

# Area vision Green Lung

On behalf of the partners of the Green  
Combination 2022



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- Landscape North Holland
- Neighbourhood Committee Busch and Dam
- Bird protection guard Zaanstreek
- Oer-IJ Foundation
- Platform Keep Broekpolder Livable
- Collaborating Bird Working Groups North Holland
- Open Polders Assendelft
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# Area vision Green Lung

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## Foreword

### Cherish the Oer-IJ area!

In the middle of the highly urbanized area between - on the one hand - Uitgeest, Heemskerk and Beverwijk and on the other side Zaanstad, lies the Oer-IJ area. An open landscape with dikes, creeks, fields, meadows and nature reserves, which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site by the Defence Line of Amsterdam. In this North Wing of the Randstad, where urban and rural alternate, residents can be "outside" at a short distance.

This beautiful - and somewhat forgotten - Green Lung is under pressure due to the plans for a connecting road between the A8 and A9 motorways. Such an irreversible cut leads to unacceptable fragmentation. With the agricultural entrepreneurs, residents' groups and social organizations in the area, we see great opportunities to strengthen the qualities of the area. Vital agricultural entrepreneurship can go hand in hand with strengthening nature and landscape and recreational opportunities.

With this vision we sketch a sustainable future for this area that has been made economically stronger, more scenically valuable and much more meaningful for people. We see a leading role for the farmers to manage and develop pastures and arable land. With a reinforced and visible Stelling landscape. With more biodiversity and nature, where agriculture and nature often go hand in hand. With more recreational facilities and better access points. And of course alternative solutions for the accessibility of the area and the surroundings between IJmond and Zaandam. Focused on the future!

On behalf of all partners of the Green Combination

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## Qualities and challenges in the Green Lung

Located amidst the advancing urban development in the busy Amsterdam Metropolitan Area, the landscape of the Groene Long has a lot to offer. In this beautiful peatland with typical Dutch accompanying and good opportunities for walking and cycling it is good to stay. The Nature Network Netherlands in this area has high natural values with marsh nature and a wreath of meadow bird reserves around the Alkmaarder and Uitgeestermeer. The cultural-historical landscape could be preserved because the peatpolders for the military heritage of the Defence Line of Amsterdam (UNESCO) together with the centuries-old sea dikes proved to be of decisive importance. The former Oer-IJ estuary can still be clearly seen from the relief in the landscape.

This green Oer-IJ area has major challenges. Since the 60s, there has been an encroaching build-up and increasing pressure from the North Wing of the Randstad, as a result of which the green space is shrinking and openness is under increasing pressure. In addition to this urbanization, mobility, accessibility, climate, energy transition, healthy living climate, biodiversity and recreation require an integrated approach for this area coordinated with the stakeholders from the area.

This area vision is a hymn to the qualities of this area. The partners of the Green Combination present themselves as guardians of this green landscape. With the area vision we want to provide insight into the importance of the landscape for the quality of life in the area and the urbanized environment, in cooperation with residents and entrepreneurs. In which there are opportunities for a more sustainable and sustainable landscape. Conservation through development.

Our expertise in this vision lies in the field of landscape, nature, agriculture, military heritage, recreation. For alternative mobility, we make suggestions and refer to other experts.



## Do not irreversibly affect the landscape, but invest in the area

At a time when we are striving for more working from home and sustainable mobility alternatives, a connecting A8-A9 road is an outdated solution from the 60s of the last century. Instead, opt for alternative and more contemporary solutions for the mobility challenge. Where the community, the landscape and nature experience minimal consequences and with which the quality of life, the openness and the peace remain intact and where can be strengthened.

Do not invest the many millions that have been budgeted for the construction of the A8-A9 connection in 55 ha of asphalt, but instead in the area. Strengthen nature, recreation and cultural history. Help the agricultural entrepreneurs with alternative revenue models in the transition to circular agriculture. In which we strive for a financially healthy circular society for society and entrepreneur.

## Sustainable alternative connecting road A8/A9

2010? No: 2021!

- Construction of the A8/A9 connection is completely outdated in the light of the current climate and mobility policy of the central government and the Province Of NH.

Current policy province is less car, more climate.

- The core of the province's current mobility policy is the realisation of a modal shift: far fewer car kilometres, more public transport, cycling and walking. The province wants a leap in scale in public transport.
- The national Climate Agreement stipulates that employers and regional governments must work together to ensure that by 2030 there will be 8 billion car km's less commuting in the Netherlands.

Modal shift: from car use to public transport and bicycle.

1. With a transfer point at the A9 for Uitgeest, commuting in express buses is brought directly to work destinations: Schiphol, Hoofddorp, Amsterdam-Sloterdijk, Amsterdam Zuid;
2. Local and regional bicycle connections are being expanded, improved and safer;
3. A fine-meshed frequent bus network with well-tuned connections to through train and bus transport for local and regional transport needs;
4. The current route between A8 and A9 will have a maximum speed of 50 km and during rush hour a lane will be kept free for buses.

