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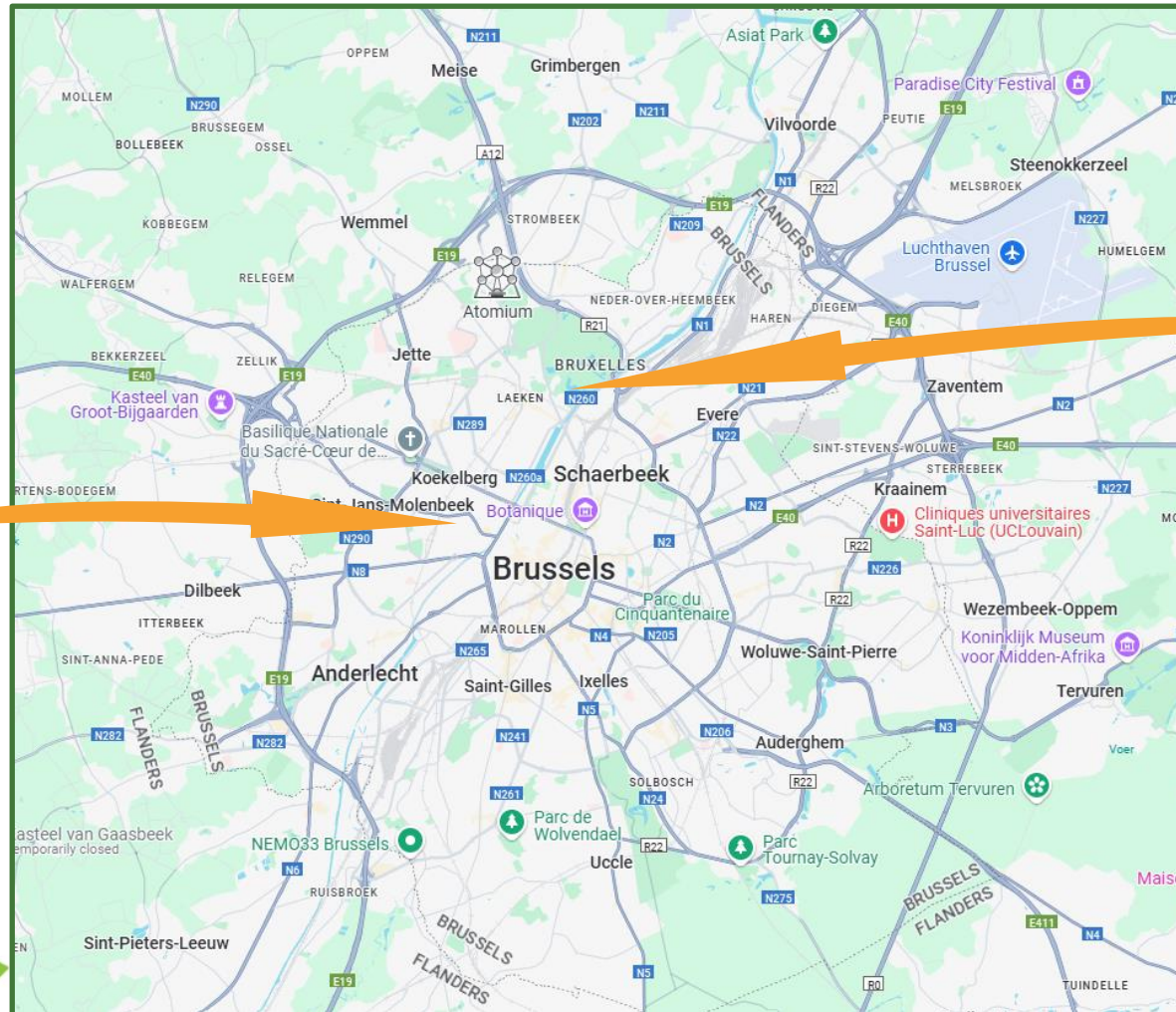
Pilot Project Brussels: Proposed Locations

