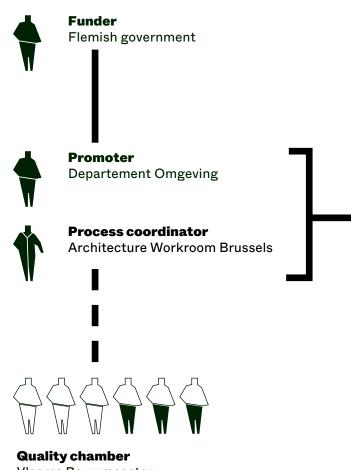


NatiOOns event – Breaking Ground Together: Solutions for Urban and Post-Industrial Soil De-sealing
December 14, 2023







Vlaams Bouwmeester Regional institutions Regional agencies Academics Regional experts....

Ontharding living labs programme

45 living labs

2018 // 1st generation >> 23 LL **2019** // 2nd generation >> 22 LL

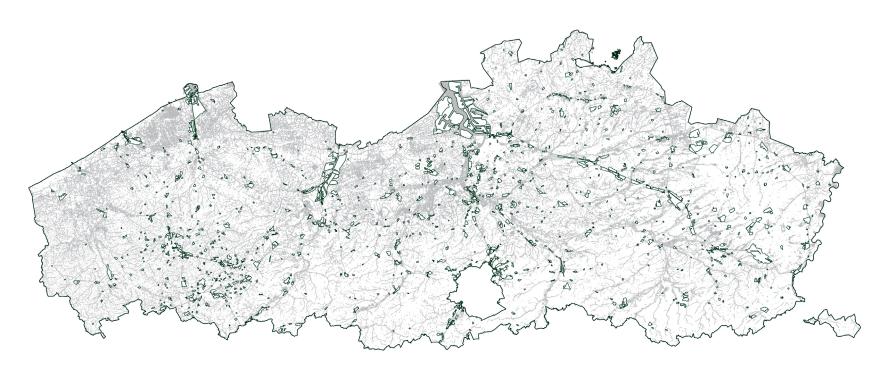
Type of project

- > quick-win
- > coalition-building
- > strategic

Topic

- > desealing for more space for water
- > desealing for more qualitative school environments
- > desealing for more mobility with fewer roads

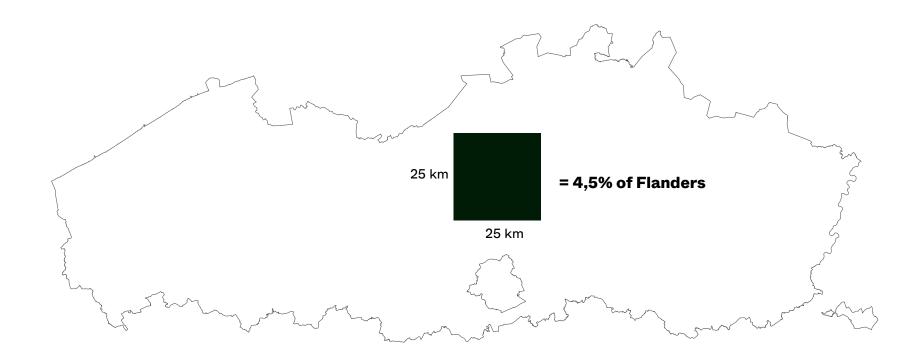




industrial platform surface water

Industrial platforms n°
Industrial platforms surface

1356 **60.746 ha**

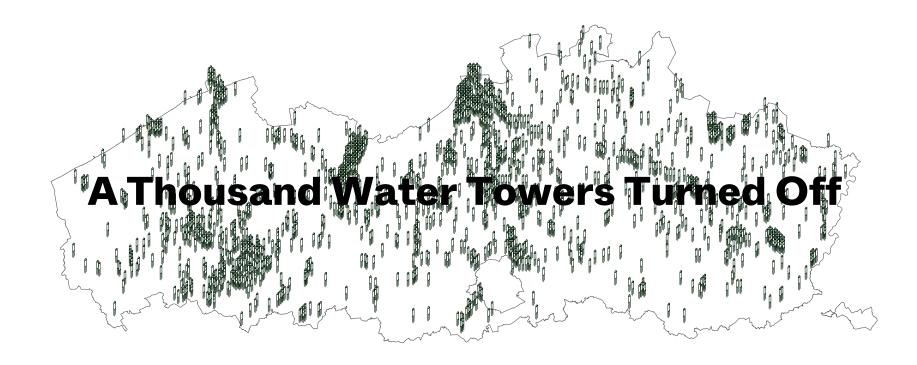


Flanders territory of production







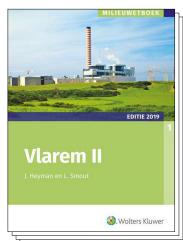








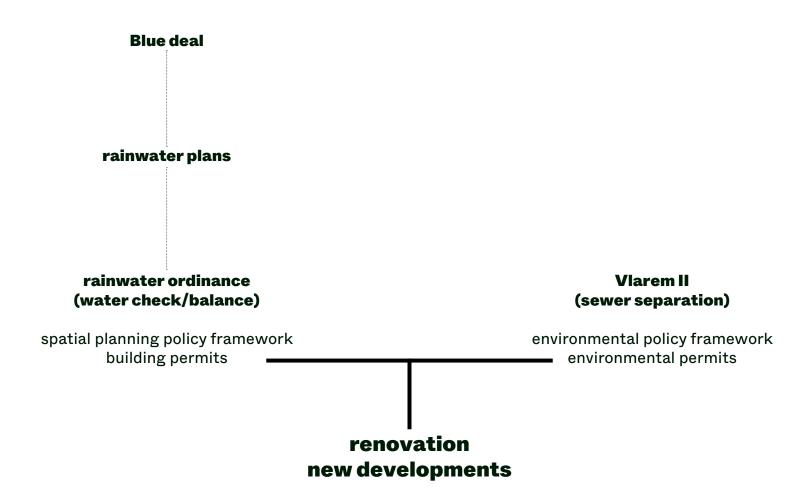




2019 Vlarem II Flemish Government (+VMM)



2020 Blue Deal Flemish Government (+ task force)



how to deal with the existing stock?



