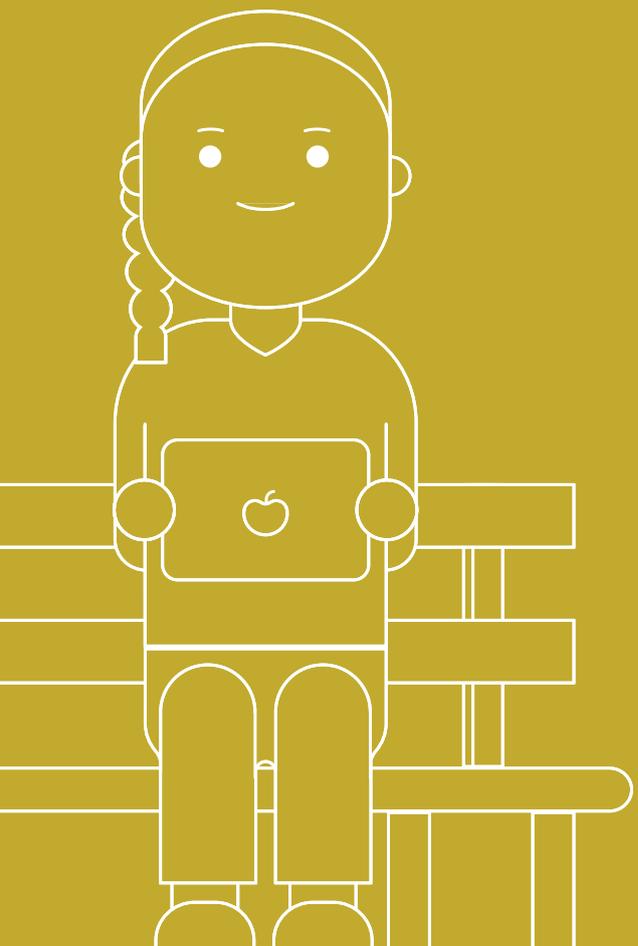
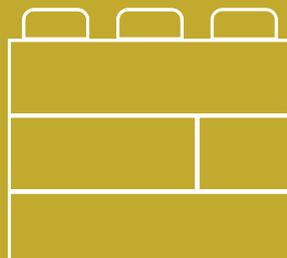


NEW NBS BRUSSELES



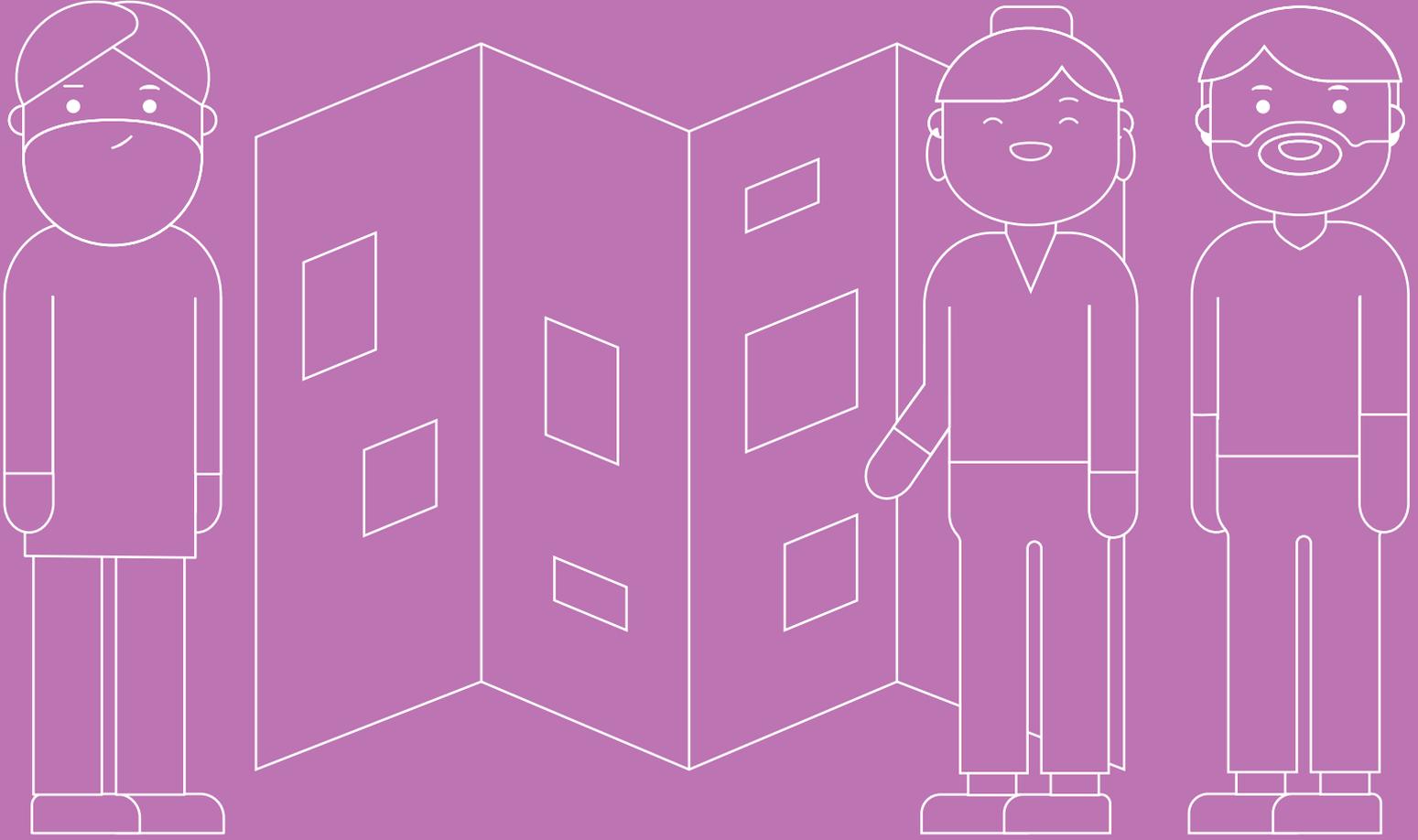
Based on:
URBiNAT D2.7 Healthy Corridor
Urban Plans for Follower Cities





- "Coulée verte" perimeter
- URBINAT study area
- Route of the heat network
- Heat network : possible extension
- Cycle route to be developed

Participatory & Culture NBS



1. Forum Theatre – action theatre with children in collaboration with Collectif 1984 (2021 & 2022)

Description

In 2021 and 2022, two collaborations took place between the local task force of Brussels and an action-theatre collective based in Neder-Over-Heembeek, the Collectif 1984. These collaborations allowed the team to engage children on the matters of how they envisaged and lived in public space, and their neighbourhood more specifically (2021), and how they imagined the future (2022). These playful forms of interaction were better adapted to the young audience we were soliciting. As a methodology initially proposed in the NBS catalogue, it was adapted to and enriched by the local context.

Positive aspects/challenges

- Experimental methodology creating space for engaged interaction by children
- Exploratory and subjective enrichment of the co-design process
- Challenging to integrate knowledge gained in standard project development

Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

Used in the co-diagnostic phase in January 2021, the local task force in Brussels tagged along to and co-facilitated 2 action-theatre workshops (moments already planned in cultural program of the *Maison de la Création NOH*) with children 9–11 years old. Helped to understand how children live in the neighbourhood and get a glimpse of their everyday practices. The objectives of the workshop were the following:

- To explore together the affordances of a mode of interaction (theatre workshops), for feeding into a shared analysis of a place (NOH).
- To test out this mode, and learn-by-doing, in order to feed into more “formalised” versions, or reiterations of this experience in the future.
- To get in touch with children of the neighbourhood, and get an intuitive feel for this population group, and their relationships to their environment (human/more-than-human).



CO-SELECTION & CO-DESIGN

In the co-design phase, the action-theatre/forum-theatre methodology was once again used in the context of the “Val Maria on Fire” festive neighbourhood event (June 2022) co-organised by a number of local associations in collaboration with the Brussels local task force. The methodology here served to once again create a playful interaction with a group of children of mixed ages, in order to project ourselves jointly into a collective future. The main objective of the “Val Maria on Fire” event and thus the guiding principle for the action-theatre used in this case was to create a moment of conviviality, of meeting in public space, and to give a space for children and young adults to express needs and translate them into public problems via free and critical speech.

Best Practices and References

NA



2. Cultural Mapping (Women footprint, Forbidden city)

Description

In Brussels, for the **co-diagnostic phase**, to identify a **baseline understanding of places, people, resources** (tangible, intangible), and opportunities/risks. In order for the local task force to better understand the place that they are intervening in. The cultural mapping methodology was integrated with the ethnographic exploration begun in September and October 2020.

Points of attention were the following:

- Places of emotional value; places with strong memories attached (positive, negative)
- Symbolic places and/or buildings
- Grassroots projects taking place that bring added value to the community
- Associations and their respective activities and projects
- Perceptions of people and place (inside/ outside)

Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Valuing qualities of the neighbourhood: focus on strengths, not just weaknesses
- Quality interactions with target groups

CHALLENGES

- Translating learnings from methodology into concrete actions, within scope of project

Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

Participant observation in as many citizen initiatives and activities taking place in the field, “octopus” technique (a hand in everything, to gain at least a superficial understanding of all projects in the field)

Moments of dwelling in the field, again along the mode of ethnographic participant observation (sensory, visceral sensibility), taking notes, creation

of visual artefacts and soundscape recordings

Interviews organised with inhabitants and stakeholders on an “opportunistic” basis (snowball sampling), open-ended interviews, with possibility to schedule a second, more targeted interview moment to deepen the conversation on specific themes

Regularly, field presence in public space: either using the **“salon public” tool**, or tagging along with the AMO’s street presence.

