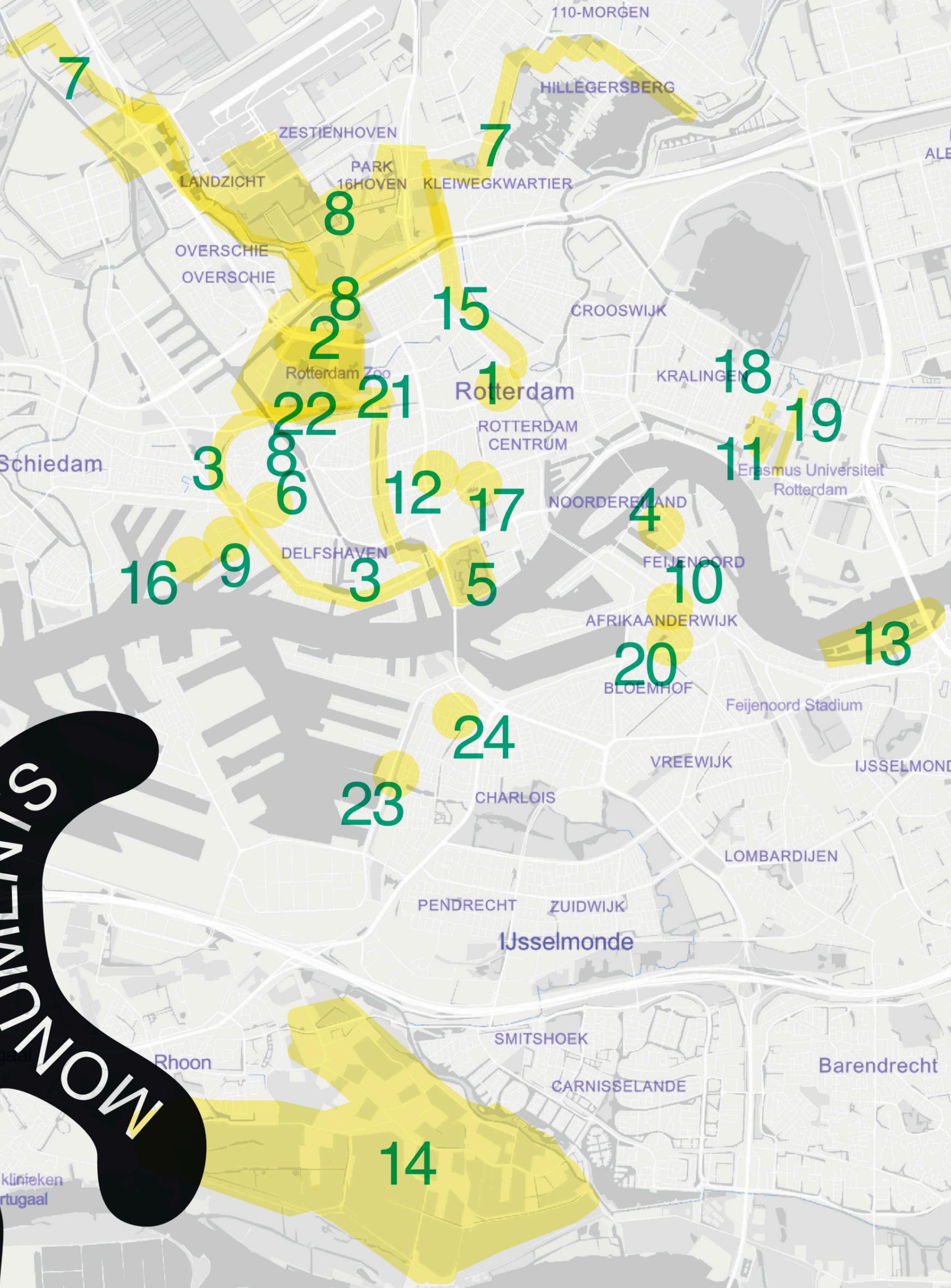
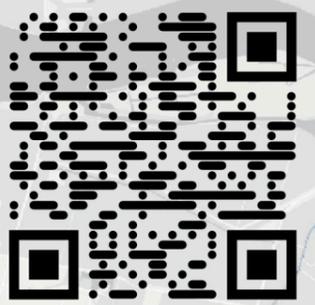


