Designing urban food forests as publicly accessible spaces

Intenational Forest Garden & Food Forestry Symposium
31st of May - 4th of June

ONDERGROND

Rotterdams Forest Garden Netwerk

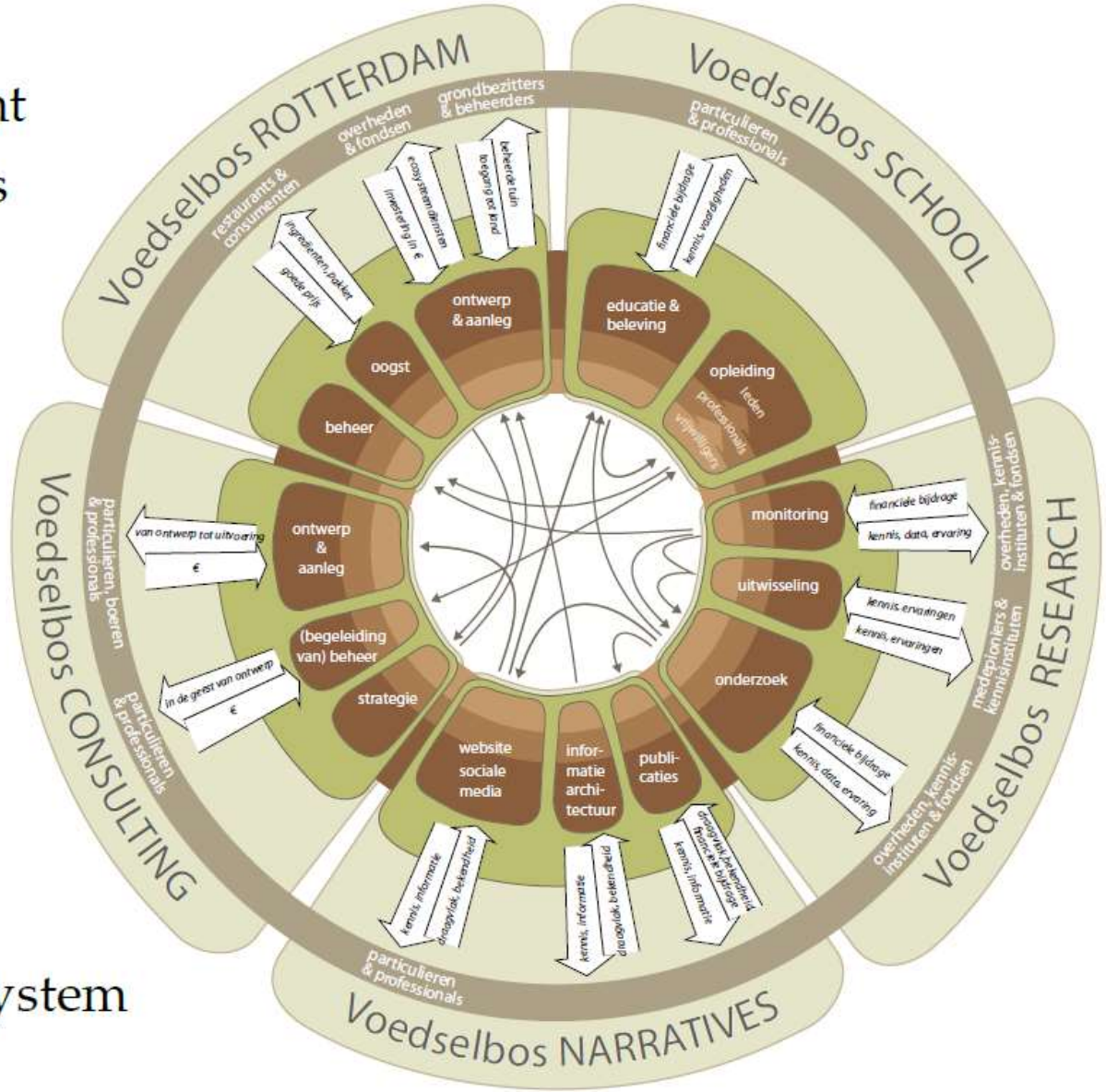
Stichting
VOEDSELBOS
VLAARDINGEN

cooperative of independent
food forestry professionals

to realise food forests

to realise the right
conditions for food
forests to thrive in

To realise a society
organised more like a
food forest; an urban ecosystem



Cooperative Ondergrond

Voedselbos Kralingen (2013)

Pniel / De Geheime Tuin (2014)