Targeted **focus groups** and **workshops** organised in collaboration with associations in the field.

Focus on women and insecurity.

CO-SELECTION & CO-DESIGN

The cultural mapping approach was used to guide workshop development in the co-design phase, focusing on continuously feeding and growing culture in the neighbourhood via festive events and collaborations with local actors.

Best Practices and References

WOMEN FOOTPRINT

- Fernández Pérez, Z. (2011). Investigación Mapa de las Huellas de las Mujeres en Basauri. Basauri, Spain: Ayto.de Basauri-Área de Igualdad. (link)

MAPS OF FORBIDDEN CITIES FOR WOMEN

- Mapa de la ciudad prohibida para las mujeres, Basauri (2002). (link)
- Mapa de la ciudad prohibida para las mujeres, Bilbao (2010-2011). (link)
- Kolektiboa, H. (2010). Manual de análisis urbano: Género y vida cotidiana. Vitoria, Spain: Servicio Central de Publicaciones del Gobierno Vasco. (link)
- Kolektiboa, H. (2011). Mapas de la ciudad prohibida y procesos participativos, ampliando horizontes para un urbanismo inclusivo. (link)
- Mapa Morea de Soraluze. (2017). Violet Map[1] Mapa Morea for the implementation of gender equality politics. (link)

OTHER INSPIRING RESULTS OF CULTURAL MAPPING APPROACHES

- “Jardins éclectiques” / Nantes (link)
- “Fonds de collecte mémorielle” in Nantes. (link)
- “Webdocs” / Nantes. (link) + (link)

3. Photovoice – sound treasure hunt variation

Description

This participatory methodology was mobilised in the context of the exploratory methods used in the field, part of the cultural mapping protocol, working towards the local diagnostic report. This workshop format was an opportunity to meet youth living and dwelling in Val Maria, and to get their first-hand accounts of their everyday experience of place.

- To collect subjective experiences of place through a sensory exploration of place: sensory cartographic mapping of the Val Maria, focusing on sounds.

The result was a collection of recorded sounds, with associated textual or verbal explanations, and a cartographic reference (cf. image).

Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Very engaging format for children
- Subjective exploration and knowledge of place

CHALLENGES

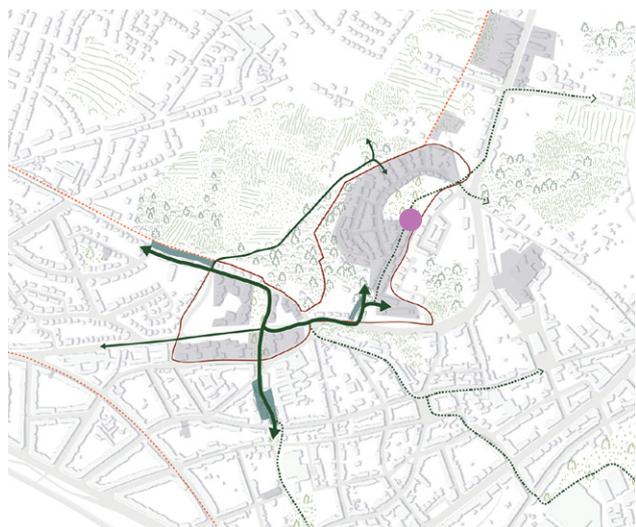
- Having a coordination a collection moment to gather the sound files
- Having a collection moment of the particular walks that each group did

Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

The sound treasure hunt format was used in a workshop with youth from Val Maria, as a way to engage in dialogue with them about their sense of place and attachments to the neighbourhood. The following prompts were used to send the children in small groups out of walks looking for sounds.

- A sound that makes you feel at home
- A sound that makes you feel like a stranger
- A sound that reminds you of a memory
- A sound you like / don't like
- A sound that surprised you / the most interesting sound / the most discreet sound



CO-SELECTION & CO-DESIGN

Following the use of sound throughout the co-diagnostic, it emerged naturally to continue mobilising this tool throughout the co-design phase, leading amongst others to the project "Radio Plouf" (no. 13). The use of the "microtrottoir" tool also continued to serve as a sound variation on photovoice.

Best Practices and References

NA



4. Walkthrough / Focus groups in situ

Participation process to use the NBS CO-DIAGNOSTIC

A specific tool of the “marche exploratoire” developed by feminist collectives such as Garance was used in the local diagnostic for gendered considerations of the explored places. For specific NBS-related themes such as water management and historical watercourses, or the past present and future of agriculture in the neighbourhood, walkthroughs were also used.

CO-SELECTION & CO-DESIGN

Site visits are used as a preferential tool to build up the elements of the project touching a specific site, such as the Chemin du pendu. This is especially relevant as it enabled municipal technicians to include local actors into the meetings, to share experiential knowledge.

Description

As part of the cultural mapping and ethnographic approaches to the fieldwork, walkthroughs and in situ focus groups were regularly used whenever having discussions or meetings with local stakeholders about specific places. This is especially important in order to counter the habitus of urban planners to gather territorial knowledge via maps and streetview, which is essential and saves time but is not sufficient to have in depth knowledge of the field of intervention.

Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Fine-grain knowledge of place
- Embodied knowledge and knowledge sharing
- Opportunity to gather visual and sound material for project documentation
- Health benefits of activity in itself

CHALLENGES

- Time-consuming for a large territory such as NOH

Best Practices and References

NA

5. Community workshops

Description

URBiNAT in Brussels was characterised by the organisation of or participation in many festive events taking place in public space. The aim was to activate these spaces in playful ways, to encourage conviviality and interaction amongst inhabitants (intergenerational, inter-gender) and with institutions. It was an opportunity to gather dreams, wishes, needs, solutions, ideas, that could then feed the overall co-design.

Positive aspects/challenges

Opportunity to collaborate actively with local actors in producing a festive moment
Activation of public space in playful and convivial ways

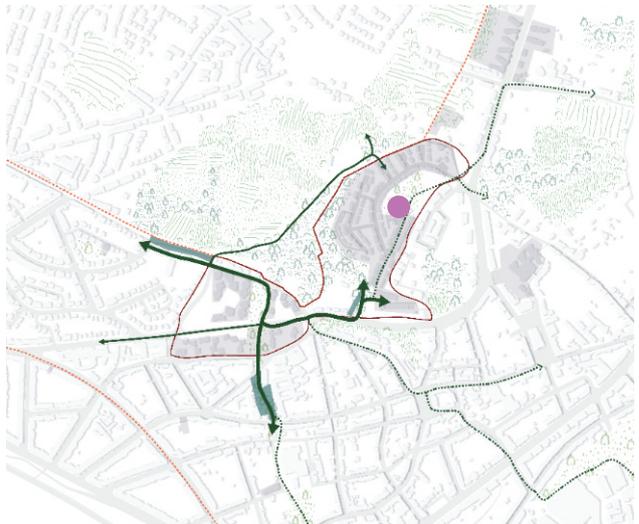
Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC/ CO-DESIGN

See participation data for overview of activities.

Best Practices and References

NB





6. Design thinking

Description

Design thinking was the core and overarching principle used for project development in URBiNAT. The URBiNAT project ethos and methodologies developed aim to include participation of local stakeholders in all parts of the design cycle.

Positive aspects/challenges

Engagement of actors in all phases is meant to increase project uptake and relevance
 Heavy process of design: importance to take the time to do things right
 Iterative process involves a lot of back and forth between actors

Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC/ CO-DESIGN

See other methodological cards (1-8) and Chapter describing the cocreation process and chronology.

Best Practices and References

NA



7. Participatory budgeting

Description

Participatory budgeting is a tool for increasing engagement in project-definition and determining investment priorities in a neighbourhood. The first participatory budgeting exercise of the current majority took place in NOH-M with an investment budget of 1 million euros, and mobilised a new democratic structure: the Neighbourhood council.

Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Active citizen engagement in guiding investment priorities in their neighbourhood
- Projects could be carried by local actors, enabling co-implementation

CHALLENGES

- Reconciling administrative temporalities and multi-actor project implementation



Participation process to use the NBS CO-DIAGNOSTIC/ CO-DESIGN

The participatory budgeting of NOH-M was piloted in parallel to URBiNAT's diagnostic. The local task force was involved in discussions and working groups where relevant in order to ensure synergy-building between the two programs.

Best Practices and References

NA



Description

Ethnographic fieldwork was used in Brussels as a tool and methodology to enter the “field”, the study area of the Living Lab, in order to understand how people use their space; to become more visible to inhabitants and encourage spontaneous interactions; to establish first contact and meeting opportunities and gather information on activities taking place in the neighbourhood; to develop an embodied understanding of place; and most importantly to establish the basis for a trust-based relationship with local actors and inhabitants.

