

# A NEW PARK IN BREDA INTEGRATED ACTION PLAN SEELIG PARK BREDAS

1 august 2022





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## INTRODUCTION

### Objective of the Integrated Action Plan Seelig Park Breda

Breda aims to become the first European City in a Park in 2030.

The objective of the integrated action plan for Breda is to contribute to this ambition: making new greenspace in the urban environment. And by this contributing to the health of the citizens of Breda.

The city would like to work together with the citizens and organisations of Breda.

This Integrated Action Plan is made to invite partners in the city to become stakeholder in the development of a new park in Breda.

With this Integrated Action Plan, we hope to inspire our partners in the European Action Planning Network URBACT Health & Greenspace as much as they have inspired us with their action plans.

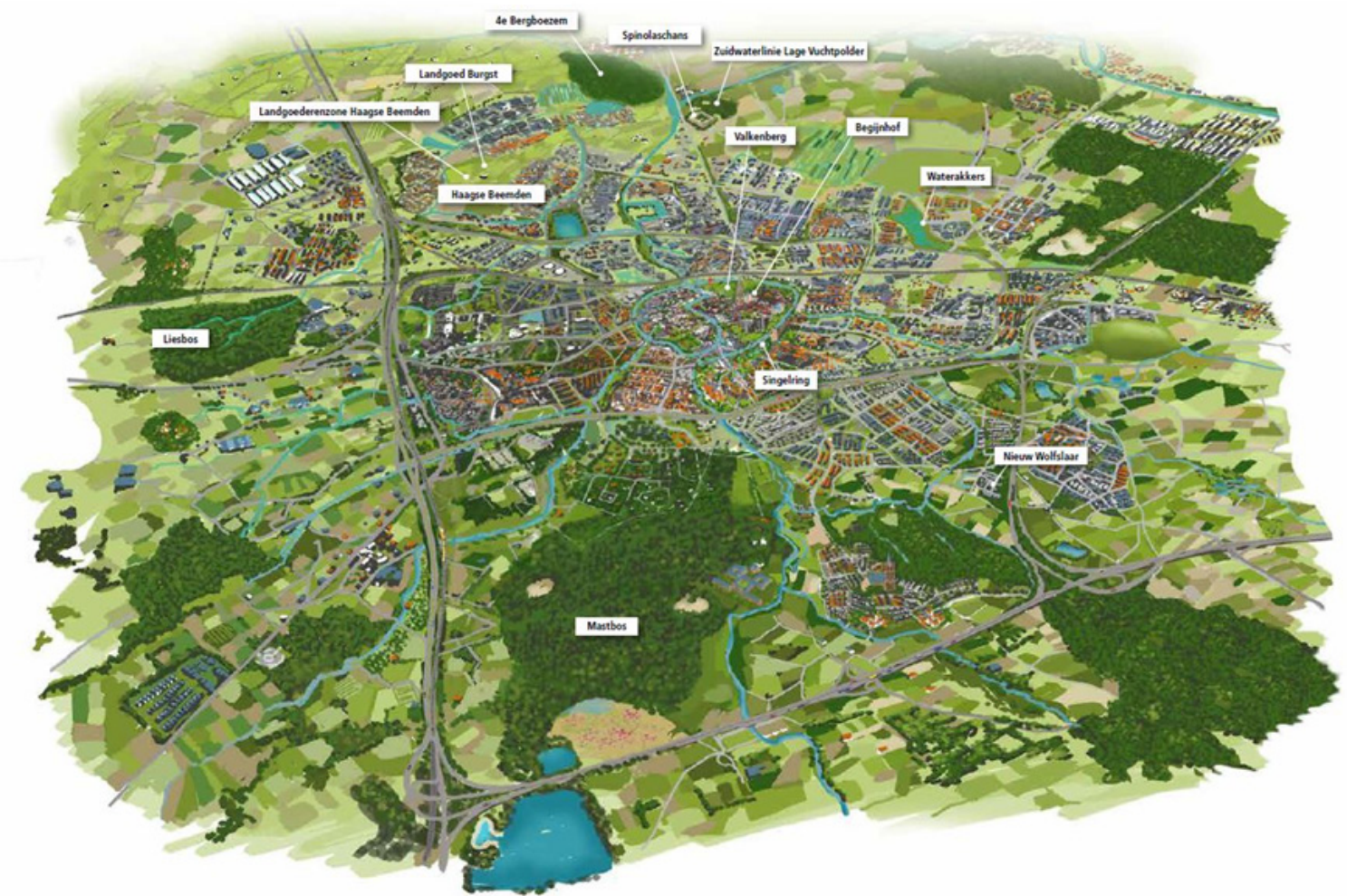


Fig. Breda City in a Park



1. CITY CONTEXT & POLICYCHALLENGE

1.1 Key figures on Breda NL	
Population	183.659 (aug. 2019)
Demographic profile	<div>Age</div> <div>- age, gender, ethnicity, etc.</div> <div>0 - 14: 15,6%</div> <div>15 - 29: 21,2%</div> <div>30 - 44: 18,7%</div> <div>45 - 64: 26,3%</div> <div>65 - 74: 10,1%</div> <div>75+: 8,1%</div> <div>Gender</div> <div>Male: 49,07%</div> <div>Female: 50,93%</div> <div>Ethnicity (2018)</div> <div>Native Dutch: 76,5%</div> <div>Migration Western: 11,2%</div> <div>Migration non-Western: 12,3%</div>
Economic profile	<div>- per capita</div> <div>GDP, key local industry/ employment sectors etc.</div> <div>GDP per capita € 43.616</div> <div>Key local industry/ employment sectors</div> <div>Business services</div> <div>Life science and health industry</div> <div>Creative industry</div> <div>Agrifood</div>
Employment levels	Unemployment: 3,7%
Life expectancy at birth	81,5 years
Urban green space per capita	72,2 m2 per capita
Basic description of the city	<div>Breda is a municipality in the West Brabant area, province of North Brabant, the Netherlands. Breda has a total area of 12,868 hectares, of which 12,574 land and 294 water (100 hectares is 1 km2). The average density of addresses is 2,165 addresses per km2. 88,160 households live in Breda and the municipality has 5 residential places, 11 neighbourhoods and 56 neighbourhoods.</div> <div>The city lays in the province of North Brabant (NL). The name comes from “brede Aa” (wide Aa), meaning the confluence of the Mark and Aa rivers. These two rivers still play an important role in the urban structure. They are part of the urban water system. Both rivers flow together in the canal structure that surrounds the city centre of Breda. the banks of the rivers vary depending on the function of the area along which they flow: rural area, green areas, residential areas, business parks. Currently a major project is to extend the River Mark in the centre of Breda.</div> <div>Breda received city rights in 1252. It ended up in the possession of the House of Nassau, passing to William I of Orange, who made it an official residence. This military heritage still colours the contemporary city. There are several military areas. Some of them have been transformed into new urban functions and parks.</div> <div>Modern industry emerged during the 19th century. Numerous companies settled in Breda, including beer breweries, the food industry, matches factories and iron foundries.</div> <div>A vibrant student city, these days the key local industry and employment sectors are business services, life science and health industry, the creative industry and agri-food.</div>

1.2 SPATIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CITY

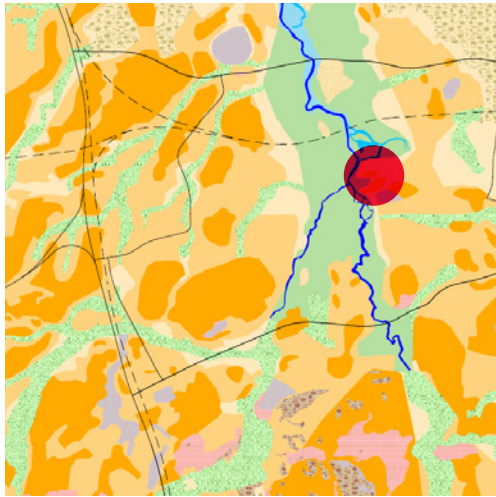
Genesis

The water system

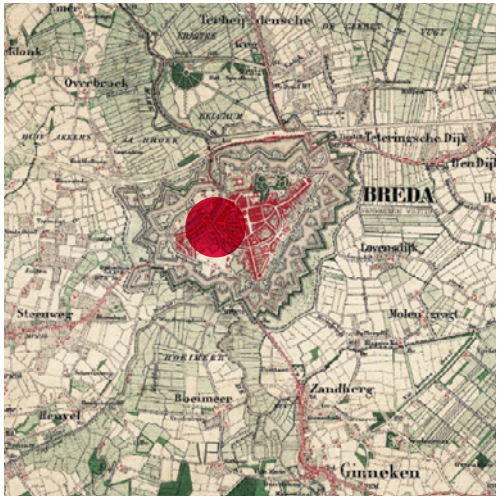
The roots and origins of Breda lie on a little hill near the river Mark, where someone build a kind of fortress to live in, together with a farm. A small egg-shaped city developed here.

Over the years three small suburbs grew outside the walls of the egg-shaped city. Count Hendrik III initiated the construction of a big fortress around the small city with the suburbs.

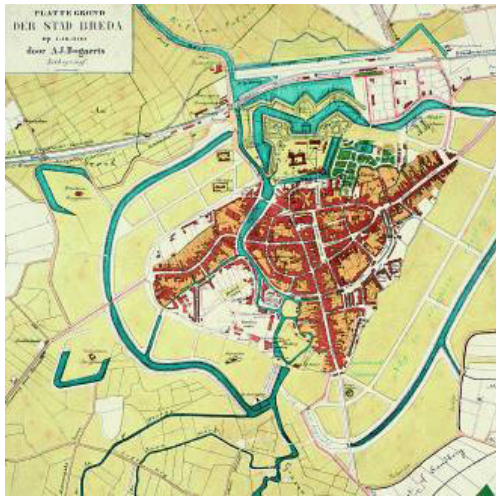
Between 1870 and 1900 the big fortress has been demolished and the Singels were constructed. All streams and rivers out of the region flow into these canals and continue their road into the river Mark, that flows to the sea.



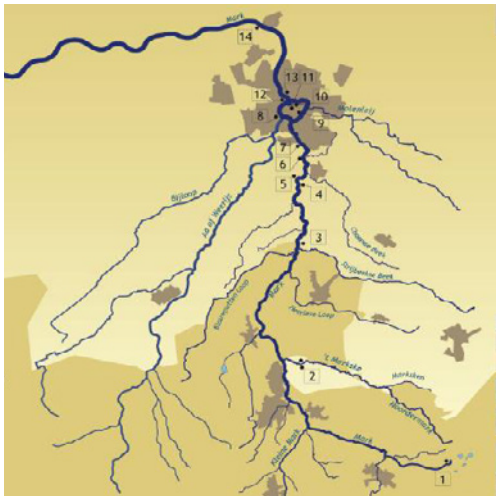
Geomorphology



1850



Singels (canals)



The watersystem



Urban development: The long green tradition

After World War II green structures organize the new residential areas. Stream valleys, parks and parkways divide the growing city in a clear layout.

During the '70's and '80's Breda expanded at the northwest side of the city. A large estate in the countryside was kept safe and gives green quality to everyone.

These days new residential areas enhance existing facilities, like shopping centres, schools and sports clubs and at the same time provide in a new park.

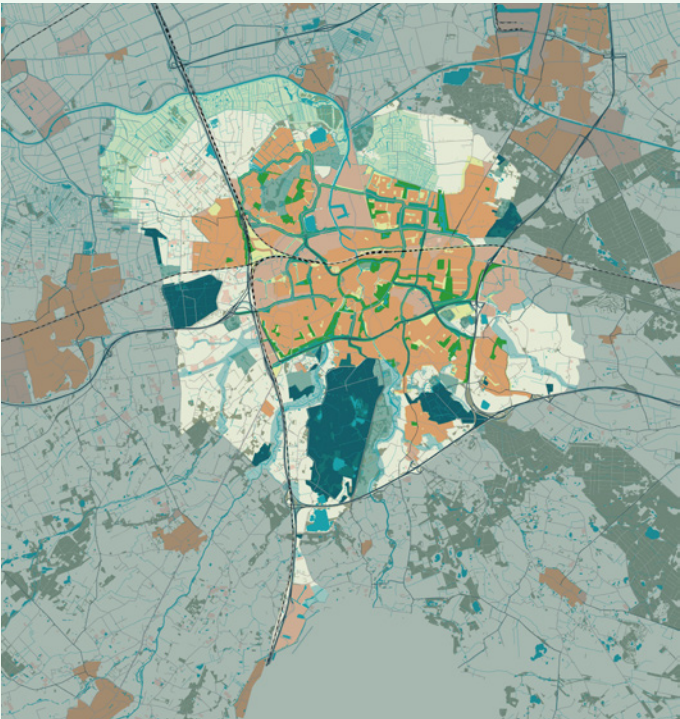
Present

Primary green structure

Breda has long been a residence city for the royal family (family of Oranje-Nassau), which has resulted in a real estate landscape. In addition, Breda has functioned as a Garrison City for a long time. Two new barracks were constructed during the construction of the canals, which means that Breda currently has large green areas in the centre of the city.

During the reconstruction after World War II, various parkways were constructed, green routes for cars between the city and the countryside.

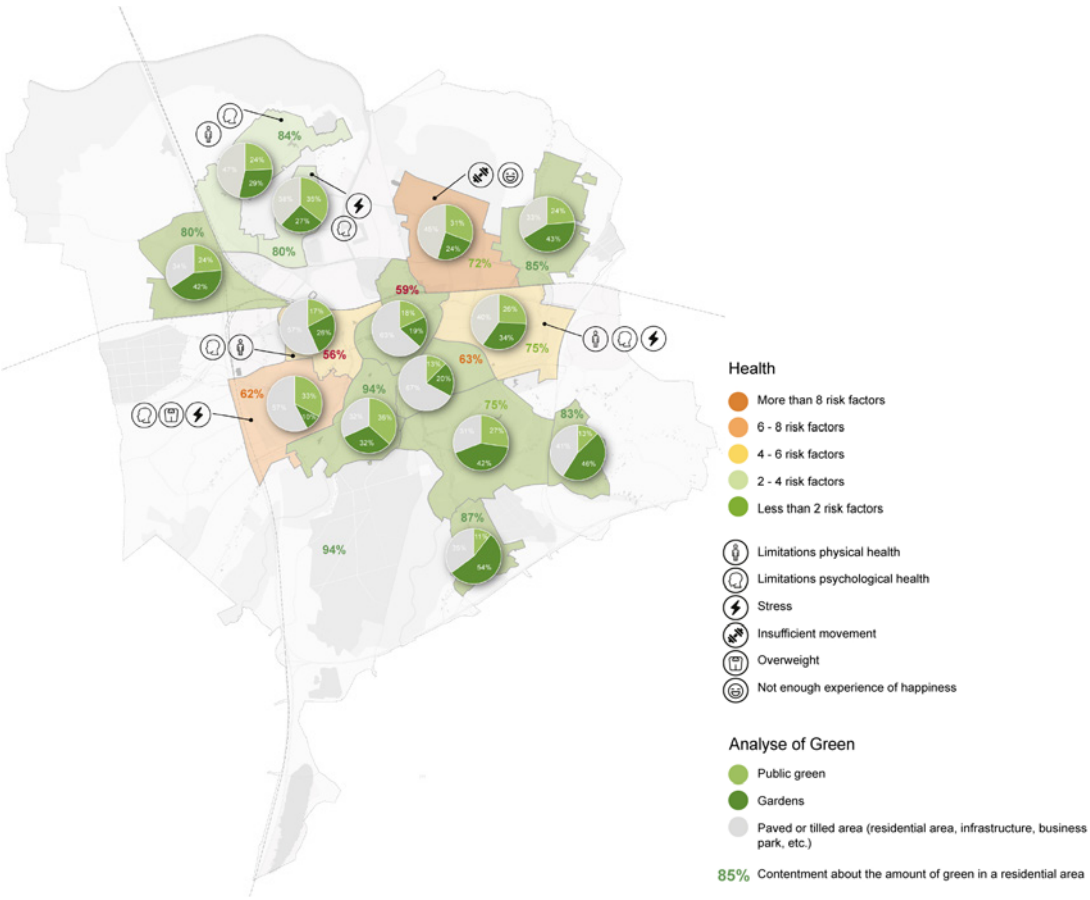
The outlying area has a great variety of landscapes due to differences in the natural subsoil, the different mining periods and the Nassau past. The outlying area extends far into the city via the many stream valleys, resulting in a strong interweaving between city, water and land.