# BOTANICAL MONUMENTS NOW



x FOLLYWOOD



## 1 De DakAkker

DakAkker is a 1000m<sup>2</sup> farm on top of the Schieblock in Rotterdam, with chickens and beehives. In the summer, the rocky soil is dry, there is lots of wind and it can get very hot. Herbs (mint, lemon verbena and lavender), tuberous plants (Jerusalem artichoke, beet, carrot, radish), garlic varieties (onion, leek, garlic) and hardy plants (raspberry, rhubarb and pumpkin) do well on the DakAkker. The edible flowers from the roof are supplied to restaurants in the neighborhood.

Location: Roof of the Schieblock, Schiekade 189  
| Open: The DakAkker can be viewed from the terrace, during restaurant opening hours (daily, 10–17h). On Fridays (9–12:30h), the roof is open during the volunteer work mornings.

## 2 Blijdorp Zoo

The Blijdorp Zoo is a zoo, a botanical garden and an arboretum. In addition to animals, it harbors plant species from all over the world. With 34 hectares, the zoo is a large green space in the city that houses a lot of urban wildlife. At night, it creates a dark patch in the urban fabric of Rotterdam, attracting various animals that stay away from the surrounding bright cityscape.

Location: Blijdorpplaan 8 | Open: Daily (9–18h)

## 3 De Groene Connectie

De Groene Connectie (The Green Connection) has mapped out a “green ribbon” through Rotterdam’s Delfshaven district that connects existing green initiatives in the area. It forms an 8-kilometer walk in total. It also connects local health and welfare institutions to green initiatives in the neighborhood. The initiative shows how the city can combine the benefits of the physical properties of urban nature with a wide range of social benefits, such as a sense of belonging, the experience of beauty, spaces for play and discovery, mental health benefits, small-scale food production and social cohesion.

Location: Delfshaven, Rotterdam | Open: Route: open to the public. The green initiatives on the route have varying opening hours, please check their respective websites for more information.

## 4 The Hefpark

Thanks to local residents and volunteers of various backgrounds, olive trees and tomatoes grow and buttercups bloom on a former wasteland: Hefpark. The park is located at the foot of the Hefbrug, an old railroad bridge in Rotterdam South. The Hefpark emerged organically and evolved according to the needs and creativity of residents who became involved over time. In the park pavilion, tea and coffee are regularly served. Local residents maintain allotment gardens, and there is plenty of green space for various activities: sports, games, music, yoga, painting classes, and more.

Location: Hefpark is located at the foot of the Hefbrug in Rotterdam South, between Oranjeboomstraat and Rosestraat | Open: Daily (open to the public)

## 5 Het Park

Het Park is a park with urban nature that is a popular meeting place for city residents. At 21 hectares, it is the city’s largest green national monument. It is located in the center of Rotterdam, next to the river Meuse. In 2022, Het Park Foundation took over its management with a team of gardeners, programmers, and an array of experts. Operating from the soon to be renovated Park Pavilion, the foundation tells the story of the Park’s past and present, through a wide range of cultural and educational activities, from exhibitions and poetry to music and walks.

Location: Baden Powelllaan 2 | Open: Daily (open to the public). Park Pavilion: 8–18 (Mon–Thu)

## 6 Park 1943

Park 1943 is a large, green space in the middle of Tussendijken in Rotterdam West. It is about one and a half hectares. Here, native nature is allowed to bloom and grow lushly and freely, giving space to plenty of insects. Since 2019, Creatief Beheer has been responsible for maintaining the park. This organization works on a new form of ecological and social management where daily maintenance changes from a cost item to an investment strategy with a social return. ‘Urban Medicine’ is the name they give to this method.

Location: between Gijsinglaan and Rösener Manzstraat | Open: Daily (open to the public); Everyone is welcome to join on working days: Mon–Fri (10–12h).