Voedselbos Vlaardingen (2015)

Voedselbos De Overtuin (2018)

SKAR Tuinen (2020)

Natuurgoed Ziedewij (2021)

15 food forest (gardens) in and around Rotterdam

Accessibility to land in the city:

- contested space
- multiple stakeholders
- safeguarding harvest
- esthetic considerations

Each urban food forest design is a negotiation

Accessibility to land in the city:

- contested space
- multiple stakeholders
- safeguarding harvest
- esthetic considerations

Three examples from peri-urban to innercity

Voedselbos Vlaardingen (2015)

Voedselbos De Overtuin (2018)

SKAR Tuinen (2020)

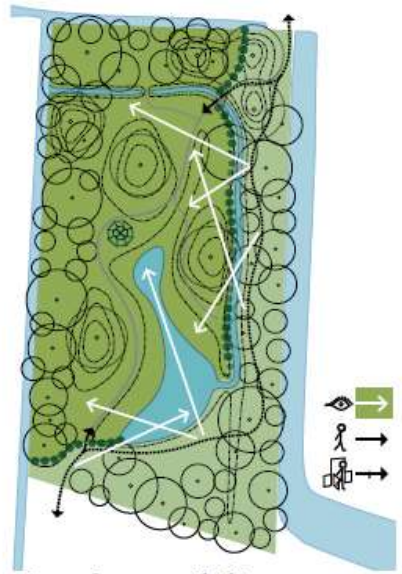
Food forest Vlaardingen

Location: part of public recreational zone at the edge of the city

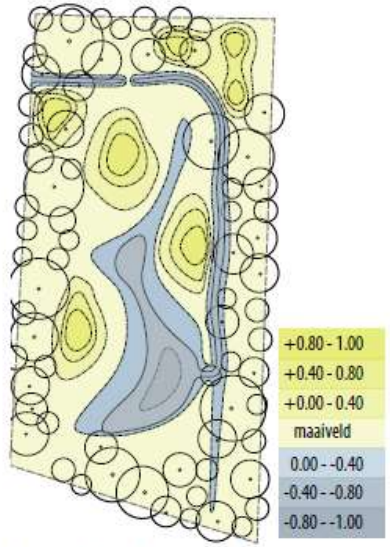
An underused green chamber hedged in by trees