Primary green structure

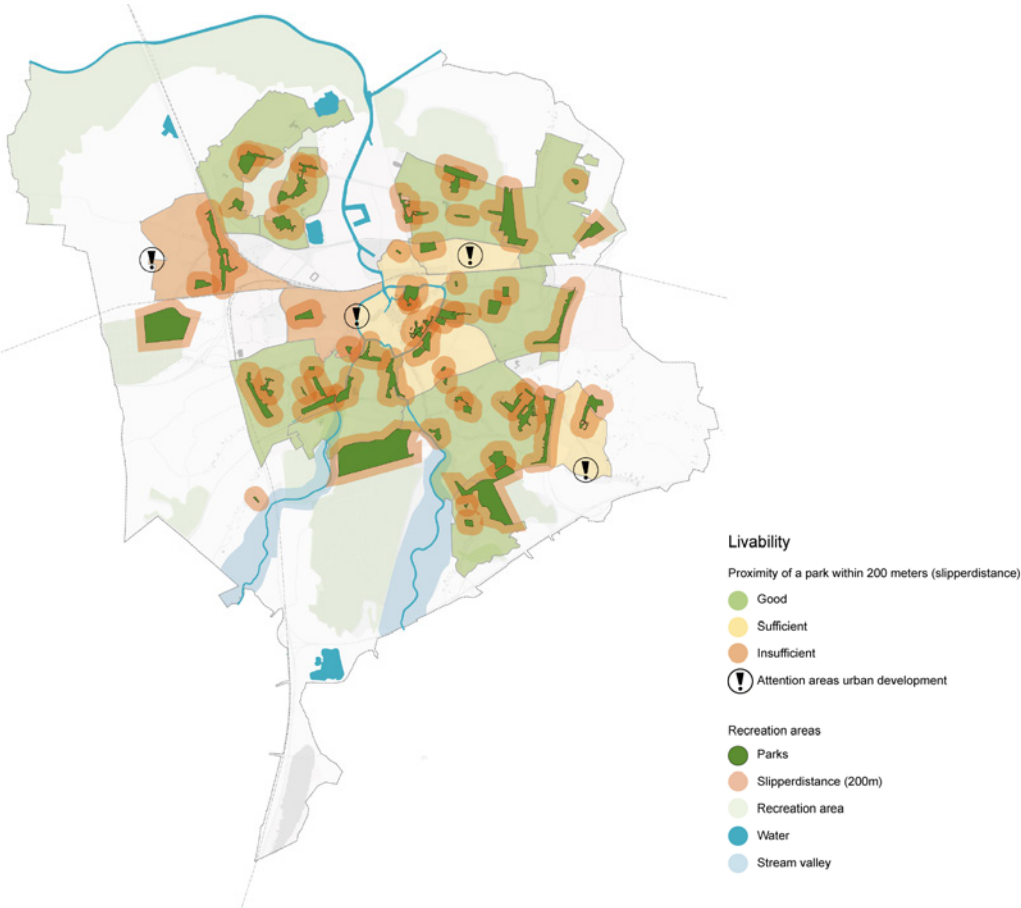
Health

Residents of the Municipality of Breda generally experience few health problems, except for a few neighbourhoods (see map). In the red and yellow areas there is less greenspace, and the people are more stressed and - sometimes mental - unhealthy. The amount of public green space in some of these is significantly less than in the other districts with a health disadvantage. The residents in these neighbourhoods are also less satisfied with the amount of greenery in their neighbourhood.



Liveability

We also investigated how green our neighbourhoods are and what's the slipper-distance to our parks, forests or rural area. Residents from the Municipality of Breda are generally satisfied with the amount of greenery in the neighbourhoods and the opportunities to stay, move and meet there. In general, a large proportion of Breda's residents have access to a park or green area in the immediate vicinity. This does not apply to neighbourhoods with an exclamation mark. In one of them lies Seelig-zuid.





### 1.3 GREEN- BLUEPOLICY

The municipality of Breda has the ambition to become the first European city in a green park by 2030. The origin of this ambition lies in the long green tradition of Breda and in the water system that was determining the spatial development of Breda.

#### Greenspace-compass

In our Greenspace-compass we show our ambitions in 5 principles:

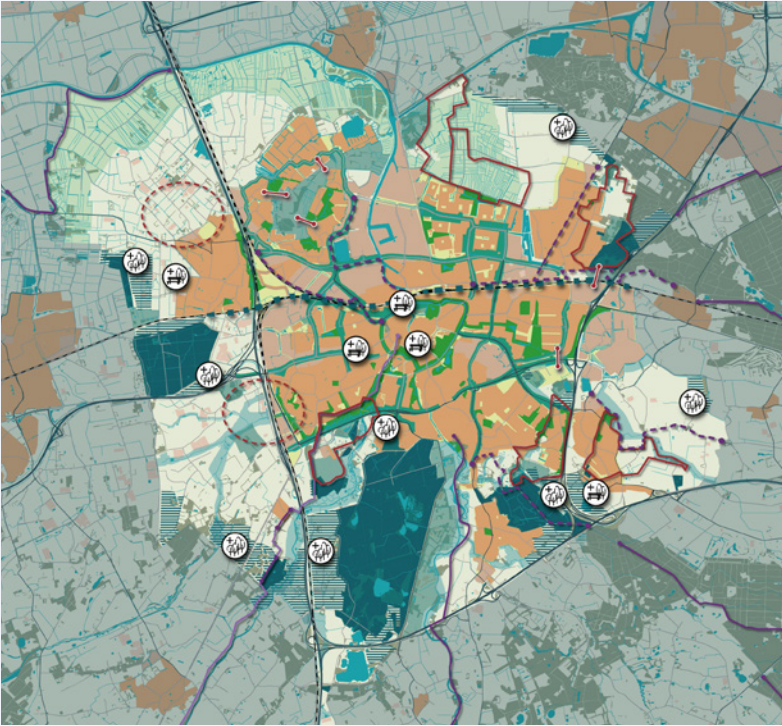
- 1. Preservation of existing green (Primary green structure)
- 2. Developing a robust ecological network
- 3. Developing green in everyone's immediate vicinity (slipper distance, green connections with Seelig).
- 4. Working together on with residents, housing corporations, project developers, companies and other parties, community building City in a park.
- 5. Strengthening the green identity (restore historical greenery, increase the variety)

To become the first European City in a park, it is first important to preserve the existing greenery. The waterways through Breda form the connection between the Natura 2000 areas, which are protected at European level, to the north and south of Breda. Breda thus has an important linking function in the European network and the responsibility to fulfil this linking function through the city in the form of a robust ecological network. The singles, Mark and Aa or Weerijis are the main carriers of the ecological network. In new developments, the ecological link function of Breda is fleshed out, among other things.



#### Robust ecological network

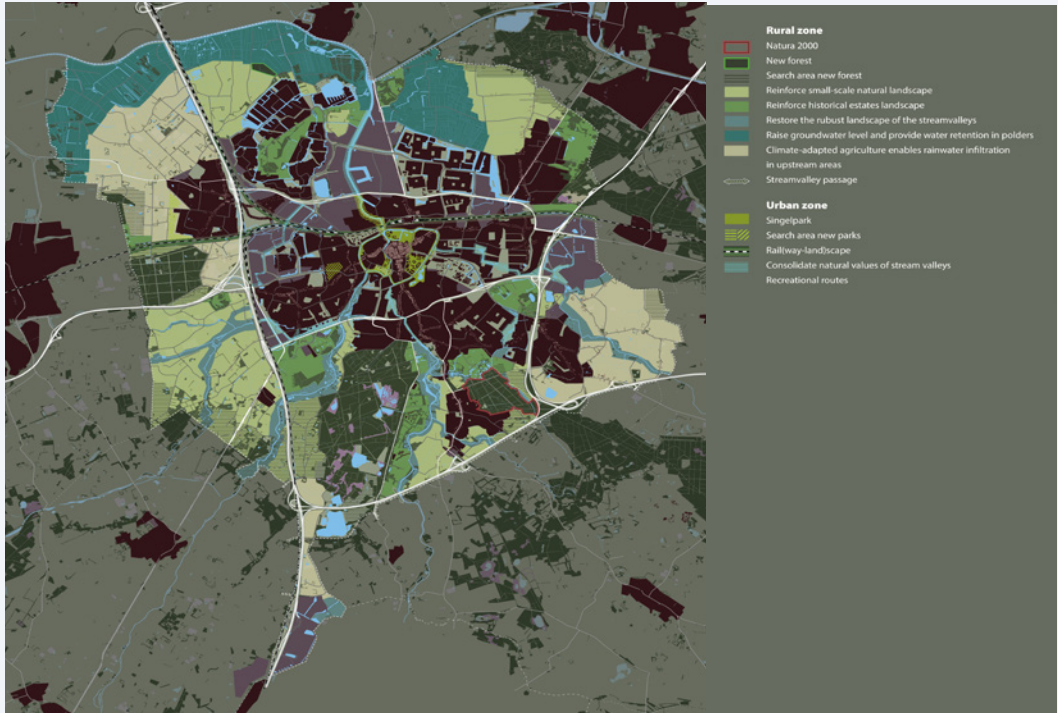
To make green an important part of the daily life of all residents in Breda, we aim for every resident to live within walking distance (200 meters) of a park, a forest or the countryside by 2030. We do this by realizing new forests and parks and opening existing green. Together with partners, we are making the streets and central nodes in neighbourhoods greener, such as school playgrounds, shopping centres and healthcare institutions. By making green, in various shapes and sizes, accessible to everyone and offering space for playing, sports and meeting, a contribution is made to a healthier life for all residents.



#### Omgevingsvisie Breda 2040

The water system is a very important part of our comprehensive vision of the future: Omgevingsvisie Breda 2040, because of our health, safety, greenspace and climate adaptation. In the rural area we restore the robust landscape of the stream valleys, increase the groundwater level and provide in water storage in polder landscapes. Infiltration of rainwater takes place in upstream areas, enabled by climate-adapted agriculture and by protecting and expanding the woods.

In the City we provide in a Singelpark, the Nieuwe Mark with Green Quays, a green railway-landscape, recreational routes and new parks. The Singelpark consists of the Singelcanals and al adjacent (future) parks. One of them is Seelig-zuid barracks area, which will become a new park: Seeligpark.



Omgevingsvisie Breda 2040



1.4 HEALTH POLICY

Definition of health

In the Netherlands we use the concept of positive health. Health is more than the absence of illness. If you ask people what health is, they say for example: no stress, do what I like. Because of this it gets out of the medical circuit and belongs to us all. People's environment should reduce stress, encourage exercise and stimulate social engagement. Health is not just the absence of disease. It includes much more.

What is Positive Health?

Positive Health is a broader perspective on health, elaborated in six dimensions. This broader approach contributes to people's ability to deal with the physical, emotional and social challenges in life. And to oversee their own affairs, whenever possible.

The way health and disease are perceived has changed significantly, in recent years. For a long time, health was primarily defined as the absence of disease. Positive Health takes a broader view. It is not about health as a static fact or a goal to be achieved, but rather about the resilience of people to adapt to whatever life throws at them. This more dynamic approach does more justice to people and to what they care about.

This broad interpretation of health is elaborated in six dimensions, which have emerged from research into what people themselves perceive health to be. They appear to not only consider physical health important, but also, for example, sense of purpose, participation and quality of life. The spider web describes the six dimensions and associated aspects. With the spider web, people can outline their own health. It is also an instrument that can be used as a prelude to a conversation about health and well-being.



Fig. Dimensions of health

What is the impact of green spaces on health and wellbeing?

There is a lot of evidence that green contributes to physical and/or mental recovery from stress and attention fatigue. The scientific evidence for the promoting healthy behaviour (physical activity, social interaction and sense of community) is present, but less clear-cut because certain preconditions play an important role. In addition, green can reduce health damage, because – if well designed – it can improve air and noise quality, through buffering, and can reduce heat stress. In addition to these positive effects of green, green can also cause damage to health, including through the exposure to pollen and various pathogens. It is important here in the design, management and use of greenery to pay explicit attention to.

What is the impact of green spaces on health and well-being? You see positive effects through reduction of stress level, more physical activity, more social contact, better environmental quality, reduction on heat stress. These positive effects are beneficial for lower income-groups, children, older people and pregnant women.

- Positive effects through:
- Reduction of stress level
  - More physical activity
  - More social contacts
  - Better environmental quality
  - Reduction on heat stress

The positive effects are beneficial for lower income groups, children, older people, pregnant women. There are also negative aspects: the pollen season is longer, more ticks, and nuisance of oak processionary caterpillar.

Facts and figures

Situation in general in the Netherlands

The aging population has a major impact on public health and care. We are getting older because people more often survive cardiovascular disease and cancer. Dementia is becoming an increasingly important condition and cause of death. The proportion of elderly people is increasing, and they feel lonelier.

The pressure on daily life is increasing. Pupils and students experience increasing pressure on performance. Working people must deal with the growing influence of the 24-hour economy. Cities are becoming busier because more and more people live in the city. This can lead to more stress and related health problems. Increasing urbanization also creates more pressure and crowds and can lead to less space where people can relax and move. It also causes heat island effect.

Lifestyle and living environment have an impact on health. Fewer people smoke and more people exercise, but the weight increases (VTV 2018).



