



Green business parks

Nature-based solutions for a more sustainable working environment



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



"The goal to create a more sustainably built environment will influence architecture greatly in the coming years."

Stephan Behnisch, architect

Modern-day business parks are designed around buildings, car parks and storages, with the emphasis on easy access. Many business parks have a neat pattern of plots, good access roads and a diverse collection of buildings, vehicles and goods. This design seems effective in the short term, but it is not sustainable from a human and environmental point of view.

Our approach: nature-based solutions

We are working on the transition from conventional business parks to inspiring, sustainable work locations, involving natural conditions such as vegetation and water to improve biodiversity, health, climate adaptation and image.

Following in-depth scientific research, we have identified a number of social challenges for business parks. We propose the use of nature-based solutions to make these locations more sustainable, more pleasant to work in and more resilient. 'Nature-based' means based on the added value of the green living environment for people, planet and profit.

Some examples

Recent studies on insects have revealed that biodiversity loss is happening at a disturbingly fast pace and is likely to have dramatic implications for the quality of life on our planet. Our research has shown that managing green spaces in business parks in an environmentally-friendly way helps to protect wild bees, butterflies, birds, amphibians and other species of flora and fauna. We are assisting Heineken to implement these insights in their management of green spaces at their 100 ha plant. This results in a flourishing, biodiverse and inspiring brewery and widespread acknowledgement of the brewery's contribution to biodiversity conservation from other companies, social organisations and public authorities.

We use international scientific insights to develop design proposals for green work spaces that can help improve climate resilience of the working environment and people's health. If people work in an environment that inspires them to exercise as well as relax, they will function better. This is a social and an economic gain.

We hope to get in touch with owners of business parks, project developers, entrepreneurs and local authorities to set up initiatives in the Netherlands and abroad.

Our services

- Biodiversity conservation methods on business sites
- Climate resilient design
- Learning processes and co-creation methods
- Research on the relation between nature, health and wellbeing

Research programme

Metropolitan solutions

Contact

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