8. Ethnographic fieldwork

Positive aspects/challenges

- Fine-grain and embodied knowledge of place
- Opportunities emerging from spontaneous interactions
- Good connection with local actors ; become a known person for certain themes
- Development of “proximity participation” from the very start of the diagnostic
- Time-consuming and requires attentive position-taking

Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC/ CO-DESIGN

This field-based approach inspired by anthropological methodologies was used throughout all phases of the co-design, as an ethos of “being in place”.

Best Practices and References

NA

9. Collective sound mapping

Description

After noting the absence of open-access field recordings in the Brussels Sound Map (created by BNA-BBOT), and considering that sound had been collected in the context of the ethnographic fieldwork of the task force, it was decided to share these sound snapshots of NOH via this platform. This in the hope that further sound-based projects could later take place, and continue feeding the living memory of the neighbourhood.

Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Concrete possibility for sharing collected materials from local diagnostic
- Platform already existing and nourished by a wide variety of individuals
- Absence of recordings in NOH: opportunity to fill this gap

CHALLENGES

- After diagnostic, less opportunity to collect sound, and thus to feed the map
- Quality of recordings (often opportunistically done on phone) not optimal for reuse



Participation process to use the NBS CO-DIAGNOSTIC

In the diagnostic phase, the ethnographic fieldwork also took the shape of the gathering of field recordings and a workshop with children in the form of a “sound treasure hunt” (cf. NBS no. 3). In order to restore this material to the wide community, a collaboration with BNA-BBOT, who hosts a collective and open-access sound map, and who temporarily created a specific layer containing the uploaded field recordings.

CO-DESIGN

Following the diagnostic, various possibilities of sound-based projects had emerged. It took some time of discussion and collaboration with local actors to establish where it might be most opportune to mobilise this tool. In the end, the initial sound recordings gave a sensitivity to sound that gave way (amongst others) to the “Plouf Radio” project (NBS no. 13), a collaboration with BRAVVO.

Best Practices and References

<https://aporee.org/maps/>

<http://www.urbanisason.be/>

CAFES CITOYENS BURGERCAFÉS



L'HISTOIRE DE NOTRE QUARTIER
DE GESCHIEDENIS VAN ONZE WIJK

Neder-Over-Heembeek et/en De Wand

Mercredi /Woensdag

08/03/23

18:00 > 20:00

Accueil de / Onthaal vanaf
17:30

Lieu / locatie: **Lendrik**

22 Pl. Peter Benoît 1120 Peter Benoîtplein 22

Intervenant / spreker: Benoît Elleboudt

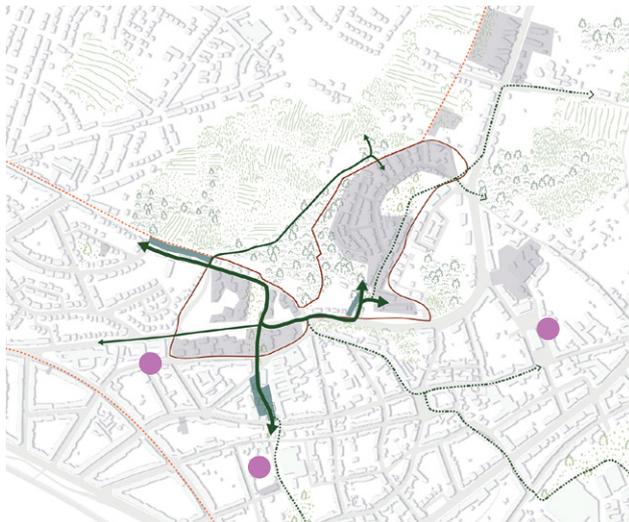
Voorzitter van vzw De Groene Wandeling van Neder-Over-Heembeek / Président de La Promenade Verte de Neder-Over-Heembeek asbl

Petit repas offert / Gratis hapjes

Participation gratuite mais **inscription souhaitée** / Gratis deelname, maar **inschrijving gewenst** bij: **Nicole Malengreau** : malengreunicole@gmail.com 0476/50.20.49



Organisé par la Coordination Sociale Heembeek-Mutsaard.
Een initiatief van de Sociale Coördinatie van Neder-Over-Heembeek
Avec le soutien du budget participatif 2020 de la Ville de Bruxelles
Met steun van de burgerbegroting 2020 van de Stad Brussel



10. Citizen café

Description

Project emerging from the participatory budget of NOH-M, with the objective to reconnect different sub-neighbourhoods amongst themselves via a mobile and thematic meeting. Focus on conviviality of the encounter, and addressing needs and interests of inhabitants.

Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Community-led project
- Institutional support (financing and project development) via participatory budgeting

CHALLENGES

Risk of in-group effects, not managing to reach inhabitants not already within social networks of organisers

Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

The URBiNAT local task force supported the development of this project in its initial phases of project definition (meetings and informal exchanges), including the proposition to make use of “sound” tools to support the project’s goals.

CO-DESIGN

In the concrete iterations of the project, the local task force participated in the program-building by collaborating in two sessions: “the history of our neighbourhood” (8/03/2023) and “sustainable city” (April 2023), using audio-visual tools and making a link with the Climate Action Plan 2.0.

Best Practices and References

NA

11. Giant games for playful interactions in public space

Description

The “AMO de NOH” uses giant games as tools for interaction with youth in public space. The “ludothèque” Baobab just up the road from them also sells and rents out games. In the context of the participatory budgeting exercise of NOH-M, the idea was proposed to develop a mobile “ludothèque”. This then became a proposition to buy a stock of games – both playful but also pedagogical – that could be borrowed by associations when needed. This stock is currently housed at the cultural centre “ Maison de la Création NOH-M”.

Positive aspects and challenges

- Didactic and playful mode of interaction
- Breaks down language barriers
- Mobile: can be used throughout the neighbourhood
- Activates public space



Participation process to use the NBS CO-DIAGNOSTIC/CO-DESIGN

The URBiNAT local task force supported the development of this project in its initial phases of project definition (meetings and informal exchanges), and was an informal partner of the AMO de NOH in their weekly field presences (cf. ludomobile project).

Best practices and references

...



12. Street art / comic book murals

Positive aspects/challenges

- Valuing local identity and heritage
- Part of wider network of mural artwork in the municipality

Participation process to use the NBS CO-DIAGNOSTIC

Ethnographic fieldwork demonstrated that the AMO de NOH had already created a mural in collaboration with inhabitants of Versailles, representing the resilience of the neighbourhood and its inhabitants, including an homage to those who had left the neighbourhood. Street art is a big part of the youth culture of Versailles, and a key way to value their cultural heritage and practices, and to make their identities visible in public space. In addition, BRAVVO had done a mural on Place Saint Nicolas as a part of the “positive identities” project, and discussions were underway with regards to the place of art and culture in the new neighbourhood of the ZIR4. Thus, extending the Parcours BD into NOH made complete sense.



Credits: Ana Maria Chavez

Description

The City of Brussels pays particular attention to the rich and dynamic Belgian comic strip tradition. For the past ten years, the City has been honouring the characters and authors of the Franco-Belgian comic strip on its Brussels walls. The Comic Book Trail is now an integral part of the Brussels urban landscape, with more than sixty frescoes scattered throughout the municipality, including one recently inaugurated near to Place Peter Benoît (cf. “Jour de sable”), representing the heritage and values of NOH-M. In parallel, a Street Art trail has also been developed across the municipality of Brussels, and currently has two artworks up on the walls of Neder-Over-Heembeek, of which one emerged from the “positive identities” project of BRAVVO (cf. Bulle BD “NOH”).

In order to continue with this dynamic, the municipality is always on the lookout for spaces to implement a new mural. An opportunity to implement an artwork on one located on the “coulée verte”, thus adding additional cultural value and markers in this zone.

Best Practices and References

NA

13. Neighbourhood radio

Description

The aim is to meet residents in public spaces and in other places where groups gather (schools, youth centres, etc.), to collect stories about the neighbourhood and people's attachment to place. This raw material will be reworked into shorter forms for a wider distribution (podcast, short playlists, audio-visual presentations). Live radio will be explored as a tool for interaction in public space during one of the neighbourhood festive moments.

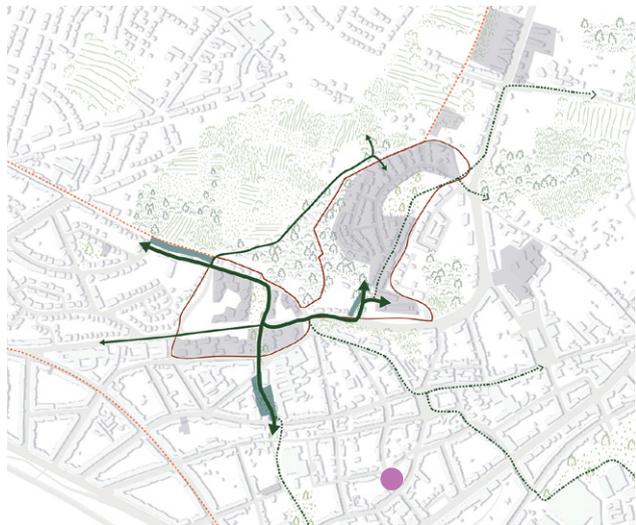
Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Sound as a didactic and accessible tool to collect voices and histories of place
- Pilot project to stimulate later projects around sound

CHALLENGES

- Voices are always partial ; complex reactions to outputs are possible
- Dissemination and listening challenge: how to get people to listen to the podcasts?
- Sustainability of the project beyond the pilot year
- Identity of the radio station: who does it legitimately represent?



Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

Sound (mapping and collection) was used as a variation on photovoice, and a tool within ethnographic fieldwork.

CO-DESIGN

Collaborations with local cultural and social cohesion actors are underway to put in place pilot actions directly in public place in 2023.

Best Practices and References

- Radio Marie-Christine in Laeken
- Tools for radio workshops developed by GSARA
- "Radio canapé" by AMO de NOH

Territorial NBS



14/15. Wildlife Park & Autochthonous Urban Forest – the “Urban Forest” and marshy alder grove of NOH



Description

The “Urban Forest” of Neder-Over-Heembeek and marshy alder grove are a green-blue and biodiversity continuity.

The Urban Forest is a program of green space renewal aiming to replace a mono-culture tree plantation with a diverse autochthonous tree community, through which walking routes managed by the association Promenade Verte-Groene Wandeling enable walkers to criss-cross through this area.

The marshy alder grove is a zone in the Tweebeekbroekgracht, following ancient water courses down through the Senne valley, and has been restored to its former role as zone of biodiversity and water management after a period of intensive fishing. This zone is also a key breeding site of a variety of amphibian species.

Both of these zones are part of the undergoing “Petit Chemin Vert” masterplan that is working on reconciling concomitant interests of the municipality and other local actors for this zone, in order to create a coherent vision for this area on the long term.

Positive aspects/challenges

- Coordination of projects through dialogue and bridge-building through the PCV masterplan
- Rehabilitation of an old monoculture plantation towards multi-species forest
- Rehabilitation of a marshy alder grove and protection on the long term
- Challenge of reconciling various municipal ambitions and technical departments
- Difficulty to reconcile green heritage, historical, current and future uses of land

Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

In various walkthroughs and informal discussions with local actors, this site and project was mentioned as a key resource of the neighbourhood, to be maintained and preserved. Local actions in the zone include the yearly action for saving of the amphibians crossing the Trassersweg.

CO-DESIGN

An inter-departmental working group is currently in place in the context of the “Petit Chemin Vert” masterplan study in order to reconcile municipal interests with the potential of this zone; local actors and inhabitants are involved in this study through workshops and targeted meetings.

Best Practices and References

NA



16. Playground – Versailles

Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

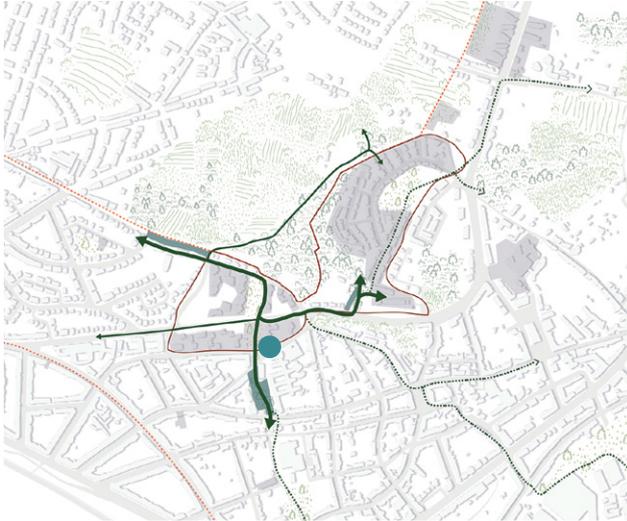
This NBS was one of the very first needs and concrete outputs identified from the outset when the local task force went into NOH, and was accompanied by a strong political will and interest in this project. An opportunity presented itself to incorporate the URBiNAT methodologies – notably workshops and focus groups – to feed into the municipality colleague's work on the public tender call.

CO-DESIGN

Play elements were collected from inhabitants via interviews, focus groups, and workshops, and were accompanied with “best practices” references (playgrounds that families and children greatly enjoyed going to, in Brussels and Belgium more widely). This was included in the technical work of the municipality, though challenged by the norms and legal framework associated with playground design and management. Due to Covid restrictions, it was difficult to maintain a continuity of participation throughout project development.

Best Practices and References

NA



Description

The playground of Versailles was renovated following a request from inhabitants and incorporating their input, making it more accessible to people with reduced mobility, with play elements inspired from other exemplary playgrounds, and introducing durable materials in its construction (focus on wood).

Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Inclusion of inhabitant's input in writing up public tendering
- Exploration of participatory process for green spaces design

CHALLENGES

- Participatory process interrupted due to Covid crisis
- Follow through of participation to implementation challenging
- Legal framework for playgrounds restrictive for experimental design

19. Chemin du pendu

Description

The Chemin du Pendu is a small path connecting the social housing sites of Val Maria and Craetbos to the Avenue de Versailles, following a sharp slope-line. It serves an essential function as a shortcut to the bus stop and to the rest of the neighbourhood, particularly for inhabitants of Val Maria, as the site was designed as an enclosed and car-based garden city, and does not have many designed interactions with its surroundings. The path is also a key vector of cross-neighbourhood sociability and sociocultural interaction, as many inhabitants – particularly women – go to activities via this path. Its renovation – at minimum – is an ongoing discussion and project between the municipality and the owner of the land on which the path passes, the social housing provider Comensia. The aim is to increase its accessibility both in terms of mobility and security, whilst preserving its biodiversity and country-side aesthetic qualities.

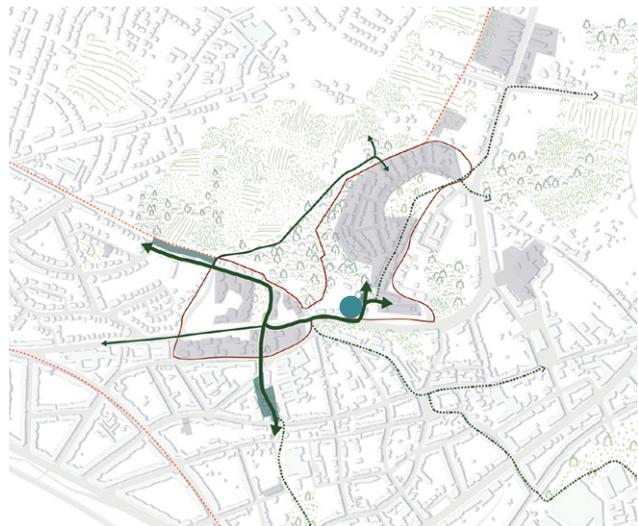
Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- High biodiversity in the zone, reinforcing green webbing in neighbourhood
- Used regularly by inhabitants of Versailles, Val Maria and Craetbos as a shortcut between neighbourhoods and to the bus stop; Used regularly by walkers

CHALLENGES

- Public path on private land; Multiple managers of the path (municipality and Comensia)
- Planning permit dating from 2007: outdated?; Vicinity of private estate complicates cohabitation
- Clandestine trash deposits due to isolation of path and sharp slope
- Sharp slope and ground instability: durability of solution vs. reduced mobility access vs. integrated rainwater management; Insecurity due to lack of lighting, but fauna protected by this absence
- Becoming too visible/accessible may perturb the “quietness”, tranquillity of Val Maria; potentially creating challenges for intergenerational cohabitation



Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

Through informal conversations, ethnographic fieldwork, workshops and focus groups, the subject of this path came up again and again as a cornerstone to social cohesion between Versailles and Val Maria, and an everyday frustration and source of fear for those who use it. Internal discussion about its renovation had also been ongoing for many years, and a small project task force was thus assembled to bring a satisfactory solution for all land managers and users of the path.

CO-DESIGN

In light of the emergent complexity of this seemingly simple project, the internal project task force has attempted to approach the problem with a pragmatism that hopes to resolve the situation as soon as possible. The inputs and insights drawn from the local diagnostic are regularly brought up again in discussion, to keep the connection to lived experience as strong as possible.

Best Practices and References

NA



20. Ilot Roi Albert / Donderberg

Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Green space protected by regional land use plan (PRAS)
- Historical walking path
- Low intervention levels has allowed development of unique biodiversity profile
- Zone of “wilderness” conducive to play (rare in urban areas)

CHALLENGES

- Reconciling “wilderness” and sense of security
- Identifying complementary uses with neighbouring infrastructures

Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

During walkthroughs and interviews, this site was identified by inhabitants as a little known resource of the neighbourhood, and as an essential shortcut to facilitate the accessibility of different public infrastructures (sports and transport) for social housing neighbourhoods (particularly Versailles).

CO-DESIGN

In the context of a cultural mapping focus on gendered sense of insecurity, and a walkthrough with women, points of attention emerged as lines to explore in a temporary occupation of place, in light of a future, more permanent landscaping project. These must serve as grounding elements for all further feasibility studies and project propositions.

Best Practices and References

“Pocket parks”



Description

An informal path (>10 years of public use on semi-private land) that is part of the municipal “green walk” (Promenade Verte). It is preserved from construction due to the regional land use plan (PRAS) that identifies it as a green space; a legacy from an old urban highway plan that fell through.

The site has a lot of potential for reconnecting pedestrian accessibility in the neighbourhood, as it breaks up a large urban block, and provides a shortcut (direct route) from Versailles to the swimming pool and sports complex, and further towards the tram lines connecting to the rest of the capital city.