Alternatively, this lecture period will deliver results for citizens.

- All the measures proposed in this alternative mobility plan - the measures can already be implemented in 2025 - and largely start as early as 2022.
- Any construction of the new A8/A9 junction road can - at the earliest - only start in 2025 .

The (not reserved) hundreds of millions of euros for the construction of the A8/A9 can be used effectively (quality of life, sustainable mobility and saved land) for:

- investment in cycle paths and bridges;
- (partly temporary) increase in operating subsidies for public transport;
- strengthening The Green Lung.

The proposed solutions for a sustainable mobility alternative come from the report: *"Alternative mobility plan Connection road A8 and A9"* drawn up by Vereniging Rover and Vereniging Fietsersbond (yet to be published).



Visualization. Make room for the electric bike.



## De Groene Combinatie is committed to a sustainable future of the Green Lung

Our long-term goal is an enclosed landscape with grazing cows and sheep, flowery field edges, local products and direct sales of agricultural products from the area. A landscape that is accessible, healthy and is attractive to residents, local residents and entrepreneurs. With a future-proof and sustainable agriculture that is in balance with the carrying power of the natural environment and has a connection with the consumers in the area.

We are committed to increasing biodiversity and strengthening meadow bird biotopes and other farmland birds. We are committed to sustainable soil and water management and the substantial reduction of subsidence in the peatland.

We are in favour of the realisation of the Groene Omzoom as a recreational agricultural landscape, hand in hand with our agricultural entrepreneurs. In doing so, we jointly and in consultation aim for attractive and accessible run-off areas for residents from the (new) residential areas.

## How we work together

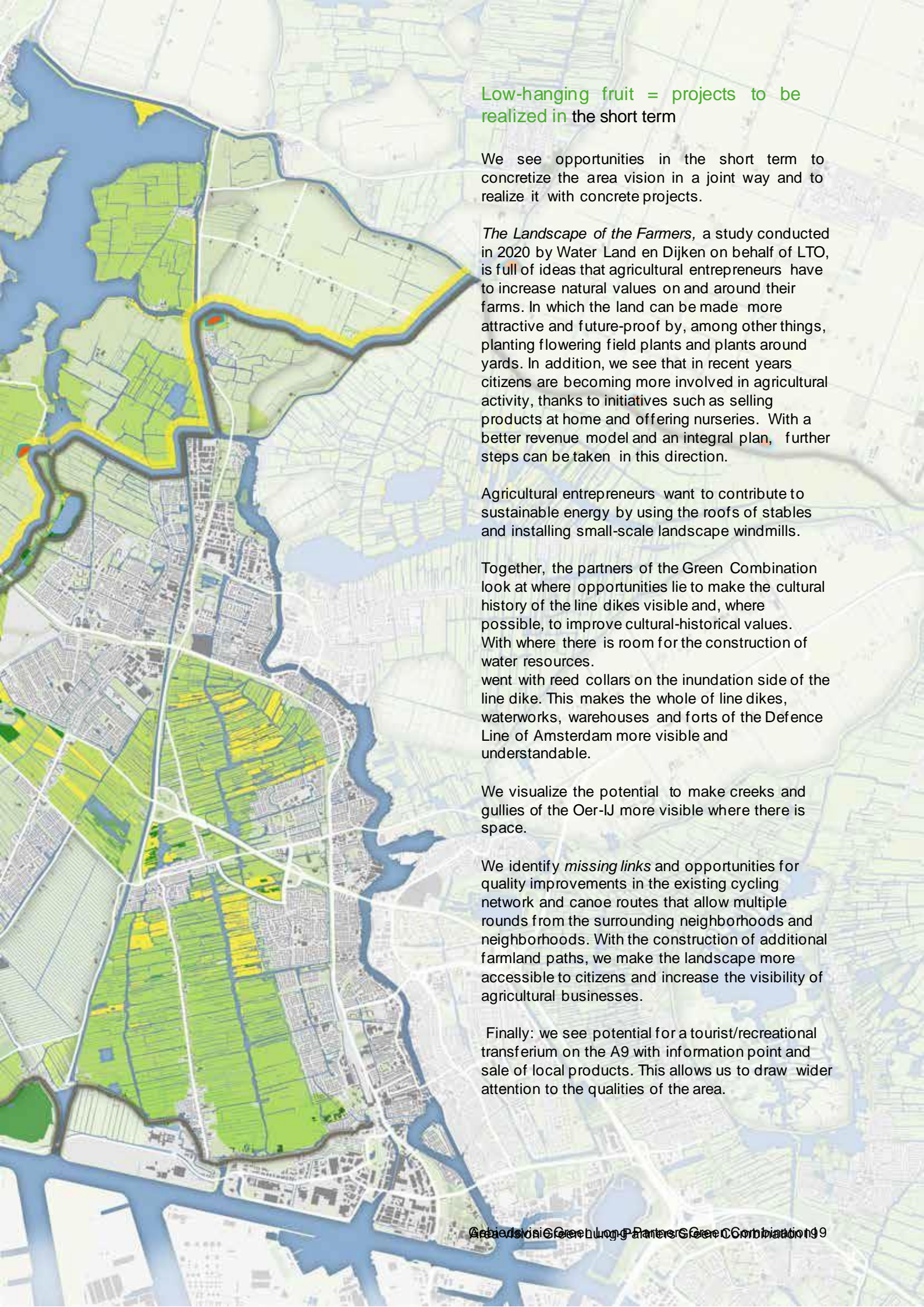
In the coming years, we will work on the realization of the area vision as partners, based on trust and with interest in each other. We conduct the dialogue and exchange our ideas and interests among ourselves. To have and keep understanding for each other's position and point of view. Because although those interests differ, we have a strongly shared interest and that is strengthening this green lung and preserving this unique landscape.

