The Nature of Cities Summit - Paris 4-7 June 2019

Field trip guide

June 7th (9am – 17pm)
Updated 30 March

Sign up for these when you register at https://cvent.me/YGbRE
1/ Urban green infrastructure 1
9am–17pm / 20 participants maximum / lunch picnic provided / language English

Paris Abandoned Railway
Seine Musicale Green roofs
Seine Riverbanks Restoration

This trip will begin with Paris abandoned railway transformed into a walk and educational trail by an insertion association. Thanks to the absence of rail traffic and the relative preservation of human attendance, the “Petite ceinture” is a former railway where spontaneous wild vegetation has been able to develop.

Then it will bring you to Boulogne-Billancourt, the second’s biggest city after Paris in Île-de-France. The Seine Musicale is a brand new building dedicated to music events and has an amazing green roof. On the same island on Seine River, you’ll see riverbanks restoration with plant engineering.
Urban river restoration
9am–17pm / 20 participants maximum / lunch picnic provided / language French with English translations

Daylighting of the « the petit Rosne » in Sarcelles and river ecological engineering in Gonesse

Réouverture du Petit Rosne à Sarcelles et génie écologique à Gonesse

In 2014, the SIAH gave Petit Rosne its former prestige. Despite the limited space available and the strong urbanization of the place, the watercourse has been renatured and to restore a water retention capacity and host biodiversity. New wetlands and ponds have been created around. You’ll discover how Petit Rosne has been daylighted in Sarcelles as well as in Gonesse, where the project is currently under works.

Discovering Community gardens, Buttes Chaumont Park and the « Jardin naturel » in Paris northern districts

In order to discover in a new light gardens and neighborhoods of Paris and its surroundings, this trip will be a naturalistic walk during which all your senses will be solicited. These walks combine history, botany, landscaping, ornithology, architecture and much more, while remaining accessible to all audiences.
5/ Urban agriculture

9am–17pm / 20 participants maximum / lunch picnic provided / language French with English Translations

Urban agriculture and horticulture and community gardens in Île-Saint-Denis and Gennevilliers

Agriculture et horticulture urbaine au nord de Paris

*R-Urban is a bottom-up strategy that explores the possibilities of enhancing the capacity of urban resilience by introducing a network of resident-run facilities to create complementarities between key fields of activity (economy, housing, urban agriculture, culture). R-Urban initiates locally closed ecological cycles that will support the emergence of alternative models of living, producing and consuming between the urban and the rural. Then you’ll discover The Lil’O project that aims to restore a former industrial wasteland by developing in a short circuit a material recovery model. Lil’O will be testing new forms of urban agriculture.*

*R-Urban à Genevilliers est une initiative citoyenne qui explore les possibilités d’introduire un réseau d’installations gérées par les résidents afin de créer des activités complémentaires entre des domaines d’activité clés (économie, logement, agriculture urbaine, culture). Ensuite, vous découvrirez le projet Lil’O sur l’île-Saint-Denis qui vise à retrouver des usages sur une friche industrielle par le développement d’une activité d’horticulture en économie circulaire et circuit-court.*
6/ Urban Green Infrastructure 2
9am–17pm / 20 participants maximum / lunch picnic provided / language English

La Coulée verte: a green corridor in Colombes
Phytodepuration in the park « Chemin de l’Île » in Nanterre

Two very different parks in the dense surburbs northwest of Paris, each at the top of ecological management. La Coulée verte in Colombes is a linear park on an ancient railway, managed and animated by the city of Colombes, while the Parc du Chemin de l’île is a wider green space created on a former industrial wasteland, managed by the Departement of Hauts-de-Seine. It includes a large demonstrator of the water purification capacity of plants.
Both teams have a high level of expertise on flora and fauna as much as in nature education.
8/ Nature in EcoDistricts / Nature dans un EcoQuartier & Prévention des inondations
9am–17pm / 20 participants / lunch picnic provided / French with English translations
Transforming wasteland areas in new EcoDistricts
Les Docks de Ris : création d’un EcoQuartier sur une friche industrielle
Prévention des inondations par la restauration des fonctionnalités écologiques sur la Bièvre

Since 2015, the experience of Les Grands Voisins has been the transition project from the old Saint-Vincent-de-Paul hospital to the future district that will take place in 2023. The first period of temporary occupation has enabled more than 600 vulnerable people to be housed, 250 associations, startups, artisans and artists to deploy their activity in a new environment and outdoor spaces freely accessible, meeting places and multiple shared activities.
Les Docks de Ris is a new district open to the city by transforming an abandoned industrial area. The district benefits an exceptional natural heritage around a lake fully preserved and accessible to all, and along the banks of the Seine developed. Many nature spaces mark out the way of the residents.

