Metropolitan Landscapes

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What is it all about?
Metropolitan Landscapes Brussels is committed to improve the urban and landscape quality in the outskirts of the city significantly. A new type of urban project strengthens the large-scale landscape structures instead of covering them with concrete.

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The administrative reality of Brussels and its outskirts is a complex tangle of powers, sectors, scale levels and political contradictions. However, the ecosystem of open space does not abide by any administrative boundaries. The transition between city and landscape is a diffuse area. It is located in the so-called 20th-century belt and consists of a collection of residential areas, industrial zones and an oversized road infrastructure without planning, often with excessive energy, space and resource consumption. But it is in this transitional zone where many urban and landscape qualities can still be gained. This is where we can take care of the need for new housing within new urban projects, without constant parcelling out and consuming open space. We can make room for food production, nature, recreation, climate control and water buffering.

In the coming months, we will work together on an analysis and a shared agenda to address at least three missing links. The first is that between large continuous landscapes, such as the Sonian Forest or the Senne Valley, and the smaller scale of concrete projects and investments. Secondly, we break the sectoral divisions between the management and the design of open spaces: soil, water and nature management, agriculture and park construction are not often enough each other's allies. Finally, we are working on new forms of cooperation and a new set of instruments that enable us to steer development.

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