The archaeological excavations on the tel and its surroundings were conducted during the 1960s and 1970s by the late Dr. Joseph Elgavish on behalf of the Haifa Municipality Museums Department. The excavations were focused on the tel and on the areas to the east and south of it. Extensive areas were dug on the tel, and what was found were mainly the layers of settlements from the Iron Age (11th-8th centuries BCE) and from the Persian period (6th-4th centuries BCE). During the course of the excavations at the site, an exceptionally rich find was discovered, which consisted of imported artifacts from various Mediterranean regions. The most important architectural feature exposed here was a “four-room house” which was the common type of residence during the Iron Age. The building is dated to the Iron Age (9th century BCE) and is among the best preserved of its kind that has been discovered in Israel so far. It was built on the southeastern slopes of the tel and was recently excavated by the Haifa University expedition team. The main feature of the building was its functional architectural division into three parallel rooms with a fourth room that lay perpendicular to them.

In the 1990s, extensive excavations were conducted to the east of the tel by the Israel Antiquities Authority. These excavations confirmed that we have here a fairly well-established settlement of the Byzantine period (4th-6th centuries CE) which included a number of monastery complexes and thriving industries to the south and east of the tel. The affluent Byzantine residential quarters, which were comprised of halls paved with mosaics, water and drainage system, and an extensive industrial complex composed of scores of plastered areas and industrial pools; to expose again the complete excavation areas that were dug by Elgavish; and finally, to display a number of selected areas for public viewing. At this stage we are focusing on three main areas:

1. Conservation and public exhibition of the industrial pool complex near the seashore, as well as the conservation and perhaps even a partial reconstruction of the four-room house.
2. Conservation and completion of the excavation of the church to the south of the tel. This church, with its colorful mosaic floors, will be displayed to the public when the park is opened.
3. The “Archeology Island” Project for the Benefit of the Local Population

Our aim is to open a number of “archaeology islands” for the enjoyment of the general public who visit the Hecht Park, with direct access to excavation sites lined with pathways and marked with appropriate explanatory signs.

Help us to conserve the antiquities. Please, do not enter the excavation sites. In some of the areas there are open excavation pits and in others there are mosaic floors that have not yet been prepared for public visits. Searching for metals, excavation, and deliberate damage are all forbidden by law. If you notice any of these things being done, please contact us and the Israeli police immediately.

The antiquities here belong to all of us. Let us conserve them and turn the site into an archaeological gem available to all.