The land has been in a formally underused state for several years, providing it with some qualitative elements of biodiversity-development (“wild” space), water infiltration, and informal uses for play and rest. However, it also has some clandestine trash dumping, a number of invasive species taking root, and some other elements contributing to a sense of insecurity (lack of visibility, lack of public lighting, etc.).

Valuing and reinforcing its current positive qualities, whilst managing its negative qualities, is the main objective of this project.

21. Allée des moutons

Description

A small path on the border of Brussels and Flanders, connecting agricultural lands with a residential neighbourhood, providing a shortcut between the historical and current commercial zones of NOH (Zavelput/Peter Benoît) and Mutsaard (De Wand) via Versailles. If renovated, would provide increased access for youth to the activities (Scouts, etc.) in De Wand.

Potential for soft mobility reconnection via this more peaceful and secure path (compared to Avenue de Versailles).

Heritage value of the cobblestones and the path itself, dating back to Roman times and historical pathways of the area.

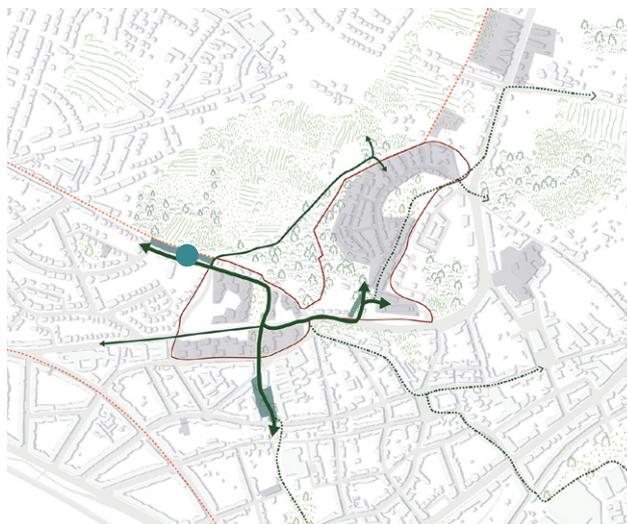
Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Quick win project
- Heritage potential and inclusion in walking routes of NOH (cf. No. 22)
- Coherent with overall soft mobility webbing ambition and Good Move

CHALLENGES

- Border zone, thus management of street is peripheral to everyday practices
- Ensuring landscape coherence between very diverse functions/land uses



Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

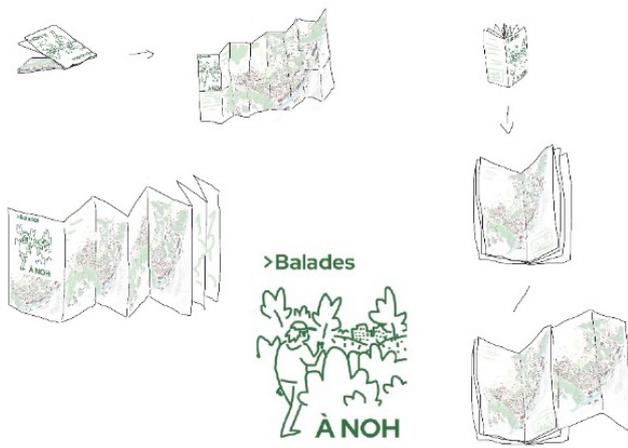
In thematic walkthroughs, informal conversations, and interactions with local actors, the importance of this site as a key connection point between NOH and Mutsaard (De Wand), and with Flanders was noted. Its heritage potential was pointed out in conversations with the PV-GW association.

CO-DESIGN

The identification of concrete possibilities for this site will happen via field visits with municipal technicians, bringing into the discussion the important points already noted by local actors and inhabitants in the diagnostic phase. Following this, the operational possibilities will be discussed, and presented to local stakeholders in due time.

Best Practices and References

“Pocket parks”



22. Atlas of walks – valuing the heritage of local paths in NOH

Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

The need to work on the visibility of pathways in the neighbourhood emerged in walkthroughs with inhabitants and local actors. Many inhabitants did not know the paths that were taken beforehand, and were very happy to discover a new face of their neighbourhood. Older inhabitants often lamented the lack of this «walking knowledge» of more recent residents, and wanted to share this knowledge.

CO-DESIGN

Pilot project in 2022-2023 in collaboration with local actors to do a first edition of an “atlas of walks”, to be distributed widely in the neighbourhood. Further formalisation of neighbourhood paths will require sourcing and valuing local knowledge of these, to compare with historical and cartographic knowledge.

Best Practices and References

“Valorisation sentiers vicinaux Haren”

Description

The project aims to make the different walks and pedestrian paths more visible in the neighbourhood, especially for new inhabitants. It also aims to value the heritage of actions and walks conducted by the PV-GW association in the past (collection and digitalisation of materials, reworking this into an output). Further on, this work can give way to a formalization of pedestrian paths and connections in the neighbourhood.

Positive aspects/challenges

Putting forward local heritage and qualities
 Collaboration of public institution with local actors
 Creation of outputs that can stay in the neighbourhood after URBiNAT is finished

23. Tiny Forest (participatory budgeting NOH 2020–2021)

Description

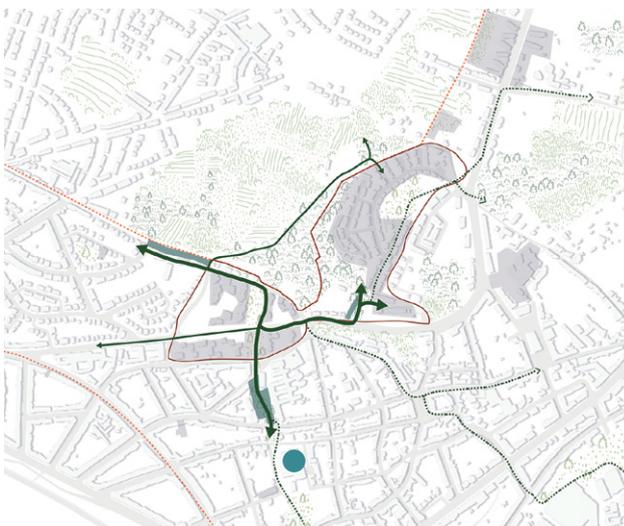
A project proposed by Good Planet in the context of the participatory budgeting exercise of 2020–2021 in Neder-Over-Heembeek. Supported in the administrative linkages by the local task force, but carried out autonomously once the budget was allocated. Planting took place in times of Covid restrictions, limiting the possibilities to stay true to the initial project methodology, but nonetheless 2 schools and 135 children were included in this pedagogical moment.

Positive aspects/challenges

- High biodiversity value in a short period of time by stimulating competition between individual plants
- Pedagogical zone and space for learning outdoors
- Covid restrictions made co-implementation complicated
- Change of management techniques and governance of this zone (municipal gardeners)



Co-planting moment with children © Good Planet



Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

Local task force supported project development in the context of the participatory budgeting exercise of 2020–2021, with a field visit with technicians in an example Tiny Forest in the municipality of Forest, and acting as an additional contact point within the municipality for the actor carrying the project (Good Planet).

CO-DESIGN

Project was proposed and selected as a result of the participatory budgeting process, which included the identification of priority themes by the Neighbourhood council, a public voting procedures, and feedback on projects by the Neighbourhood council.

Best Practices and References

<https://www.goodplanet.be/nl/tiny-forest-nl/>



24. Green and playful space – Craetbos / Clos du Bois Henri

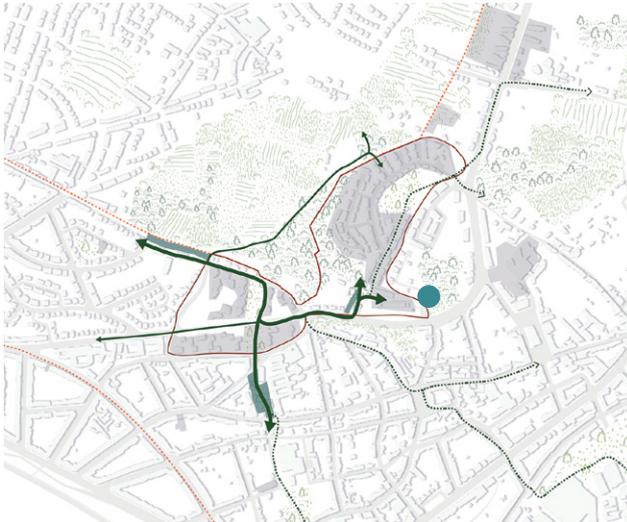
Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Site with high experimental potential and interesting biological characteristics
- Topography of site can be exploited for nature-inspired play
- Collective garden just across the road
- Community dynamics in Craetbos (community space <50m away), cf. Lieu de Liens

CHALLENGES

- Articulation with its surroundings: other playgrounds nearby, and streetscape adjacent
- Unclear funding opportunities
- If playground, restrictive norms and regulations for nature-based play



Description

The site at the intersection of Craetbos and Rue du Bois Henri belongs to the municipality, and is currently underutilized and lacking qualitative landscaping. As the Rue du Bois Henri has recently been developed into a private allotment adjacent to the social housing allotments of Craetbos and Val Maria, this site has become a crucial intersection between these different socioeconomic spheres, and contains high potential to become an inclusive public space. The proposal is to develop a qualitative and playful public and green space, developed in a participatory manner, and with inclusive design at its core, and respecting the landscape and ecological setting of the site.

Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

The need to do something about this site emerged internally from municipal technicians, as an urban plan had given the obligation to the municipality to create a public facility on this site (reference project was a playground).

CO-DESIGN

The project was fed amongst others by a workshop with experts from the URBiNAT consortium in September 2022, and from informal discussions with neighbours of the site. In its next steps, further public consultation will be implemented following URBiNAT methodologies, and using inspirations from the Regional and Federal government's reflections on green and playful spaces (ENJA).

Best Practices and References

<https://dearpigs.be/>

<https://suede36.be/>

<https://www.arup.com/perspectives/publications/promotional-materials/section/nature-based-play>

25/26/27. “Coulée verte” project

Description

The overarching vision and scheme for the development of the “Nexus NOH” touching the “coulée verte”, providing guiding principles for the re-qualification of green and public spaces in a defined perimeter, and coordination with the heating network extension (#37). The focus in this zone is integrated water management and valuing the historical water networks, increased connectivity down the topographical line towards the canal (focus on problematic intersections), and increased accessibility with “soft mobility” users (paths and signposting).

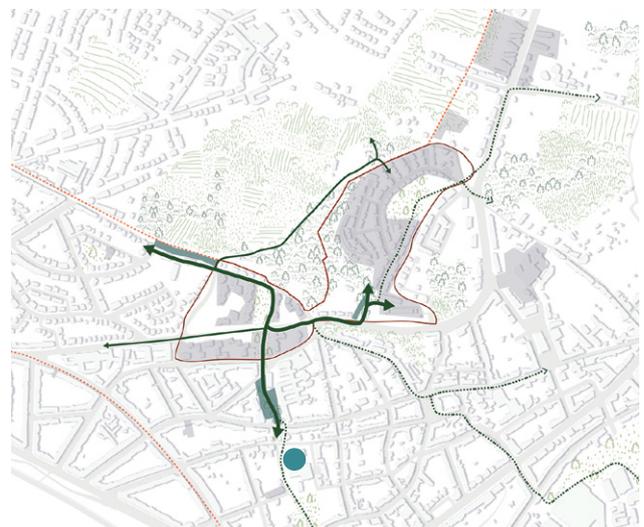
Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- PRAS protects the green continuity of the corridor
- Open Ruimte reinforces importance as biodiversity connection
- Paths already used (though limited), part of the municipal Promenade Verte
- Possible to address project in phases

CHALLENGES

- Heavy coordination necessity in order to achieve vision: of projects, technical departments, and political ambitions
- Large-scale investment need in a complicated budgetary context



Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

During the co-diagnostic, it emerged constantly from discussions that the existence of this “coulée verte” was not at all obvious for local inhabitants, who felt that the continuity of these green spaces was not legible (contrasting with a technical analysis of the map that clearly indicated its presence). This pointed to the need to increase the coherence of the landscaping across these green and public spaces.

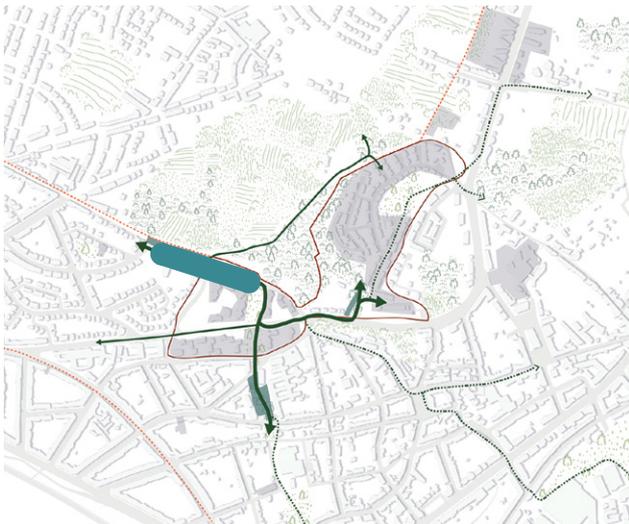
CO-DESIGN

To be determined in light of next steps for co-design.

Best Practices and References

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coul%C3%A9e_verte

28. Cycle path along the Avenue Versailles



Description

The Avenue de Versailles is characterised by its high level of car traffic, leaves little room for comfortable movement of active modes of transport, in particular by bicycle. The PCDD of the City of Brussels, which is currently being currently under development, has made proposals concerning the of the Avenue de Versailles as part of the cycling network. The objective is to make the avenue quieter, to make it more user-friendly and less dangerous, in concordance with the CQD operations concerning the crossing of the Avenue de Versailles. Knowing that there is a cycle path to the east of the district which starts at the roundabout in the direction of the Hôpital Militaire, this would be an opportunity to connect Versailles with the surrounding neighbourhoods and to improve access to nearby facilities.

Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Project already operationally defined in CQD Versailles Programme
- Regional subsidy programs available to finance intervention
- Contribution to wider accessibility in neighbourhood

CHALLENGES

- Integration in cycling continuity of whole Av. Versailles
- Articulation with other uses of the street curb
- Timing with regards to operations of CQD

Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

The need for more security for pedestrians and cyclists emerged from the diagnostic of the CQD Versailles. The Avenue de Versailles is a constant tension point in informal discussions with inhabitants: particularly mothers who are afraid of letting their children cross it.

CO-DESIGN

Co-design will be guided by the results of the CQD Versailles masterplan that will be conducted in 2023 and 2024.

Best Practices and References

NA

29. Den Bels Farm rehabilitation

Description

The Den Bels farm is a historical landmark of NOH, and has an orchard that is a protected heritage. It also presently has a strong collective dynamic around a community compost and recovery and redistribution of unsold produce from shops in the neighbourhood, to the benefit of families in need. The land and building belong to the municipality, and have been the subject of extensive back-and-forth about how best to renovate and reactivate this space. Currently, discussions are ongoing for a possible public-private partnership.

Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Great opportunity linked to heritage status
- Strong collective dynamic in place
- Strong urban agriculture potential

CHALLENGES

- Costly renovation
- High political interests with a need of coordination
- Site has limitations (and opportunities!) linked to heritage status



Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

During walkthroughs and informal discussions with local stakeholders, the issue of the Den Bels farm was regularly brought up, particularly by the inhabitants active in the neighbourhood compost that occupies part of the site.

CO-DESIGN

No definite municipal program has been determined at this stage, but discussions are underway.

Best Practices and References

NA



30. Link to Flanders (operationalisation Open Ruimte study)

CHALLENGES

- Complicated governance due to regional/municipal borders and tensions between regions for land use

Description

The Open Ruimte study conducted in 2021 at the behest of the regional planning agencies indicated a number of key connection points to strengthen between the Brussels Capital Region and surrounding Flanders. One of these is the connection between the Van Praet bridge and the Tangebeek, going up via the “coulée verte” and towards the Petit Chemin Vert and Vilvoorde. This study has not yet resulted in an explicit overarching strategic of operational project, but has given the opportunity for municipalities to call upon a consultancy firm via a common public tendering platform to conduct further feasibility and landscaping studies. The CQD Versailles will be making use of this platform to determine the landscaping vision (masterplan) for the public spaces to be renovated. The wish of the municipality is to continue to keep the vision and opportunity presented in the Open Ruimte study as a guideline for future developments, and further operationalise it in the long run.

Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Opportunity to strengthen connectivity to Ferme urbaine
- Opportunity to strengthen walking routes
- Better connection to Flanders for access to its facilities (e.g. sports sites in Koningslo)
- Integrated focus on integrated water management and green webbing through BUUR

Participation process to use the NBS CO-DIAGNOSTIC

Discussion with local actors, namely PV-GW, and with inhabitants of Versailles and Val Maria indicated that the connection to the agricultural lands just beyond the BCR-Flanders border was of high value to them, but not sufficiently reinforced by public policy. There was additionally a lack of knowledge of the Petit Chemin Vert zone, particularly the Bois des Béguines, by the social housing inhabitants, which became apparent in walkthroughs where these areas were explored often for the first time.

CO-DESIGN

The operationalisation of the Open Ruimte study will require more significant investments in a study or fieldwork to indicate the concrete opportunities for collaboration between the regions/municipalities, to the benefit of inhabitants on both sides of the border. Due to the ambition of this project, it has been kept for the phase 3 of implementation.

Best Practices and References

NA



31. Youth and urban agriculture in Val Maria

Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

The desire to have more urban agriculture projects was a regular request in informal interactions with local stakeholders, and is in line with the historical land uses in the neighbourhood.

CO-DESIGN

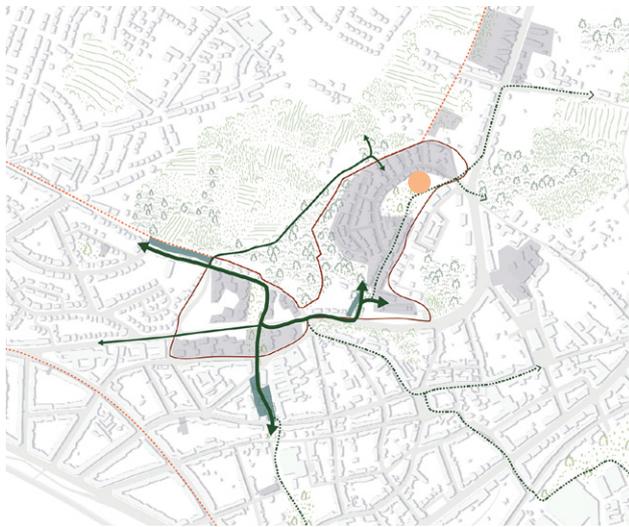
First test in 2021 of weekly collective working moments at the Ferme urbaine with Projets Versailles and Association VLM, which led to many learnings and a need to reevaluate the intentions of the project.