The partners of the Green Combination participate in the creation and realization of the area vision on a voluntary basis. That is the starting point.

As partners, we do not impose any coercion on each other in the realization of the area vision, in order to prevent the area vision from harming the ambitions and interests of agricultural entrepreneurs, residents and site managers. We pay particular attention to the agricultural entrepreneurs and their concern about the spatial pressure on and availability of land for their business operations.

*This map shows the search area in which we see opportunities to concretize the area dimension. In the following pages we explain this outlined area vision. And we zoom in on the long-term targets for the area and opportunities in the shorter term for a more sustainable and sustainable landscape.*





Low-hanging fruit = projects to be realized in the short term

We see opportunities in the short term to concretize the area vision in a joint way and to realize it with concrete projects.

*The Landscape of the Farmers*, a study conducted in 2020 by Water Land en Dijken on behalf of LTO, is full of ideas that agricultural entrepreneurs have to increase natural values on and around their farms. In which the land can be made more attractive and future-proof by, among other things, planting flowering field plants and plants around yards. In addition, we see that in recent years citizens are becoming more involved in agricultural activity, thanks to initiatives such as selling products at home and offering nurseries. With a better revenue model and an integral plan, further steps can be taken in this direction.

Agricultural entrepreneurs want to contribute to sustainable energy by using the roofs of stables and installing small-scale landscape windmills.

Together, the partners of the Green Combination look at where opportunities lie to make the cultural history of the line dikes visible and, where possible, to improve cultural-historical values. With where there is room for the construction of water resources.

went with reed collars on the inundation side of the line dike. This makes the whole of line dikes, waterworks, warehouses and forts of the Defence Line of Amsterdam more visible and understandable.

We visualize the potential to make creeks and gullies of the Oer-IJ more visible where there is space.

We identify *missing links* and opportunities for quality improvements in the existing cycling network and canoe routes that allow multiple rounds from the surrounding neighborhoods and neighborhoods. With the construction of additional farmland paths, we make the landscape more accessible to citizens and increase the visibility of agricultural businesses.

Finally: we see potential for a tourist/recreational transferium on the A9 with information point and sale of local products. This allows us to draw wider attention to the qualities of the area.

## Target image Defence Line of

## Amsterdam Strengthening the

## Defence Line Landscape

The Defence Line landscape of the Green Lung has the status of Unesco World Heritage. It is a unique cultural-historical military structure that has international significance. The Stelling is also of great importance for recreation and tourism, it functions as an ecological structure and offers space for water storage. The openness of the Stelling landscape has been severely affected in the last 20 years by infrastructure and buildings, which have put the outstanding values of the Stelling under pressure. Further cutting or deterioration must be prevented.

The partners of the Green Combination see various opportunities to make the line dikes more visible and understandable with the owners, based on voluntariness and enthusiasm. And to link the restoration to other wishes, while preserving the agricultural lands and nature.

For example, the Defence Line between the forts Aagtendijk and Veldhuis with line dikes and inundation fields could be made visible by reconstruction of dike profile and planting, the construction of water storage in the inundation field and the installation of walking paths. We make the Stelling landscape visible again in a modern way. In which we strive to strengthen the historical area in partnership between humans and animals, between agriculture and nature, instead of further fragmentation. People can experience it. The value of the area increases and agricultural activity is guaranteed.



Target image Defence Line of





*The visualization shows an example of how the line dike can be made more recognizable in promising places by constructing a wider watercourse on the inundation side with a natural bank. In addition to cultural-historical significance, this intervention also has functions as an ecological connection zone and makes the liniedijk an attractive walking and cycling route. It is one of the possibilities to make the Defence Line of Amsterdam as a coherent system of water, dikes and forts more recognizable in the countryside.*



