



# Nature Smart Cities: pilot investments in the Antwerp Zuidrand area

30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

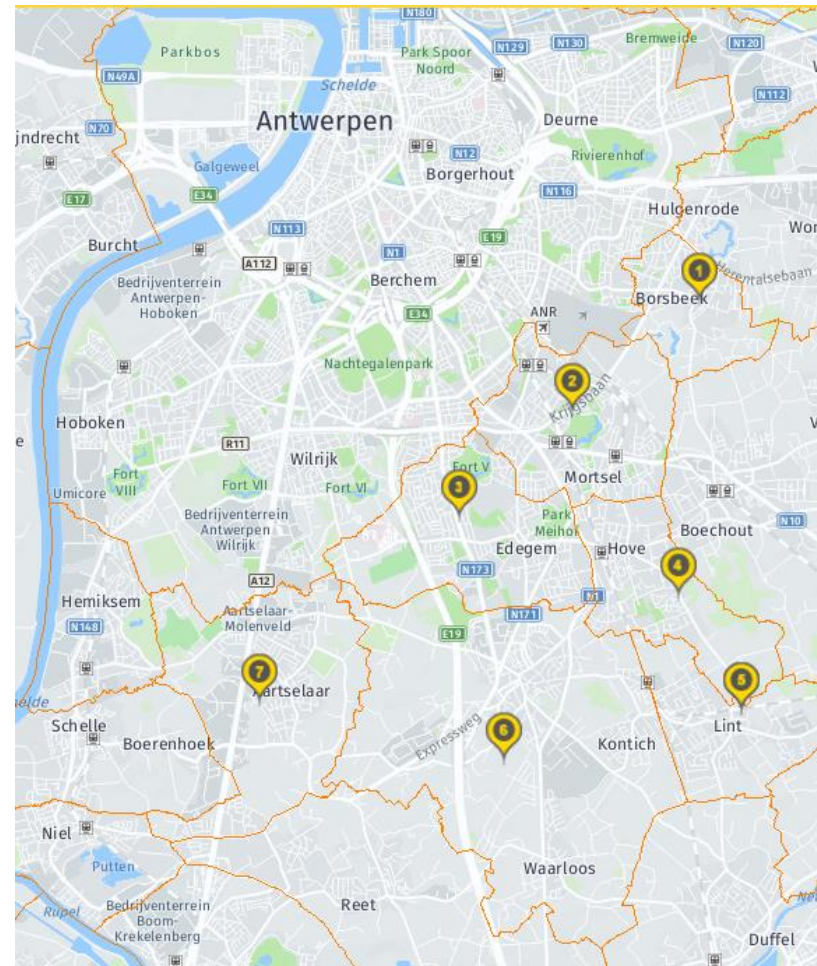


Provincie  
Antwerpen



# Zuidrand

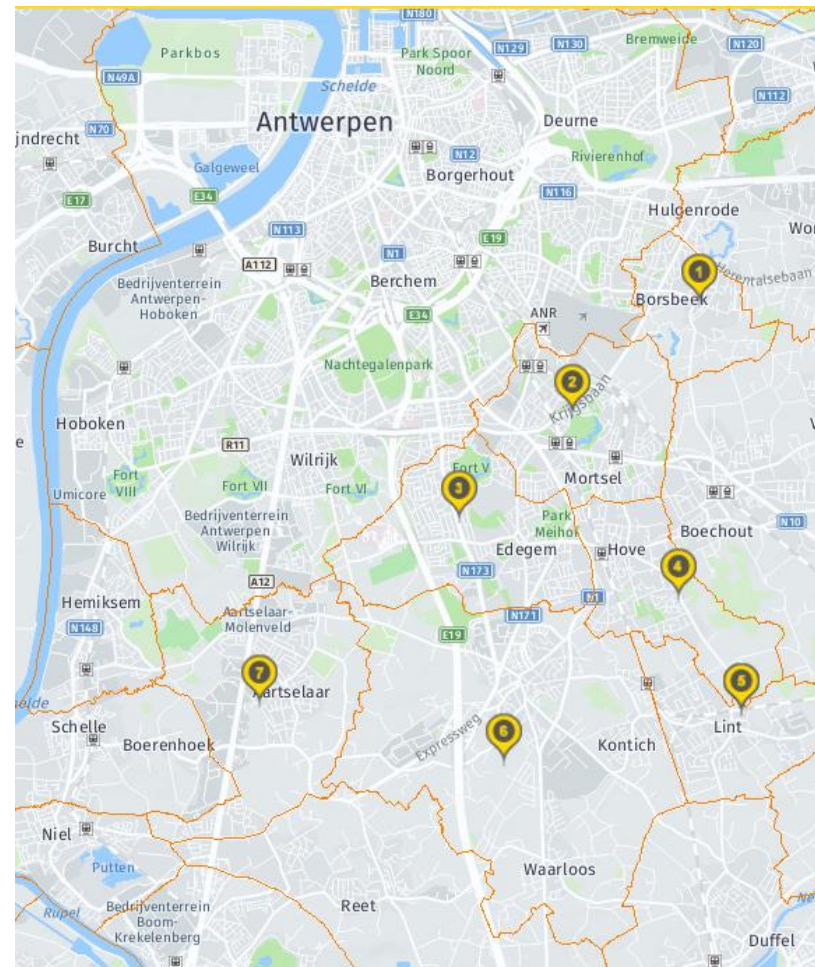
- 7 independent municipalities:  
Borsbeek, Mortsel, Edegem, Hove, Lint, Kontich, Aartselaar
- 66 km<sup>2</sup>
- 112.000 inhabitants
- Densely populated areas mixed with agricultural and green areas





