

Newsletter

september 2019



Green4Grey converts grey residual areas into green-blue zones!

On 1 July 2014, the Flemish Land Agency, together with several partners, launched the Green4Grey [Life+](#)-project with focus on investing in the development of green and blue infrastructure for grey urbanised landscapes. Around 4.4 million euros were invested, of which nearly 50% came from European co-financing. In six project areas we are converting non-built up residual areas into attractive and various natural spots. In [six project areas](#) in the Flemish Belt around Brussels and in De Wijers, and in the urbanised and pond-rich area around Hasselt and Genk, we are converting non-built up residual areas into attractive and multifaceted natural spots.

Read all about the project areas and news regarding the project on our website: www.green4grey.be !

News from the six project areas

SCHANSBROEK

DE WIJERS - Genk

The Schansbroek neighbourhood park is located in the source area of the Stiemerbeek, part of the Horns-zee nature reserve. A remarkable metamorphosis has been realized here.

When you walk through the nature reserve, you quickly notice that it is very marshy, and this has consequences for the adjacent neighbourhood. The design for the neighbourhood park was drawn up in a number of consultation workshops with the residents of the neighbourhood and future target groups. They opted for allotments, play elements for children and various provisions for the residents of the Steymer service centre, such as footpaths, new cycling connections, a petanque terrain, etc. The football club also gained a newly drained football pitch. The former mining basins and the historical ramp have been restored to their former glory with several rest areas from which to enjoy the water. This way the neighbourhood park has been converted into a quality meeting place for everyone: local residents, footballers, employees of the Thorpark, families, gardeners, hikers, cyclists, etc. In future, they will be able to enjoy this new walking area and the workers will be able to get to their work safely by bicycle. The Hornszeevijver has also been given a more natural layout by removing the silt and by allowing the banks to slope more. The system that provides the inflow and outflow of the pond has been completely renewed and the former enclosed pipe drainage channel has been opened up. This allows better drainage of the surrounding plots and the gardens of the adjacent neighbourhood are drier.

The Schansbroek neighbourhood park in Genk was officially opened on 25 May 2019.



News from the six project areas

SLAGMOLEN

DE WIJERS - Genk

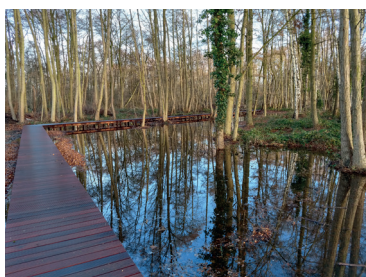
The first stage of works in the area of the Slagmolen, Genk's oldest building, has been completed. At this stage, improvement focused on the water management. The Schabeek has been taken out of its concrete bed and disconnected from the Stiemerbeek. During heavy downpours, the Stiemerbeek often overflowed. The dirty sewage flowed via the Schabeek to De Maten and threatened the fauna and flora of this nature reserve.

Thanks to the disconnection of both waterways, and the installation of a distribution construction this spring, only pure water will now flow towards De Maten. This will ecologically improve the ponds in De Maten. At the same time, a new channel and dyke reduce flooding in the gardens along the Slagmolenweg.

The landscape around the Slagmolen looks more natural now. The Schabeek has been redesigned partly as a meandering watercourse and partly as a marsh. In addition, a log path has been laid through the swamp forest. The footpath connects the Genk city centre and the Slagmolen. The short walking loop through De Maten was also given a face lift.

At a later stage, the surroundings of the historic Slagmolen will be converted into a meeting point for De Wijers, so that visitors will be encouraged to see the 'Land of 1001 ponds'.

On 22 June 2019 the first works were officially presented.



News from the six project areas

DAUTEWEYERS

De Wijers - Diepenbeek

The Dauteweyers, a nature reserve at the foot of De Wijers, underwent a real metamorphosis in the autumn of 2018 and the spring of 2019. The pools and ponds have been improved to give the endangered common tree frog a better survival chance. Trees that destabilise the banks of the pond and cast undesirable shade on the ponds, have been removed. The common tree frog enjoys sunny undergrowth and he likes (bramble) thickets with large leaves and lots of flowers and fruits that attract insects. Furthermore, the ponds have been improved by removing the silt and reinforcing the banks. The outdated inflow and outflow system has been renovated. The common tree frog needs shallow, fast-heating ponds and pools in which to spawn its eggs. It is important that, during the winter period, the ponds remain dry and that the young tadpoles are protected from fish.

We have noticed that these changes have a positive effect on the common tree frog population. This spring, more than 600 croaking males were counted!!

In future, a network of walking paths will be provided in the Wijers through the Dauteweyers area in order to attract hikers from outside the region.

The newly designed Dauteweyers nature reserve will be opened on Sunday 29 September. We expect everyone to meet at 2.00 pm in Heidestraat between the ponds (near house number 27). At 2.30 pm, we start a tour to seek the common tree frog.



