

Project idea title:

Lillo master plan: rebuilding Fort Lillo



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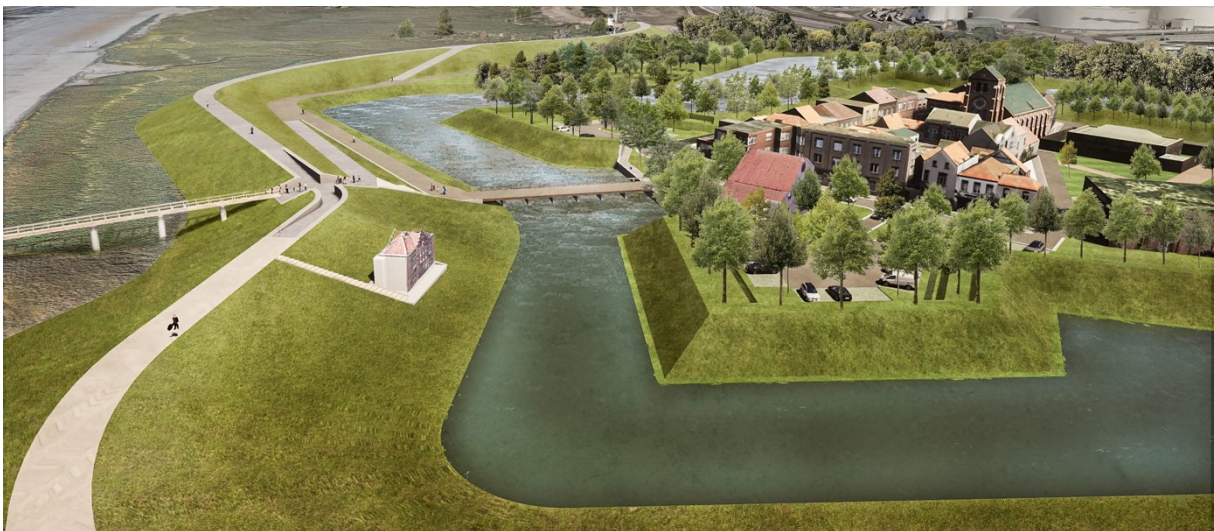
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Aerial photo of fort Lillo on the river Scheldt and the port of Antwerp © Yves Adams, VILDA



A possible future view of Fort Lillo after the repair works according to the historical plan of 1815.

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The first concept for the future Fort Lillo. © Cluster Landscape | Stedenbouw



Restoration of historical inner walls © Cluster Landscape | Stedenbouw



View of the port of Antwerp



Depoldering area of Lillo

<p>Description <i>Provide a brief description of the project idea (max. 250 words).</i></p>	<p>The Fort of Lillo is one of the oldest forts around Antwerp: it was built in 1580 together with Fort Liefkenshoek on the other side of the river Scheldt. These two forts were of great importance for the military control of shipping: together they could close off the Scheldt. As a result, they were often under siege, which did not always end well: the forts have been in Spanish, Dutch, French, Austrian and Belgian hands. Due to the port expansion in the 1960s, the polder landscape and the actual village inside the fort are now surrounded by industrial sites, quite a remarkable setting and contrast between the two.</p> <p>Upstream of the Scheldt, next to the Fort Lillo, is the depoldering area of Lillo: 10 hectares give the river more flood space, but it is also a true hotspot for breeding birds.</p> <p>First, a high ring dyke of approximately 1.1 km around the potpolder was erected (height of +11 metres TAW*). Then the existing dike along the Scheldt was breached, allowing the water to flow into the polder. Thanks to the inflowing water, mudflats and salt marshes were able to develop. The burgeoning tidal nature area attracts many breeding birds. That is why there are four wooden gates on the lower footpath along the water's edge. During the breeding season from 15 March to 30 June, these gates are closed and you cannot enter certain parts of the footpath. In this way, the birds are not disturbed. The ring dike is accessible all year round.</p>
<p>Problem statement <i>Describe the reason, problem and/or other reasons for starting the project (max. 250 words).</i></p>	<p>Climate change brings with it great challenges. In Europe, there will be less but much heavier rainfall, on the one hand, and longer periods of extreme drought and heat, on the other. Particularly in densely built-up European cities, the economic consequences of excessive rainfall or flooding are often incalculable, and because of a lack of open green space, the heat and drought also lead to water shortages and urban heat stress.</p> <p>Traditional public investments in drainage and sewerage are no longer sufficient. Financial and spatial constraints soon come into play, certainly in cities. The city is therefore going in search of alternative and innovative solutions to prepare for climate change. Local stakeholders have a major role to play here.</p>
<p>Objective <i>Please provide a short description of the main objective(s) you want to achieve with the project (max. 250 words).</i></p>	<p>With the Lillo Master Plan, the city wants to improve the landscape, perception and cultural history of the fort for residents and visitors. To this end, Fort Lillo will be restored according to a historical plan from 1815.</p>
<p>Local activities <i>Describe briefly the activities you want to develop within the project (max. 250 words).</i></p>	<p>In a first phase, road works will take place within the existing dikes and the construction of a separate sewerage system. These works will start in mid-2022.</p>