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general public (regional+supralocal+local scale)

02. Territory for Waters Towers GreenWithGrey Diagnosis

general public (regional+supralocal+local scale) cross-sectional audience + policy, governance, desig

03. Actions for Water GreenWithGrey Coalitions

intermediaries (supralocal scale)
Vlaio, Intercommunals, POM, VMM + BTM

04. Choreographies of Water GreenWithGrey Design Illustrations

technicians (local scale) municipality, sewage manager, designers, industrials

05. Motions for Water GreenWithGrey Design Policy Instruments

institutional (regional scale)
policy makers (Omgeving, VMM, Vlaio, OVAM)

06. Tower of Water GreenWithGrey Design Projects

general public (regional+supralocal+local scale) cross-sectional for policy, governance, design

07. Deseal for Water GreenWithGrey Testing Grounds

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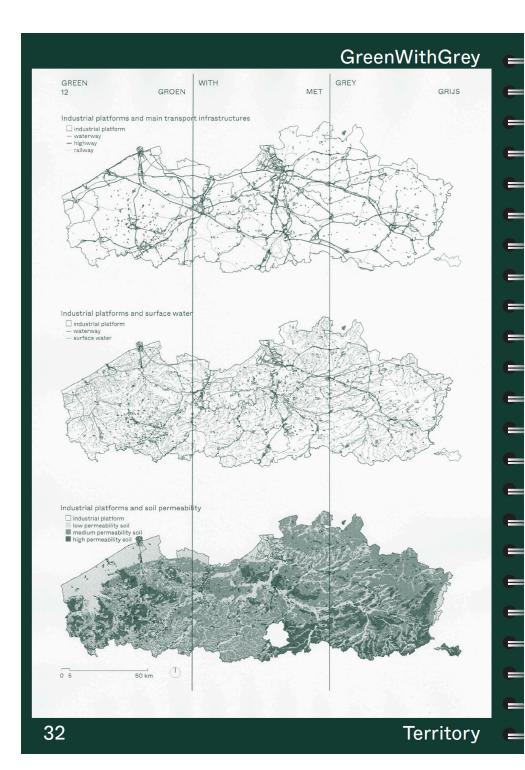
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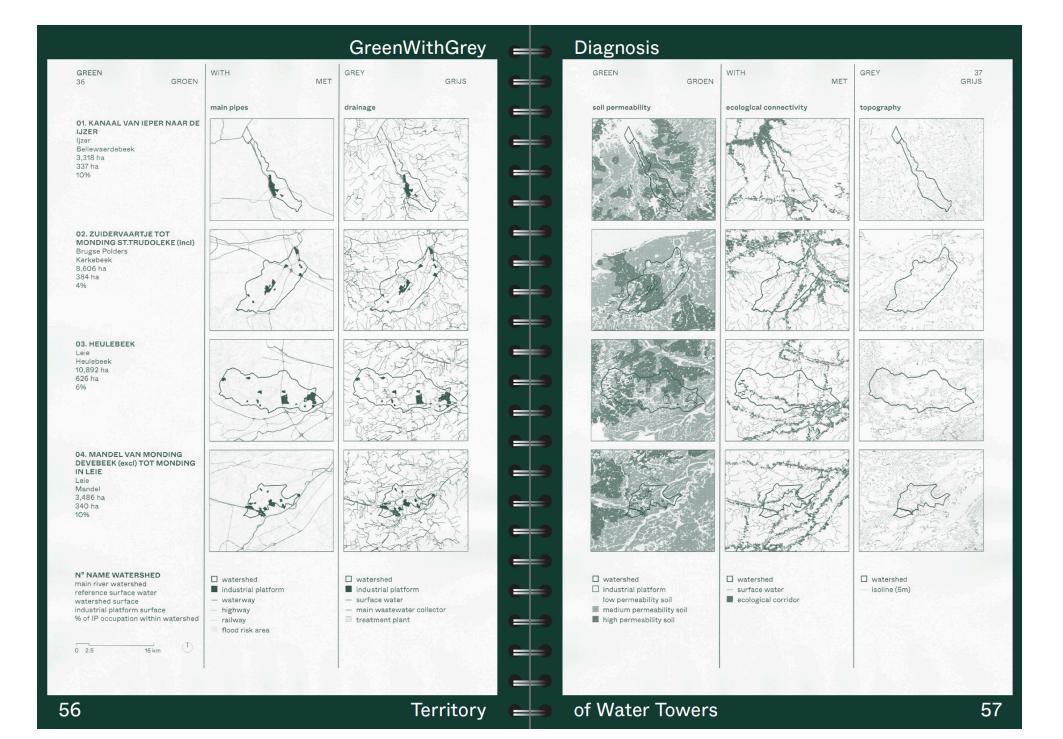
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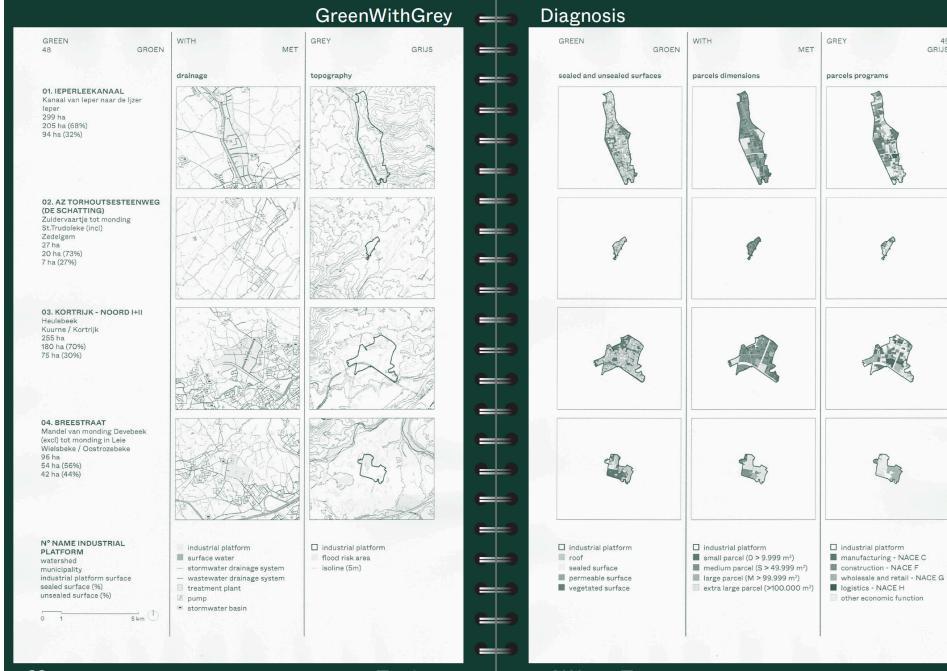