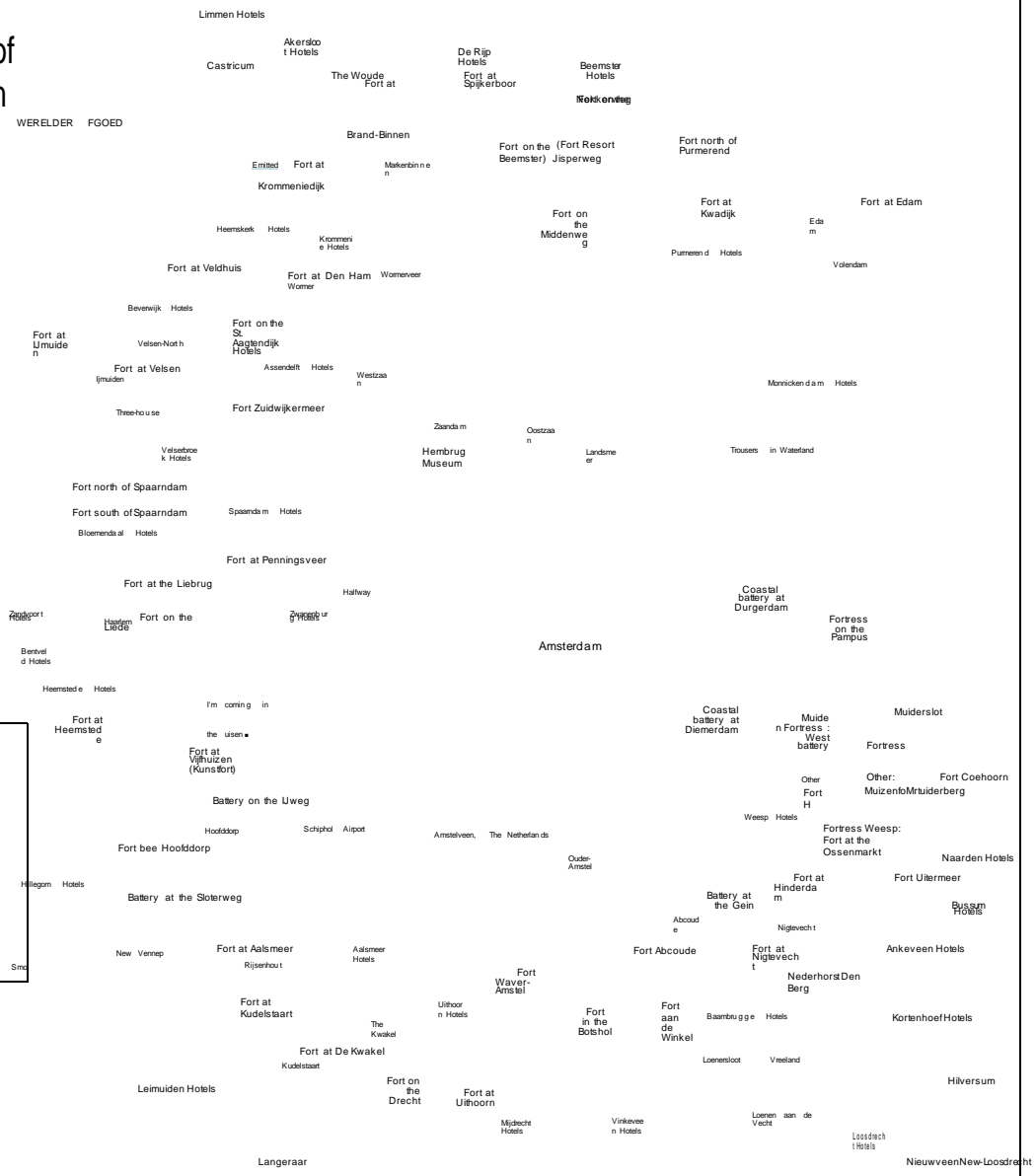
~~*The annual inundation at Fort at Krommeniedijk is a nice illustration of integral thinking. The example shows how the meadow birds, the functioning of the Defence Line of Amsterdam and the cultural-historical function of the area can be strengthened.*~~





# Theorem of Amsterdam

UNESCO WERELDER FGOED



Forts and Batteries  
 Inundations locks / dam locks  
 No UNESCO World  
 Heritage Inundation Fields  
 Current

**bebouNw**  
**ninoradwii**

Map Defence Line of Amsterdam (source: [www.stelling van amsterdam.nl](http://www.stelling van amsterdam.nl)), the framework used shows the planning area of our Area Vision Green Lung

## Defence Line of Amsterdam, UNESCO World Heritage

The Defence Line of Amsterdam is a line of defence around Amsterdam. It is a man-made defensive landscape. In the design and construction, natural and landscape elements that were present in the landscape were used. In the area of the Groene Long, these were elements such as the gullies of the OerIJ and the IJdijken. As a result, a recognizable landscape has been formed.

The Defence Line of Amsterdam consists of a ring of forts, dikes, canals and inundation polders, with a total length of more than 135 km. By means of an ingenious network of dikes, locks, dams and canals, a series of polders could be temporarily flooded in the event of an attack in order to defend Amsterdam and its surroundings. The main defence line has been changed three times, eventually allowing the Uitgeest-Haarlem railway line to run in the inundation area instead of within the Defence Line itself. As a result, the batteries for defense in this area are much more extensive and heavier than elsewhere in the Defence Line.