Stichting VOEDSELBOS VLAARDINGEN

Location: part of recreational zone at the edge of the city



Zoned accessibility

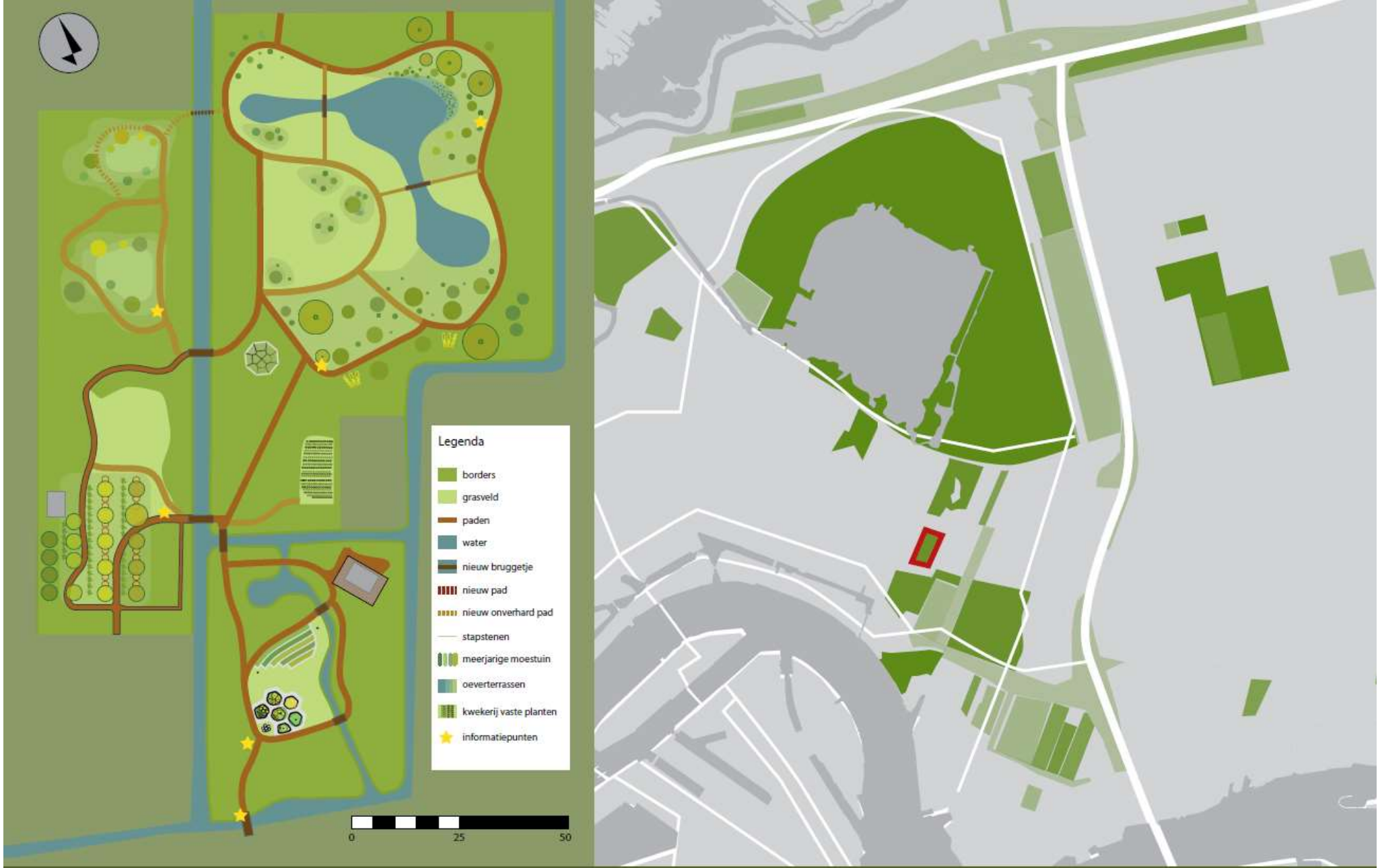


Earthworks: height & water

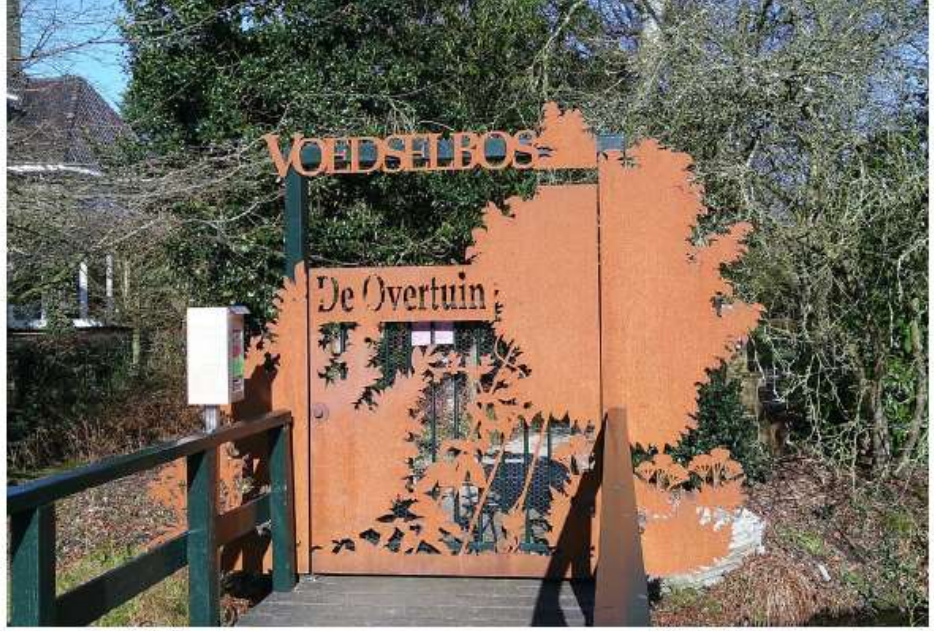
Design: landscaping & accessibility (public - semi-public)

Design: landscaping & accessibility (public - semi-public)