## Health – Lifestyle – Public space

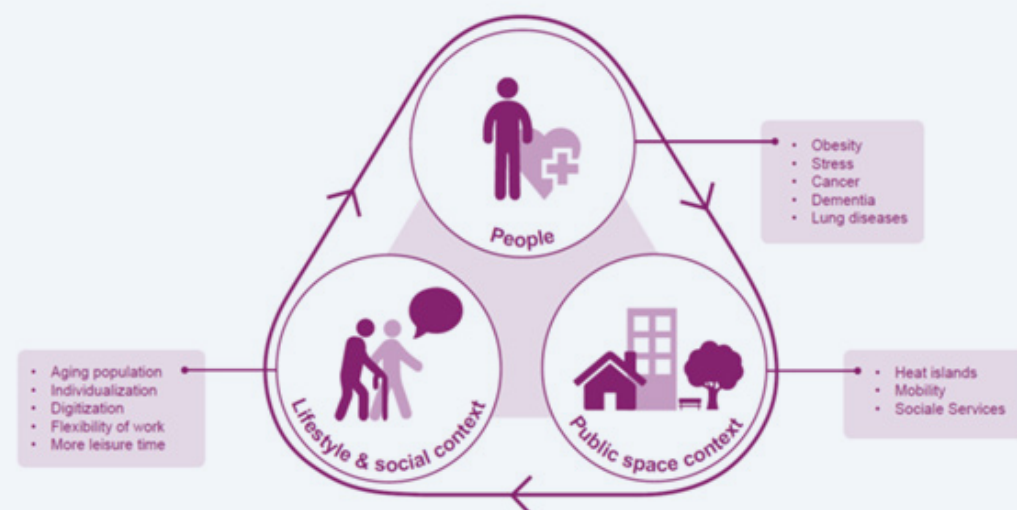


Fig. Health, lifestyle and public space affect each other.

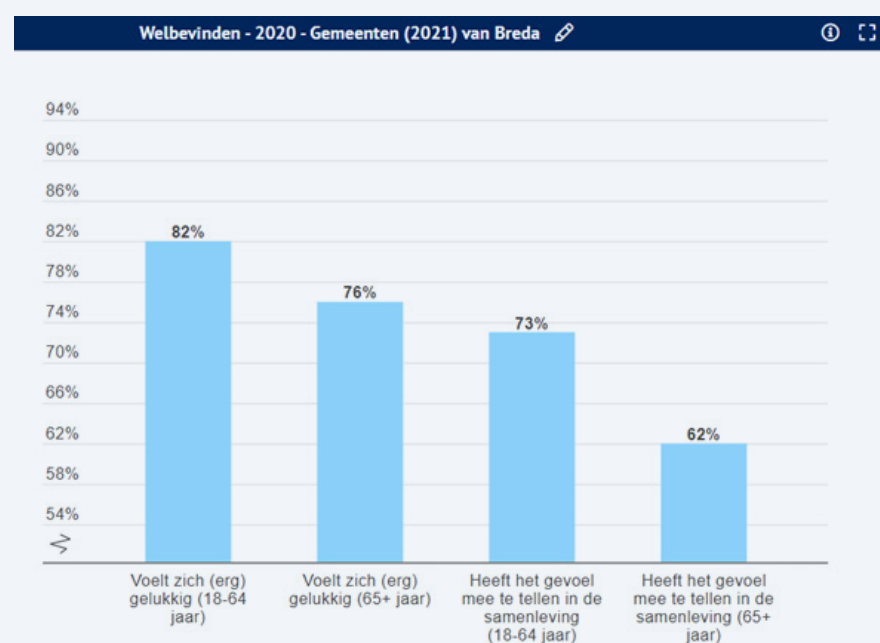
### Situation in Breda

If we zoom in on Breda we see the following figures:

- Most of the residents experience their own health as very good: (83%) 19–64-year-olds and 66% of 65-year-olds.
- A quarter (26%) of the adults (19-64 year) have one or more long-term illnesses or conditions
- Most of the residents feel happy: 82% of the population aged 19-64 feel happy and 76% of 65-year-olds feel happy.
- 16% of the inhabitants are concerned about the influence of the living environment on health.

If we look at wellbeing (see graphic):

- Most of the residents feel happy: 82% of the population aged 19-64 feel happy and 76% of 65-year-old feel happy.
- 73% of the population aged 18-64 has the feeling to count in society while 62% of the 65-year-old have the feeling to count in society.



If we focus on the four key themes of the project we see in Breda the following figures

### Heat stress

- 82% of the adults believe that the neighbourhood has sufficient greenery. Of the 65-year-olds, 89% are satisfied with the amount of greenery.
- 62% think there are enough places to cool off in the neighbourhood. 70% of the over-65s think so.

### Air quality and noise

- 30% of adults are concerned about the exposure to particulate matter
- 30% of adults are severely hampered by noise (train, planes, traffic, neighbours, companies, industry etc)

### General impacts on physical and mental health

- More than a quarter (28%) of the over-65s are vulnerable. This means that they have physical problems, cognitive, social or psychological problems
- 27% of people aged 19-65 feel lonely, for those over 65 this percentage is higher, namely 33%. People have less contact with other people than they wish.

### Lifestyles, social functions, physical activities

- Only 59% meets the Dutch standard for exercise, for those over 65 this is only 37%
- 67% of adults think that there are enough meeting places in the neighbourhood
- 47% of the adults have overweight (this is including obesities: BMI of 25 or higher)

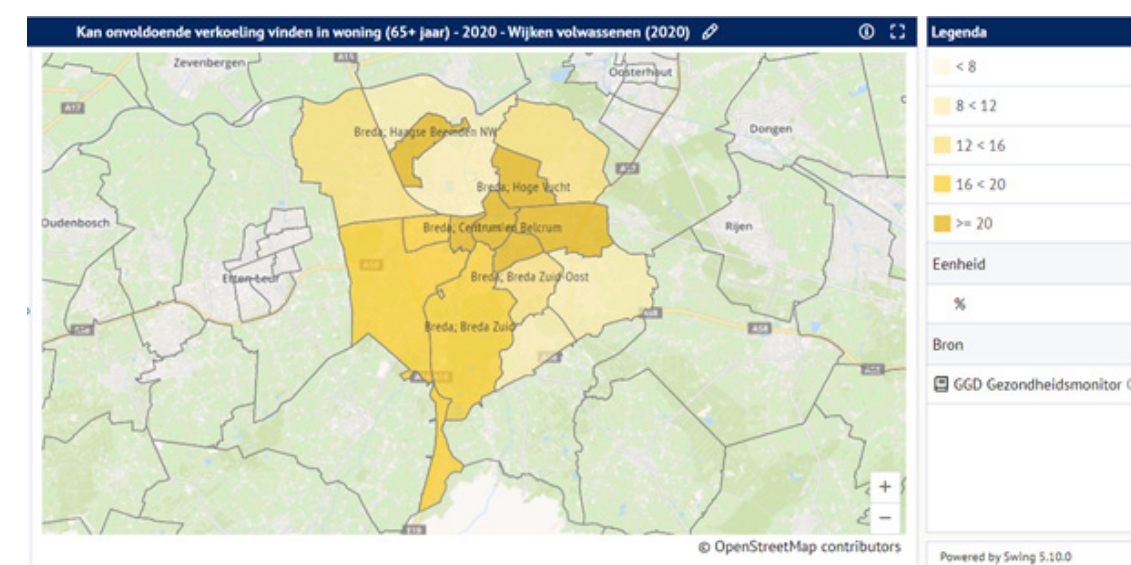


Fig. % of people over 65 that cannot find enough cooling in their home (neighbourhoods)





Fig. Location of parks and Nieuwe Mark in the city centre



Fig. Location Seelig-zuid



Fig. Foto current situation Seelig-zuid

## 2. FOCUS

### 2.1 WHY FOCUS ON SEELIG PARK?

In this Integrated Action Plan, Breda focuses on the Seelig-south area. In this area in the city centre of Breda, it is possible to implement the policy for the construction of New Parks, for the realization of a Robust ecological network, and for the creation of greenery in everyone's immediate living environment. The Seelig-south location is also an important part of the project area for the Nieuwe Mark and Green Quays.

### 2.2 AMBITIONS SEELIG PARK, NIEUWE MARK & GREENQUAYS

#### Seelig Park

The municipality wants to transform the Seelig-Zuid barracks area into a public city park. An important element in the park will be formed by the Nieuwe Mark: the new water connection that is being constructed between the Port and the canal structure of Breda.

The Seelig-Zuid location is part of the Seeligkazerne, a site of the Ministry of Defence. The barracks site consists of a northern and a southern part because it is intersected by the Fellenoordstraat. Seelig-Noord has recently been redeveloped by the school institution De Rooi Pannen. The former military (monumental) buildings on the site have been converted into housing for De Rooi Pannen's secondary vocational education courses in the tourism and catering sectors.

The southern part of the barracks area has a more open character because the large drill field is located here. Around it are six buildings that served as accommodation for officers (the White Houses), for storage (the Hooi- and Haverloods), as sports accommodation and for medical examinations of soldiers. These buildings also have a historical heritage value. The area of Seelig-South is approximately 5.9 ha; the site is bordered on three sides by a low wall with a wrought-iron fence and on the south side by the Vredenburgsingel. The property will be transferred to the municipality by the Ministry of Defence by mid-2024 at the latest. The municipality has agreed with De Rooi Pannen that they can buy the White Houses to use as training space.



Fig. Planning area Seelig-zuid



## Nieuwe Mark

Breda has been a real car city for years. After the Second World War, much of the open water was filled in and the river Mark was routed around the inner city, and the car took advantage of this. Now the municipality wants to make the city centre more liveable and greener, with more and better places to stay. It was therefore decided to restore the filled-in Nieuwe Mark in the city centre.

The Mark has played an essential role in the development of the city over the centuries. The Mark, which once flowed past the city gates of the medieval city, is being given space again. Ten years ago, navigable water was brought back into the city with the realization of the Port. With the construction of the King Willem Alexander Bridge, the Port has once again been made accessible for larger yachts and boats are once again located in the heart of the city. Boats that will soon be able to sail further south and moor at unique places that show the historic city of Breda from a new perspective. In the last part of this route, the symbiosis between the construction of the Nieuwe Mark and Park Seelig South is expressed.

City and cultural history will be brought back with the realization of the Nieuwe Mark. Breda is an old, fortified city that has a strong relationship with defence and is rich in cultural-historical heritage. Realization of the Nieuwe Mark is a unique opportunity to strengthen the historical identity of Breda and to make it visible, readable and experienceable.

The presence of water in this part of the city creates meeting places and walking opportunities and partly because of this has a positive effect on social cohesion. Experiencing and using water offers residents and visitors a new perspective. The attractiveness of Breda increases with water that is alive, provides cooling and offers places to stay. The water will be a catalyst for economic strengthening in the area. The quality of accommodation prevails, creating an attractive business environment. Realizing the Nieuwe Mark will lead to less pavement and the addition of greenery will make the city more climate adaptive. This greening has a cooling effect on the environment, makes the city water-resistant and flora and fauna are given more space.

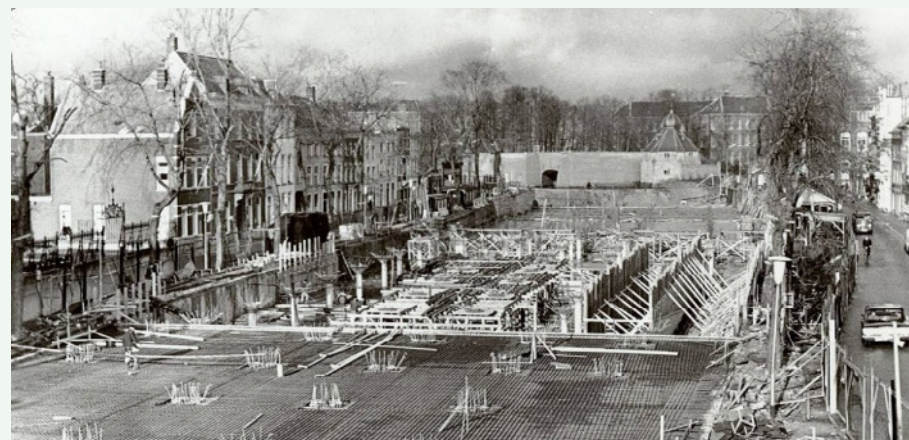


Fig. Filling the harbour in the 60's of the Twentieth century



Fig The harbour reopened in 2007

de nieuwe mark

voorlopig ontwerp

24 mei 2018



Fig. Masterplan Nieuwe Mark



To contribute to more biodiversity and reducing of heat stress the municipality has started the project Green Quays.



Fig. Quays of the Nieuwe Mark before greening

Green Quays

By making the quay walls of the Mark greener, Green Quays wants to bring nature back into the city. The Municipality of Breda wants to make the walls and quays of the Nieuwe Mark greener with trees, (wall) plants and mosses. This not only results in a beautifully vegetated quay wall, but also a rich and varied animal life. Soon, when you sail on the river Mark or walk on the quays, you will also be able to experience nature here. Eight organizations will be investigating together in the Green Quays project over the next three years which conditions are needed to create rich plant and animal life between the stones, on the quays and under water.



Fig. Principles Green Quays

Using various techniques, the partners are investigating what the most optimal ecosystem is, both against the vertical quay walls and on the quays themselves. They start with a test set-up to see which quay wall is most suitable.

Consider, for example, the structure of the wall, the holes, protrusions and cavities in the walls, as well as the qualifications of the types of stone and masonry mortar that are required for the desired development of nature. Places will be placed in the quay wall that will serve as nesting areas for birds and hiding places will be created for fish under water. The ecosystem along the quay walls thus becomes a shelter and nesting place and provides nectar for insects, is the intention. From 2021, several unique tree sections will be built on both sides of the river over a length of 175 meters. These serve as growing places for different types of trees and shrubs that enhance the urban ecology. With the results of all these tests, the quays will then be greened along the entire length of the Nieuwe Mark. This greening in turn contributes to cooling and heat stress in the city.