The line was built between 1883 and 1920. In 1996, the Defence Line of Amsterdam was declared a World Heritage Site and added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. In the advisory report on the A8-A9 connection, ICOMOS, UNESCO's advisory body, describes the unique values as follows: "Since the 16th century, the Dutch have used their special hydraulic engineering knowledge for defence purposes. The area around the fortifications is divided into polders, each with its own level and surrounded by dikes. Each polder has its own inundation facilities. The depth of the inundation was a critical success factor for the Defence Line: the water had to be too deep to ford and too shallow to sail. The water level was regulated with inlet locks and dam locks. Forts were built in strategic places where roads or railways crossed the defensive line (accesses). These were carefully situated at a distance of up to 3500 m from each other. This distance was determined by the range of guns in the forts. The first forts were built of brick, the later ones of concrete."

The forts of the military heritage are well preserved. A large part of it has been given a new function and has been restored and refurbished. However, the recognisability of the structure and the military system in the landscape has come under increasing pressure due to developments in and around the Defence Line. The inundation area has largely been lost due to infrastructure of the A9 and by residential areas; the remaining part is all the more valuable for the "readability" of this unique landscape.



*Fort Veldhuis on the Genieweg in Heemskerk, one of the 45 forts of the Defence Line of Amsterdam*

## Target image Agricultural Area

### The landscape thanks to our farmers

The agricultural sector has been an important player for centuries for the quality of life, cultural history and the socio-economic landscape of North Holland. The area between the A8 and A9 also plays a major role in this. But these age-old qualities are increasingly fading into the background. In recent decades, the pressure on the agricultural sector has increased significantly due to, among other things, environmental and nature goals, housing construction and low selling prices. As a result, the prospects of the agricultural sector are uncertain.

In the current agricultural area, agricultural entrepreneurs produce food in an increasingly sustainable way. The connection with the local residents is strengthened by house sales and walking routes, but above all by maintaining "their home". In the future, we expect that the connection between farmer and citizen will be further strengthened. Partly thanks to a growth in multifunctional agriculture, potential new cycling and walking routes and with increasingly sustainable production methods. In addition to the new developments in agricultural business operations, we also continue to offer space for conventional entrepreneurs. A combination of sustainable, multifunctional, nature-inclusive and conventional agriculture in the area ensures a balanced future-proof agricultural sector. In which citizens from far away and nearby feel welcome and like to recreate there, in which agricultural entrepreneurs feel valued and above all in which decades can be lived in their own and unique way. Together in an agricultural area against the Metropolitan Region and without fragmentation of the landscape.



Target image agricultural



## Initiatives involved farmers from The Landscape of the Farmers:

- Botanical management 1 ha of flowery grass and mooring 5 m wide botanical edge 2.5 km
- Construction 5.5 km nature-friendly banks
- Management of ditch ends as a habitat for damselflies and dragonflies
- 1 km bijenlint
- Meadow bird measures and spreading rough manure on 2 farms
- Other measures such as reed management, branches, nest boxes barnyard swallow and fish thief rafts
- Inviting visitors: farmland path, home sales, goat cuddling, mini animal garden, picking garden, sunflowers around cornfield

*The Landscape of the Farmers* is a plan drawn up by the agricultural entrepreneurs in the Assendelft-Uitgeest, Heemskerk and Beverwijk region, commissioned by LTO. (26 October 2020).



*Visualization of making the agricultural landscape recreationally accessible with farmland paths.*

## Target image Nature

### Strengthening biodiversity and meadow bird biotopes

For the longer term, there are plenty of opportunities and possibilities in the area for increasing biodiversity and strengthening meadow bird biotopes and marsh nature. For example, the aim is to use the landscape of the Defence Line of Amsterdam and the Oer-IJ landscape for nature and water storage, with herb-rich grasslands, flowery hay meadows and puddle-dras in (nature reserves in) the inundation zone of the Stelling or creeks and gullies of the Oer-IJ.

With the wish to optimize the wreath of meadow bird reserves around the Alkmaarder- and Uitgeestermeer, a bird-rich agricultural area with flowering meadows with meadow birds, field birds on farm fields and other farmland birds around yards and in the open agricultural area and increasing the biodiversity of the dikes and in the inundation zone of the Stelling van Amsterdam. In order to capitalise on these opportunities, we are working together with the agricultural entrepreneurs.

In Westzaan, agriculture goes hand in hand with nature and agricultural entrepreneurs manage many NNN areas. As far as that region and the target image for nature are concerned, we refer to the already planned area project led by the province of Noord-Holland.