# Reasons for pilots

- Eight different pilots: one in every municipality and two in Mortsel
- Focus on water management: ground water levels are alarmingly low. In the summer localized floods sometimes occur after heavy rainfall.
- Focus on slow roads: recreation, green mobility, access to nature in densely populated area.



# Kontich: Parkspoor Natuurlijk

- Abandoned railroad embankment is transformed into landscape park.
- 4300 m<sup>3</sup> water buffer
- 3000 m<sup>2</sup> of permeable paths
- Two wooden bridges
- 3500 indigenous shrubs planted





# Kontich: Parkspoor Natuurlijk



- Rainwater from nearby streets and rooftops is led to the water buffer, where it can infiltrate.
- This water no longer runs into the sewers, which reduces the risks of flooding after heavy rainfall.

# Kontich: Parkspoor Natuurlijk





# Edegem: Hof ter Linden



- 285 m wooden plank path through wet forrest area.
- Nominated for 'Walking trail of the Year'

# Lint: Luitersheide

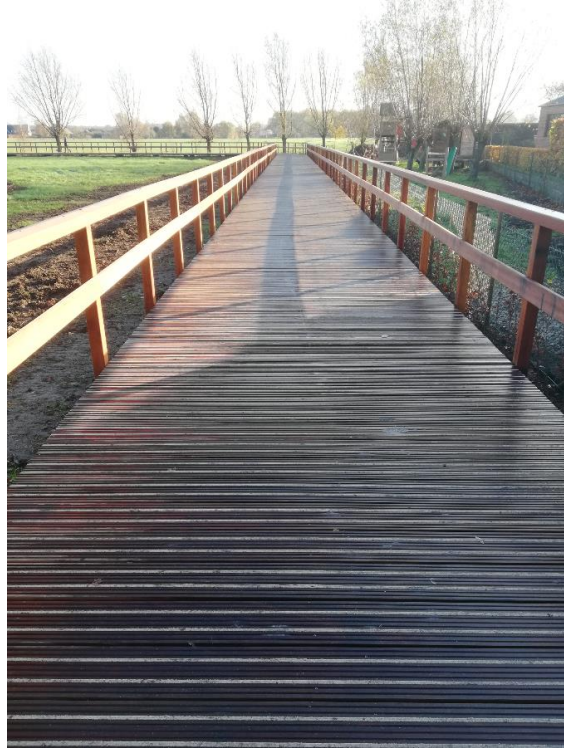
- 70 m wooden plank path
- 80 m wood chip path





# Aartselaar: Voetweg 20

- Historic slow road reopened to the public.
- 160m of wooden plank path.
- 376 m ecological semi-permeable path