## 7 De Steilrand

De Steilrand is a unique landscape created by former peat excavations. The peat served as local fuel for heating the city. It is a meandering area of 13.5 kilometers, stretching from Overschie via Schiebroek to Hillegersberg. The water from the peat lakes was later pumped away for land reclamation (polders) and the former water banks now shape De Steilrand. The difference in height of these steep edges is clearly visible in some places.

The City of Rotterdam is currently developing the area further with flower-rich meadows, verges and waterfronts, planting the seeds of the ‘Steilrandmix’, and creating branch rills. This encourages biodiversity and attracts wild bees, butterflies, birds, bats, and other small animals.

Location: Rotterdam North | Open: Daily (open to the public)

## 8 Stadspark West (City Park West)

Between motorways, railway lines and waterways, in Rotterdam West and Northwest, lies a raw, cultural landscape of over 450 hectares: Stadspark West. This imaginary urban park, that already exists, is a plea for nature-inclusive urban development, where community and natural networks go hand in hand. Stadspark West consists of a succession of allotments, sports clubs, marinas, playgrounds, city parks, swimming water and wide road verges. Visitors can walk through this green and water-rich area at the heart of the city and encounter many types of plants, animals and people.

Location: Green lung between Delfshaven and Zestienhoven | Open: Most parts of Stadspark West are open to the public

## 9 Voedseltuin Rotterdam

Voedseltuin Rotterdam (Food Garden Rotterdam) produces organically grown fruit and vegetables for users of the Voedselbank Rotterdam (the food bank) and other social projects. The garden fulfills multiple functions: it is a sustainable urban garden, a vegetable garden, an education and working garden, a prevention and recovery garden, and a breeding ground for social innovation and sustainable development. It is also an employment project for people that have a distance from the labor market. It is a place to meet, work on health and develop new skills and opportunities.

Location: Gedempte Keilehaven, entrance after Keilestraat 5 (Keilewerf building) turn left | Open: Mon–Fri (9–13h)

## 10 Botanical Garden Afrikaanderwijk

The Botanical Garden Afrikaanderwijk opened in 1923 as a part of the Van Oldenbarnevelt Higher Civic School. In June 2013, the Afrikaanderwijk Botanical Garden Foundation was established with the aim of maintaining the garden, allowing visitors to enjoy it and spreading knowledge about the collection of plants and trees. The botanical garden is divided into plant families. In addition to more than 850 plant species, the garden houses around 40 different trees, all from the temperate climate zone. The garden is maintained in collaboration with volunteers. Every year, children from primary schools visit the garden for Nature and Environment classes. Activities, workshops and guided tours are also organized on a regular basis.

Location: Afrikaanderplein 38 | Open: Mon, Wed, Fri (10–16h)

## 11 Trompenburg Gardens & Arboretum

Trompenburg Gardens & Arboretum is a botanical garden with an extensive collection of trees, shrubs, perennials, bulbs and tubers. The first construction of this historic country estate, which covers an area of 8 hectares in the Kralingen district, took place about 200 years ago when the area on the edge of Rotterdam still consisted of wetlands. Trompenburg now consists of a succession of gardens including a special collection of trees (an arboretum) with many species of Quercus (oaks) and Fagus (beeches). There are traditional English-style gardens, as well as a contemporary food forest and a desert greenhouse. The collection as a whole has a museum, research and educational function.

Location: Honingerdijk 86 | Open: Mon (12–17h); Tue–Sun (10–17h)

## 12 Tuin de Bajonet (Tussentuin Rotterdam West)

Tuin de Bajonet in Rotterdam Oud-West is a communal neighborhood garden that also has a vegetable garden, a garden for children, and a flower garden. It is maintained and used by residents and institutions in the neighborhood, each focusing on a specific part of the garden. Together with the housing corporation Woonstad Rotterdam, Wolbert van Dijk (Stichting Tussentuin) researched the capacity of residents to keep a communal garden and designed the garden. There is also a teahouse for people to meet that is the result of the conversion of an existing building by architect Ruud Brugghe.