Food forest De Overtuin

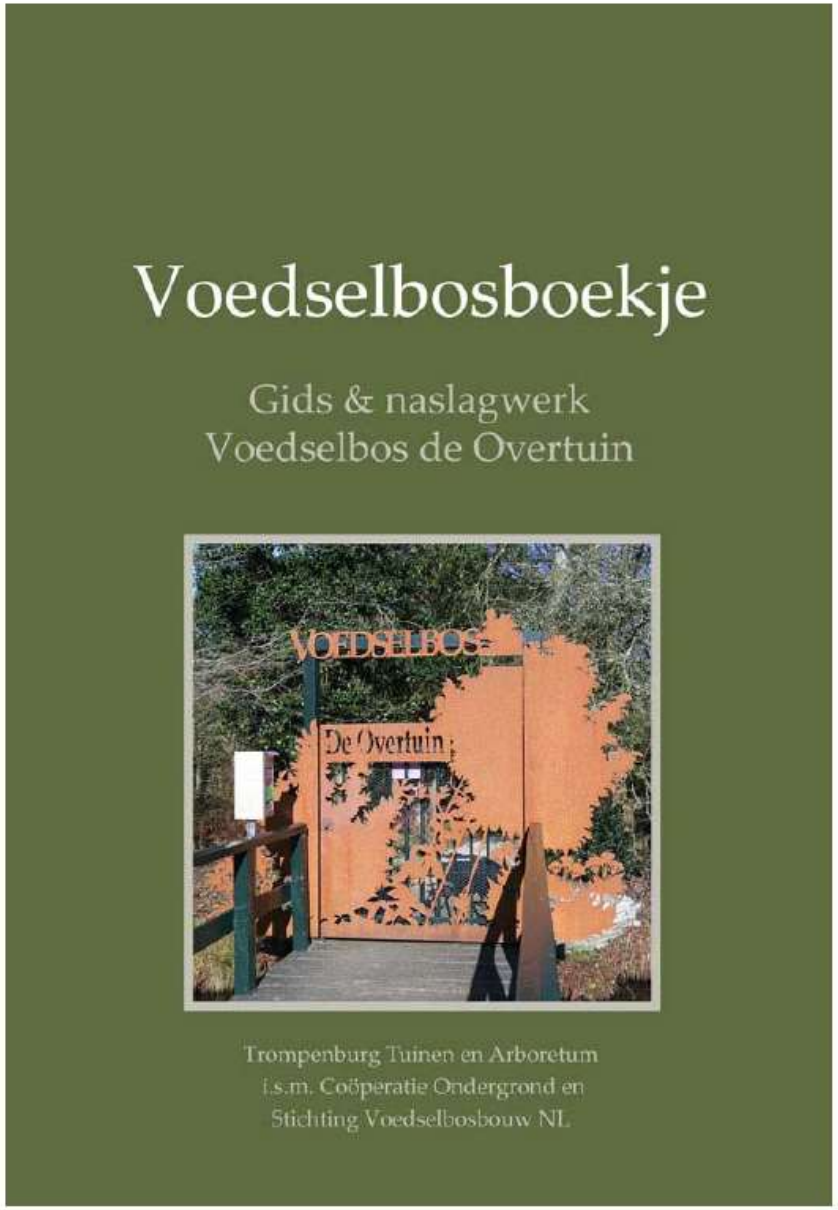


Location: in a semi-public botanical garden in an urban greenbelt



Design: interpretive architecture / decompression chamber

Design: zoning from ‘framed’ to ‘wild’ nature



Design: guide to the food forest principles of De Overtuin

SKAR Tuinen

Turning former school yards into forest gardens

Former primary schools rented out as artist spaces by an NGO (SKAR)