	<p>In the second phase, the fort will be rebuilt, among other things. In addition, the dike around Lillo will be renewed and raised by 3 metres to protect Lillo and the port against storm tide on the Scheldt. These works fit into the Sigmoplan, which aims to better protect Flanders against flooding of the Scheldt and its tributaries.</p> <p>The current marina, with space for 10 boats in the water and 20 on land, will be moved towards the Scheldt. The towpath on the new dike will lead visitors to the new marina. A new cycle link will be created between the cycle path on Scheldelaan and the De Waterbus landing stage.</p> <p>Alongside Scheldelaan, outside the village, there will be a visitor car park for 10 buses, 118 cars (including 20 for disabled persons) and approximately 100 bicycles. Residents can park in the village car park.</p> <p>The concept for phase 2 will be developed into a definitive design in 2022. After drawing up a Spatial Implementation Plan, obtaining an environmental permit and appointing a contractor, work can start in 2024.</p>
<p>Intended outputs <i>Describe briefly the results that the activities of the project are intended to produce (max. 250 words).</i></p>	<p>The historical outer wall between the fort and Scheldelaan will be reconstructed and will have a forked access road. A new bridge across the ring canal will connect the access road with the fort. This bridge will be built according to the historical model.</p> <p>Where possible, the northern bastions will be restored according to the historical plan from 1815. The valuable trees will be preserved. To the south, at the location of the current marina, two new bastions with new trees will be built.</p> <p>The park area on the west side of the fort will also be redesigned according to the historical model. Finally, the city is looking into the possibility of eventually restoring the former pedestrian bridges between the outer and inner ramparts.</p>
<p>EU cooperation <i>What kind of foreign expertise do you need that cannot be found locally and why? (max. 250 words).</i></p>	
<p>Project partners <i>Which organisations do you want to cooperate with and why?</i></p>	<p>The Masterplan Lillo and the restoration of Fort Lillo according to a historical plan from 1815 are a cooperation between the city of Antwerp, De Vlaamse Waterweg NV and the district Berendrecht-Zandvliet-Lillo.</p> <p>we would like to cooperate with EU partners working in the sectors of nature, climate, environment, water management, habitat, heritage, tourism and recreation, visitor management, accessibility, (military) infrastructure ...</p>

EU Programme <i>Do you already have an idea/preference in which programme you want to submit your project idea?</i>	Interreg Life Horizon Europe Creative Europe
Resources <i>How much of your own budget and available staff do you have for the implementation of the project?</i>	

Using the European Green Deal as a framework, we would like to investigate the following:

With focus on the residents: this small village is facing major works. How can we, as planners, guarantee the economic and social viability of the village and allow it to flourish (this is a MUST), While at the same time, viewing the surrounding industrial landscape as an opportunity to focus on ecological sustainability by making the village climate neutral (this is a CHANCE).

- ENERGY Lillo is an island surrounded by a port with huge energy capacity from companies. Can this create sustainable opportunities for Lillo? Can Lillo be self-sufficient?
 - Or can it make use of heat networks f.i. to heat the church and the powder magazine?
 - Can solar panels or windmills be installed so that Lillo gets all its energy from them?
 - Lillo as a climate-neutral place (as a contrast to the port)?

- WATER For dirty water, there is already a small-scale water purification plant.
 - The fortress can infiltrate all its rainwater on site? A separate sewer system will be installed; is a sewage system necessary there, with the canal and Scheldt as water collection?
 - What can be done with the ring canals in terms of biodiversity? Are there any opportunities there?

- GREEN Lillo as a green, biodiverse island within an industrial landscape: strengthen this and look for connections with surrounding green areas as a stepping stone.
 - Extensive mowing of slopes, or for example with sheep?

- TOURISM Reception function in the village, with toilet, museum, exhibition space, VR-tool,... The church of Lillo is for rent, perhaps that is an option?
 - Support to accompany conversations with interested parties in Lillo?
 - How many tourists are expected? Does this fit within the spatial and commercial capacity of the village; there are actually only a few cafés, okay for the quality of life?