Open Call February 2025



help citizens reconnect with nature and make its
benefits accessible to all

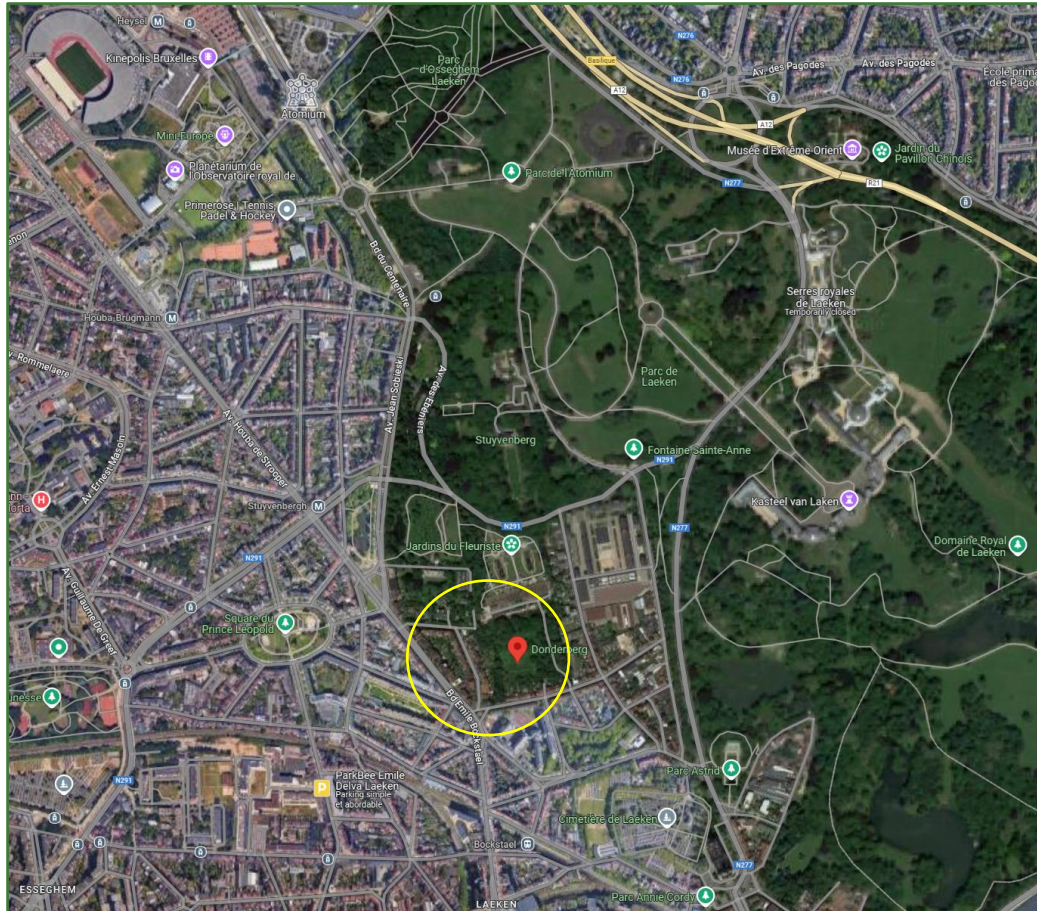
Proposed Locations Brussels



**Parc Ouest /
Park West**

Donderberg

Donderberg



Location

Donderberg is a green area of almost 3 ha in the heart of Laeken, a residential suburb in the north-western part of Brussels. The Donderberg nature reserve borders on one side the beautiful park ‘Gardens of the Florist’ and neighbours others parks such as the (non public) garden of the royal palace. The wild nature of Donderberg forms a contrast with the landscaped parks surrounding it.

On the other side Donderberg borders a residential neighbourhood. Currently the park is only accessible via a small alleyway at Rue des Horticulteurs. A staircase connecting Donderberg with Gardens of the Florist has been closed for years.



Donderberg



History

Donderberg was a tree farm of the royal domain that was transferred to the Belgian state in 1900, under an act of royal donation. The present-day Donderberg has been spared major destruction all this time, old trees, including fruit trees can still be found on the site. The area has been inaccessible to the public for over three decades.