Les Docks de Ris est un nouveau quartier ouvert sur la ville en transformant une zone industrielle abandonnée. Le quartier bénéficie d’un patrimoine naturel exceptionnel autour d’un lac entièrement préservé et accessible à tous, et aménagé le long des berges de la Seine. De nombreux espaces naturels jalonntent le parcours des habitants.
La vallée de la Bièvre, un modèle à suivre pour éviter les inondations? Au sud de Paris, la vallée de la Bièvre reste l’un des rares cours d’eau à ne pas souffrir de la montée des eaux. Un système de zones humides a été mis en place pour prévenir les inondations.
10/ Natura 2000 Parks that support birds in Paris suburban area

9am–17pm / 20 participants maximum / lunch picnic provided / language English

Rainwater management at the “Parc des Guillaumes” Georges-Valbon and Beaumonts parks

The Guillaumes Park is composed of two complementary environments: a floodable green river and equipped banks allowing a plurality of uses. The green river comes alive with each rain, collecting rainwater from the whole of the neighborhood while ensuring their cleanup.

Rich in a wide variety of natural environments (woods, lawns, flower gardens, lakes, marshes), these 400 and 22 hectares parks offers local wildlife a residence of choice: more than 140 bird species make their home here, and migratory birds stop over! These two exemplary parks are part of the urban parks network of Seine-Saint-Denis, recognized as of European interest (Natura 2000).
**11/ Nature conservation in a suburban city**

9am–17pm / 20 participants maximum / lunch picnic provided / language English

**Discovery of environments and actions in Cergy-Pontoise**

*Cergy-Pontoise is a new city created from the 1970’s to 30 km north-west of Paris. After 50 minutes of train from the heart of Paris, you will be welcomed by local actors who will take you by bus to discover many actions around the nature in town: “Garden-school”, place of learning of ecological gardening, meadow and wood managed in pasture, demonstration of the participative atlas of communal biodiversity, visit of a redeveloped urban park to accommodate more biodiversity and a large park under development in a new district.*
Visit the urban farm of Saint Denis. Since the economic crisis of 2008, which has added to the multiplication of the consequences of the ecological crisis (warming of temperatures, increase of desertified spaces, increase of natural disasters ...), urban agriculture, because of its environmental capacities, economic and social, has become again a subject of attention, in the eyes of the Institutions and city-dwellers, and the initiatives do not cease any more to develop, notably in Ile de France, as we will see it in this memory.

In this context, the Poetic Party, a Dionysian association working at the same time on art, culture and the preservation of biodiversity, joined the Gally Group, a network of companies in the Paris region, to become the new farmers of what they define as "the last market gardening farm of the 19th century still active at the Portes de Paris". In agreement with the City Hall, which owns the land of this urban farm, the two buyers have both the ambition to continue the market gardening activity that was exercised by the former operator and sell their production to the inhabitants. The second major common goal is to make the urban farm a support for raising awareness and education for the inhabitants on the subjects of agriculture, food and sustainable development.
14 / Landscape architecture in Versailles
a transect through space and time

9am–17pm / 20 participants maximum / language FR-EN

This trip takes place in Versailles, a city drawn by the art of gardens in the 17th century. Our walk, from the rail station Versailles-Chantiers to the Versailles Garden, will cross historical and contemporary gardens, and reach a wooded viewpoint on Versailles.

We will stop to the national school of landscape architecture, around the King kitchen garden, created by Jean-Baptiste La Quintinie. This historical garden is a contemporary laboratory to think about the future nature of a productive, ecological and welcoming city. We will discover “The taste of the landscape” of the Ile-de-France biennale of architecture and landscape.
15 / From The Cormailles Park to The Lilas Park
a Landscape architecture walk in Val-de-Marne

9am–17pm / 20 participants maximum / language FR-EN

This trip, between the Cormailles Parks (Ivry-sur-Seine) and the Lilas Park (Vitry sur Seine) will show two very different design for urban parks in the same suburb of Paris.

The Cormailles Park, designed as an open space on the city by the landscape architect Agence TER. This urban park combines three scales of perception: garden islands with particular atmospheres, urban uses and street art wall; landscape horizons on the plain of the Seine. The Lilas Park, built on old quarries, is an unconventional park, which mixes private and public activities; joins farmers, horticulturists and visitors, or includes animals, flowers and crops. Thirty hectares, composed of a mosaic of plots with tall grasses, fields and vegetable gardens, are now open on the previous 100 hectares. This park without formal entry or imposed route, it presents itself as a place to explore.
16 / Parisian Community Gardens

9am–5pm / 20 participants maximum / lunch picnic provided / language FR-EN

A walking tour of parisian community gardens of the 18 and 19th arrondissements of Paris. We will highlight various approaches of community gardening, from pedagogical gardens to solidarity lots, all placing social diversity and equality as their core value. We will discover divers ways of collaborating and sharing in place among those urban gardeners, from sharing meals and parties to the management of tool libraries, seed banks, shared seedling farms, composting programs, protected biodiversity islands, skill sharing events and much more.
Along with the famous Seine river, La Bièvre is the second larger river traversing Paris. The Bièvre, now fully underground, originates in the Yvelines and flows into the Seine, at the Austerlitz station. This 33 kilometer river was buried in 1912 and many Parisians have now forgotten its name. It now flows into a concrete sarcophagus between 1 and 20 meters deep under the cityscape. We will walk along its old path, crossing the 5th and 13th arrondissements.

