

## The Scharnhäuser Park in Ostfildern



A footpath crossing a drainage ditch, here still under construction

A housing lane with rainwater channels as a play street

The natural source area of the Krähenbach stream is fed with rainwater collected on site.

A shallow channel is a footpath and when it rains also a conveyor of rainwater.

Multifunctional grass-surfaced swale areas

The 'Baumhain' is a much used urban park with spacious swales which are also play areas.

tion, discharge delay and modest infiltration into the clayey subsoil.

The rainwater has now been fully withdrawn from the former mixed water sewer and now flows, when it has not been retained in private storage tanks or in roof gardens, or has soaked away through water-permeable surfaces, through a system of channels and ditches running alongside the streets. This network runs through the new estate as an unmistakable design feature. Here the cascade-like landscape steps, 1.5 kilometres long, are particularly striking. This design element is also part of the rainwater management programme: below the steps the living bottom zone purifies the water in additional retention hollows and pools.

Discharged water that has been delayed and purified in this way is fed via natural gradients into the surrounding landscape, with its valuable wetlands, biotopes and spring areas.

Even if traces of the former military structure show in the urban development, the water has successfully linked up with the surrounding landscape and its features.