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GREEN

GREEN GROEN

Neighbourhood, district, or park?

GreenWithGrey ventures can be located in a neighbourhood, a district, or a park, depending on the domain, public or private, where the project has the most significant impact.

WITH

A neighbourhood project is a GreenWithGrey initiative that primarily rolls out on private plots and has major implications for local businesses. A neighbourhood project, however, does not exclude the passage of a rainwater pipe across the public domain and/or economic or organisational stimulus by a public actor.

A district project combines a collection of interventions taking place in both public and private domains and with implications for both private businesses and the public good.

A park is a project that manifests itself primarily on public land and deals with issues that are not directly related to businesses. However, the drainage of rainwater that runs off private plots is still possible.

GREY

Neighbourhood / Private actors



District / Private public actors



Park / Public actors



Combined sewer



Separated sewer



Open air ditch



Combined, separated, or open air?

GreenWithGrey transformations build on the existing drainage system. It could be combined, with pipes conveying stormwater and wastewater together. It could be separated, with pipes for stormwater and pipes for wastewater. Or it could be open air, with pipes to drain wastewater as well as with ditches to convey stormwater.

One can often find all three systems within the same industrial platform.

Detain, infiltrate, reuse!

To turn the existing industrial platforms of Flanders into A Thousand Water Towers Turned On, all efforts should be aimed at getting them to detain, infiltrate, and reuse rainwater. The GreenWithGrey industrial platforms of Flanders literally engage their ground with water, fine-tuning the ratio between sealed, intercepting surfaces and areas intensively planted in order to direct water but also to activate its vertical movements such as infiltration and evapotranspiration.

WITH

Detain

Diagnosis



Infiltrate



Reuse

GREY



GRIJS

Dry, wet or reuse?

In order to make a Flanders' platforms detain, infiltrate, and reuse rainwater, one must first determine if the platform's area of action is dry or wet.

A 'dry' project can only occur on a dry location with a sufficient infiltration capacity. Here, both detention and infiltration are

A 'wet' project, on the other hand, lies on a wet location, hence on terrain where the infiltration capacity is less favourable and where only temporary detention of rainwater is possible.

Rainwater reuse, instead, is possible both on dry or wet locations. A 'reuse' project is a GreenWithGrey initiative for rainwater reuse and presupposes the presence of large water-consuming activities on the platform or in surrounding areas.

DRY project



WET project



REUSE project





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GREEN

GROEN WITH

MET GRIJS

WET NEIGHBOURHOOD

Trigge

A company is planning to expand its building (1). As they will need to apply for a building permit, the company and its architectural firm are confronted with the rainwater regulation (2). However, complying with that regulation through standard practices proves difficult. The remaining open surface of the plot is small and the company wants to use it to the maximum. The architects look for a solution to comply with the regulations without losing buildable space. Consulting the VMM's publication, "Water Guide" (Waterwegwijzer), they find information about a neighbour-shared detention system with reduced space requirements and which does not involve the costly work that other solutions entail. The website mentions the possibility of contacting the VMM for more advice (3).

A VMM consultant advises the architects to redirect the rainwater to the borders of the plot and possibly to share the infrastructure with the neighbours in order to obtain more detention volume. Moreover, the VMM consultant inspires the company owner to design its rainwater facility in relation to the ecological network of the environment (4).

The company owner presents the project during a meeting of the industrial platform association and asks the neighbours whether they also wish to contribute to the realisation of a shared vegetated ditch, as suggested by the VMM (5).

Two of them are interested: one is also planning an extension in the future and the other has quite a lot of space available. The collaboration, moreover, allows the three companies to realise a long-requested emergency access for the file department, and this without losing buildable land.

Plan

The suggested infrastructure consists of a wet shared vegetded ditch. For advice about the vegetation and ecological connections, the VMM consultant suggests contacting the VLM or an association such as Natuurpunt or Regionale Landschappen.

The industrial platform association manager (or simply, platform manager) mediates the three owners and the architectural firm develops the detailed plan and budget estimation of the shared vegetated ditches (6). At the same time, the infrastructure and its overflow into the public drainage system are discussed with the local sewer manager.

Execution

Once the negotiations are over, the platform manager works out a contractual agreement between the neighbours involved (7), which also mandates the platform manager to follow up on the building permit (outsourced to a contractor) (9), and maintenance (outsourced to a contractor) (9), and maintenance (for maintenance firm) of the new infrastructure (10). The costs are shared in accordance with the contractual arrangements.

The sewer manager is contacted for the discharge connection to over flow into the open-air rainwater drainage system.

