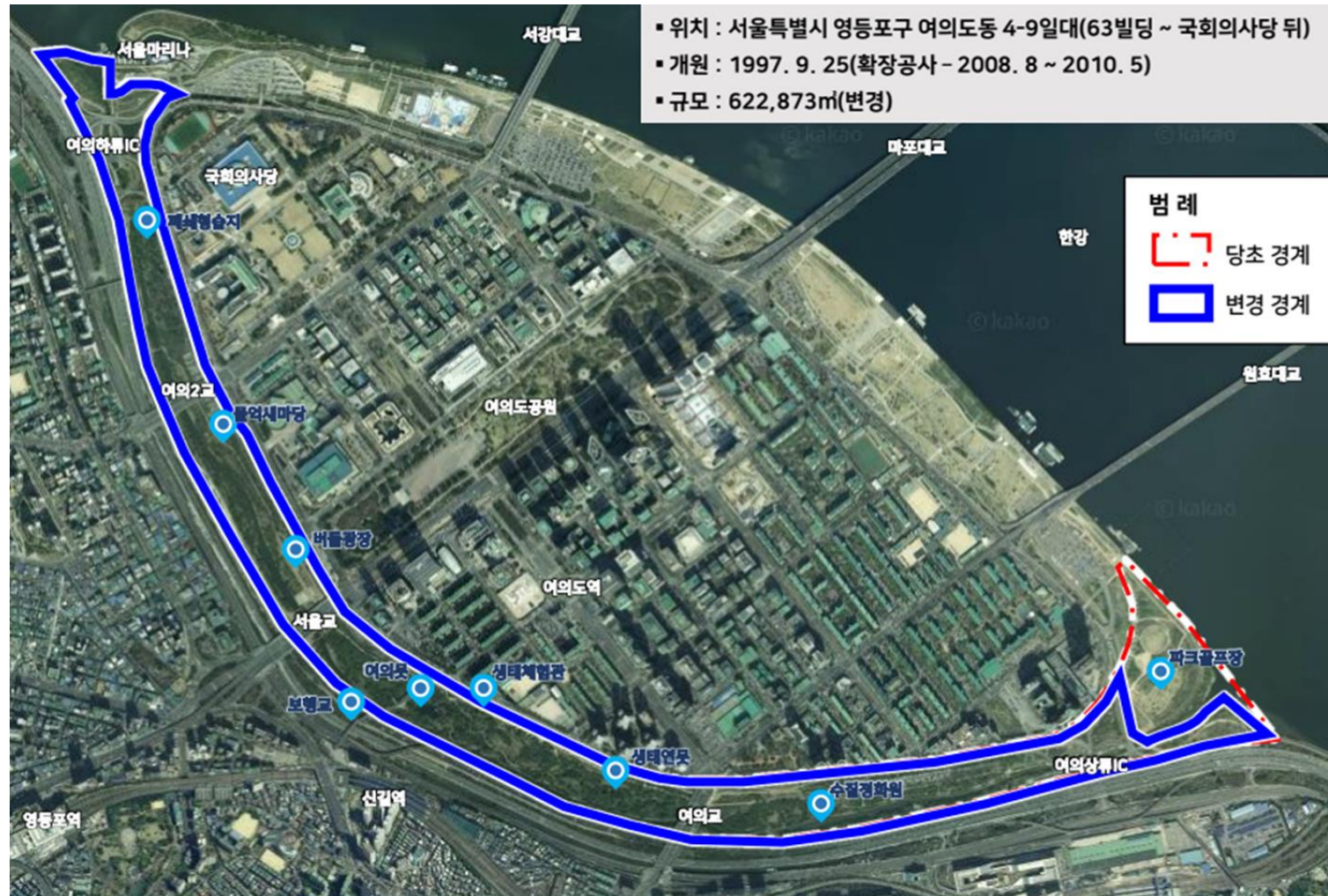
People of Saetgang Citizens' Committee

- Co-chair : Goeun Kang, Jiwhan Jung, Rak-hee Seok, Eunmi Cho
- Advisory team : Wonrak Lee, Gyeongyong Song
- Teams