GREEN QUAYS • OBJECTIVES

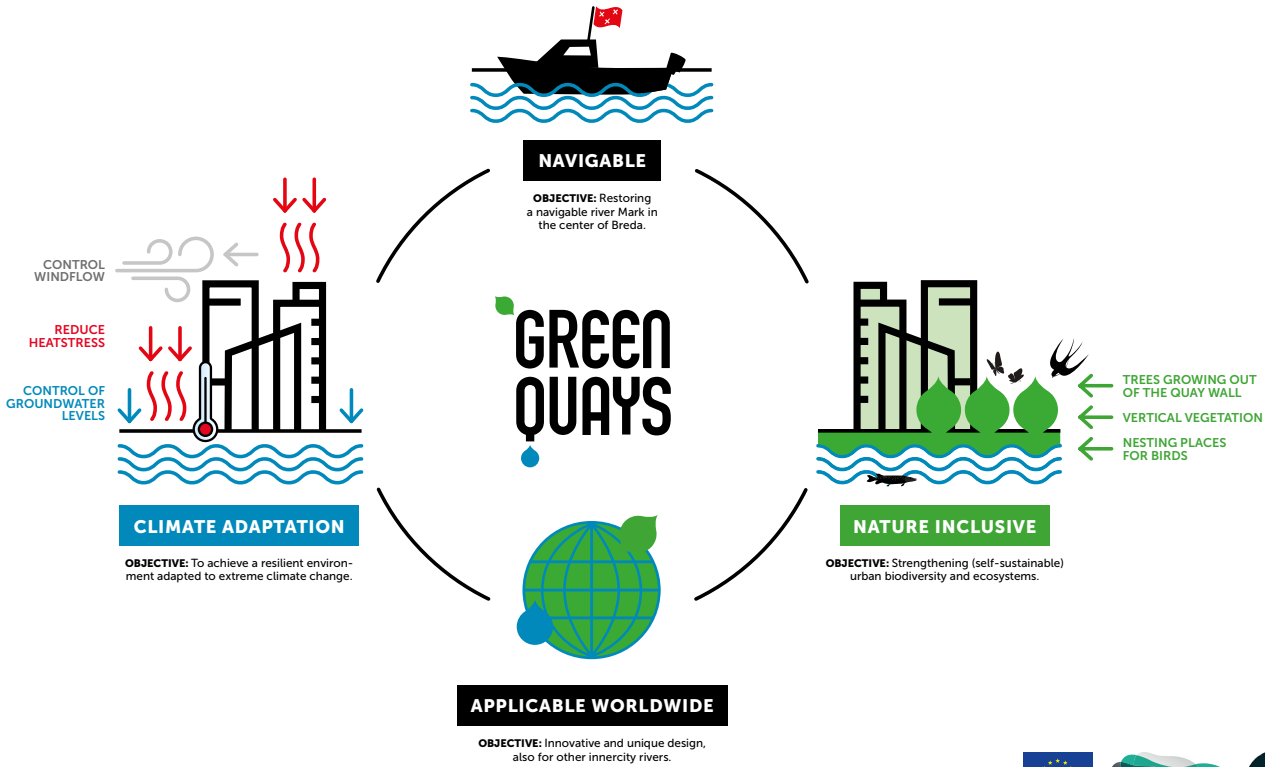


Fig. Solutions Green Quays





Fig. Greening the quays



Fig. Boardwalk  
alongside the water



### 3. THE PROCESS: THE MAKING OF A NEW PARK

#### 3.1 CHOOSING FOR CO-CREATION

As Seelig Park is becoming a public park, it is par excellence a subject for making plans together with the future users. By getting into contact with them we can get to know what their needs are, what this park means for them, and which values they want to attribute to this place. Having influence on one's environment is an important factor in the well-being of citizens. It emphasizes taking care of one's own neighbourhood. And by following a process of co-creation we hope to get into contact with potential entrepreneurs who want to invest in the park. For example, investors who want to purchase the monumental buildings in the planning area and give them a new future. Because, as a local government we seek cooperation with other developing parties.

In a co-creation process it is important to be aware of the different angles with which people look at the future: everyone looks at it with its own perspective: residents, entrepreneurs, civil servants, young people, old people..... The aim is to bring these perspectives together by organizing a constructive dialogue.



Fig. Through different glasses

In this process we held on to a few principles:

#### **Empty playing field**

We started with a playing field that was as empty as possible. Of course, there were restrictions and regulations that we had to take in account, but we minimized them as much as possible. And we made them clear beforehand.

#### **Transparent information**

All the information was made accessible by launching a website. By making vlogs of all the meetings everyone could follow what had been said.

#### **Everyone is welcome**

We welcomed as many participants as possible; there were no conditions for participation. During the meetings different groups of stakeholders met e.g., professionals from city hall, individual residents, representatives of interest groups, experts...





Fig. Impressions of the meetings

### Equal basis

To create an equal basis the meetings were moderated by an independent chairman. This is a key point in the co-creation process because this way the advisors of city hall can play an equal part instead of having to defend a plan that was already made. The independent chairman took care that every attendee could speak up and connections were being made instead of contradictions being enlarged. The meetings were focussed on listening, taking time for explanation, for investigation of ideas and visualisation.



Fig Broadcasting of the the City Dialogue

## 3.2 ORGANISATION OF ULG

The ULG consists of a core group and different groups of stakeholders.

The core group is staffed with relevant policy advisers combined with external advisers on processes of co-creation and communication. This team prepares all the activities in the co-creation process and takes care of the follow-up and communication.

The core group organizes the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the project of making a new park in Seelig-zuid. Therefore, an analysis was made of the different target groups that should be involved and the tools that could be used to communicate with these target groups.

### Members of the core group

#### Project manager

#### Advisers of municipal departments:

- Urban development
- Green infrastructure
- Design public space
- Water management and Climate adaptation
- Health policy
- Sports and Play
- Environmental protection
- Communication

#### External Advisers:

- Co-creation processes
- Video productions

### Stakeholders

#### Target group The City

- Citizens of Breda
- Residents of the surrounding neighbourhoods
- Interest groups (heritage, nature, neighbourhood, traffic, tourism, catering, retail, culture, social, sports, construction, utilities)
- Governmental organisations (Municipal Health Service, Water Board, Province, National Service)
- Entrepreneurs
- Educational institutes (Universities, Vocational education, Primary and Secondary schools)
- Housing corporations
- Developing companies

#### Target group Owners/users in the plan area

- Government Property Agency
- Defence
- Residents White Houses
- Witlox
- Roofgarden
- Tenants The Restitution
- Parking company Breda
- Educational Institute De Rooi Pannen

#### Target group Municipality of Breda

- Portfolio holder
- Municipal Executive
- City Council
- Project team
- Relevant Policy fields



Target groups/resources matrix

- A wide range of communication tools are available to inform and involve the different target groups of the project in the process of co-creation. Broadly speaking, these are:
- Website Seeligkwartier
- Facebook Gasthuisvelden
- Facebook City of Breda
- Co-creation Meetings
- Placemaking Events
- Video vlog
- Magazine Gasthuisvelden
- Personal interviews
- Internal platform municipality
- Daily mail City Council

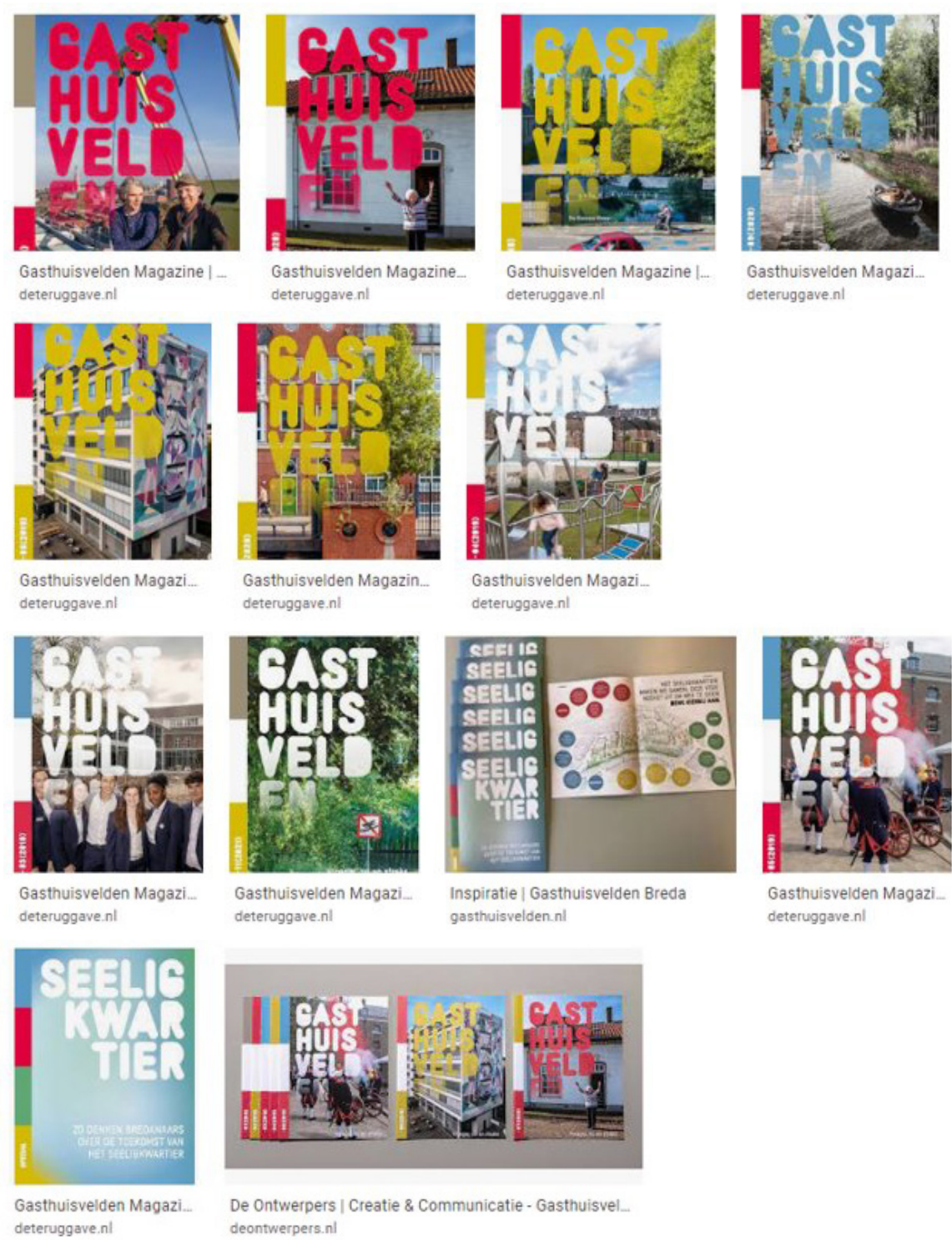


Fig. Magazine Gasthuisvelden

In the following table is indicated which communication tools will be used for the different target groups.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Targetgroup The City										
Citizens of Breda	x	x	x	x	x					
Residents	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Interest groups	x	x	x	x	x			x		
Governmental organisations	x	x	x	x	x			x		
Entrepreneurs	x	x	x					x		
Educational institutes	x	x	x				x	x		
Housing companies	x	x	x	x	x			x		
Developing companies	x	x	x	x	x		x			
Target group Owners/users in the plan area										
Governmental Property Agencie	x							x		
Ministry of Defence	x							x		
Residents White houses	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Witlox	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		
Roofgarden	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		
Tenants The Restitution	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		
Parking Company Breda	x	x		x	x		x	x		
Educational institute De Rooi Pannen	x	x		x			x	x		
Targetgroup Municipality of Breda										
Portfolio holder					x	x	x	x	x	x
Municipal Executive Board					x		x	x	x	x
City Council	x			x	x		x	x		x
Relevant Policy fields	x			x	x		x	x	x	



### 3.3 ELABORATION OF THE PROCESS OF CO-CREATION: COLLECTING PEOPLE AND IDEAS

The process of co-creation was divided into 2 steps:

#### Step 1 Collecting

The first step targeted on gathering attendees and information: activities aimed at collecting people and inviting them to give their view regarding the area. The people who registered were invited to a big city dialogue where people and ideas came together.

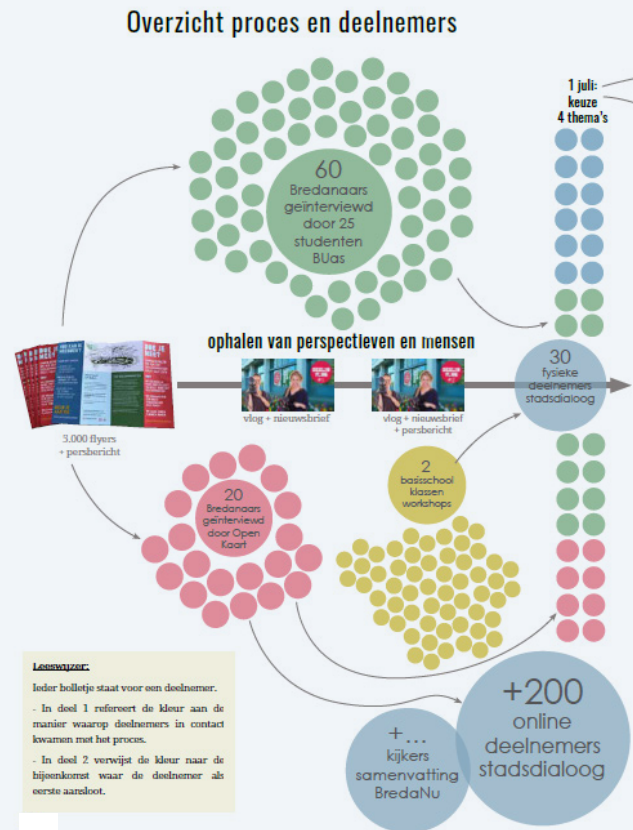


Fig Step 1 Collecting

How do you get into contact with future users of the park and with people who want to be involved in the process of co-creation? We started by spreading a flyer to 5000 addresses in the vicinity of the planning location. Secondly, we also wanted to reach people from other parts of town, or maybe even from outside Breda. This was done by 25 students at Breda University of Applied Sciences who interviewed each 10 people from their network. Originally, we had wanted to let the interviews take place all over town, but....covid-19....so everything was done online.



Fig. Participants of the co-creation process



Fig. Schoolchildren play Democracy



Fig. Students Avans

People were led to the website [www.gasthuisvelden.nl](http://www.gasthuisvelden.nl) to sign up and from that moment on they received all the invitations and news updates.

We especially wanted to get into contact with young people: they will be the future users. So, we invited classes of elementary schools to a gaming event in which they could give their view on what they would want for the future park. The game is called Democracy. Here were also sessions organised with students from higher education levels.

When we had gathered about 200 participants, we organized the big city dialogue. Because of Covid only 35 people could attend the live meet-up. But we cooperated with the local broadcasting channel. They set up a livestream and through this another 200 people could attend and participate with chat.

Fig Streaming the City dialogue





## Step 2 Imagining

During step 2 we investigated and deepened all the ideas with the participants.