News from the six project areas

KAPITTELBEEK VALLEY

VLAAMSE RAND – Beersel

During the redevelopment of the Kapittelbeek valley natural water storage and erosion control were very important. New standard orchards and grass verges prevent erosion. The oldest known footpath in Flanders, the Conscience Path, has been improved. It is now located farther from the Kapittelbeek, so that the brook has more space and able to meander. This means that the water flows downhill at a slower rate. Thanks to this path, the new pond and play area are more accessible for the residents of the local neighbourhood. Thanks to the provision of boardwalks, the wet areas are more accessible. The artificial concrete pond was converted into a natural pool. The pond is a biotope for amphibians and part of the nature learning path. It acts as a natural flooding zone and so protects the residential areas in the neighbourhood. What's more, numerous instructive sustainable play equipment has been erected for children. In the 'Wijk Het Geer', the courtyards were redesigned with attention to ecology and entertainment. The verges were transformed into flowery hay lands and protected from parking.

During the opening events of Dworp-Kapittelbeek on 20 and 22 April 2018, the pupils and residents could try out the new footpaths and playground equipment for themselves.



News from the six project areas

WOLUWEVELD

VUILBEEK / KLEINE MAALBEEK

VLAAMSE RAND – Zaventem, Kraainem, Wezembeek-Oppem

The newly designed green residual space 'Het Zeen' in Zaventem underwent a true metamorphosis with numerous important functions. Water buffering, climate adaptation, health and recreation in a green environment are combined into one fine, green city landscape. The stream was opened, additional footpaths were created and the park was enlarged. Two asphalt roads were broken up and converted into a parking area with cycling and foot paths. There are additional play and sport possibilities and joggers can use the Finnish path.

The opening of 'Het Zeen' took place on 9 June 2018 during the European Green Week.



News from the six project areas

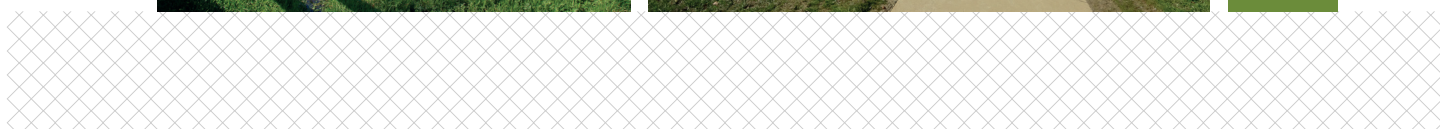
HORING, KERREMANS PARK

EN BEDRIJVEN SITE ZELLIK

VLAAMSE RAND – Asse

The Kerremanspark in Zellik forms a green lung in the suburban area and has been completely redesigned. Thanks to a 1-km loop, neighbouring residents and employees can now walk or jog in green surroundings. A log path and a 'place by the water' has restored the relationship with the Molenbeek. Trees have also been planted and a pool has been dug for amphibians. Together with companies a green vision was developed. It enabled a green-blue interlacing of the adjoining business site. More than 1 hectare of superfluous asphalt was converted into park area (from grey to green), as an expansion of the Kerremanspark.

The redesigned Kerremanspark in Asse was officially opened on 26 June 2018.



Did you know that...



This month, Green4Grey is publishing a 'Laymans Report' and a 'technical report'?

The 'Laymans Report' is a brochure bundling together the main points of focus and recommendations of the Green4Grey project. This brochure will be distributed at the end of September at the final conference of Green4Grey.

The 'technical report' is a detailed publication of 100 pages in which the entire project and the way of working is summarized. This publication is intended to inspire policy makers and professionals and encourage them to convert local grey residual areas into green-blue open spaces.

Both brochures are being published in Dutch and in English and will be available on the green4grey website for download.



Did you know that...

Green4Grey inspires companies with a guide for 'ecological green on industrial sites'?



Our brochure 'Ecological green on industrial sites' features 11 inspirational companies that find a green and more natural setting very important. They have consciously chosen to invest in an attractive and green industrial site. It also includes 10 tips that can inspire other companies.

This publication was presented to the business community during the signing of the 'Green Deal Businesses and Biodiversity' (in September 2018): <https://www.lne.be/green-deal-bedrijven-en-biodiversiteit>.

Green4Grey has participated in several European conferences in recent years?



Green4Grey attended the 'LIFE platform meeting on Ecosystem Services in Estland' at the initiative of the European Commission and gave a presentation during the 'Nurturing nature for sustainable cities and regions' conference at the initiative of the European Committee of the Regions in 2018.



Did you know that...



Green4Grey has organised two creative design workshops?



A creative design workshop was held at the end of 2016, during which some 40 students in the Master's programme 'Urban Development and Spatial Planning' of Leuven University brainstormed about open space areas in the NW of the Flemish Belt around Brussels. Their ideas were subsequently incorporated into specific proposals, under the supervision of experts.



The creative design workshop in Hasselt had previously brought together 20 students and experts out of a dozen different disciplines. They came together to think about a sustainable future for an area on the Hasselt outskirts, named 'Curange-les-Bains'. The ideas were compiled into a digital publication.

Want more fun facts about Green4Grey?

Green4Grey has its own Facebook page! All news about the project areas is published here. We also put all Green4Grey news on our website www.green4grey.be. At the end of September you will also be able to find photos and information about our final conference.

VLAAMSE
LAND
MAATSCHAPPIJ



Vlaamse
overheid

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