Location: Entrance next to Bajonetstraat 161 | Open: Mon–Fri (9–16h)

## 13 Island of Brienenoord

The Island of Brienenoord is located in the New Meuse River. Ebb and flow flush water through a small tidal channel there daily. On this border of land and water live special plants and animals. Wild fruit trees such as cherry plum, blackthorn, and elder grow on the island. This species-rich hardwood forest merges into an old and lush willow floodplain forest. Here live sparrow hawks, tree falcons, and gray flycatchers. In spring, summer and fall, a small herd of Scottish highlanders graze here.

Location: The island can be reached via the Ben Schopbrug and De Arend en Zeemeewbrug (also known as: Brug Zuiddiepje), Rotterdam | Open: Daily (open to the public between sunrise and sunset)

## 14 Buitenland van Rhooon

Buitenland van Rhooon is sandwiched between Rotterdam, Barendrecht and the Old Meuse River. In the centuries-old polder area, farmers, recreational entrepreneurs, nature lovers and associations show how things can be done differently. The Buitenland van Rhooon area cooperative was established in 2018. Its members are committed to this cultural landscape, where unusual birds and field flora occur, where farmers can earn a good living with nature-inclusive practices, and where residents of IJsselmonde and beyond can enjoy peace, space and delicious regional products.

Location & Open: Landscape of Buitenland van Rhooon: Daily (open to the public) | Office, Boerderij De Vlakkenburg, Essendijk 24, Rhooon (only by appointment) | Zorgboerderij De Buytenhof, Rijsdijk 98, 3161 EW Rhooon: Tue–Sat (9–17h)

## 15 Hofbogenpark

With a length of two kilometers, the Hofbogenpark will be the longest rooftop park in the Netherlands. Neighbors and entrepreneurs were closely involved in its design.

Special attention is being given to planting schemes inspired by railroad edges, where mixes of wild plants and flowers occur naturally and drift from surrounding environments, and to creating a habitat for animals, such as bees, butterflies, toads, bats, birds and hedgehogs. Special entrances ensure that small animals can get on and off the roof.

The park will have a water system that collects and purifies rainwater; this will help the city be better prepared for heavy rainfall and drought.

Location: Rotterdam North | Open: Not yet open to the public (the project is in development)

## 16 Getijdenpark (Tidal Park) Keilehaven

The mouth of the Keilehaven (Keile Harbor) in Rotterdam is being transformed from a stony waterfront into a tidal park. The new tidal nature will attract specific plants, fish and birds that live on the boundary of fresh and salt water. The nine terraces of Getijdenpark Keilehaven increase in size and scale from the head towards the mouth of the harbor. Their variation in height ensures that the terraces are flooded at different tide levels, allowing a variety of animal and plant species to find their home in the tidal park.

Location: Benjamin Franklinstraat | Open: Daily (open to the public)

## 17 Zoöp Nieuwe Instituut

The Zoöp is a governance model that fosters a practice of ecological regeneration in organizations by allowing humans and non-humans to work together. It makes the interests of non-human life part of organizational decision making.

Since 22 April 2022 (Earth Day), the Nieuwe Instituut in Rotterdam is the first Zoöp in the world. The term “Zoöp” is a combination of the Greek word for life, zoë, and the word cooperation. It is the outcome of research by the Nieuwe Instituut and is a co-creation of a group of ecologists, philosophers, artists, entrepreneurs and lawyers.

Location: Nieuwe Instituut, Museumplein 251  
Open: The New Garden: daily (open to the public)  
| Nieuwe Instituut: Tue–Wed (10–17h), Thu (10–21h), Fri–Sun (10–17h)

## 18 Voedselbos ‘De Overtuin’ (Food Forest)

Since 2019, Voedelbos (Food Forest) ‘De Overtuin’ has been a part of Trompenburg. Before that, it was the tree museum of the garden. A group of carers and volunteers maintains the location. A food forest is a garden or landscape that is cared for like a natural forest, but aimed at producing food and other products useful to humans. Nature is given space to grow and to be itself – there is no central designer, many species make it what it is. The food that grows at De Overtuin is used in different restaurants in Rotterdam, and it can be tasted during guided tours.