# Mortsel: Groene Berm

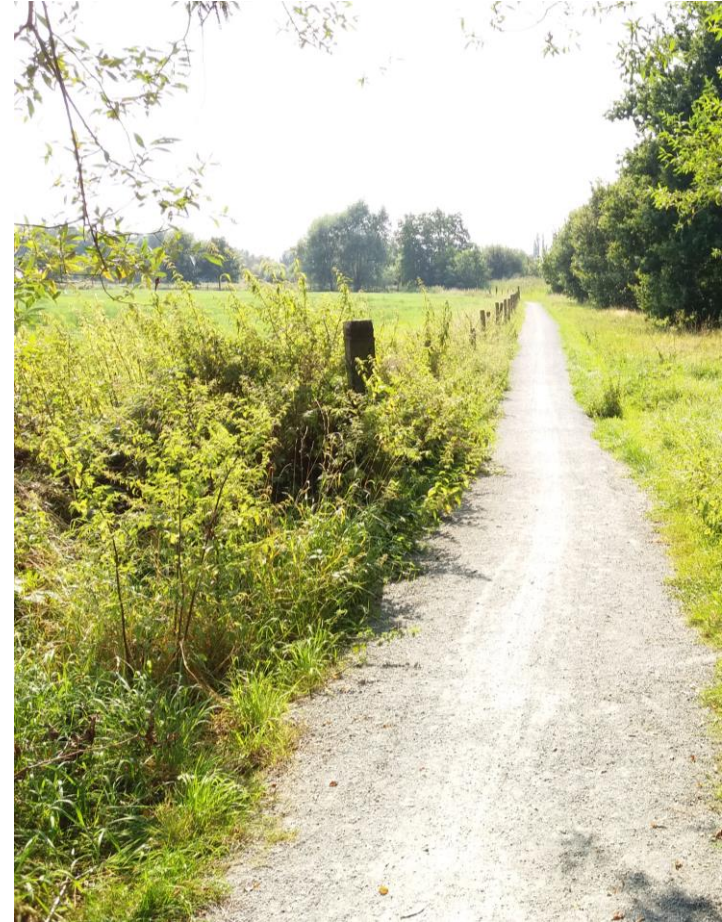


- Creation of 656m long semi-permeable path on an old railroad berm in the city center of Mortsel.



# Borsbeek: Koude Beek

- 525m ecological semi permeable path in Koude Beek flooding area.



# Hove: Vogeltjeswijk

- Neighbourhood playing area, with lots of non permeable surface area.
- Cement paving replaced with semi permeable pavement.
- More green area for better water infiltration.





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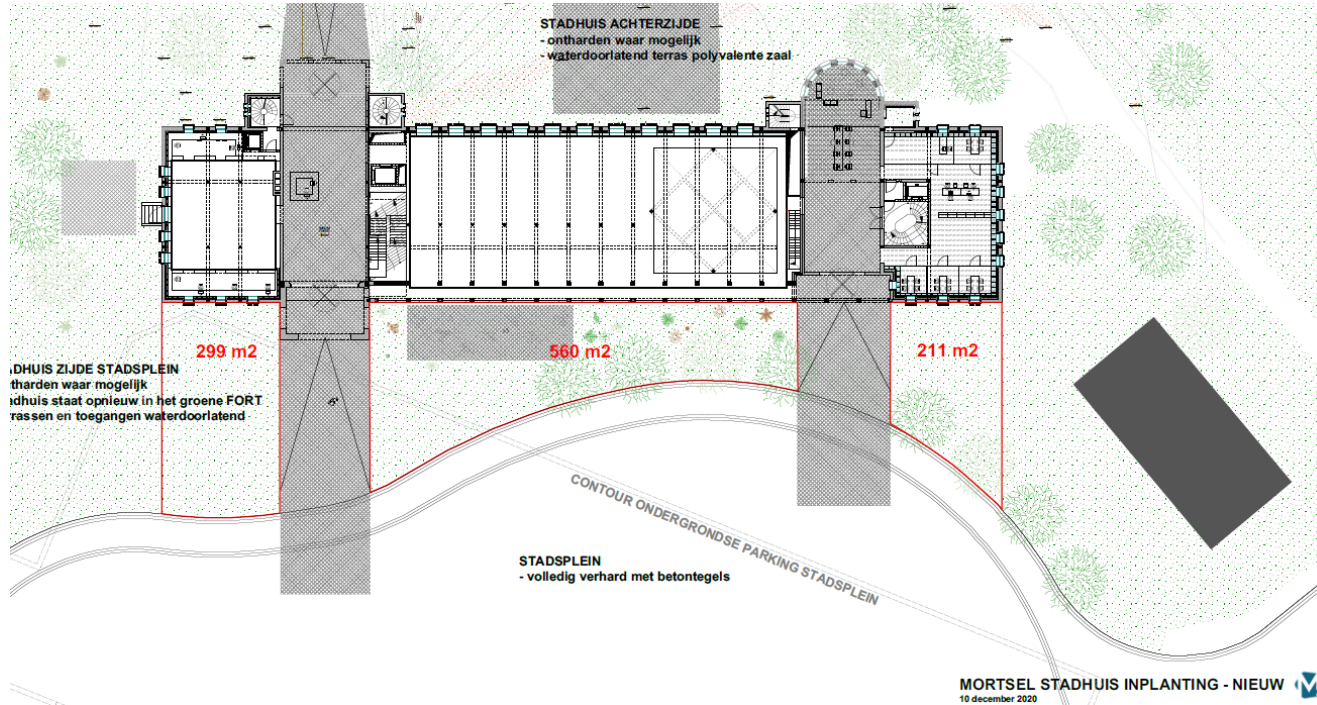
# Mortsel: Stadsplein



- The City Square of Mortsel.



# Mortsel: Stadsplein



- An area of 1000m<sup>2</sup> around the Town Hall will be greened.
- Pilot will be completed by December 2021.

# Ecosystem services of Zuidrand pilots



## WATER RETENTION & INFILTRATION

Water buffers, permeable roads, green for grey



## HABITAT FOR BIODIVERSITY

More habitat variation in newly created Parkspoor Natuurlijk



## PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH

## SOCIAL COHESION



## AESTHETIC APPRECIATION

## RECREATION & TOURISM



The pilots provide a place for thousands of people to walk, cycle, exercise, play, enjoy nature,...