Paris’ water supply comes equally from rivers and groundwater, mainly from springs. On our way we will taste Paris Albien groundwater water at Place Paul Verlaine, near La Buttes aux Cailles. The Albien groundwater of the Paris Basin is a deep captive groundwater table present in a large part of the Paris Basin. It contains large reserves of good quality water, estimated at 700 billion m³. It covers more than 80,000 km². In the city of Paris, three public drinking fountains are supplied by the Albien groundwater. The three wells are located in Place Paul-Verlaine (13th) which we will visit, Square Lamartine (16th) and Square de la Madone (18th).

La Bièvre, now an underground river.
18 / Vers un territoire plus résilient

(Scroll down for English)

Une journée de travail et de visite pour échanger sur les potentiels pédagogiques et de développement des espaces naturels protégés en milieu urbain et péri-urbain. La visite des Espaces Naturels Sensibles de l’Essonne sera l’occasion de mieux connaître cet outil réglementaire bien propre à la France.

I. Une vocation pédagogique Visite du Domaine de Montauger, la maison de l’environnement en Essonne. Un centre de sensibilisation sur la nature locale

1. La notion de NBS : bénéfices écosystémiques de la conservation dans les milieux urbains et valorisation de la vocation pédagogique des espaces protégés
2. Associer activités anthropiques diverses et conservation des écosystèmes (éducation à l’environnement ; sports de nature, loisirs, etc.)

II. Un levier pour le développement de l’économie locale : préserver et valoriser les milieux naturels, agricoles et forestiers. Visite des Marais de la Basse Vallée de l’Essonne

1. Faire connaître le territoire par des circuits de visites du patrimoine naturel et culturel local
2. Développer un tissus associatif et économique associé AMAP ; circuit court ; vente directe ; sports nature ; volet tourisme (hébergement/restauration…)

III. Les ENS, un outil réglementaire à trois vocations : maîtrise foncière + conservation des milieux naturels + sensibilisation du public

Towards a more resilient territory

Workshop in situ

An entire day of fieldtrip visiting and discussing the potential on urban and peri-urban protected areas, in terms of education and development of the territory. A guided-tour of The Espaces Naturels Sensibles (Sensitive Natural Spaces) along the Essonne river will be the opportunity to better understand this landscape management tool very specific to France.

I. A pedagogical vocation

Visit of the Domaine de Montauger, the house of the environment in Essonne. A Nature Neighbors Center for Local Nature Awareness

1. The Nature Based Solutions: the ecosystems goods and services from conservation in urban areas and the educational vocation of urban protected areas
2. Associating human activities and nature conservation (environmental education, outdoor sports, recreation, etc.)

II. The “ENS”, “Espaces Naturels Sensibles” :

1. A regulatory tool for three purposes: land development control + nature conservation + public environmental education

III. A lever for developing local economy: preserving and promoting natural, agricultural and forest environments. Visit on the Essonne Lower Valley Wetlands

1. Promoting the countryside through local tours on the natural and cultural heritage
2. Developing associative and economic partnerships: farmers; short supply chain; outdoor activities; ecotourism…
19 & 20 / Jane’s Walk Jussieu
9:30-11am
2-3:30pm

In this Jane’s Walk, to take place in the immediate vicinity of our Jussieu venue, we will reflect on the appropriation of public spaces. We will talk about three questions that will make us aware of our right to the city: Are we all equal in our public spaces? Are those shared places inclusive? Is the design of our public spaces putting care as a priority? The walk is led by the manager of Jane’s Walk Paris, Maria Elena Gomez Galindo. <br> Jane’s Walk is a global movement of free, citizen-led walking conversations inspired by Jane Jacobs. [https://janeswalk.org](https://janeswalk.org)
21 / Introduction to Beekeeping
10am-12pm

Get a rare and up-close look into the world of the bees at our hives located in a beautiful park in Paris. Ibrahim, our beekeeper from Syria who has 30 years of experience in the domain will gear you up with a protective beehive suit and let you inspect the beehives with him. It's the most interesting time of the year to visit the hives! There will also be a trivial pursuit about beekeeping as well as French bread and French cheese served with our delicious local honey. The quiz will be in English.

Location: Square Nicolas Forestier 75013. Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/esperofrance/?tn-str=k*F

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