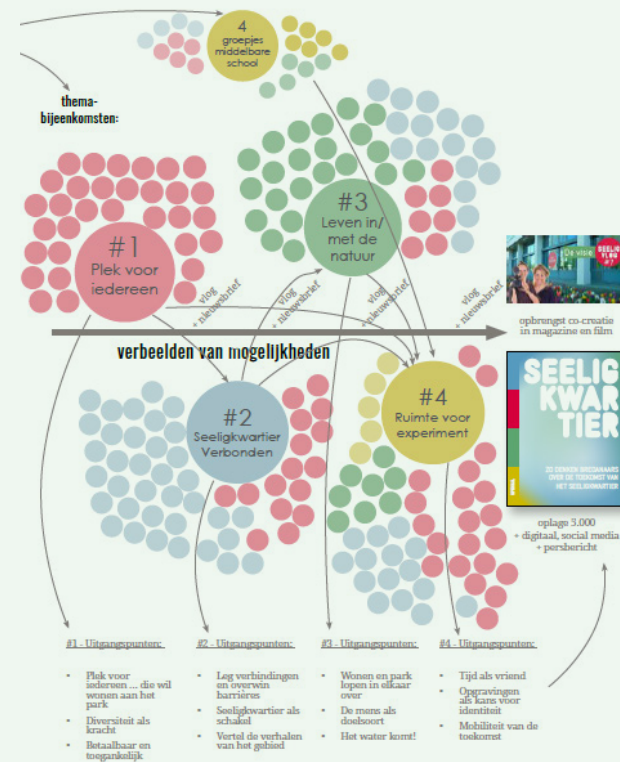


Fig Step 2 Imagining

The outcome of the City dialogue were 4 shared themes that would act as a guide for the investigating design sessions: 1. Space for Everyone, 2. Seelig Connected, 3. Living in and with Nature and 4. Room for experiment. With these sessions people were invited to share their ideas and wishes. There was room for everyone to come up with ideas, likes and dislikes and discussions with all the participants. By this repeated dialogue a mutual understanding grew of what would be good, possible, wishful, utopic...



Fig. Offline design session

Fig. Online session



## 4. OBJECTIVES

The process the co-creation produced a shared vision of the participants on the desired character of the new park and produced a set of shared values. This vision includes a picture of what the Seeligkwartier could become.

The picture of the future park is presented as a story of how the future park will look like and could be used after it is opened. This story is then elaborated into 4 objectives that will be leading principles for the design and development of the park: Hospitable, Rooted, Healthy and Experimental.

### 4.1 PICTURE OF THE FUTURE PARK

It is 2030. Seelig Park has now been largely completed. The neighbourhood on the adjacent site of De Teruggave is inhabited, the Nieuwe Mark has been constructed, the park is in full use and the buildings in the park have been given a new purpose. Listen to the story of the new park:

### VISIE OP HET KARAKTER EEN UITNODIGING

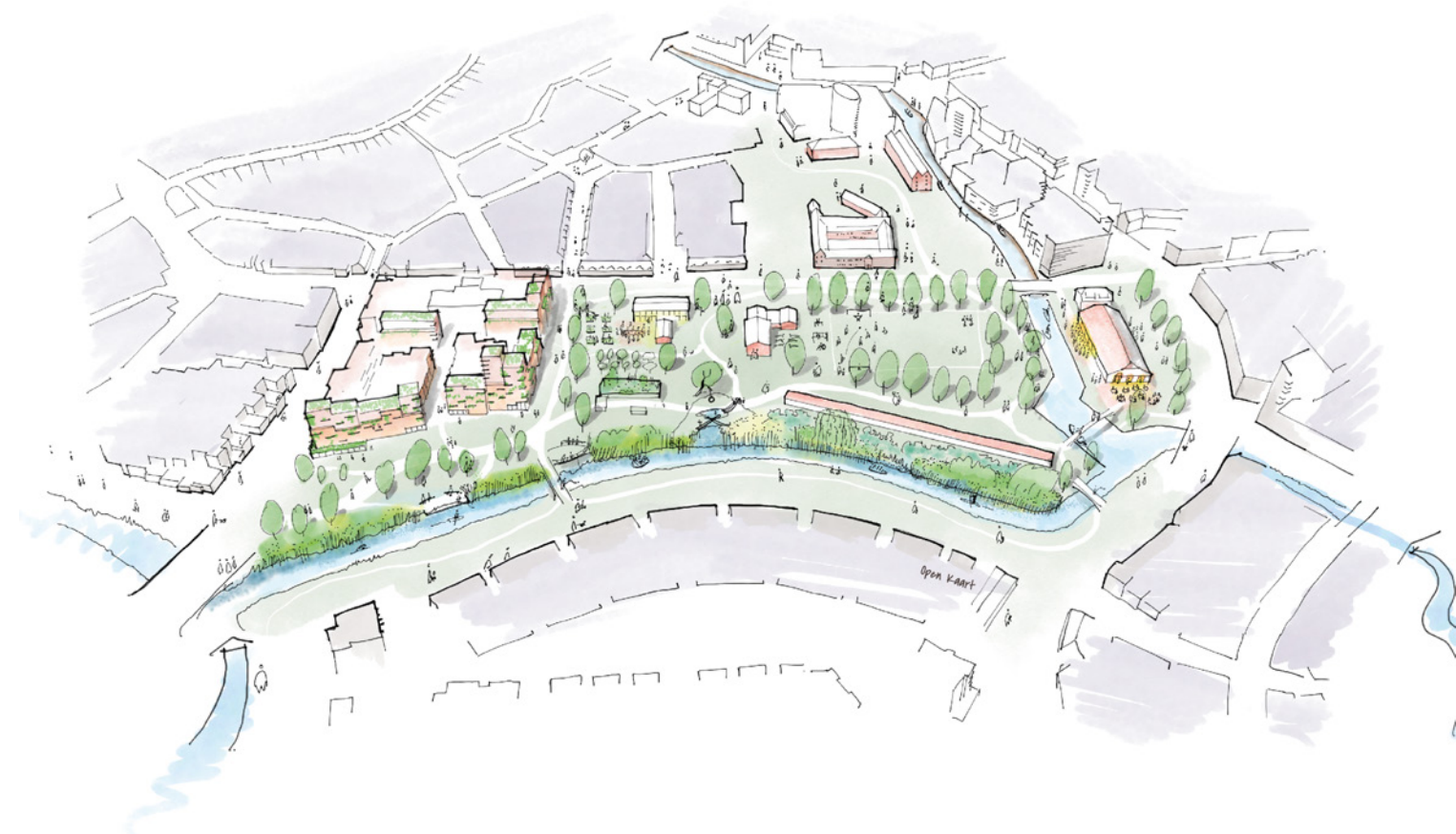


Fig. Picture of the future of Seelig Park

"For the walker, the Seelig Park is the highlight of his weekly round of the canal. He always sits down on the girth. Together with Natuurplein de Baronie, he has contributed ideas on how the riverbank can be designed as nature friendly as possible. Sometimes he guides fellow townspeople around for Breda Walks to tell them more about the area. A few times a year he is allowed to help with the management with his waders on.



Athletes, runners and other people are actively working on the fitness equipment at the exercise site. It is good to see that an active group of people in wheelchairs regularly use these devices. Afterwards they have a drink together at one of the picnic tables or at the gym.

The residents of the new residential area have already got to know each other, because they help in the community garden. Even when the houses had not yet been built, they could already connect there. For their children, the park is a large front yard where they like to play. There is always a watchful eye, because the neighbours of the assisted living project have many activities in the park.

Children from the surrounding neighbourhoods also know where to find the park. Especially in the beginning it is still wild and really a natural place. The redesign of the Fellenoordstraat makes it easy for children to safely cross to the park without their parents. When the weather is nice, the neighbourhood breakfast takes place there and on Thursday afternoons the young people walk to the sports field with interest group Breda Actief. Because there is now so much space in the park for sports, it was possible to create a nature playground on the site of the football cage in the district. In the run-up to the redesign of the park, various entrepreneurs were able to develop and test their new concepts in the inspection building. Students from Sint Joost were also involved. Since these entrepreneurs are together in the hay shed, this, in combination with the Rooi Pannen, attracts visitors from all over Breda and the surrounding area.

There is also room for the otter in the Seeligkwartier. It was quite a swim from the Markdal, but here he finds a good place to land. Even though it is sometimes a bit busy in the Nieuwe Mark, where electric boats and canoes moor, you can always find a quiet spot along the canal.



The park offers something for everyone: with space for exercise and activities, but also for quiet walks or relaxation.



You can walk straight into the park from the Gasthuisvelden. You immediately experience the peace and openness along this part of the canal. Sometimes you even come across an otter.

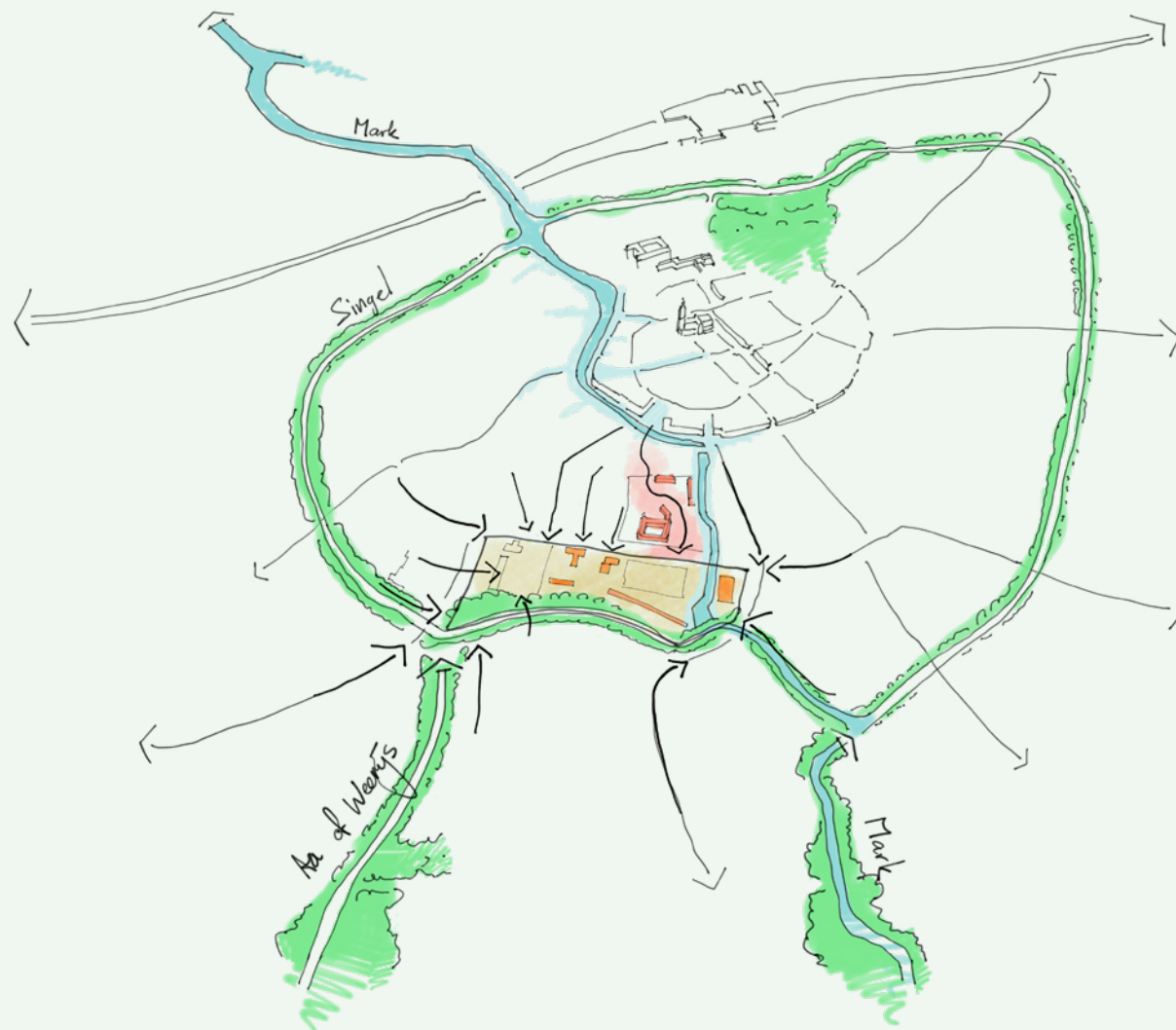


The Nieuwe Mark will be extended past the Hooiloods, which will be given a lively new destination.

This is where it all started, when initiators from the neighbourhood and the future residents of the Seeligkwartier got to know each other. Now you can easily cross the Fellenoordstraat to this lively meeting place."

This picture of the future has been sketched based on ideas and principles that have been brought together with the residents and other stakeholders during the thematic meetings. The principles have been formulated together with the participants of these meetings. They can be summarized in the four key objectives: **rooted, hospitable, healthy and experimental.**





## SEELIGKWARTIER VERBONDEN

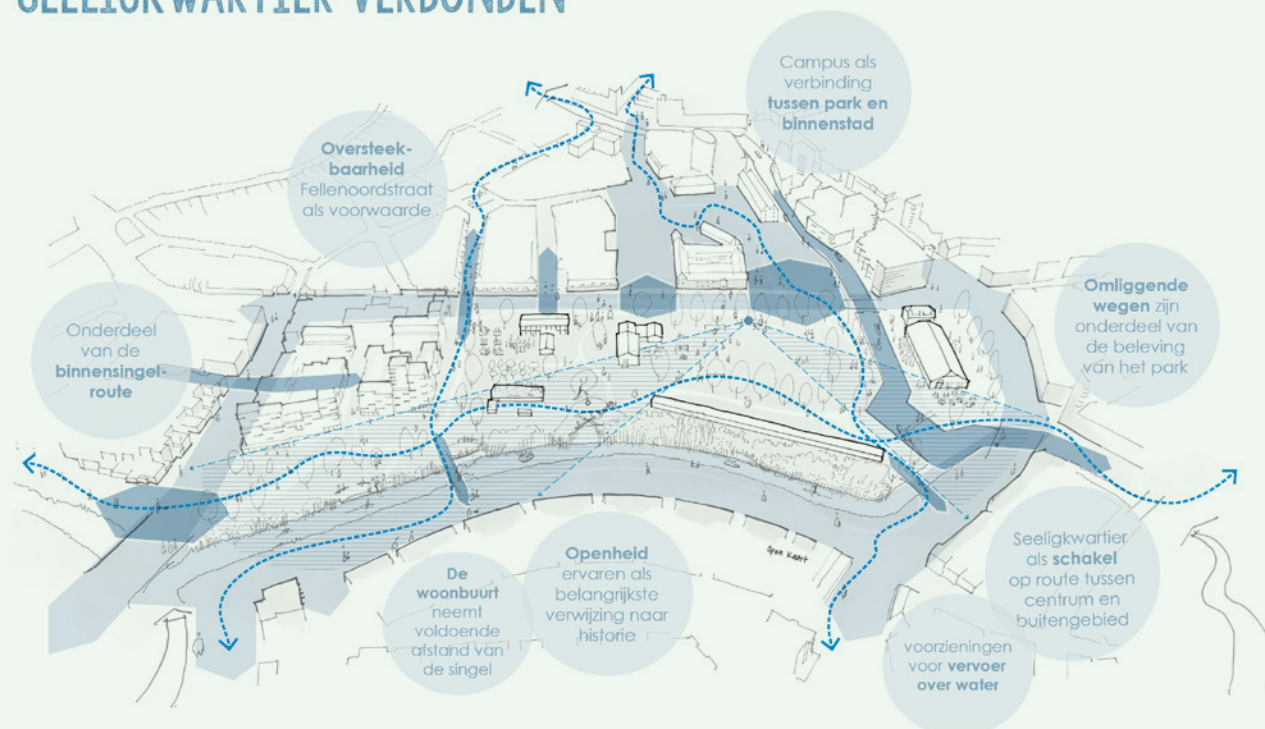


Fig. Rooted

## 4.2 OBJECTIVE: ROOTED - VALUE: SEELIGKWARTIER CONNECTED

From public secret to a new part of the city: the Seeligkwartier opens to the environment. That requires new connections, based on a few strong anchors. The rich history, the arrival of the Nieuwe Mark and the presence of the Rooi Pannen offer good opportunities for this. This way, this long closed area can find its place in the heart of the residents of Breda.