Follow-u

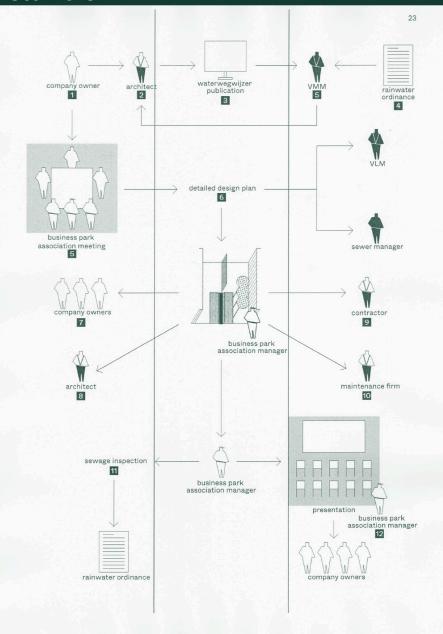
Once installed, the connections to the rainwater drainage and the compliance with the rainwater ordinance are verified by a sewage inspection (11).

The project is presented during a meeting of the industrial platform association. The industrial platform association manager also proposes that other companies on the industrial platform undertake a similar project (12).

The environmental, economic (additional building space), and organisational (outsourced rainwater management) benjefits convince other neighbours and slowly the entire platform is upgraded. The business association succeeds in transforming their industrial platform into a WET Neighbourhood.

Coalitions

for Water



GREEN WITH 24 GROEN

MET GREY GRIJS

WET DISTRICT

Trigge

Different company owners complain about the poor state of streets, pavements, and circulation (1). Since the industrial platform has a certain economic and strategic relevance for the province and for the Flemish region, various politicians suggest that the Provincial Development Agency (Provinciale Ontwikkelingsmaatschappij, or POM) tackle the industrial platform's renovation (2). The POM decides to undertake the renovation process of the public spaces (3). Designating the platform a 'outdated', they can rely on significant redevelopment subsidies from VLAIO, on the condition they elaborate a "water neutral" plan, meaning that the rainwater that runs off the new roadworks must be buffered, infiltrated, or reused on site.

When asked if sewer works are planneb, the sewer manager replies that they are eager to collaborate on the construction of an open-air rainwater drainage system (4). This means they would like to see a water-buffering network above ground that collects and detains the rainwater of both private parcels and public spaces, a quantity of water far greater than the rainwater of the roadworks albne. The POM and the sewer manager organise an informative presentation during a meeting of the industrial platform association on this collective, open-air rainwater network (5).

The objective of the presentation is to discuss the future project and to convince company owners to join the project/process by installing (vegetated) verges to purify runoff water inside their plots. In return, this participation would allow them to have a say in the decision-making process related to the renovation of the public space, as well as a conditional disposition over parking spaces.

Plan

In order to guide the discussions efficiently, the participating companies decide to assign a representative (a skilled company employee, a volunteer who is able to be more intensively engaged) to partner up with the POM to closely follow the redevelopment of the industrial platform. The POM launches a public tender (6), through which a design team (urbanist, mobility engineer, landscape architect, and environmental engineer; is hired to draft a masterplan of the public spaces and their connection with the private plots (7). For a better understanding of the ecological connectivity of the industrial platform, the design team also consults the VI M (8).

The masterplan outlines a green and b ue makeover of the platform with (i) verges on the edges of the private parcels in order to treat the runoff before conveying it into (ii) open-air detention ditches along public roads. The stormwater is then collected into (iii) a detention pond on a municipal plot, slowly discharging the water into the local stream.

Moreover, road renovation will also involve converting the road into (iv) a one-way loop. The pavement on

the edge of the road will be reduced, and the extra space obtained can be rented in order to create semi-permeable parking lots or green meeting spaces, which in turn convinces more companies to participate. Since some individual parking spaces must be desealed in favour of the installation of green verges, the idea arises to also organise (v) a collective parking space next to the detention pond. The parking's payement will be semi-permeable and the runoff will be redirected to a detention pond.

Execution

The POM, along with the design team and the representative employee, organises monthly breakfast meetings with local businesses to discuss the masterplan and, in particular, the interventions on the individual private plots (9). After everyone agrees on the masterplan, an action plan is formulated that defines the various responsibilities of the partners: (10) renovation of the roads and the public parking area by the road manager (municipality), (11) installation of an open-air rainwater drainage network (ditches and detention basin) by the sewer manager, and (12) green connections from private pavements and roofs to this network by the companies, collectively organised by the representative. VLAIO development subsidies are obtained for the public interventions (13). The green verges on private plots are funded by the individual companies.

The execution of the action plan is followed up by the POM. A single contractor is assigned to do the work.

Follow-u

Once the different actions are being undertaken, the POM discusses a conditional disposition (leasing, concession, ...) of the parking spaces with the participating companies: these will have free access to this parking space in exchange for its maintenance (14).

The companies, members of the industrial platform association, decide to hire a platform manager for this purpose (15).

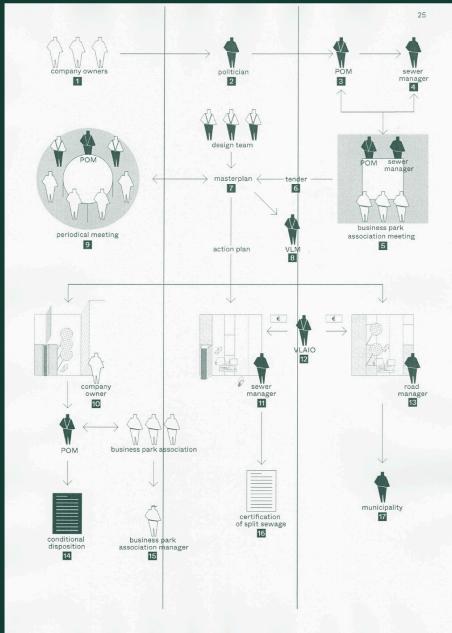
The roads, detention ditch, and detention pond are maintained by the municipality (16).

The proper execution of the private water devices is approved by a certification of (separated) sewage systems by a certified inspector (17).