Team	Function	Team leader
Let's conserve	Ecological monitoring, conservation, volunteering	Jungsun Kim
Let's enjoy	Operation and support of small groups	Myungsuk Kim
Let's learn	Operation of programs and education	Hyejin Cho
Let's protect	Administration, Communication	Seongwho Jung

4. 6 years' Saetgang Experiment by Social COOP Hangang



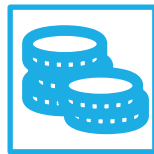
Overview of Social Cooperative Hangang



About Us



Members :
980



Budget : 2.0
billion



Number of
volunteers :

Employees :
19 (Jul.25)

Korean Won
(2024)

about
20,000
(2019 ~
2024)

Mission Statement

By recovering ecology and restoring authentic culture of Hangang, we bring the values of ecology and culture to people.

HQ : Seongsu, Seoul

Branch : Goyang, Yeosu, Jincheon

Sites : Saetgang, Jungnangcheon, Jincheon

History in brief

- Aug 25, 2018: Launching ceremony
- Nov 2018: Registered as Social Cooperative
- Feb 2019: Signed MoU with Hangang Business Headquarter, Seoul Metropolitan Government
- Mar 2019: Signed MoU with Citizen's Alliance for Noeul Park
- May 2019 : Organizing Saetgang Forum
- May 2019: Opened branch office in Goyang city
- June 2019: Designated as Donation Organization by Ministry of Planning & Finance
- Aug. 2019: Designated as prospective Social Enterprise (Ministry of Environment)



History in brief (Continue)

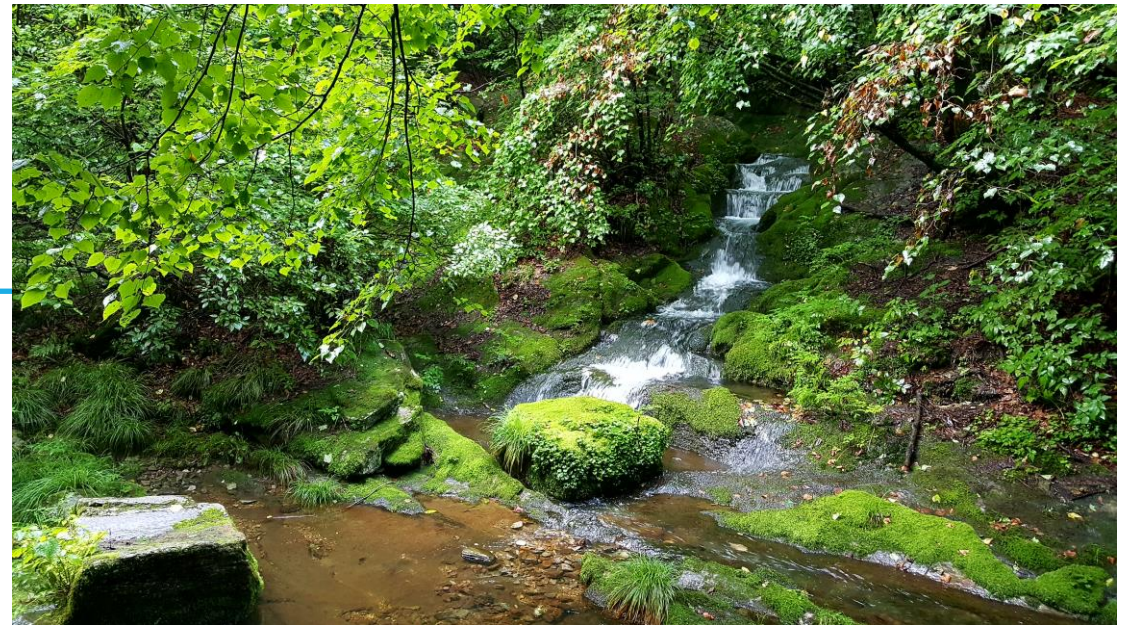
- Apr. 2020 : Designated as consignment business entity for Saetgang Ecological Park (Seoul Metropolitan Government)
- May 2020 : Opened branch office in Yeosu city
- May 2020 : Research project on river culture activation (Ministry of Environment)
- Jan. 2021 : Established Otters Conservation Network
- Mar. 2021 : Signed MoU with Friends of Nature
- Jun. 2021 : Signed MoU with Seoul Metropolitan Government & Hyundai Motors Group about <Environmental Friendly Renovation and Activation of Saetgang Ecological Park>
- Apr. 2022 : Renewal of consignment operation contract for Saetgang Ecological Park
- Apr. 2022 : Signed MoU with Seoul Youngdeungpo Welfare Center for the disabled
- Mar. 2023 : Signed MoU with Seongdong District
- Aug. 2023 : Signed MoU with Hyundai Mobis/Jincheon Province for Biodiversity Project
- Aug. 2024 : Designated as Jincheon Environmental Education Center
- Nov. 2024 : Jungnang mandarin ducks festival