Plans in 1970s to build a residential tower and more recent plans to build a school caused neighborhood resistance and the founding of '[Collective Save Donderberg](#)' by local residents. Last year, the threat to start cutting down the trees and start the construction work became very real. Since October 2024 a collective of activists '[Donderberg Sauvage](#)' occupies the park to prevent any development. They keep the park accessible for visitors and organize activities together with neighbors and friends.

Donderberg

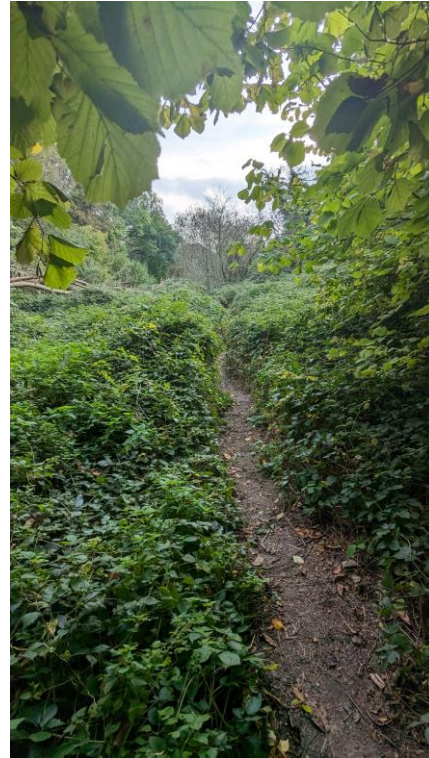


Future

Earlier this year, the city council decided to keep Donderberg as a park. The next few years will be decided how the park should be further developed. The activists will stay until the building permit is overturned and are asking that its wild nature be preserved



Donderberg





[Parc Ovest](#) is a site of just over 2 hectares, in the heart of the borough of Molenbeek, close by the office and dance studio of Hiatus. Due to the amount of concrete in that area there's a lack of green spaces. The opening of this park means a true green relief for this very densely built-up neighborhood.

Currently the park is run by '[Toestand](#)', a Brussels non-profit association dedicated to reactivating temporary vacant spaces with socio-cultural purposes. The association is a movement of volunteers. At Parc Ouest they organize activities for kids and offer a space to their parents to gather and connect.

Parc Ouest / Park West



History

The park used to be an industrial site and was part of the railway station 'West Station'. To this day the tracks are present in the park. It was a goods yard whose concrete floors are now the silent witnesses of this era. The original railway station was opened in 1872 and it was closed for passengers in 1984. A new West Station for commuters was built nearby and the original site fell into disuse.

Parc Ouest / Park West



Future

In the coming years, the park will be redesigned. The city started a process with a park developer and local residents to determine what roles the site will have and how the park will continue to develop.

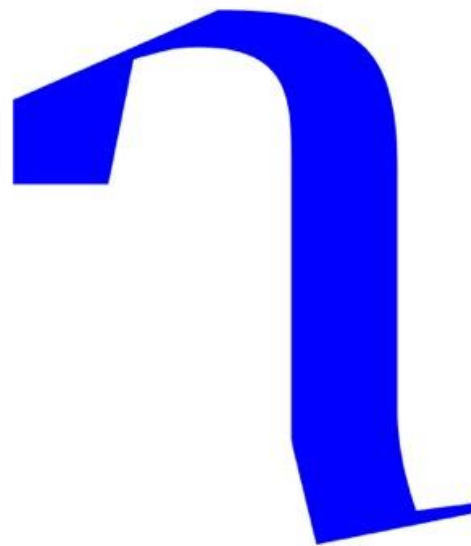
In a first phase, some temporary facilities are tested (sports, recreation, workshops). Also a pavilion has been built, functioning as an open house for locals and visitors to meet, have drink, cook and interact.

Parc Ouest / Park West





spark of possibility



www.hia-tus.org

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