Turning tiled spaces into green oases

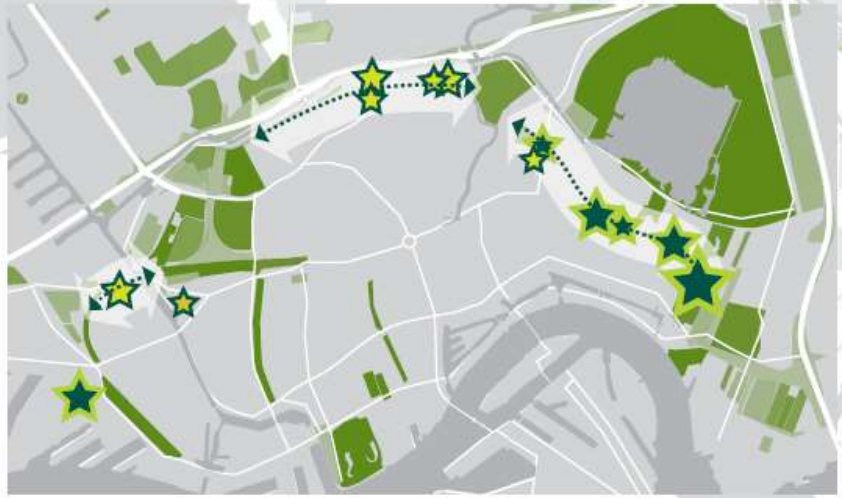
Turning city soil into forest soil

retain water and store CO2

increase soil life

cooling down the city

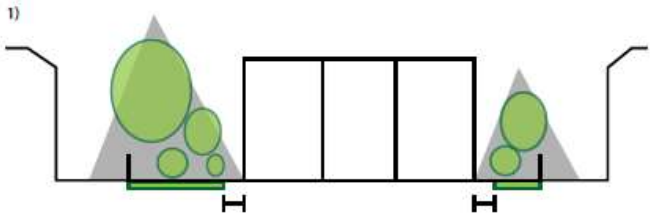
Ecological stepping stones



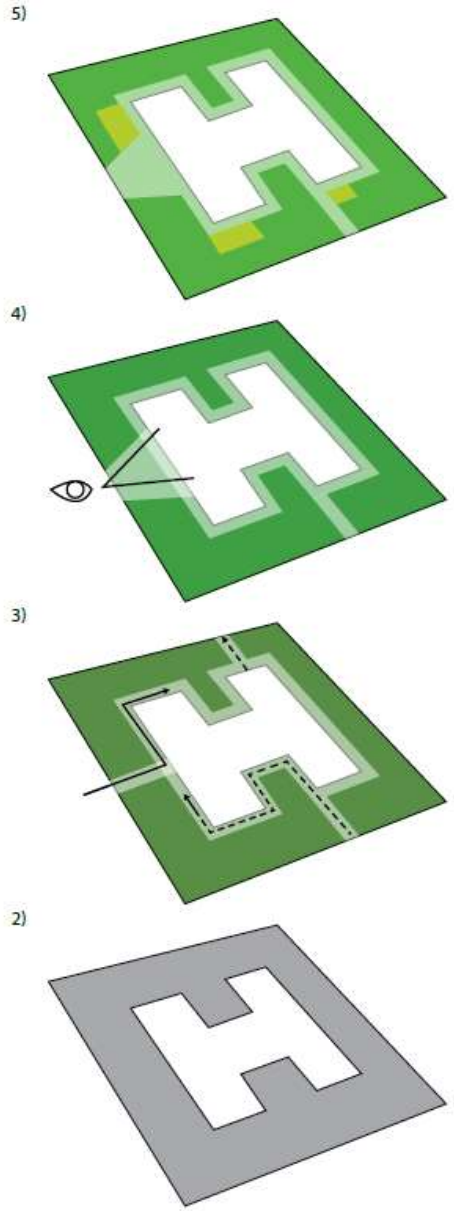
ROTTERDAMS WEER WOORD

Location: string of private gardens throughout city centrer

Concept: Zoning & accessibility



1) considering light acces tenants & neighbours;
2) surface to be unpaved;
3) space for access and maintenance;
4) representation - entrance
5) reserve space for initiative by tenants



Design: negotiated accessibility for tenants and neighbours

SKAR Ruivenstraat

March 2020, just after realisation

Design: framing the wild, clear demarcations

SKAR Ruivenstraat

June 2020, half a year after realisation

Design: framing the wild, clear demarcations

Designing urban food forests as publicly accessible spaces

consider different forms of accessibility: visual, physical, participatory

consider all stakeholders and look for shared interests

consider esthetics: zoning; framing ‘nature’; interpretive architecture

Food forest Vlaardingen
An initiative of Rotterdam Forest Garden Network
Design by Rotterdam Forest Garden Network
Maintained by Stichting Voedselbos Vlaardingen
www.voedselbosvlaardingen.nl
http://www.rfgn.nl/over-rfgn/

Food Forest De Overtuin
An initiative of Cooperative Ondergrond & Trompenburg Tuinen & Arboretum.
Design by Cooperative Ondergrond with Stichting Voedselbosbouw NL, Trompenburg Tuinen & Arboretum.
Maintained by Cooperative Ondergrond with Trompenburg Tuinen & Arboretum
http://pauldegraaf.eu/portfolio/voedselbos-de-overtuin/
trompenburg.nl/voedselbos/

Food Forest gardens SKAR Tuinen
An initiative of Cooperation Ondergrond and SKAR
Design by Cooperative Ondergrond
Maintained by Cooperative Ondergrond
nieuw-groen.nl/initiatieven/voedselbostuinen-rotterdam/

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Credits