Business Area

Restoration of river ecology : management of Saetgang Eco Park, Jungnangcheon Sanctuary conservation, ESG, Protection of otters, etc.

River culture activation : River education, programs, festivals, Han river trail trekking, riverside camping, Han river roaming theatre, etc.

Citizens' science / campaigns : ecological monitoring by citizen scientists, R&D on civil management of commons, policy research about river culture activation, etc.



Saetgang. March 1, 2019



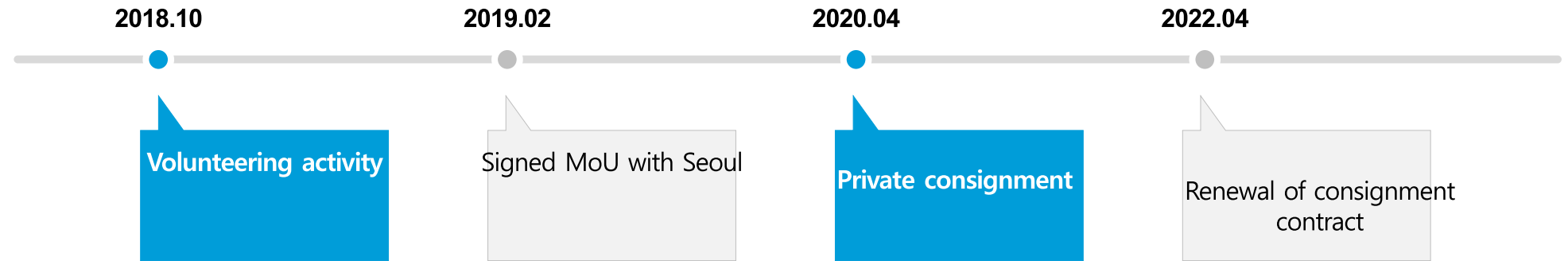
April 2019



Directions of Saetgang Eco Park operation

- Otters Park : enhancing biodiversity
- Civil participation park
- Forest of humanities
- Social barrier free park : programs and space for the disabled, foreigners, seniors, etc
- Climate action park