Elaboration of this objective means:

### Make connections and overcome barriers

Opening the gate is not enough. The Fellenoordstraat, Markendaalseweg and Gasthuisvelden are visible and tangible barriers. This must be overcome so that residents, children, the elderly and students can reach the area safely. Make sure that new construction does not create new barriers.

### Seeligkwartier as a switch

A reason to also visit the area from outside Breda must be sought in a combination of destinations and routes. The Seeligkwartier, in combination with neighbouring places, has the potential to be a hospitable destination for local and (supra) urban visitors. De Rooi Pannen can provide an attractive walking route to the city centre, provided its grounds are more accessible.

### Stories of the area

When you think of history, you think of old buildings and objects. But an important historical feature of the Seeligkwartier turns out to be its openness. An open and green area along the canal, in which two rivers flow together. Plans for new construction and the future character of existing buildings should not get in the way of that quality.

This theme invites you to....

- To make the history of the area visible in a playful way;
- To make it able to cross the Fellenoordstraat in a safer way;
- Starting activities and amenities in the park that match the area and supplement other functions.

## 4.3 OBJECTIVE: HOSPITABLE - VALUE: A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

A hospitable area that as many people as possible can enjoy. This Breda quality can be clearly felt in the Seeligkwartier. The area is 'returned' to the city and therefore belongs to everyone. That may sound obvious, but such a choice has far-reaching consequences. After all, who is 'everyone'?

Elaboration of this objective means:

### Living with the park

Living in the Seeligkwartier is living at the park. There will be homes for all target groups, especially families who want to actively commit themselves to this park. Think of programming, ownership and maintenance. Residents can organize something in the park, which creates a goal to meet each other. The living environment invites those people who want to stay here for a longer period.

### Diversity as a strength

Mixing creates a special added value. For example, by different types of residents who mean something to each other. But also think of the hay shed where various organizations can be accommodated to use the full potential of that place. And the varied use of the park for sports, nature and culture. The Park is designed in such a way that places can be used differently in different seasons for rest, noise or activity.



### Affordable and accessible

Breda wins European prizes as an accessible city. The Seeligkwartier will be an example of this in the broadest sense. Accessibility also includes hospitality and affordability, not just in terms of housing. Homeless people are also residents of Breda. The terrace will also be accessible if you do not buy a drink and you can kick a ball there without being a member.

### Link hardware to software

Only hardware (physical facilities) does not move people. A link between hardware and software is a precondition for sustainable and successful use of public space for exercise. The link between hardware and software must be organized. This can be done through orgware. The orgware provides an answer to process issues and preconditions for a movement-friendly environment. The traffic sector also refers to the triple E concept: engineering (construction/construction), education (information) and enforcement (enforcement/regulation). In some cases, 'empowerment' (citizen participation) is added to this. Orgware means the way in which a movement-friendly environment is created. Orgware contains preconditions, points for attention and process aspects. It ensures the realization of and the connection between an activity program and/or information and guidance with the physical layout of the area.

## PLEK VOOR IEDEREEN

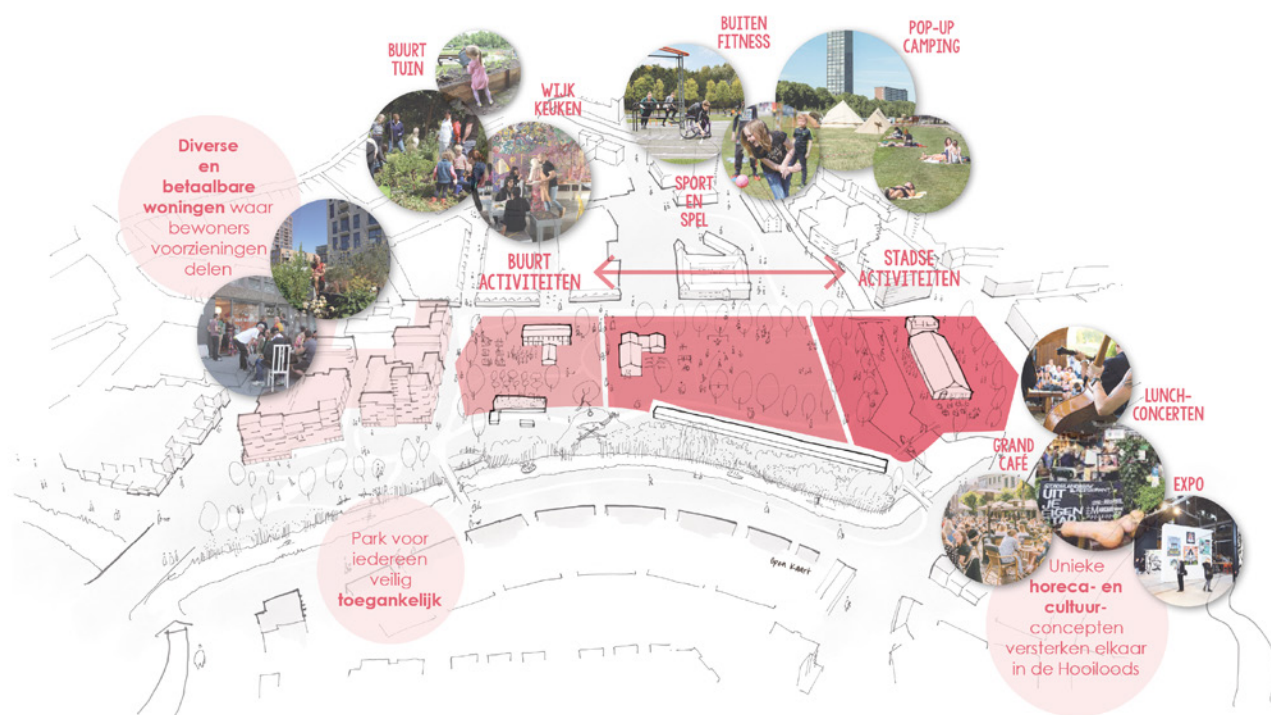


Fig. Hospitable

This theme invites you to....

- To organize joint activities in the park;
- Enable programming for different target groups and income;
- Focus on the accessibility of the park;
- To use the existing buildings in a way that increases the public character of the park.

## 4.4 OBJECTIVE: HEALTHY - VALUE: LIVING IN AND WITH NATURE

Breda is a 'City in the Park'. Anyone who will soon enter the city along the Seeligkwartier will literally see what it means to live, play and meet each other in the park. Living in and with nature is not only good for the environment, but also for our health. This makes the Seeligkwartier a place where you can be the best 'human being'.

Elaboration of this objective means:

### Nature inclusive living

In the Seeligkwartier, the park and residential area cannot be seen separately from each other. The residential area is designed in such a way that nature continues through it, and you experience the park from the home.

### Human as a target species

Residents play an active role in managing parts of the park, which contributes to the social quality of the area. It will be a people park, not a Biesbosch. But on the canal bank there are places where nature gets exclusive rest and people (and their dogs) are not welcome.

### Give way to the water

The water is the ideal place to bring nature into the city. Running water provides cooling for the residents of 'hottest place in town', Gerardus Majella. The Nieuwe Mark is a reason to do more with quiet and clean transport over and along the water.

### Mobile-friendly environment

An exercise-friendly environment is an environment:

- in which users are encouraged to actively move around, play and play sports, also encouraged to do so by, among other things, information
- where a range of activities is linked to the facilities, so that sustainable use is made of them
- which is clean, intact and safe. And is challenging and accessible
- which is the result of commitment from the users and through collaboration between public, private and private parties
- which has been applied and tuned to the correct scale level.

## LEVEN IN EN MET DE NATUUR



Fig. Healthy



This theme invites you to....

- Be innovative with nature inclusions in residential area, park and water.
- Make water and climate adaptation in the park enjoyable.
- Make it possible to move, meet and play in nature.

#### 4.5 OBJECTIVE: EXPERIMENTAL - VALUE: ROOM FOR INNOVATION

The Seeligkwartier is a place where people pioneer in all kinds of areas. Consider both the way in which the use of the area is created and the result and use of it. This new part of the city centre offers many opportunities to make Breda (more) experienceable as a surprising and innovative city for a wide audience. This makes the Seeligkwartier the ideal testing ground.

In the Seeligkwartier, space for experiment is organized in the preparation and in the result. In addition to the collaboration with the city residents, this also includes the involvement of students and researchers, and the visible experimentation on location. This vision is therefore a targeted invitation to all kinds of initiatives in elaboration and use.

Elaborate this objective by:

##### Time as a friend

Nobody knows exactly what the future will look like. By not recording choices too early, we can make use of knowledge that we still have to acquire. We know better how the park functions best if we have been able to test it for a while.

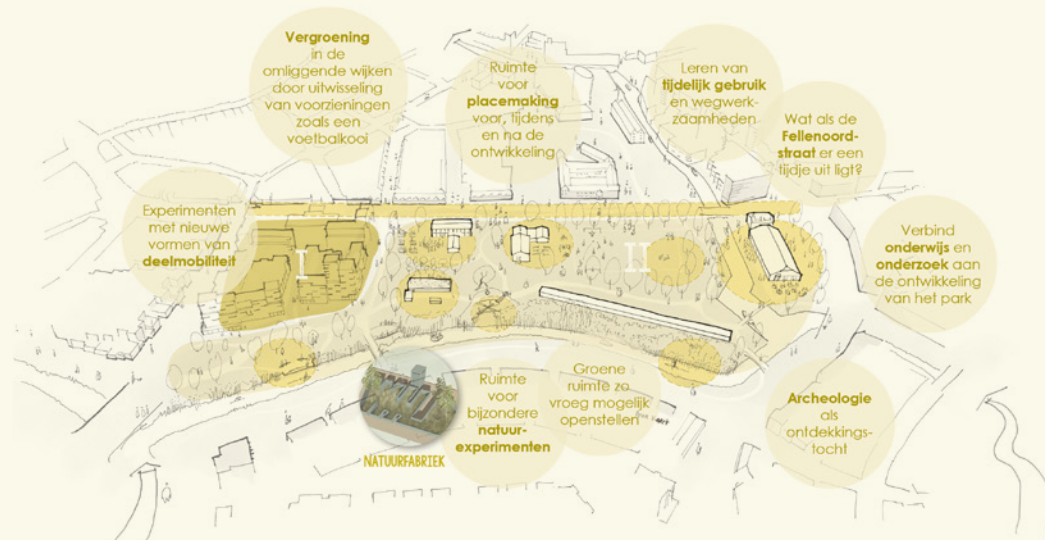
##### Excavations an opportunity for identity

The rich history of the Seeligkwartier as the birthplace of Breda helps to put the area on the mental map of Breda residents. Archaeological excavations during the construction of the Nieuwe Mark can be used as a reason to share this story widely.

##### Mobility of the future

The development of the Seeligkwartier could be a reason for organizing mobility in this part of the city differently. Necessary work can be used as an experiment to investigate the effects of road closures.

## RUIMTE VOOR EXPERIMENT



This theme invites you to....

- Get familiar with the Seeligkwartier before the terrain becomes available.
- Use the area as an experimental lab in collaboration with education and culture institutions.
- Learn from temporary experiments, for example on mobility, nature inclusion or health.

## 5. ACTIONS FOR SEELIG PARK

HET SEELIGKWARTIER  
MAKEN WE SAMEN; DEZE VISIE  
NODIGT UIT OM MEE TE DOEN  
**DENK HIERBIJ AAN:**

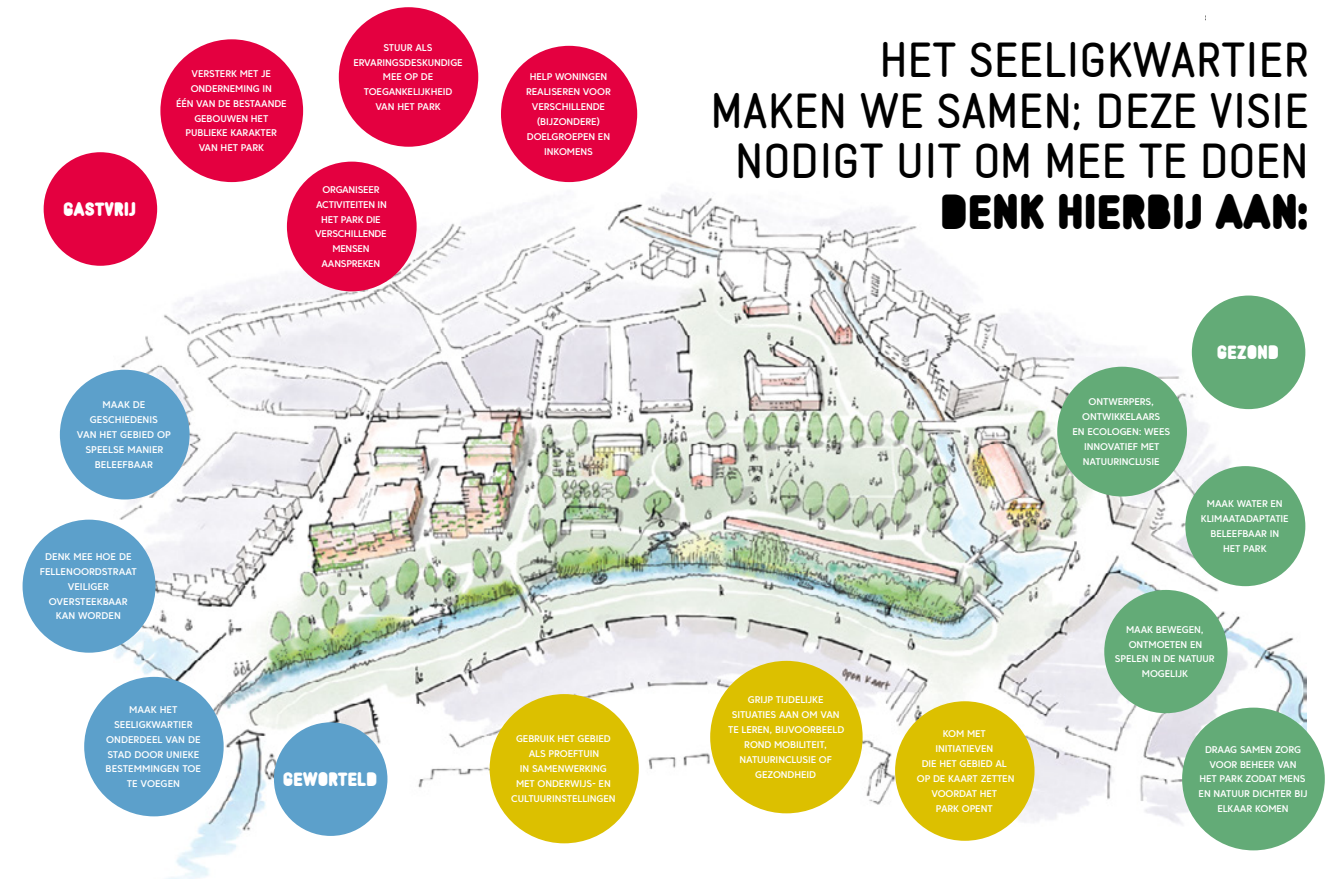


Fig. The basic objectives for the park

The actions direct to the development of the new public park in the city centre of Breda: Seelig Park. For the making of this park the municipality of Breda follows a co-creation process with stakeholders in the city; everyone who wants to participate is welcome. This extensive process has so far produced a shared vision on what the basic objectives for the park should be: Hospitable, Rooted, Healthy, Experimental.