Target image

## Initiatives involved farmers from The Landscape of the Farmers:

- Berm of dijkbeheer van liniedijken en IJdijken
- Botanical management
- Improvement of the ecology of ditches through ecological ditch management, application of dredging pump or reed management
- Taking meadow bird measures (such as lake dras and raising the level, herb-rich grassland, grass with rest period or pre-grazing) in mutual cooperation within ecological unity



*Herb-rich or flowery grasslands are a feast for the eyes. In addition to their ecological value for insects, they contribute to the creation of high-quality regional products such as cheese and honey.*



## Target image Recreational Run-out area

### Strengthen Foreign Countries, Busch and Dam and Saendelft

The recently developed residential areas around the Groene Long require greater accessibility of the adjacent areas such as The Foreign, Busch and Dam and the zone between the Communicatieweg and Saendelft. In the target image, we focus on recreational agricultural landscape, in which agriculture, nature and recreation come together in an attractive way. In collaboration with residents and entrepreneurs, we capitalize on opportunities for which there is joint enthusiasm.

For example, the Wijkemeerpolder, with the recreation area Aagtenpark, Gasterij Vuurland, the Buitenland/Rijk van Rorik and the Heemskerkser Golfclub, can become more important as a recreational run-out area for the residents of Beverwijk and Heemskerk. With, for example, canoe transfer points and strolling routes on the Kil. And nature-friendly banks for an attractive landscape image. The development of a green recreational agricultural landscape south of Saendelft softens the transition between city and country. And forms, with the Kilzone and Busch and Dam, an ecological connection between the Natura 2000 area Noorderveen and the Alkmaarder- and Uitgeestermeer. Routes over the line dikes and Ijdijken and along the Kil make the Groene Long over the full length to experience, with Busch and Dam and the Crommenije as a connecting link between the Wijkemeer / Saendelft and the Alkmaarder- and Uitgeestermeer.



Target image recreational run-off



*In the Wijkermeerpolder, the Kil can become an important landscape, ecological and recreational structure. For example, by widening it slightly and providing it with natural reed banks. This creates a canoe connection between the North Sea Canal, through the polder, via Busch and Dam to the Uitgeester-en Alkmaardermeer. With local transfer points for canoes that bridge barriers in this connection. Along the Kil, a walkway could also be built. The Zeedijk and the liniedijken offer opportunities for creating flowery ribbons.*



*The landscape north of the Communicatieweg can become an attractive run-off area by adding some bushes, water and reed land with a network of paths. The zone connects on the east side to the Noorderveen (Natura 2000). Coulissewerking makes the transition from city to country, including the sports fields, in this area more gradual and much more beautiful. The edge of Castricum (Hendriksveld) shows how this can be achieved with relatively limited resources .*

## Improve networks of walking, cycling and boating

A good recreational veining is of great importance. There are still many improvements that can be made in this respect. In addition, the cycle path network is becoming increasingly important for commuting. The electric bicycle and also the fast pedelec variant of it are increasingly becoming an attractive, healthy and environmentally friendly alternative to the car for distances between 10 and 30 km. For this it is still necessary to invest heavily in the existing network.

In the future, three different networks can be created:

- Cycling along landscape structures such as line dikes, IJ dikes, the Kaaik and historic ribbons
- Sailing through the open agricultural landscape in connection with Busch and Dam and Alkmaardermeer
- Walk through the open agricultural landscape of peat extractions, OerIJ and Wijkermeer and stroll along the Kil.

