

toekomstschets met groenblauwe structuurvisie biodiversiteit campus



Figure - green-blue structural vision for Radboud Campus (Bureau Strooming).

The vision sketch shows a number of numbers with particularisations where there are opportunities to strengthen ecology within the campus. These are explained below.

Forest connection (1).

At the location of the central arrow, a connection can be created between the campus' forest area and Park Brakkenstein. By planting many trees in a strip about 20 metres wide and allowing forest to develop in the future, a robust forest connection will be

created. Future developments should explicitly take this into account, as this seems to be the only possible place for a robust forest connection.

Additional double avenue (2). The old central avenue (René Descartesdreef) could be restored to its former glory. The eastern part of the avenue will be downgraded in the future, the wide road will be narrowed, creating space for two additional rows of trees in the avenue. This will make the avenue more in keeping with the old estate and provide an attractive walking area for patients and visitors.

New pools (3). Pools are proposed in two lower parts of the grounds to drain rainwater. Creating additional pools will create more watering places and additional variety in the campus' nature. As the water naturally infiltrates, a clay or loam layer will have to be incorporated into the soil.

Nature pond (4). A large pond is planned in front of the hospital's main entrance. The proposal is to make this pond attractive for nature as well. For instance, an island could be created in it for birds (possibly even kingfishers), gentle nature banks could be constructed and parts of banks given more rest.

Increase habitat for sand lizard (5). The Heyendaal railway pit is home to the sand lizard. By making the outdoor area of the campus to the northeast more suitable, the species could also establish itself here. Bare sandy patches could be created for the sand lizard with natural grassland, shrublands and some bushes.

Resting area (6). A hawk has been nesting in the forest area. The forest area is crossed by many forest paths and many visitors. Making a larger part of the forest less accessible (closing some forest paths) will increase the chances of disturbance-sensitive species such as goshawk settling here (again).

Restore old pond (7). This is a historic romantic pond with a gazebo, a fountain and a watercourse with a cement floor. A typical historical element befitting a monastery garden, but unfortunately it has fallen into disrepair. Possibly this old water feature could be restored by draining rainwater to it.

Additional connection to Driehuizen (8). An additional connection is proposed to the southeast. Here lies an opportunity to open up the nature of the campus even better and connect it to the large forest areas of the Rijk van Nijmegen. This could also be a suitable route for the sand lizard.

The current mosaic of mixed forest, park forest and grassland will remain. The forest is getting older, dead trees are incorporated into the cycle and the stratification and species richness continues to increase under the influence of independent ecological processes in and on the forest floor. Transitions from forest to open areas are softened, with hems between forest and grassland. Especially on the southern side of forests,

insects buzz here. Dragonflies, hoverflies and butterflies warm up in the morning or catch the last rays of the sun in the late afternoon. In the shrub layer, many rhododendrons have given way to native shrubs. Existing valuable patches of sparse grassland and flowery meadow have been connected, areas have been extended. Locally, relief has been introduced and sandy areas are kept open, benefiting soil-breeding wild bees and, in time, sand lizards. Water features are "man-made" but provide ecological diversity, rainwater infiltrates cleanly into the soil.

New buildings house sites for building-dwelling species, including several species of bats, swifts and possibly house sparrows¹⁴ and existing buildings are further enhanced. Planting around buildings will become more natural with mixed, native species. There will be space for wall plants and, where possible, green facades and roofs will be realised. Living nature will approach the living areas.

It should be investigated whether house sparrows lack breeding places. And if so, what kind of nesting places they accept. For instance, house sparrows that are used to breeding under roof tiles do not readily accept nest boxes that are offered.