Location: Food Forest “De Overtuin” is part of Trompenburg Gardens & Arboretum: Honingerdijk 86 | Open: Mon (12–17h), Tue–Sun (10–17h)

## 19 Bee Landscape

The City of Rotterdam is creating 40 hectares of bee landscape through nature-friendly management of flower-filled roadsides and other green spaces. Mowing in strips at different moments leaves plenty of flowers and hiding places for bees, butterflies and hedgehogs. Leaving the clippings on the ground gives seeds a chance to spread and sink into the soil, which results in even more flowers and gives time for insects and small animals to find another refuge. Human residents are urged to contribute to the city’s bee landscape by decorating their (front) garden or balcony with organic plants and flowers such as wild marjoram, rosemary and daisy.

Location: Multiple (a.o.: Gordelweg, Burgemeester Oudlaan, Ringdijk; Rotterdam) | Open: Daily (open to the public)

## 20 Tuin van de Wijk Afrikaanderwijk

Tuin van de wijk Afrikaanderwijk (Garden of the Afrikaander Neighborhood) is located next to Huis van de Wijk, and contributes to greenery, water buffering, biodiversity, climate awareness, and to a more social, healthier and more attractive Afrikaanderwijk. The garden is designed, laid out and maintained by residents of the neighborhood and neighborhood organizations. Residents can visit Tuin van de Wijk for advice about greenery, for practical help with their small or large green plans, to inspire each other, to be linked to the right professionals and to get to work together.

Location: Next to Huis van de Wijk, Afrikaanderplein 71 | Open: Daily (open to the public)

## 21 De Spoortuin

A few years ago, residents in Rotterdam West took the initiative to create a large vegetable garden in a neglected piece of urban nature along the railroad track between Rotterdam Centraal and Schiedam: the Spoortuin (Railroad Garden). In addition to this vegetable garden, the Spoortuin consists of a long rough forest with beautiful old trees that is maintained by neighbors. The area is open for visitors to walk and play, bees are kept, and in the Spoortuinhuusje meetings are organized.

Location: The entrance to De Spoortuin is located next to the Diegaardetunnel, Essenburgsingel 48 | Open: Daily (open to the public); meetings: on Sunday (14–18h)

## 22 Essenburgpark

Essenburgpark is an urban nature area in Rotterdam-West, located between the Rotterdam-Schiedam railroad and the Essenburgsingel. Until 2017, the area was owned by the Nederlandse Spoorwegen (NS), which planned to build there. Local residents united through De Pluktuin, De Spoortuin and leders Tuin saw the beauty of the wild nature and lobbied for its preservation as a green and social space; it also works for water catchment and makes the neighborhood climate proof and more livable.

Location: Essenburgsingel 59 (between the Rotterdam-Schiedam railroad line and the Essenburgsingel) | Open: Daily (8–20h, from April 1st to October 1st)

## 23 Arieberkelaarpad

The Arieberkelaarpad is a small swamp area in the heart of Old Charlois. In 2014, local resident Arie Berkelaar built the paths, bridges and benches, to create a ‘paradise for people and animals.’ The swamp and path fell into disrepair after his death. Since 2023, community project De Vrienden van Arie Berkelaar (The Friends of Arie Berkelaar) has been maintaining the swamp and paths. The path is now crowded with people, dragonflies, frogs, and other animals. Neighbors organize cultural events and collect data, such as water levels and numbers of nesting geese, to monitor the health of the swamp.

Location: Entrance through the gate at the end of the Verboomstraat, between Krommezandweg en Huismansstraat | Open: Daily (open to the public between sunrise and sunset)

## 24 Shared Grounds: Gouwplein Biodiversity Garden

A small green patch behind the basketball court at Gouwplein, Oud Charlois, is being reshaped in the project ‘Shared Grounds: Gouwplein Biodiversity Garden’. This ‘semi-neglected’ area of the public park is being restored into a space that both humans and non-human communities can use. Kate Price and Guillem S. Arquer, in collaboration with Rib Art Space, have developed a series of actions and workshops that work in dialogue with the existing space and its inhabitants, users, and neighbours. They organise activities involving seed sharing, propagation, use of bio-based materials, which types of plants to grow to clean the lead-polluted soil, and other themes.

Location: Behind the basketball court at Gouwplein | Open: Daily (open to the public)