2 The water is now mixed into a single combined sewage pipe. The system Itself is in a good condition, but the sewage pipe. The system Itself is in a good condition, but the sewage manager endountered several problems. Firstly, the rainwater runoff dilutes the wastewater and hereby reduces the effectiveness of the treatment process downstream, secondly, the capacity of the system is to limited, resulting in occasional spillovers (of politiced systems and discharging it directly into the surface water network. Holyew-r, the local stream only has a limited capacity and the VMM, therefore, wants to avoid a significant increase in peak flows. It was decided that the rainwater from private and public land will be dollected separately, detained both locally and centrally, and discharged in a delayed mener into the surface water. An emergenty spillover from the detention basin into the mixed or some processing in minimalmed, considering this older systems is now slightly

Coalitions

for Water



GRIJS

GREEN 26 GROEN WITH

GREY MET

WET PARK

Trigge

The industrial platform is located on the border between two municipalities. It has a separate sewage system, consisting of two pipes that separately collect wastewater and stormwater. The stormwater pipe drains the runoff produced both by private and public spaces directly into a small nearby stream. During heavy rains, the water level in this stream rises and prevents the stormwater pipe from discharging. As a result, the pipe tends to back up into the open spaces of the industrial platform, causing local floods.

The VMM has indicated that no increase in peak discharge to the surface water is possible, both to prevent flooding and to maintain ecological qualities (1). This restriction, enforced through the permit system ("Watercheck", "MER", "PMER"), creates significant legal uncertainty and puts new developments on the industrial platform at risk.

Thanks to the development of a rainwater plan, one of the municipalities in which the platform is located is aware of this problem (2). The municipality, therefore, teams up with its neighbouring municipality (3) and together they decide to address the original public developer of this platform: the intermunicipal development company, with a request for a project to improve the platform's detention capacity (4).

The intermunicipal developer has a key role to play by setting the initiative in motion, finding the necessary partners, and following up on the project—from conception to realisation. After launching a public tender (5), the intermunicipal developer appoints a design team (landscape architect and hydraulic engineer) (6).

The intermunicipal developer and the design team organise a first round table together with the actors involved (7):

- → the two municipalities (project commissioners, funding the preliminary design process),
- → VMM (responsible for the second category watercourse),
- → sewer manager (responsible for the stormwater pipe).
- → ANB (manager of the neighbouring natural area).

Plan

Together they frame the first proposals and possibilities for the design project. The idea is to resolve the local flooding problem by installing a detention pond that collaboratively enhances the ecological connectivity of the wet landscape in the vicinity. In fact, the industrial platform is positioned in proximity to a wetland, which is part of the riparian landscape of the main river

(where the secondary water body discharges). An area of interest is delimited, which includes various parcels owned by De Vlaamse Waterweg (DVW) along the canal (8).

DVW is therefore asked by the intermunicipal developer to join the coalition. Because the implementation of a detention pond will also reduce the water pressure in the canal and thus its risk of overflowing, DVW agrees to participate in the project by giving a concession to the intermunicipal company to realise the new wet infrastructure on one of their plots (9).

Once the location is defined and the different aims of the project are clairfied, the design team develops a detailed design of the detention infrastructure (10). It is proposed as a natural green zone enhancing the recreational potertial of the watercourse and canal banks by offering a picnic area for passersby and people working of the industrial platform.

The project is finally presented again to the project team: the neighbouring municipalities, the VMM, the sewer manager, ANB, and DVW in order to define how the municipalities can obtain funding to realise their project. ANB offers the possibility of applying for forestation subsidies (subsidy "Bebossing") to cover the costs related to the nature area (11). Also, the VMM is able to contribute to projects that relate to flood-risk reduction of the watercourse under their management (12).

Execution

The municipality that initiated the project translates the masterplan into a detailed rainwater plan to ensure the enforcement of ecological connections during future developments on the industrial platform (13).

The intermunicipal developer is in charge of launching a public tender to find a contractor to build the infrastructure (14).

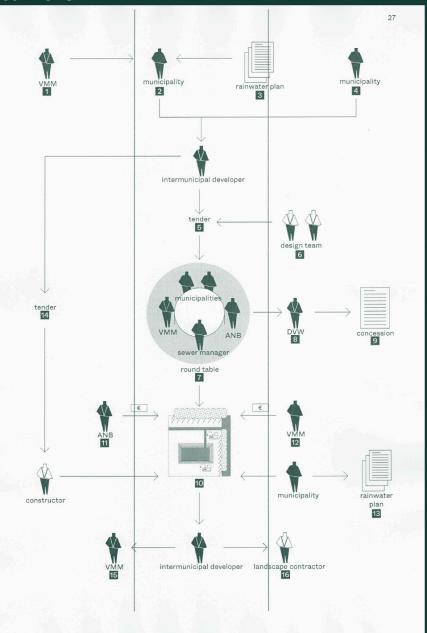
The execution is financed partly by the municipality, partly by the ANB subsidy and by the VMM. The sewer manager is in charge of connecting the stormwater pipe to the new detention pond and is also engaged in monitoring the construction site.

Follow-up

Once the detention pond and its ancillary infrastructures are realised, the intermunicipal developer arranges a consultation with the VMM (15) for the management of the detention pond and one with a landscape contractor (16) for the maintenance of the vegetated and recreational infrastructure.