hiking trails

- existing walking routes possible
- - new connections



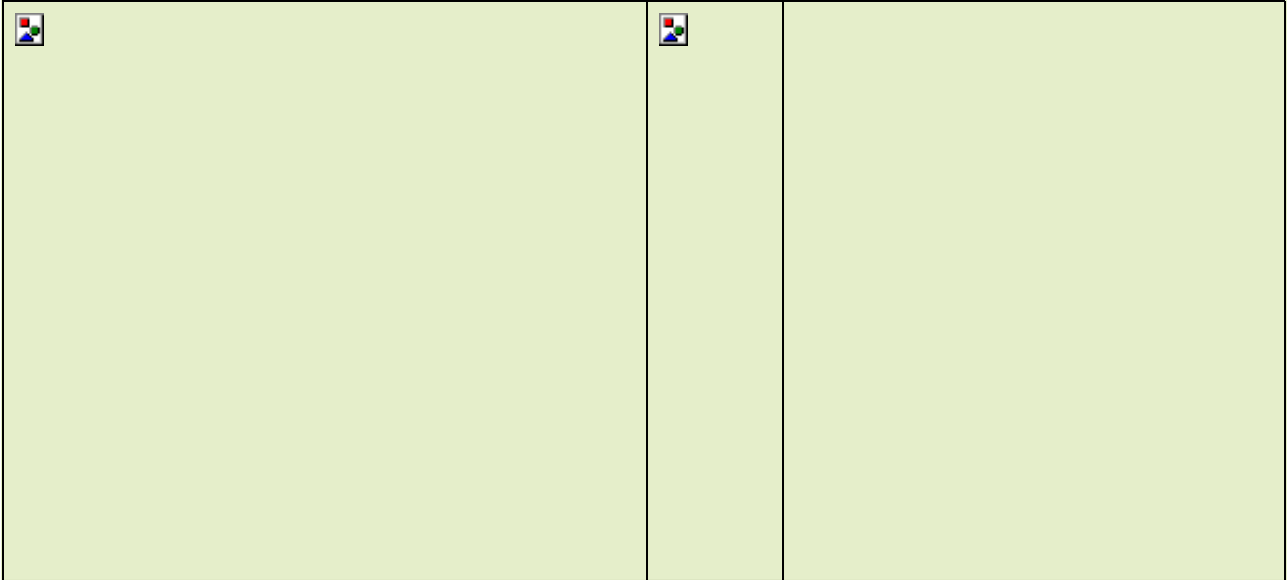




Cycling  
 — existing cycling routes  
 - - possible new connections

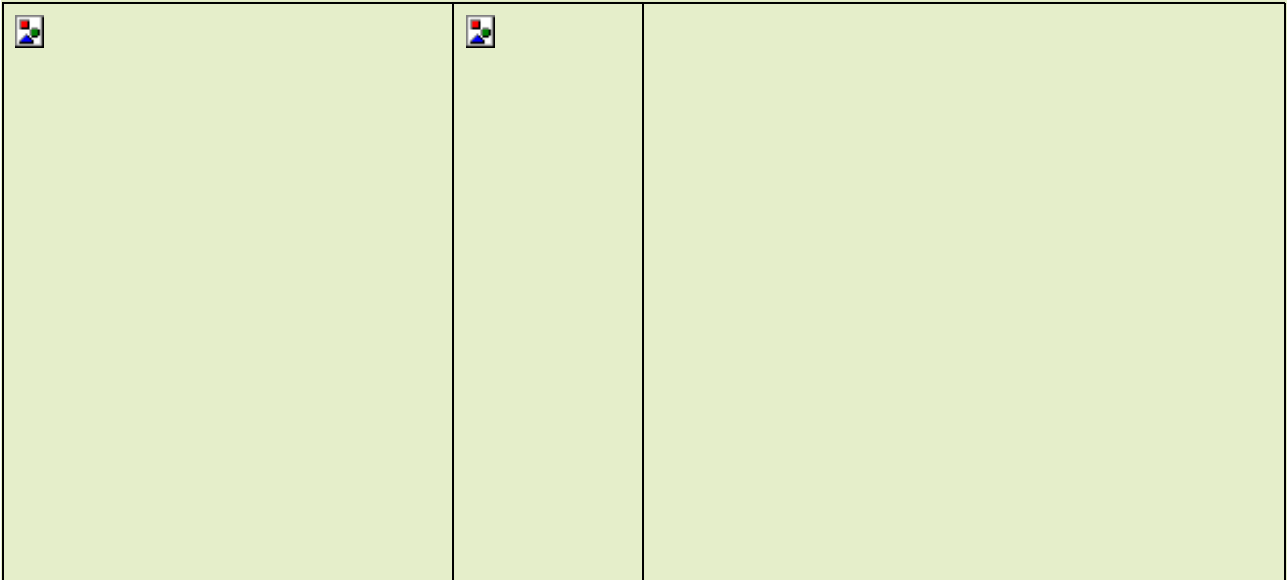


kanoroutes  
 — existing canoe routes possible  
 - - new connections bottlenecks  
 •