Discussions with youth of Val Maria in autumn 2022 to identify their needs, wishes, desires and the possibilities for the local task force to support the process of developing their own autonomously-managed garden.

In 2023, the collaboration will continue to evolve, using the urban agriculture tools of the municipality and Climate subsidy program to create a tailor-made solution for this community garden.

Best Practices and References

Parckfarm in Laeken



Description

The ambition of this project is to stimulate the imagination and develop professional dreams among young people ; to strengthen the employment readiness of future generations and raise young people's awareness of ecological management of the urban environment.

The project aims to support an existing project in the field, set up by and for young people, in continued contact with local actors such as the urban farm of *Début des haricots* in Val Maria, and the community garden of Craetbos.

Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Supporting youth in self-led project : empowerment and competence-building
- Improving biodiversity of an underused site (old garages that were torn down)
- Piloting project-based support by the municipality

CHALLENGES

- Land use on the long term
- Creating a durable community group to manage the project
- Appropriately orienting and supporting in the finance-finding of the project

32. Bikes and women – (re)initiation to biking and training in bike repair

Description

The aim of this pilot project is to accompany inhabitants – with a particular focus on women – in social housing areas (Versailles, Val Maria and Craetbos) in the discovery and use of bicycles, including more extensive bicycle training (learning to ride and repairing a bicycle).

The project is divided into four complementary axes, making it possible to offer tailor-made training to the public in a targeted and adapted manner.

Riding a bike	
Getting started	Axis 1: Getting into the saddle
Training yourself and learning to train others	Axis 4: Neighbourhood Bike Facilitator
Repairing and maintaining bikes	
Getting started	Axis 2: Taking care of your bike
Training yourself and learning to train others	Axis 3: Neighbourhood mechanic

On the long-term, the ambition of this first pilot project is that it will serve as a best practice reference for continued deployment of neighbourhood-focused bike training, in order to best accompany the mobility transition in the context of the Good Move plan.

Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Continuity and coordination possible with bike projects from CQD Versailles : Ride Your Future
- Strengthening of existing dynamics in the neighbourhood : AMO de NOH (bike repair) and “Verselle” (bike initiation for women)



CHALLENGES

- Coordination with a diversity of actors working in tandem on parallel projects: risk of blurred project lines/actors
- Avoiding co-optation of existing dynamics

Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

In the territorial analysis and walkthroughs of the diagnostic, it appeared that NOH was not a very cyclable municipality, and that many inhabitants identified barriers to using this mode of transport. Considering the ambition to reconnect NOH within its sub-neighbourhoods, and to increase active modes of transport, it was deemed important to work on this collectively.

CO-DESIGN

A pilot project initiated by the local task force was built up in collaboration with local actors who had experience working with the target groups and with biking as a tool for local empowerment; project references and design clauses went back and forth between actors. The launch of this project is concurrent with an auto-initiated project by women of NOH called “Verselle”, and will be coordinated with to ensure synergy-building. The “piste rouge” project of the CQD Versailles will also be an ally in developing a biking culture in NOH.

Best Practices and References

<https://molembike.be/hirondelles/>; <https://www.provelo.org/fr/page/viavelo>; <https://www.cltb.be/2021/07/22/roue-libre-cest-reparti/>



Credits: Zinne asbl

Description

The local currency “Zinne” – operating on the territory of the Brussels Capital Region – has grown in amplitude in the past years. The municipality of Brussels has been amongst its institutional supporters and partners, developing projects such as enabling the acceptance of the Zinne in public infrastructures (starting with public swimming pools), subsidising the associations carrying the project in order to support the increase of the network, and by giving the option to its employees to chose to get their end-of-year gift voucher (worth 35 EUR) in Zinne currency.

The intention behind this project is to continue to stimulate and develop the use and circulation of the Zinne throughout the territory of the Brussels municipality, and more specifically in NOH, as it is under-served at the moment (only 3 partners in the neighbourhood).

Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Ongoing collaboration with the Zinne asbl nonprofit organization, culture of collaboration
- Antecedents of public (institutional) support for the project

CHALLENGES

- Remains a niche, ideology-based alternative to euros ; the charter for joining the currency is selective, density of alternative economic actors is not so high in NOH

33. Local currencies for natural based circular economy – “Zinne” reinforcement in NOH

Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

In discussion with political representatives, it became clear that there was a strong political will to support the Zinne project. Inhabitants of NOH, on the other hand, were lamenting the lack and loss of local commerce in the main artery of François Vekemans, the reduced access to ATMs being a marked change in the diagnostic phase. As a local currency can help to redynamise local economic interactions, and considering the profile of the SSE actors in NOH (especially around urban agriculture), it seems that a focus on food provision networks and local production could be reinforced through the continued support of this project.

CO-DESIGN

The local task force was closely linked to the pilot projects connected to the Zinne and linked to the municipality’s activities, including the distribution of the end-of-year gift vouchers and deployment of active strategies for increasing the amount of partners that are part of the network. This active co-design with local partners has led to a reasonably strong network and the identification of continued partnership possibilities.

Best Practices and References

List of francophone Belgian alternative currency initiatives: <https://www.financite.be/fr/article/monnaies-citoyennes>

34. Community space

Description

The need for a multifunctional community space was identified early on in the diagnostics of both URBiNAT and the CQD Versailles, to give space for neighbourhood cohesion and conviviality and community projects. In particular the need for a neighbourhood kitchen, a community supermarket (short-circuit, neighbourhood production), and a space for exchanging objects (free shop or equivalent concept) was expressed. The program of the new multifunctional pole described in the Operational Program of the CQD Versailles still needs to be fine-tuned, but aims to address the following functionalities:

- A sports equipment centre
- HORECA space (cafeteria / open kitchen)
- Digital public space (EPN)
- Digital and musical incubator
- Training and meeting rooms that can be shared
- Shared spaces for associations

Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Conjunction of neighbourhood need and CQD Versailles financing opportunity
- Multifunctionality of space part of program, avoiding obsolescence of space

CHALLENGES

- Logistics of reconciling multifunctional uses (not always compatible)
- Shared agendas and coordination needs, risks of saturation of space in peak moments
- Reconciling institutional vision of 'good management' and realities of neighbourhood use



Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

The needs for community/solidarity spaces for the neighbourhood emerged in community workshops (e.g. "C'est nous les chef.fe.s"), was brought up in bilateral meetings with local associations, and reinforced by diagnostics of other projects (e.g. CQD Versailles).

CO-DESIGN

This project was rapidly channelled to the CQD Versailles programme, as a direct financing opportunity presented itself in that context for the Versailles neighbourhood. The programme of CQD Versailles was co-created with inhabitants and local associations by two complementary consultancy companies – Karbon and collectif ipé – and validated by the City of Brussels elected representatives.

Best Practices and References

Repair Café – La serre Communa, Horeca / espace polyvalent – Maison de quartier Malibrans LPP
Architectes

35. “Ludomobile” – a bike trailer hosting giant games



Description

The “ludomobile” project was an ad hoc collaboration between the local task force – in need of a tool for fieldwork that was more playful than institutional – and the local AMO association – always keen on building things with and for children. A bike trailer was constructed by the municipality workshops on the basis of a design drawn together by these two project partners. Reuse of materials was an aim of the project, thus the wheels and tarp were salvaged waste from specialised sources. The tarp was painted over a number of times by and with children of the neighbourhood, encountered in public space on Wednesday and Friday afternoons during the AMO’s field presence. The tool was essential for creating playful moments of encounter between the local task force and inhabitants during the co-design phase in 2022.

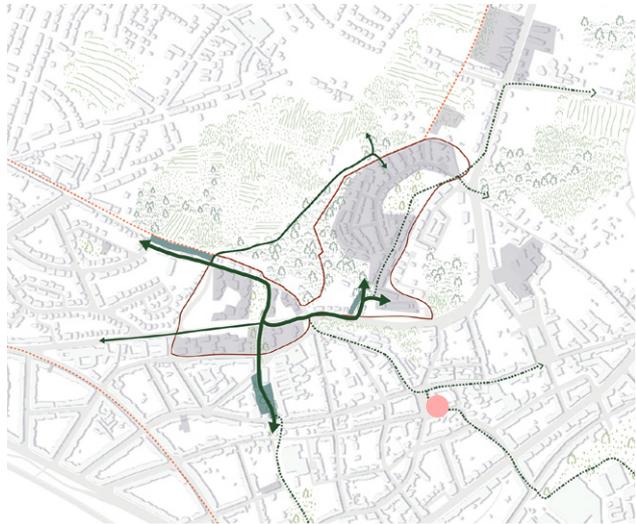
Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Shared tool amongst local partners
- Mobile: can touch a wide audience, be taken out for a variety of occasions
- Visually appealing, uses play as a mode of interaction

CHALLENGES

- Iterative design has led to a heavy tool: needs an electric bike
- Storage difficult
- Visibility of possibility to share/borrow not very high



Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

The design and conception of the tool began during the local diagnostic phase, as a natural emergence from the collaboration between the local task force and the AMO de NOH. The AMO used self-made giant games and circus objects to interact with children in public space and build a regular rapport with them. The local task force joined this field-based presence on a regular basis, and thus the idea of joining forces to create the “ludomobile” emerged, as a response to the need to store and transport the material, and the desire to use a joyful object as a source of “excitement”, creating a moment “out of the ordinary” for the space of an afternoon.