Coalitions

for Water



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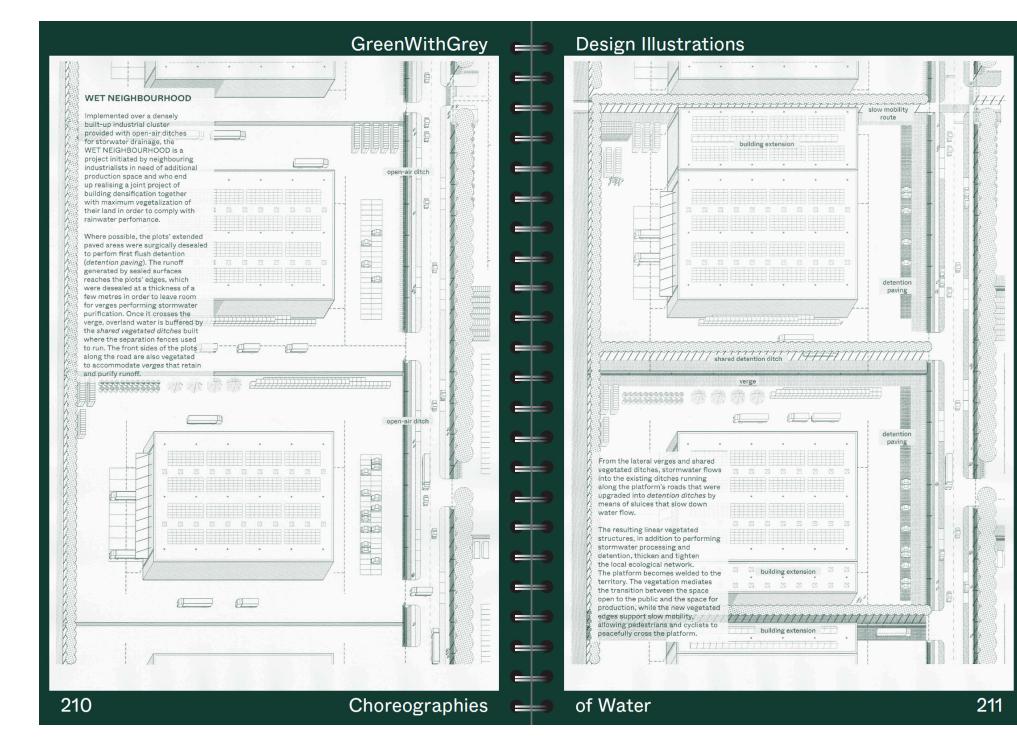
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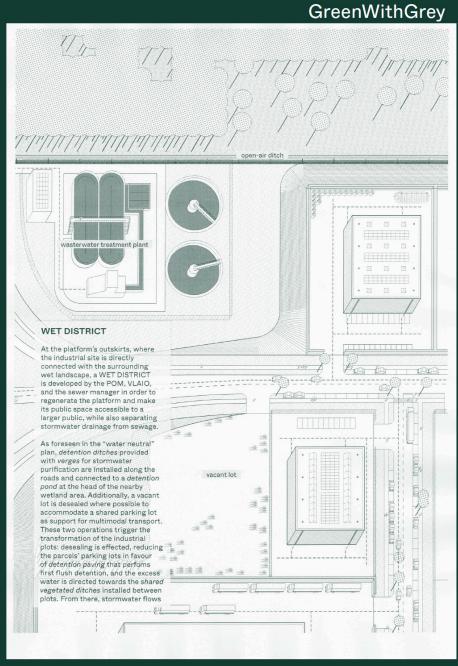
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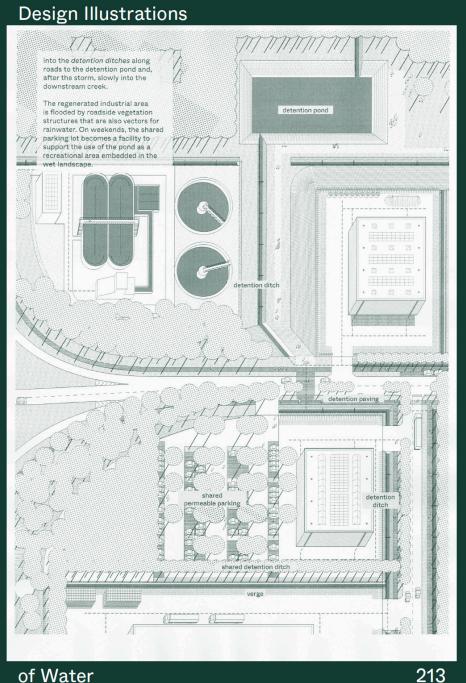
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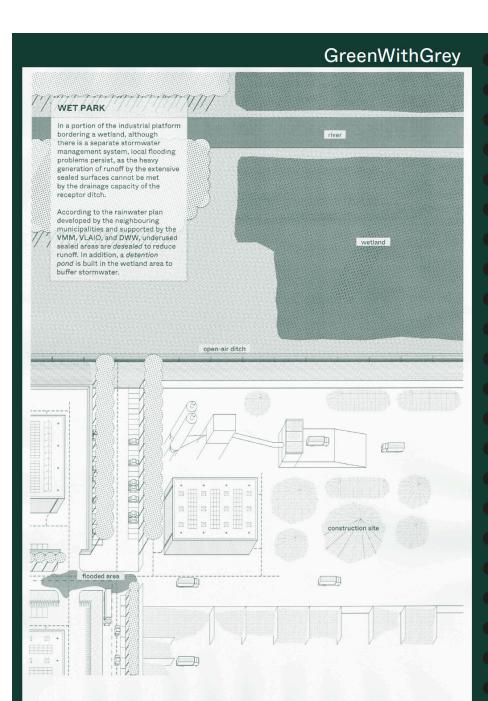
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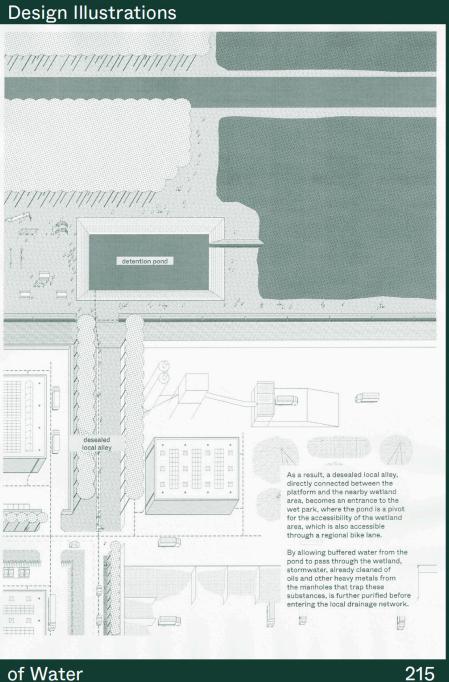
