



Living, working and visiting

Amsterdam is one of the greenest cities in Europe. But changing lifestyles, growth and overcrowding in the city, and climate change call for new approaches to green space in the city. The large areas of existing green space have gained additional functions for leisure, work, socialising, sports, play, celebration, and growing and learning about food.

Green space policy

The Structural Vision Amsterdam 2040. Sets out the City of Amsterdam's strategy in relation to green space. The Green Vision 2020-2050.- outlines what we will do from now until 2050 to become a greener city.

The most important topics are:

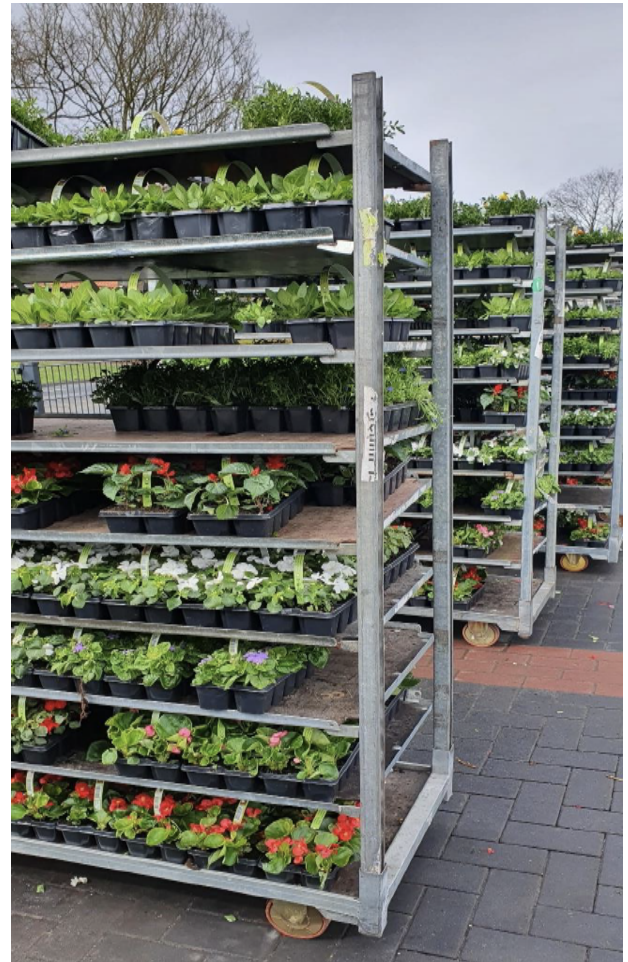
Parks

Parks are the city's communal gardens. They are used by everyone: locals and tourists, young and old. The number of people visiting parks has vastly increased in recent years, as has the range of activities for which they are used. This calls for investment and a search for the right balance in the city. The most important aims are:

- **Wider distribution of visitors**
By increasing the appeal of parks that are used less intensively, such as the Rembrandtpark, where a café has recently been opened.
- **Maintenance and quality**
Improved planning in parks for wet conditions in combination with intensive use.

Amsterdam Forest

The Amsterdam Forest (Amsterdamse Bos) holds a special position, with its unique combination of park, woodland, water and nature. Its size is also



unique. At 1,000 hectares, it is 22 times larger than the Vondelpark and three times larger than Central Park in New York. The Amsterdam Forest therefore provides plenty of space for urban and outdoor leisure activities and sports. And it is the ideal setting for the realisation of the aims set out in the Green Agenda and the Structural Vision Amsterdam 2040.



Climate proofing and biodiversity

The climate is changing. Heavy rain is falling more frequently, and the city is currently unable to cope. In response, Amsterdam aims to be as climate proof as possible by 2050, and green space has an important role to play. Green roofs, for example, absorb water and slow down the run-off into the street, so the drains are better able to cope with the increase. In addition, when temperatures are high, green space has a cooling effect produced by evaporation.

The Green Agenda sets out the ambitions for climate proofing and increased biodiversity:

- **An additional 50,000 m2 of green roofs**
Preferably with a thick layer of plant growth.
- **Greater rainwater absorbance due to increased green space**
For example, in industrial areas and car parks, and along motorways.
- **Protection of healthy trees**
For example, by means of the Three regulations.
- **Increased biodiversity**
For example, by creating ecological connecting routes.
- **More nature-friendly buildings**
For example, so birds can nest more easily.

Neighbourhood green space

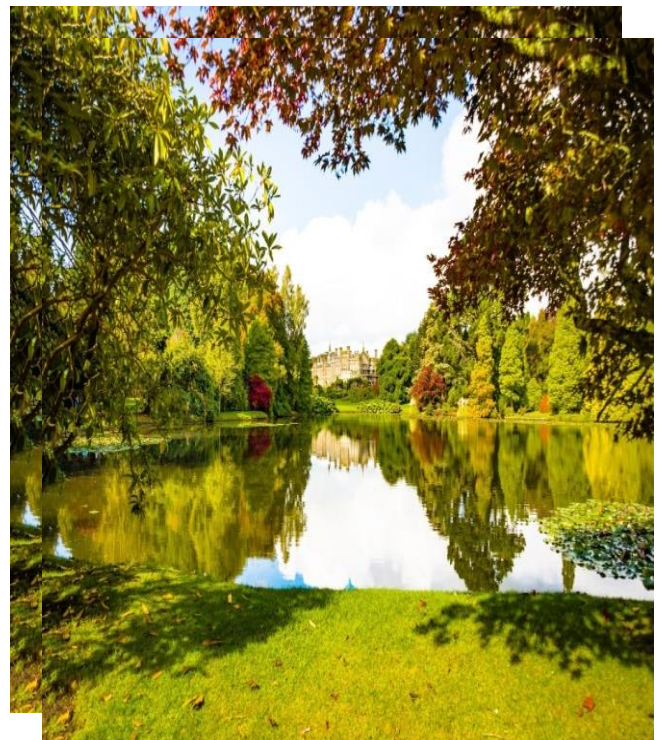
A growing number of Amsterdammers are making use of the green space in their neighbourhoods. It has an important function as a meeting-place for locals, and it inspires people to exercise more. In addition, the city encourages residents to work on green space themselves, and provides subsidy where possible, for example for the planting of wall gardens (a narrow border for plants along the front of a house or apartment building), green façades or roof gardens, to grow vegetables or increase the neighbourhood green space.

In the current term of government, the city authorities will provide:

- **Sport and exercise facilities in green space**
For example, walking, running, cycling and inline skating routes.
- **Challenging green environments for children**
By increasing the green space in school playgrounds.
- **More and improved green space in neighbourhoods**
For example, by planting wall gardens or postage-stamp parks.
- **Urban farming and green neighbourhood initiatives**
Supporting collaboration and green initiatives in the city.

Connections and accessibility

A number of parks and green areas in the city are used intensively, while others lag behind, either because their design doesn't match the wishes of the local people, or because they are hard to reach. If connections with the green spaces in and around the city are improved, making them more accessible to a wider public, their use will increase. Sports fields can be opened outside of regular opening hours, for example, or school gardens can offer courses in sustainable gardening for neighbourhood residents. Where possible, the city authorities support this by entering into discussions and making agreements with the parties concerned.



Where routes to green space are attractive and safe, the number of visitors increases. Good connections also contribute to the wider distribution of

visitors to prevent overcrowding – a route between the Vondelpark and the Rembrandtpark, for example, or a regional network of cycle paths to connect areas of green space and water, and remove bottlenecks.