*Above: Millau in Aveyron*

*Under: The Spoonbill and the Cormorant on the A6*



*Under: Recreational Transferium Zoeterwoude*

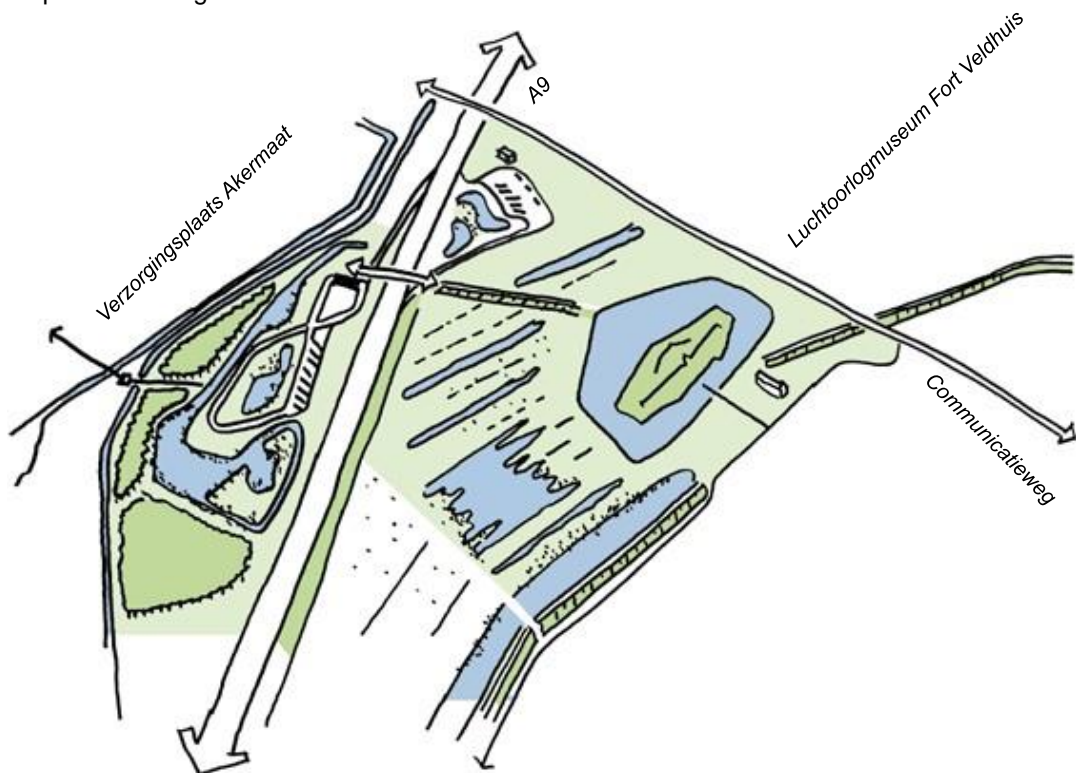
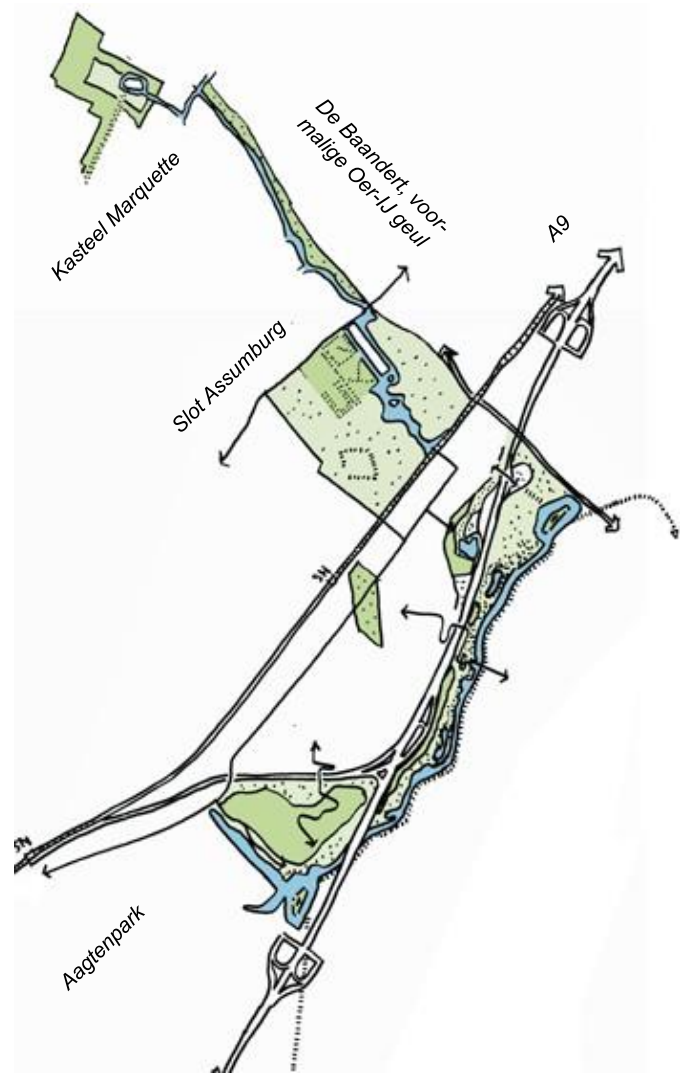


## Tourist/Recreational Transferium

We see opportunities to transform the existing care place on the A9 into a Tourist / Recreational Transferium for the Green Lung; with information about the region, a shop with regional products, a walk along the Stelling and a cycle route along farm shops with unique products from the region.

A reference is the viewpoint at the Millau viaduct in Aveyron, France. Here is a visitor center about the region combined with a restaurant and shop where only products from the region are sold and served. Visitors can enjoy the view and the goodies that the gastronomic region has to offer. Examples have also been realized in the Netherlands. On the A6, the service areas De Lepelaar and the Aalscholver serve with a roadside restaurant with hotel as a departure area to the Oostvaardersplassen. Or on the A4 where the Streekwinkel Boer en Goed at the Recreatief Transferium Zoeterwoude sells farmer's cheese from the Leiden Region. From the transferium, a farmer's cheese cycle route has been mapped out along traditional cheese, ice cream and dairy farms where you can experience the story of the region and the farmer's cheese.

With the realization of missing links such as an extra bridge over the A9 and a green recreational route from Beverwijk station to Stelling, the dunes and country estates will be connected to the Stelling landscape via Oer-IJgeulen .





<sup>1</sup> ( ? 1 <sup>J</sup>