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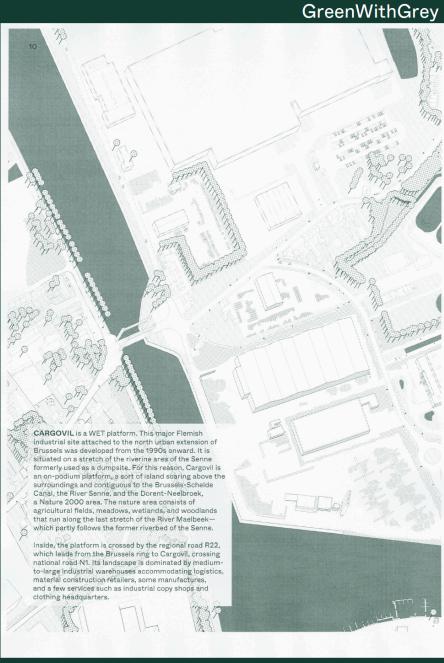
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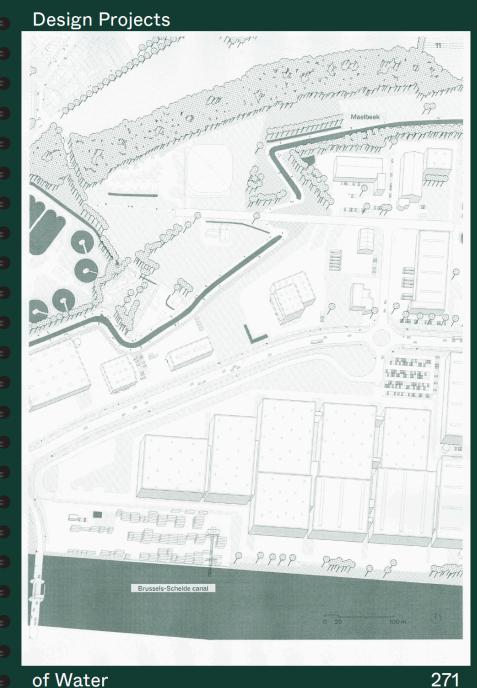
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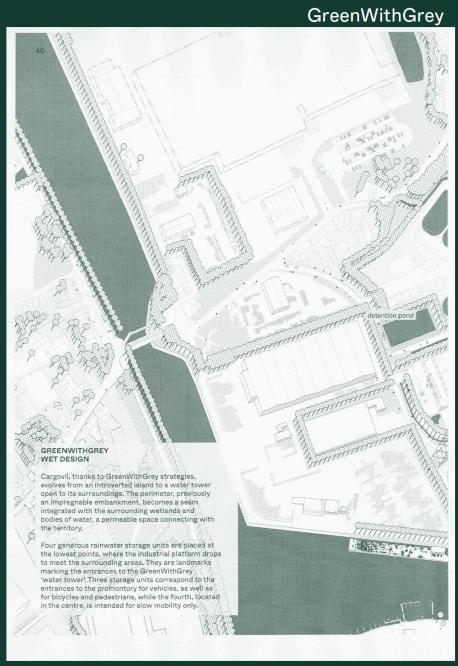
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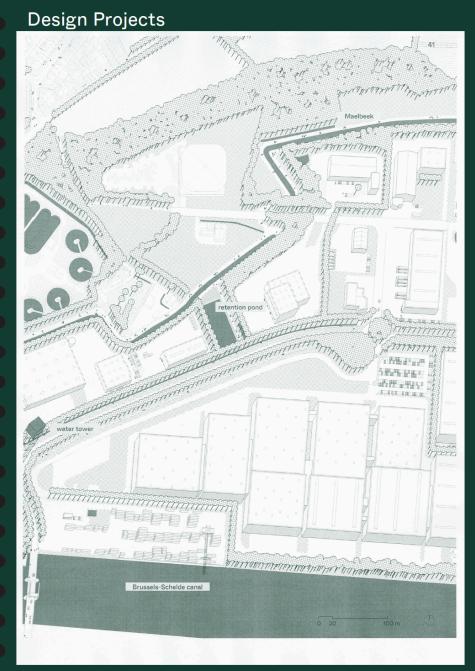
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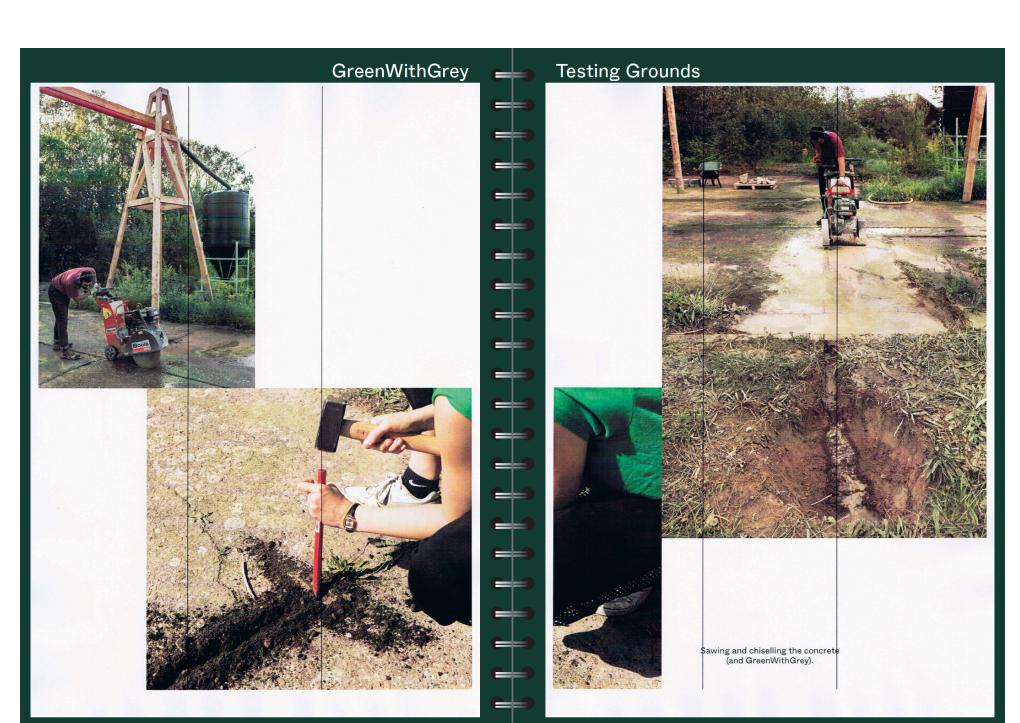
institutional (regional scale) policy makers (Omgeving, VMM, Vlaio, OVAM)