CO-DESIGN

The “ludomobile” was used during the co-design phase as a tool to be present in public space during festive events in the neighbourhood: to create a recognisable marker of the project and attract the eye. It was the basis of community workshops, attracting children and their parents predominantly, and serving in tandem with the “artistic synthesis” of the local diagnostic.

Best Practices and References

<https://iconoclasistas.net/portfolio-item/movil/>;
<https://www.facebook.com/kitanossarua>;
<https://rool.be/en/project/babbeleir/>

Venez nombreux-euses nous aider à construire les

îles mobile(e)le eilanden

kom met ons bouwen !



15 - 19 août/augustus
@ Peter Benoît

Lesfrèrespoulet.be



36. “Les îles mobiles” – mobile urban and inclusive furniture

Common (shared) tool for associations, inhabitants, municipality; Mobile, can be placed anywhere in neighbourhood.

CHALLENGES

To respond to design requests, modules were made heavier (less manoeuvrable) than initially intended: needs 2–3 people and motivation; Rolls better on hard surfaces than in grass

Participation process to use the NBS CO-DIAGNOSTIC

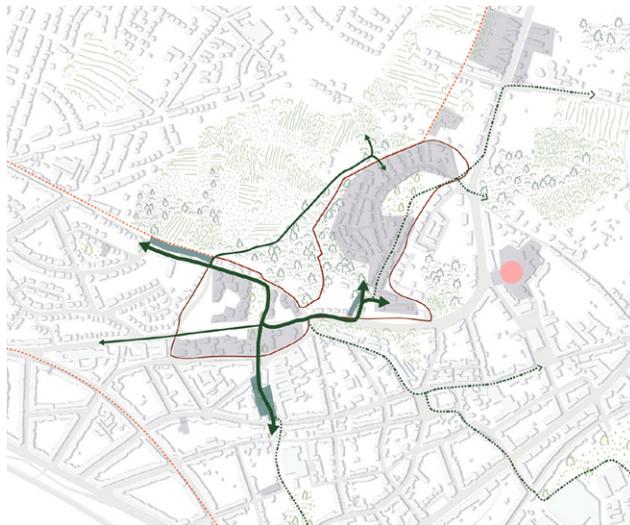
In the diagnostic, local inhabitants – especially youth from Versailles and those close in touch with them – lamented the lack of protected spaces to spend time together in public space, shielded from the rain and with seating space. The “dalles” of Versailles are not very conducive to gathering. In addition, in discussion with the GC Nohva, it appeared that a collaboration to further stimulate the “Living en Ville” festival and allow it to go beyond the borders of the Place Peter Benoît (over to Versailles for example) was opportune, and could take the form of a mobile stand for associations to use whenever they had an activity in public space.

CO-SELECTION & CO-DESIGN

The design brief for what became the “mobile islands” was cocreated between the local task force (municipality technicians) and local actors (specifically the GC Nohva, though other sociocultural actors were also consulted). Following public tendering procedures, a creative proposition fitting the URBiNAT design thinking methodologies was proposed by the Frères Poulet (co-construction collective). The fine-tuning of the designs and physical creation moment took place in one week of open construction on Place Peter Benoît. Targeted audiences were invited to participate, such as a group of seniors from the Eglantines/Wilde Rozen. Casual participation of passers-by was actively encouraged.

Best Practices and References

<https://www.instagram.com/microscene/>;
<https://lesfrerespoulet.be/index.php/portfolio/items/agora3-wielsbrassmaisondescultures/>



Description

The aim of this pilot project was to create a modular and multifunctional urban furniture, as a tool to ‘dress up’ and ‘inhabit’ public space in an ephemeral manner and to encourage interaction of people in the street.

This neighbourhood tool was designed and built in close cooperation with future users – both neighbourhood associations and residents to ensure the relevance of the final object. The construction timeline fit within the open-air neighbourhood festival “Living en Ville”, coordinated by the GC Nohva.

The aim of this mobile furniture was to:

- Be able to accommodate a group of people (a dozen) in a convivial manner in the public space for the duration of an event, for an afternoon or a weekend: be able to sit for a while, have a bite to eat, chat or read, to be comfortable (sheltered from the rain, the sun)
- Make spaces that are not used very much more dynamic, by being able to take out the furniture (e.g. “it’s going to be sunny this weekend, let’s take out the “îles mobiles!”)
- Break the duality between presenters and participants (classic stand), encourage interaction and conviviality, encourage meetings

Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

37. Heating network – connecting incinerator to social housing & other big energy users in NOH

Description

The waste incinerator located close to Van Praet bridge produces extra energy (waste heat) that can be used in the form of heated water to heat public infrastructures and social housing. A connection already exists towards the royal domain for the purpose of heating the royal greenhouses. An opportunity exists thus to extend this network up into NOH, passing along a line of maximum heat consumers which incidentally follows the line of the “coulée verte”. A working group between all concerned actors is currently in place, with the mandate of the executive body of the municipality, in order to develop the concrete solutions (e.g. the price of the energy distributed) allowing this project to go forward. It will necessarily be coordinated with the finalisation of the construction of new public housing by the municipality in the Van Praet zone.

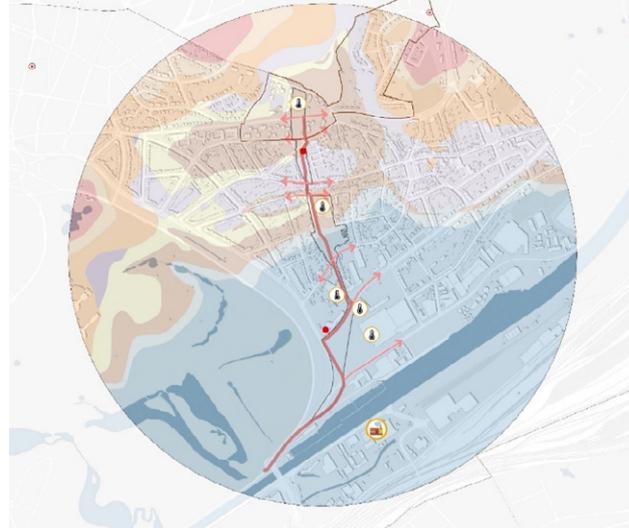
Positive aspects/challenges

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Innovative solution in Brussels using waste energy of an operating plant;
- Opportune moment to develop the project: the stars are aligned.

CHALLENGES

- Although the energy is free, the cost of infrastructure is not: who bears the cost?;
- How to determine a cost structure for an infrastructure that could continue to be extended?



Participation process to use the NBS

CO-DIAGNOSTIC

Desire to develop a Positive Energy District and somehow respond to the heating challenges faced by the inhabitants of Versailles was evoked regularly in casual conversation. Although the Climate Plan of the Logement Bruxellois was planned, there was initially no capacity for the municipality to develop a project around this need (social housing outside of the municipal scope).

CO-SELECTION & CO-DESIGN

In parallel technical conversations relating to mobilising the caloric potential of the incinerator (initially modelled to go to Quartier Nord, where a PED is currently being piloted), an opportunity to put multiple interested actors around the table for a shorter (cheaper) pipeline towards Versailles became a concrete possibility. As this is a highly technical discussion, there was little involvement of inhabitants in the co-design process. However, this project responds directly to a regularly mentioned need relating to housing comfort versus economic precarity of social housing dwellers, as well as to the need for more resilient heating networks (diversification away from natural gas).

Best Practices and References

https://guidetodistrictheating.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/D%C3%A9veloppeur-les-r%C3%A9seaux-de-chaleur_Guide-destin%C3%A9-aux-consommateurs-d%E2%80%99%C3%A9nergie.pdf



38. Meso-compost installation

Description

This project is included in the Climate Plan and PCDD, and is a direct continuation of ongoing studies and contracts (e.g. eco-circularity of waste (BXLORG), study of VBX flows, etc.) that aim to make the most out of organic material by introducing more circular and local waste-stream management. It comes in support of the dynamics of existing neighbourhood composts (relaying the “master-composters”) and inscribing itself in the continuity of the work done by the municipality. It is also a response to the necessity to align practices with the new legislation of “Brudalex 2.0”.

Positive aspects/challenges

- Possibility of an institutional answer to an urban need: managing green waste

Participation process to use the NBS CO-DIAGNOSTIC

The neighbourhood composts (10 in NOH) that are carried by “master composters” living in NOH are in need of more structural support, as seen in field visits and 1-1 conversations.

CO-SELECTION & CO-DESIGN

The municipality has an obligation to reduce waste streams (cf. Brudalex 2.0) and manages organic waste collection (orange bags compulsory from 2023), and needs to account for the organic waste streams of para-municipal structures. As such, it needs to develop a structural solution on a neighbourhood level that can take into account a diversity of organic waste streams (including cooked foods).

Best Practices and References

NA

