

Press release

Lausanne Jardins 2024

The new Jardin de circulation tests the principles of the sponge city

The Jardin de circulation in the Vallée de la Jeunesse is becoming a life-size model for the sponge city. The site, which is used to teach Lausanne's children the rules of the road, has been transformed in a sustainable way to mitigate the effects of rainwater run-off. As part of its commitment to combating the effects of flooding, la Mobilière provided financial support for the transformation of the site. The Jardin de circulation is one of forty installations at Lausanne Jardins 2024, an open-air exhibition on the theme of water opening on the 15th of June.

Originally designed for Expo64, the site has since been used to instruct children in the rules of the road. Designed in the image of a prototypical urban space of the 1960s, the site, which has now become a heat island, presents all the challenges of contemporary urban space: addressing the car-centric approach, the lack of vegetation, impermeable mineral paving and the collection of clean water. The result of these characteristics is the creation of heat islands and an increased risk of flooding due to overloaded drains in the event of heavy rainfall.

As part of Lausanne Jardins 24, and under the supervision of Prof. Paola Viganò of the Institute of Architecture at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), the site has been redesigned. The topography has been readjusted to redirect run-off water towards a pond and newly created shallow vegetated ditches. Rainwater run-off was disconnected from the drainage system. Natural, water-permeable soils have replaced the bituminous paving. The water now retained in the ground naturally cools the environment through evaporation.

While maintaining its primary learning function, the new Jardin de circulation has become a full-scale laboratory for testing a series of experimental measures that meet the criteria of the Sponge City. "Faced with global warming, the city of Lausanne needs to reinvent itself. The project is a unique opportunity to demonstrate how the city will be able to stay cool and absorb rainwater in the future" explains Natacha Litzistorf, conseillère municipale, Direction du logement, de l'environnement et de l'architecture. For Pierre-Antoine Hildbrand, conseiller municipal, Direction sécurité et économie, "it's an opportunity to rethink the way in which the different modes of mobility are organized, while at the same time ensuring that water properly is drained".

In a collaboration developed with several Swiss cities, la Mobilière is making substantial funds available from the Cooperative available to support climate protection projects. It is contributing CHF 500,000 to the transformation of the Jardin de la circulation and other Lausanne Jardins 2024 projects. "La Mobilière, a company with cooperative roots, is committed to sponge cities

for more sustainable rainwater management, a better quality of life, more biodiversity and less damage caused by flooding. In this way, it is helping to mitigate the effects of climate change in densely populated areas,' notes Philippe Paillard, General Agent of Mobilière Lausanne-Nord vaudois. According to la Mobilière, surface runoff is responsible for two-thirds of flood damage. (see [study](#)).

Lausanne Jardins 2024 in short

With its theme 'Between Water and Us', Lausanne Jardins is taking over the banks of Lake Geneva. Over a six-kilometre stretch, from Parc Bourget to Ouchy, forty gardens on land and water explore the theme of water and offer food for thought on current urban issues. The route is open free of charge 24 hours a day from the 15th of June to the 5th of October 2024.

60 years after Expo64, the lakeshore is being transformed into an urban laboratory. Water is set to play a key role in meeting the challenges of climate change, contributing to our well-being and protecting urban biodiversity.

Created by the City of Lausanne and organised with the support of the Association Jardin Urbain, Lausanne Jardins has been a key cultural event in the capital of Vaud ever since it was first held in 1997.

La Municipalité de Lausanne

Further information :

- **Natacha Litzistorf, conseillère municipale, Direction du logement, de l'environnement et de l'architecture, +41 79 647 99 85**
- **Pierre-Antoine Hildbrand, conseiller municipal, Direction sécurité et économie, tél. +41 79 964 27 39**
- **Philippe Paillard, agent général de la Mobilière Lausanne-Nord vaudois, tél. +079 507 42 08**
- **Prof. Paola Viganò, Habitat Research Center, EPFL**
- **Monique Keller, Commissaire de Lausanne jardins 2024, tél. +41 79 412 73 74**

Links :

- Further informations [Lausanne Jardins 2024](#)
- [Photos](#) to download in high definition ©Michael Hartwell/ LausanneJardins24

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