For the elaboration of these objectives the municipality wants to continue working together with stakeholders in the city as much as possible. Therefore, actions are needed to involve as many partners as possible in the planning process, in placemaking activities, in entrepreneurship, in future management. The following actions will be taken to achieve these ambitions.



5.1 ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE HOSPITABLE IN SEELIG PARK

Action	How	What	Who
Co-creative planning	Participation of local stakeholders in the elaboration of the design plans for the park.	Design Workshops Excursions to best practices Neighbourhood Safari Educational projects Design contests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Residents</li><li>Interest groups</li><li>Social organisations</li><li>Entrepreneurs</li><li>Educational institutes</li><li>Municipality</li></ul>
Enhancing public functions in existing properties	Participation of local entrepreneurs and social organisations in the exploitation of the real estate in the park for public functions.	Public tenders to submit bids for purchase of the existing buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Entrepreneurs</li><li>Neighbourhood organisations</li><li>Municipality</li></ul>
Enhancing accessibility	Research with experienceable experts into what makes a park accessible both physically and mentally.	Playground for children with a disability Dementia garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Interest groups disabled people</li><li>Residents</li><li>Municipality</li></ul>
Enhancing social inclusiveness	Participation of different social groups to compose the programming of the park.	Grote Broer Grote Zus Buurtcamping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Schools Neighbourhood organisations</li><li>Care institutions</li><li>Social organisations</li><li>Sport organisations</li><li>Municipality</li></ul>
Enhancing cultural meaning	Organisation of cultural activities. Invitation to cultural institutions to submit proposals for developing activities.	Breda Photo Culture Night National Heritage Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Art schools</li><li>Cultural organisations</li><li>Artists</li><li>Municipality</li></ul>

5.1.1. DESIGN OF THE PARK IN CO-CREATION



Fig. Design sessions with stakeholders

**How**  
Elaboration of the design of the park together with stakeholders.

**What**  
Design workshops chaired by an independent moderator.  
Collaboration with initiators.

**Who**  
Lead agency:  
Municipal department of Urban development of Breda  
Key Partners:

- **Target group The City**
  - Citizens of Breda
  - Residents of the surrounding neighbourhoods
  - Interest groups (heritage, nature, neighbourhood, traffic, tourism, catering, retail, culture, social, sports, construction, utilities)
  - Governmental organisations (Municipal Health Service, Water Board, Province, National Service)
  - Entrepreneurs
  - Educational institutes (Universities, Vocational education, Primary and Secondary schools)
  - Housing corporations
  - Developing companies
- **Target group Owners/users in the plan area**
  - Ministry of Defence
  - Residents White Houses
- **Independent advisers**

**When**  
Short term

**Means**  
Costings: Budget > € 100.000  
Resources: Municipal funds

**Indicators**

- Level of support in the city
- Number of objections



5.1.2 ORGANIZE PUBLIC FUNCTION OF PROPERTIES



Fig. Former military barracks in Seelig-zuid

**How**  
Invitation of private parties (entrepreneurs, social organisations) to give the existing buildings a public function.

**What**  
Public tenders for the purchase and development of the existing property for public functions.

**Who**  
Lead agency: Municipal department of Property Development of Breda  
Key Partners

- Private developing companies and investors
- Social organisations

**When**  
Mid term

**Means**  
Costings: € 25.000> Budget < €100.000  
Resources:

- Municipal funds
- Private funds

**Indicators**

- Many interested investors to create public functions
- High quality proposals

5.1.3.MAKE A PARK THAT IS ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYONE

**How**  
Research into what makes a park accessible both physically and mentally.

**What**

- Workshops with experienceable experts.
- Excursions to good practices

**Who**  
Lead agency: Municipal Department of Urban Development Breda  
Key Partners:

- Organisations representing disabled people
- Universities
- Municipal department of Social Maintenance

**When**  
2022-2024

**Means**  
Costings: Budget < € 25.000  
Resources: Municipal funds

**Indicators**

- Input for designing an accessible park.
- Participation of disabled people in the research and planning process.

Fig. Breda won Access City Award 2018





## 5.1.4 MAKE PLACE FOR EVERYONE



Fig. A place where everyone is welcome

### How

Participation of different social cohorts.

### What

Programming activities with and for different target groups.

### Who

Lead agency: Municipal department of Social Maintenance

Key Partners:

- Neighbourhood organisations
- Social organisations
- Care organisations

### When

Long term

### Means

Costings: Budget > 25.000

Resources: Social funds

### Indicators

- Level of participation of different social cohorts.
- Level of criminality.

## 5.1.5 CREATE OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET

### How

Organisation of social meeting events for the neighbourhood.

### What

The annual Neighbourhood Camping contributes to social cohesion and integration, ensures participation, supports the local neighbourhood economy, and makes it possible for minima families to go on vacation in their own park.

### Who

Lead agency: Social organisation De Buurtcamping

Key Partners:

- Municipal department of Social Maintenance Breda
- Residents
- Neighbourhood organisations
- Local sponsors

### When

Medium term

### Means

Costings: € 25.000> Budget < €100.000

Resources:

- Private funds
- Municipal subsidies
- Sponsorship

### Indicators

- Number of participating residents.
- Social quality of the park.



Fig. Meeting residents at the Neighbourhood camping



5.1.6 ORGANIZE CULTURAL EVENTS



Fig. Exhibition Breda Photo

- How**  
Cooperation with the cultural sector to give the park cultural value.
- What**  
Outdoor exhibitions of art like Breda Photo.  
Cultural happenings like the annual Culture Night and Open Heritage Days.  
Historic memorial sites.
- Who**  
Lead agency: Cultural organisations  
Key Partners:  
  - Municipal department of Culture Breda
  - Local sponsors
  - School of Art
  - Artists
- When**  
Long term
- Means**  
Costings: € 25.000> Budget < €100.000  
Resources:  
  - Private funds
  - Municipal subsidies
  - Sponsorship
- Indicators**  
  - An annual program of cultural events.
  - Cultural quality of the park.

5.2 ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE ROOTED

Action	How	What	Who
Enhancing relations with the history of the area.	Investigation with local experts what is needed to make the history of the place tangible.	Workshops Exhibitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interest group</li><li>• Heritage</li><li>• Municipality</li></ul>
Enhancing relations with green blue infrastructure.	Construction of connecting zones with other parks and nature reserves.	Ecological banks Tree structure Green routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nature preservation organisations</li><li>• Municipality</li></ul>
Enhancing relations with routes for slow traffic and public transport.	Construction of connecting paths with infrastructure for slow traffic and public transport.	Pedestrian routes Cycle routes Mooring for boats Public transport stops Bridges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interest groups for cycling</li><li>• Leisure operators</li><li>• Public transport organisations</li><li>• Municipality</li></ul>
Enhancing relations with the surrounding residential areas.	Investigation with residents how to ensure optimal reachability of the park.	Neighbourhood safaris GHV Magazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Residents</li><li>• Neighbourhood organisations</li><li>• Municipality</li></ul>

5.2.1 MAKE HISTORY VISIBLE

- How**  
Research of historical elements that can be used in the design of the park.
- What**  
Workshops with local heritage organisations.
- Who**  
Lead agency: Municipal department of Heritage  
Key Partners:  
  - Local heritage organisations
  - Universities
  - National and Provincial Heritage departments
- When**  
Short term
- Means**  
Costings: Budget < € 25.000  
Resources:  
  - Municipal funds
  - National and Provincial subsidies
- Indicators**  
  - Knowledge about the presence of historic artefacts.
  - Input for the design of the park.
  - Visibility of historical elements



Fig. Enhancing relations with the history of the area.



### 5.2.2 CONNECT WITH THE NETWORK OF GREEN-BLUE AREAS



Fig. Enhancing relations with ecological infrastructure.

**How**

In Breda, together with our partners, we are working hard to make a green biodiverse belt of nature reserves around the city. From this we bring biodiversity into the city along ecological connection zones. The park will be a steppingstone in this ecological infrastructure by connecting to the green-blue connection zones.

**What**

Construction of broad natural banks of the river Mark.

**Who**

Lead agency: Municipal department of environmental protection  
Key Partners:

- Interest groups of nature protection
- Provincial government

**When**

Short term

**Means**

Costings: Budget > €100.000  
Resources:

- Provincial funds

**Indicators**

- A robust ecological infrastructure
- Level of Biodiversity

### 5.2.3 CONNECT TO THE NETWORK OF SLOW TRAFFIC

**How**

Construction of connecting paths with infrastructure for slow traffic and public transport.

**What**

Extending the ring of footpaths and cycle ways along the Singels.  
Construction of cycle and foot bridges across the New Mark and Singels.  
Construction of mooring places for boats at the banks of the river Mark.  
Promotion of recreational infrastructure.

**Who**

Lead agency: Municipal department of Infrastructure  
Key Partners: Provincial government

**When**

Medium term

**Means**

Costings: Budget > 100.000  
Resources:

- Municipal funds
- Provincial funds
- European subsidies

**Indicators**

- Level of walkability
- Number of recreational users
- General health condition of residents



Fig. Promotion of slow traffic cycle routes in Breda



5.2.4 INVOLVEMENT OF RESIDENTS

How

Equal dialogue between residents of the surrounding neighbourhoods of the park and local government people.

What

Organisation of regular Neighbourhood Safari's in which residents can show what they experience in their environment and talk about what their needs are.

Who

Lead agency: Municipal environment of Social Maintenance

Key Partners:

- Residents
- Neighbourhood associations

When

Short term

Means

Costings: Budget < € 25.000

Resources:

- Municipal funds

Indicators

- Amount of input for the design of the park
- Level of satisfaction of residents about their living environment

Fig. Meet-up with residents



5.3 ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE HEALTHY IN SEELIG PARK

Action	How	What	Who
Enhancing Biodiversity	Experiment with tiny nature reserves in the city centre	Urban meadows Tiny forests Naturefactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interest groups</li><li>• Nature protection</li><li>• Universities</li><li>• Municipality</li></ul>
Enhancing Cooling	Construction of shady places and routes. Introducing water in stony areas	Green Quays Waterplaygrounds Cool routes Natural canopy's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Universities</li><li>• Interest Groups</li><li>• Nature protection</li><li>• Municipality</li></ul>
Enhancing green surfaces	Transformation of grey areas into green areas.	National champion-ship Tileswapping Asylum for plants Bushrobbery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Residents</li><li>• Interest groups</li><li>• Nature protection</li><li>• Municipality</li></ul>
Enhancing healthy lifestyle	Activating children to play outside Activating people to eat healthy Creating silent areas	Natural playgrounds Breda Wandelt Tiny foodforests Meditation spots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Residents</li><li>• Schools</li><li>• Local health Organisation</li><li>• Social organisations</li><li>• Interest groups</li><li>• Nature protection</li><li>• Municipality</li></ul>

5.3.1 FLOWER POWER



Fig. Natural herb vegetations in residential areas

How

The power of plants: biodiversity is important for our health. A biodiverse vegetation with various wild plants produces many bacteria associated with these native wild plants. These bacteria are very important to us human beings. By having contact through environment and healthy food, they colonize our skin and intestines. This makes us more resilient by developing a stronger immune system. Adequate access to a biodiverse environment is therefore seen as an important factor in defending ourselves against diseases that have been on the rise since World War II.



It is important that biodiversity reaches the front door. This means that monotonous vegetation such as lawns, which are not very healthy, will change colour in the future because we will also give other herbs a chance in-between the grass. Especially in places where many people come, there is a lot of profit to be made. An additional advantage is that these herbs often have longer roots so they stay green longer in hot summers and therefore also have a longer cooling effect. We still must work hard on this task, together with our residents, because they too can make a difference in their own gardens. In this way we can make Breda a healthy, biodiverse and climate-adaptive municipality. Fortunately, humans are not the only species to benefit from this...

**What**

Creation of Urban meadows with natural herbs in the park.

**Who**

Lead agency: Municipal Department of Environment Protection  
Key Partners: Interest groups for Nature protection

**When**

Short term

**Means**

Costings: Budget < € 25.000  
Resources:  

- Municipal Funds

**Indicators**

- Biodiversity of the green spaces in the park
- General health condition of residents

Fig A tiny forest in Breda



5.3.2 PLANT MORE TREES

**How**

Tiny Forest is not just about restoring nature: it is about creating a healthy environment, where people can (re)connect to nature. With Tiny Forests, we want to create a natural habitat for people in the city. Research shows that children who spent a lot of time in nature, grow up to be healthy, happy and creative adults, that want to contribute to society. The forest is not just an pleasant spot for butterflies, birds, bees and small mammals; it is a great place for people too. In the outdoor classroom, children learn about nature and it also serves as a meeting place for the local community.

**What**

Tiny Forests are densely packed native forests, that fits into the size of a tennis court. A Tiny Forest stimulates biodiversity: the 200 m2 forest consists of many different types of trees. These trees in turn attract insects and birds. The forest brings the experience of nature closer to us. The distance between man and nature is greater than ever. A Tiny Forest on the door-step stimulates curiosity and gives people the opportunity to discover and learn about nature in their own living environment. The construction of Tiny Forests increases water storage capacity, improves air quality, and combats heat stress. Finally, a forest has a positive effect on health: more nature in the neighbourhood can reduce stress and stress-related complaints.