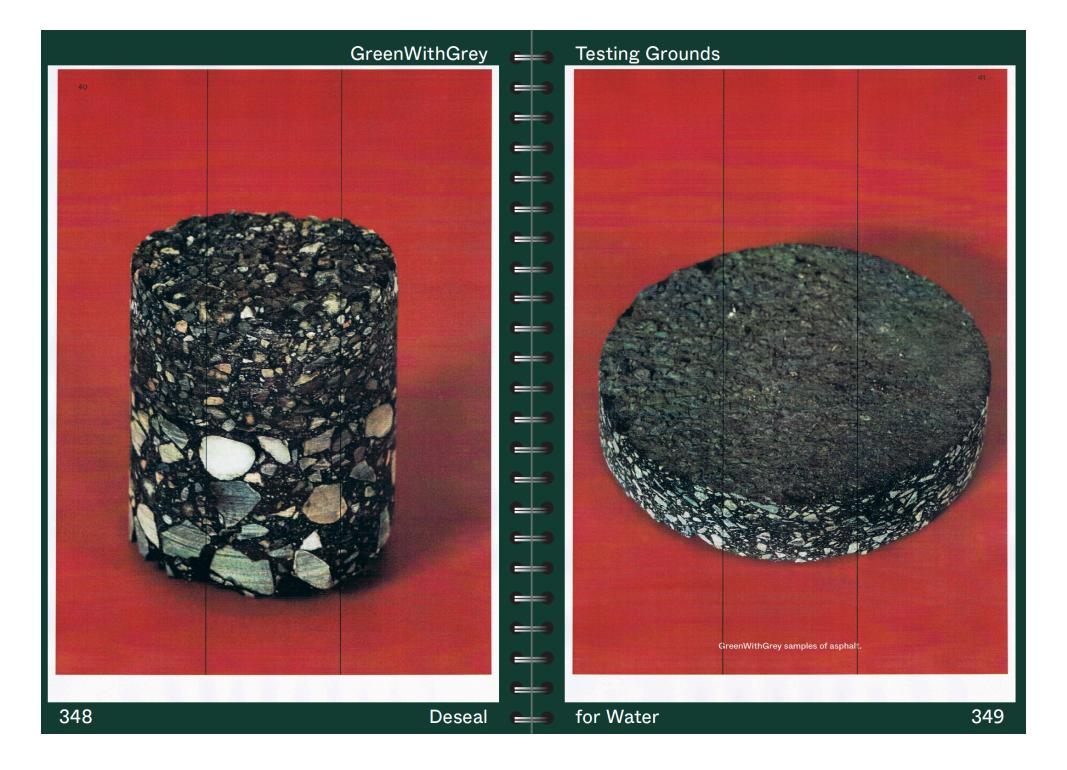
06. Tower of Water GreenWithGrey Design Projects

general public (regional+supralocal+local scale) cross-sectional for policy, governance, design

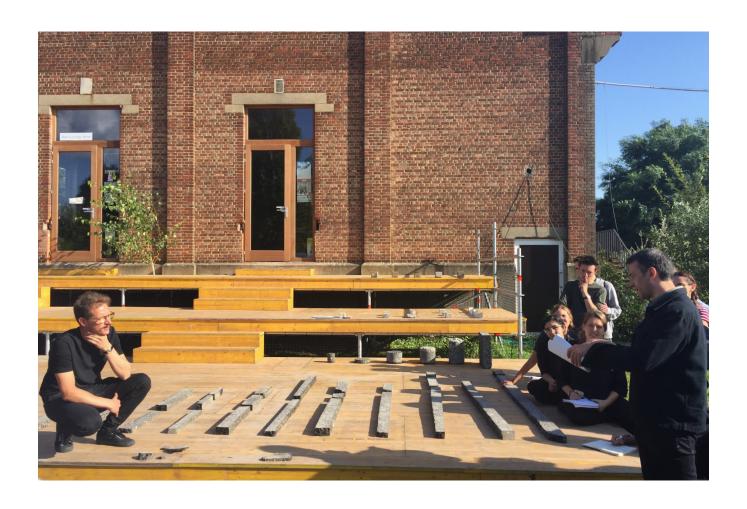
07. Deseal for Water GreenWithGrey Testing Grounds





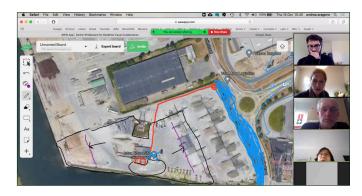


Between action and strategic project Summer School

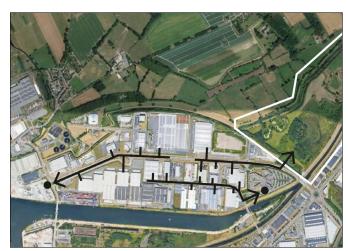


Between action and strategic project Bilateral interviews

























Between action and strategic project Roundtable