Saetgang Eco
Park's
Management
consignment by
Seoul city





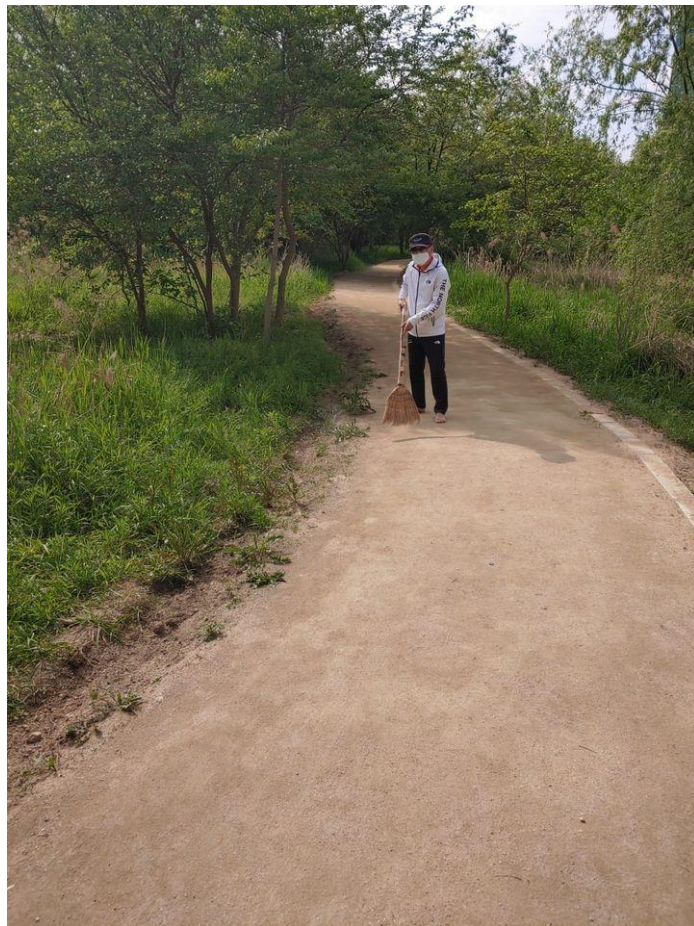
Kids planting flowers, volunteering





River cleanup day





Ecological protection





Otter monitoring





Bare foot walking program





Forest concert





Film screening





Otter painting event





셋강공원을 예술공원으로

스마트폰으로 쉽게 배우는 셋강 시민 사진강좌

버드나무 숲과 수달이 사는 강이 있는 여의 셋강생태공원. 흙으로 덮인 오솔길과 데크, 나무 울타리 너머로 청둥오리가 헤엄치고 들꽃과 갈대가 춤을 추는 곳.

도심 속 아름다운 여의셋강생태공원을 사진에 담아볼까요? 스마트폰으로 쉽게 사진을 찍고 셋강공원에 전시하는 기회를 드립니다.

- 모집 및 운영 기간 6월 ~ 10월
- 대상 사진을 배우고 싶고 셋강을 좋아하는 시민 누구나
- 신청 gourl.kr/셋강스마트폰사진
- 감사 박원진 사진작가(화인페이퍼갤러리 대표)
- 일정 10.22.(토) 오후 1시 ~ 5시
(매월 강좌 일정은 전월에 공지해드립니다.)
- 문의 02-6956-0596

* 노쇼(No show) 방지를 위해 신청 시 참가비 1만원을 받습니다. 2회차 전부 출석 시에만 돌려드립니다.
우리은행 1005-503-602257 / 사회적협동조합 한강

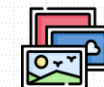
주최 사회적협동조합 **한강**

후원 **HYUNDAI**
HYUNDAI MOTOR GROUP

후원 **사람의연대**
people's alliance

전화 02-6956-0596 / 010-9837-0825
 E-mail admin@coophangang.kr <http://coophangang.kr/>

Photo exhibition





Yoga program





Spring festival





Rice farming



Kids playground





Celebrating New Year





Volunteering after flooding



Groups and communities based on Saetgang Eco Park





Program and job opportunity for the disabled

5. Saetgang Citizens' Committee : activities in 2025

- Let's conserve team



5. Saetgang Citizens' Committee : activities in 2025

- Let's enjoy team



5. Saetgang Citizens' Committee : activities in 2025

- Let's learn team



5. Saetgang Citizens' Committee : activities in 2025

- Let's protect team



Saetgang Community

- People who participate programs, do volunteering, visit park became a part of Saetgang community
- When there are issues related to park operation, people actively participate in.
- People are proud of being part of Saetgang community.



6. Implications and tasks

Challenges

- Seoul Metropolitan Government's attitude toward the committee is not always favorable.
- Limited financial and manpower resources

Implication

- Saetgang Ecological Park is a good model of **commoning!**
- Light community has been built throughout the activities of ecological conservation and river culture.

Tasks

- Continuous efforts to enhance governance should be made.
- Saetgang Citizens' Committee should be a good model of citizen-led community building.

Thank you!!