**Who**

Lead agency: Institute for Nature Education IVN  
Key Partners:  

- Municipal Department of Environment Protection
- Interest groups for Nature protection

**When**

Short term

**Means**

Costings: Budget< 25.000  
Resources:  

- Private funds

**Indicators**

- Level of biodiversity
- Water storage capacity
- Air quality
- General health condition residents



5.3.3 CREATE SHELTERS FOR WILD ANIMALS IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

How

Many animals thrive in big cities, if they have a place to retreat to; think of the wild boars in Berlin or the badgers in London. That is why we want to give more space to wild animals in the urban environment. For example, by allowing an old building without a roof in a park to serve as a shelter where wilderness can develop. Animals can get in and out through fauna tunnels. During the day when people are in the green areas around this building the animals can retreat within the walls, where they are safe. And at night, when people go to bed, the animals can come out and use the green space around the building.

What

Creation of a Nature factory in one of the existing buildings in the park.

Who

Lead agency: Municipal department of Environment Protection  
Key Partners: Interest groups for Nature protection

When

Medium term

Means

Costings: Budget < € 25.000  
Resources:  
• Municipal Funds

Indicators

- Level of biodiversity of wild animals



Fig. Nature factory

5.3.4 STIMULATE CHILDREN AND GROWN-UPS TO PLAY OUTSIDE



Fig. Soldier games in the future park

How

Program of outdoor activities in the park.

What

- Organisation of activities:
- with facilities in the park where people play, exercise, sport, meet and move around;
  - in which users are encouraged to move and exercise actively, to play and to practice sports, also by means of information;
  - that has come about through commitment on the part of users and through cooperation between public and private parties;
  - applied and adjusted to the right level of scale.

Who

Lead agency: Municipal department of Sports and Play  
Key Partners: Sports organisations, Social organisations, Neighbourhood organisations, Schools

When

Short term

Means

Costings: Budget < € 25.000  
Resources:  
• Public and private funds

Indicators

- Variety of activities for different target groups
- Number of participants to outdoor activities



5.3.5 PROVIDE COOL PLACES IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT



Fig. Diversity of micro-climates

How

Design of a future thermally comfortable park. The park needs to offer a wide range of sun-exposed, half-shaded and shaded places to accommodate for different user needs and future climate conditions. Accordingly, designers should create broad varieties of microclimates, from open lawns and sunny spots around single trees or groups of trees (which are preferred on summer days), to shaded areas provided by solitary trees, small groups of trees, edges of tree clumps, boscages and scattered trees (preferred on tropical days).

What

Guidelines for a thermally comfortable park:

- Consider solar exposure (especially afternoon solar patterns) and create microclimatic variance including sunny, half-shaded and shaded spaces for various times of the day; the ratio of 40% sun, 20% half-shaded and 40% shade can provide direction.
- Create ‘edges’ (gradients and borders) between open and shaded areas where sun and shade are provided in close vicinity and alternation.
- Create open and multi-functional spaces in parks, in which park visitors can create their own thermally comfortable microclimates by bringing their own parasols etc.
- The presence of water in a parc is positively perceived by park visitors.

Who

Lead agency: Municipal department of Urban Development

Key Partners:

- Landscape architects
- Universities

When

Short term

Means

Costings: € 25.000 < Budget < € 100.000

Resources:

- Municipal funds

Indicators

- A range of sun-exposed, half-shaded and shaded places in the park to accommodate for different user needs and future climate conditions.

5.3.6 TURN GREY SURFACES INTO GREEN SURFACES

How

Stimulate residents and property owners to remove paved surfaces into green spaces by making a contest of it.

What

The National championship Tiles Swapping is a yearly contest between cities: the city that removes the greatest number of tiles and turns these surfaces into green space wins the competition.

Meedoen - NK Tegelwippen (nk-tegelwippen.nl)

Who

Lead agency: Ministry of Infrastructure and Water management

Key Partners:

- Cities in the Netherlands
- Residents
- Property-owners

When

Short term

Means

Costings: Budget < € 25.000

Resources:

- Private funds

Indicators

- Number of green surfaces in the urban environment



Fig. National championship Tiles Swapping



5.3.7 MAKE USE OF EXISTING PLANTS

**How**  
Preventing plants from being discarded and reuse them.

**What**  
Initiators have found each other in the Breda City in a Park community and, with the cooperation of the municipality, have managed to make the garden plant cycle happen. When people tackle their gardens they often throw away the existing plants. Or in construction projects the greenery is removed and disposed of. Now these plants can get a second life. People can drop off their plants at the Asylum for plants. Anyone can pick up garden plants there for free and also get advice on how to care for them.

**Who**  
Lead agency: Community Breda City in a Park  
Key Partners:  
• Municipal Department of Environmental Protection

**When**  
Short term

**Means**  
Costings: Budget < € 25.000  
Resources:  
• Municipal funds

**Indicators**  
• Number of green surfaces  
• Number of saved and reused plants

Fig. Asylum for plants



5.3.7 CONTRIBUTE TO MENTAL RECOVERY IN URBAN ENVIRONMENT



Fig. Meditation spot

**How**  
Create silent places where people can sit alone in the grass and meditate.

**What**  
Creation of quiet shady zones in the park near water surfaces.

**Who**  
Lead agency: Municipal department of Urban Development  
Key Partners:  
• Organisations for mental health care  
• Landscape architects

**When**  
Short term

**Means**  
Costings: Budget < € 25.000  
Resources:  
• Municipal funds

**Indicators**  
• General mental health condition of residents.



5.4 ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE EXPERIMENTAL IN SEELIG PARK

Action	How	What	Who
Delegation of ownership	Invite private parties to participate in developing and investing in the park	Public tenders and contests to submit proposals for developing elements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Residents</li><li>Entrepreneurs</li><li>Municipality</li></ul>
Placemaking	Challenge the city to bring the area to life with unique activities.	Creating opportunities for small pop-up activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Residents</li><li>Interest groups</li><li>Artists</li><li>Municipality</li></ul>
Enhance interactive planning	Cooperate with educational institutes and the game industry	Using interactive games in the planning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Universities</li><li>Artists</li><li>Creative advisers</li><li>Municipality</li></ul>

5.4.1 BROADEN THE OWNERSHIP OF THE PARK

Fig. Meeting with interested entrepreneurs

**How**  
Search for entrepreneurs and organisations that want to invest in elements of the park.

**What**  
Organisation of a competition for initiatives for the development of elements in the park.

**Who**  
Lead agency: Municipal department of Urban Development  
Key Partners:  

- Entrepreneurs
- Organisations in the city of Breda

**When**  
Short term

**Means**  
Costings: Budget < € 25.000  
Resources:  

- Municipal Funds
- Private funds

**Indicators**  

- Number, variety and quality of initiatives
- Number of public investments

5.4.2 BOND FUTURE USERS TO THE PLACE WITH POP-UP ACTIVITIES

**How**  
To introduce young and old to what this area has to offer in order to achieve the opposite of “Unknown makes unloved”.

**What**  
Stimulate organisations to organize pop-up activities to attract people to the area such as:  

- Annual Open Heritage Days
- Annual Culture Night
- Neighbourhood safaris
- Temporary Sports and play activities
- Excursions to discover nature

**Who**  
Lead agency: Interest groups and private organisations in the city.  
Key Partners: Municipal department of Social Maintenance.

**When**  
Short term

**Means**  
Costings: Budget < € 25.000  
Resources:  

- Private funds

**Indicators**  

- Number of events
- Familiarity with the future park

Fig. Event in the park during Annual Culture Night





5.4.3 MAKE THE PLANNING PROCESS MORE ATTRACTIVE FOR PARTICIPATION



Fig. Playing the game Democracy

How

Make the participation in planning processes more interactive and more attractive for young and old.

What

Experiment with the use of interactive games such as Democracy during creation workshops.

Who

Lead agency: Municipal Department of Urban development

Key Partners:

- Breda University of Applied Sciences
- Advisers on participation processes

When

Short term

Means

Costings: Budget < € 25.000

Resources:

- Municipal funds
- Education funds

Indicators

- Level of participation
- Quality of ideas in the planning process
- Contribution to educational programs

6. SMALL SCALE ACTION

6.1 SMALL SCALE ACTION: EXPERIMENTING WITH ORGANIZING ACTIVITIES

On October the 27th 2021, a first activity of the Preview Seelig Park was conducted as an experiment within the framework of the European project URBACT Health&Greenspace.

The municipality of Breda, together with the local nature education association IVN, organized the activity Discover nature on Seelig. The experiment is aimed at investigating how we can best encourage city dwellers, including children, to make more use of nature and greenery that is present in their surroundings.

With this action we want to investigate:

- How can you interest people in natural greenery in their living environment?
- How do you make them enthusiastic about going to greenery and nature?
- Does it work to use nature research stations and excursions for this purpose?
- How do you specifically reach young people with an invitation to these activities?

The Small Scale Action will consist of:

- Preparing the nature research stations and an excursion (route, date, staffing);
- Developing tools such as a search map/bingo map with specific plant and animal species of this area.
- Distributing the invitation through various communication channels;
- Conducting the research stations and the guided excursion on October 27, 2021;
- Reporting of the research results and recommendations for improvements that can be made to the organization in the coming years.



Fig. URBACT Health&Greenspace

Fig. Invitation





Fig. Treasuremap Discover nature at Seelig



Fig. Tools Scharrelkidsbox

To answer the research questions, the following will be measured:

1. Which age groups are attracted to this activity?
2. Which tools are effective to achieve the stated goals?
3. Which means of communication are most suitable to reach participants?

## 6.2 EVALUATION DISCOVER NATURE AT SEELIG - 27 OCTOBER 2021

First things first: it was a beautiful sunny autumn day and that had a big influence on the success of the activity Come and discover nature at Seelig! Because the banks of the Vredenburgsingel looked beautiful and the participants enjoyed the sun until late in the afternoon.

To discover nature on Seelig, the nature education association IVN and the municipality of Breda had set up 6 nature discovery points on the banks of the Vredenburgsingel next to the Seelig site. Children could discover which animals live there and which plants and trees grow there. All kinds of tools were ready to poke in the water, the soil and in the air. Guides from the IVN were there to explain what the children discovered. Aquatic animals were fished out, edible herbs were added to the broth, bird nests were woven, soil animals were examined. Children could also collect waste. They ran enthusiastically in their yellow vests armed with grabs. Their loot was considerable.

The effect of all this was that the children, but also their parents, discovered what can be found and experienced in an ordinary stretch of riverbank in their living environment. This also applied to the group of adults who, together with the urban ecologist and an IVN guide, made a round along both banks. Explanations about the plants and animals they saw made them aware of what nature means in the city. But also of the importance of giving space in the city to those plants and animals so that a connection is created throughout the city with nature reserves outside the city.



Fig. Children explore nature



Fig. Explaining about nature in the city

## 6.3 WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Nature will become an important part of the park that will appear on the Seelig site in the future. Because the barracks area will continue to be used by the military for some time, it will take a while before nature can take up more space. But with the activity Come discover nature on Seelig, we have experienced that nature can already be enjoyed in the area next to the Seelig site. And it helps a lot that something is organized for that.

You could say: the hardware is already there (the broad, richly vegetated banks) but you also need software (organization of activities). If you put in the effort to organize something, this is what you get:

- people who know a lot about nature spend time telling others about it.
- children are tempted to spend time outdoors.
- young and old have a good time together.

The activity Discover nature at Seelig on October 27 showed exactly that effect. And not only did the activity itself have that effect, but the preparation also brought people/organizations together to do what they are good at: IVN provides nature education, Ons Label provides biscuits, local people help as volunteers, the municipality takes care of the public space.

For the future Seelig Park, we could learn from it that we should not only focus on creating a green space, but that a program is just as important. Activities entice people to make use of the green environment and thus contribute strongly to social encounters, connection with the environment and movement in the open air. That makes people better. A local resident said that she was so pleased that something was organized in their neighbourhood.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, about 35 children and 30 adults attended the activity. There could have been many more. Because we had put an invitation in the mailbox at more than 4000 addresses in the area. The primary schools in the area had also sent out an invitation to their students. The activity was announced via the social media of the municipality and the IVN. It was vacation. And the sun shone. The question is how we can reach more people. And what attracts different age groups: what do old and young people need to get out of their homes and get together in nature with others? We will continue with this in the coming years in the run-up to Seelig Park!



# 7. FRAMEWORK FOR DELIVERY

## 7.1 ORGANISATIONAL COMMITMENT

The approach to implementing the Integrated Action Plan will be further developed. For this we have the following principles. The focus is to ensure that the IAP does not die in beauty. That means is, that the ideas, values and the involvement of different parties is not lost when the process enters a new phase.

A process design with an adjusted rhythm of public moments is of great importance here. What are the important moments in the coming years and what choices are involved? When and with whom must public conversations be held?

- **Securing input**  
Pay attention to governance; make sure, as a municipality, that the results are ensured and that the results are considered.
- **Assurance of involvement**  
Set up a panel of representatives of residents and experts and give them a job description that focuses on quality improvement rather than just control.
- **Learning by doing**  
Organize space for experimentation in the plan development phase. An obvious reference is the nature-inclusive quays of the Nieuwe Mark. Here, knowledge is developed and tested, education is involved, and Breda residents can get a taste of what is to come. A similar approach is also conceivable with nature-inclusive construction, the redesign of the Fellenoordstraat, mobility hubs and other tasks to be identified.
- **Keep the process alive**  
Organize periodic events and temporary programming that put the area on the mental map of Breda residents (placemaking). This bridges the gap between dream and reality and keeps the project alive in people's minds.
- **Keep collecting people**  
Who is not yet sufficiently connected? Where is resistance to be expected? Who can get involved at this stage and help the process to flourish? The period of placemaking can attract new participants and attract new participants and thus make the process even more inclusive.

## 7.2 POLITICAL COMMITMENT

In the co-creation process, the college of Executives, through alderman Paul de Beer expressly chose not to give politics a prominent role during the co-creation role. The political involvement is before and after this process. This is the space given to the people of Breda to determine together what is important. Now the question is how the various proceeds and starting points can be secured. In the continuation of this process, the municipality wants to continue the way it has now cooperated with Breda residents and organisations. There might even be a group of people and organizations who want to take up the reins themselves.

## 7.3 SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Q2 2023	Establish preliminary design Seelig Park
Q3 2023	Adoption of the real estate strategy (including tender procedure) for the premises
Q4 2023	Final design of Seelig Park
Q2 2024	Technical elaboration of the design
Q3 2024	Start implementation of Seelig Park
Ongoing	Placemaking activities

## 7.4 FUNDING AND RESOURCES

The planned actions of the IAP will be funded from local budget resources completed by integrated use of national and EU support opportunities. Private sector will also be involved in these actions through public-private partnership. In addition, for some of the actions that are suitable, volunteers and NGOs will be involved for achieving the expected results.



